CONTINUED:

JEFF
He went down the street with those two girls.

KEITH
He was able to pick up two girls at once?

JEFF
Come on. We can still catch him if we hurry.

KEITH
Two girls at once. Impressive.

Keith puts the car in gear and takes off.

EXT. SIDEWALK-NIGHT
Collins and the two Girls are walking away in the distance. Keith's car pulls up to the curb.

JEFF
That's good. Let's walk.

KEITH
This was how I got into trouble the last time.

They both get out of the car. Keith takes the baseball bat and puts it under his robe. They start off after Collins and the Girls.

Out of the shadows, SGT. HIGGINS, a plain clothes police officer, appears.

HIGGINS
Hey, you two!
Jeff and Keith stop.

HIGGINS (continuing)
Come here.

KEITH
Why?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Higgins flashes his badge.

KEITH

Good reason.

Keith and Jeff walk over to Higgins.

HIGGINS

Put your hands on the car.

Reluctantly, Jeff and Keith comply. When Keith puts his hands on the car, his bat falls to the ground. Higgins stares at Keith.

KEITH

We were going to join a league.

HIGGINS

Very cute.

Higgins pats them down and picks up the bat.

HIGGINS

Come on.

Higgins leads them down the sidewalk and around a corner.

Higgins leads Jeff and Keith over to a car and motions for them to sit in the back seat. They get in.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE CAR-NIGHT

Lt. Rigby is in the front seat. He has a walkie talkie. Higgins gets in the driver's seat.

RIGBY

What the hell were you two doing?

No answer.

RIGBY (continuing)

Never mind. I know what you were doing. We don't need any more vigilantes.

The walkie talkie SCREECHES. A deep male voice speaks

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

UNIT TWO
(filtered)
Unit one, this is unit two.
Over.

RIGBY
This is one, go ahead two.

UNIT TWO
(filtered)
Collins just turned off McKinley. Over.

RIGBY
Stay with him one.

UNIT TWO
Roger. Out.

Rigby motions for Higgins to move along. Higgins starts the car and pulls away.

RIGBY
You've got a lot of explaining to do.

JEFF
We're following up on a story.

RIGBY
That's nice bullshit but don't throw it on me.

KEITH
Do we get to talk to a lawyer?

RIGBY
You haven't been arrested yet and I really don't care what you have to say. Both of you listen up. This is not some game called catch the killer. There is someone walking around this campus who feels the need to end college students' lives. You're lucky he didn't bump into you or I might be washing your blood off the sidewalk.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
He only kills girls.

RIGBY
How do you know that?

The walkie talkie SCREECHES again. This time a young voice comes on.

HARRIS
(filtered)
Lt. Rigby, this is Patrolman Harris. Over.

RIGBY
Go ahead.

HARRIS
(filtered)
Sir, I just found another body. Over.

RIGBY
Goddamn it! (into the walkie talkie) Where are you?!

HARRIS
(filtered)
In the quad area.

HIGGINS
The other side of campus.

RIGBY
Shit! (into the walkie talkie) Harris, can you tell how long she's been dead.

HARRIS
(filtered)
When I found her, she was still breathing. She died about thirty seconds ago.

UNIT TWO
(filtered)
Unit one, this is two. Do you want us to terminate the tail? Over.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIGBY
Negative. Stay with him until I tell you different.

UNIT TWO
(filtered)
Roger.

RIGBY
Harris.

HARRIS
(filtered)
Yes, over.

RIGBY
Call an ambulance, but don't let them touch anything until I get there.

HARRIS
(filtered)
Yes sir. Out.

RIGBY
Let's go.

Higgins puts a flashing light on the roof and speeds away.

EXT. QUAD AREA-NIGHT
This is an open grassy area.

PATROLMAN HARRIS, a very young police officer, is standing over a female body. Rigby, Higgins, Jeff and Keith walk up.

RIGBY
Did you find anything?

HARRIS
Like what?

RIGBY
Like clues.

HARRIS
I forgot to look.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIGBY

Well start.

Harris moves off. Rigby and Higgins start to examine the body.

Keith leans over to Jeff.

KEITH
(under his breath)
I've never seen a dead body before.

Jeff doesn't hear him. He is fascinated by the body.

JEFF
They're going to find another one.

What?

JEFF
They're going to find another body.

What was that?

RIGBY

Nothing. He was just talking to himself.

What did you say?

JEFF
You're going to find another body.

How do you...

His walkie talkie SCREECHES. An older voice speaks.

DALTRY
(filtered)
Lt. Rigby this is Officer Daltry.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

RIGBY

Go ahead.

DALTRY
(filtered)

Sir, we've got another one. Over.

Rigby stares at Jeff.

RIGBY

Unit One, come in.

UNIT ONE
(filtered)

Unit One here, over.

RIGBY

How's our suspect?

UNIT ONE
(filtered)

The two girls dumped him a few minutes ago. Since then he's been quiet as a mouse. Over.

RIGBY

Has he been out of your sight?

UNIT ONE
(filtered)

No. Over.

Rigby continues to stare at Jeff

RIGBY

Higgins!

HIGGINS

Yeah.

RIGBY

Take these two to the station. Throw them in the pen until I get there.

Higgins leads Jeff and Keith back to the car.
INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM-NIGHT

This is small room with only a table and three chairs. The walls are bare.

Jeff is sitting at the table. He looks tired. Higgins and Rigby are sitting across from him. Higgins is very agitated.

HIGGINS
How did you know to follow Richard Collins?

No answer.

HIGGINS
Answer me goddamn it!

Still no answer.

RIGBY
Why don't you go and get some coffee.

Higgins reluctantly exits.

RIGBY
I guess his tough cop attitude isn't going to get any answers.

No response.

RIGBY (continuing)
There's no need to make us enemies. We both want the same thing.

JEFF
I talked to Susan Harrison.

RIGBY
We know.

JEFF
Then why did you keep asking me that?

RIGBY
I wanted to see if you were going (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIGBY (cont'd)

to be honest with me. (a beat)
You were a bit faster than us.
We talked to her two hours after
you did. What did you intend to
do tonight?

JEFF
I was following up on a story.

RIGBY
I see. We've been tailing
Richard Collins for two weeks
now. Why did you start tonight?

No answer.

RIGBY (continuing)
If you don't give me a good
answer, I'll assume you were an
accessory and officially arrest
you.

Jeff thinks hard for a moment.

JEFF
This theory is a bit far fetched.

RIGBY
I'll listen to anything, once.

JEFF
Have you seen any pattern to
these killings?

RIGBY
Nothing besides the fact that
all of the victims were young
women.

JEFF
Does that remind you of anything?

RIGBY
Please get to the point.

JEFF
The murders we've had on campus
are just like the murders committed
by Jack the Ripper one hundred years
ago.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Rigby pauses.

RIGBY
You're right. That is a bit far fetched.

JEFF
Everything matches up. The dates of the murders, the number of women, the mutilations.

RIGBY
And that's how you knew when to follow him.

JEFF
Yes.

Rigby thinks.

JEFF (continuing)
I knew you'd think it was crazy.

RIGBY
No. I don't think you're crazy yet. I'll have to do a little research on my own before I decide.

JEFF
It'll match up.

RIGBY
Yes, we'll see. Since you seem to know so much about these murders, can you tell me the motive?

JEFF
No.

RIGBY
You're theory isn't much use unless we have a motive to go on. (a beat) I'm going to release you for now. Dr. Hoffman is waiting for you out front.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF

How...

RIGBY

He said he heard it on a police scanner or something.

JEFF

What about Keith?

RIGBY

We sent him home a couple of hours ago. (a beat) I'll be in touch.

Jeff exits.

INT. HOFFMAN'S CAR-NIGHT

Hoffman is driving. Jeff is staring out of the window.

JEFF

I was so sure it was him.

A moment of silence.

JEFF

If I would have dug a little deeper...double checked my sources. Maybe there wouldn't be two more dead girls.

HOFFMAN

You can't blame yourself for the actions of someone else. I think you're being too hard on yourself.

JEFF

I thought he was the one.

HOFFMAN

What would you have done if he was the murderer?

JEFF

Stopped him!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

HOFFMAN
You're no vigilante. Your only job should be report the news, not make it.

Jeff goes back to staring out the window.

HOFFMAN (continuing)
I suppose I am somewhat responsible for this. Perhaps I should have gone to the police in the first place.

JEFF
They wouldn't have believed you. I don't think Rigby believed me when I told him tonight. (a beat) I thought this would be the big story I was waiting for.

HOFFMAN
Big story?

JEFF
I wanted to see if I could do it. I wanted to see if I cover a story that had something to it.

HOFFMAN
I'm not buying that. You're a damn good writer. I know that and you know that. You don't need a story like this to prove it to yourself.

Jeff pauses.

JEFF
I just don't know.

HOFFMAN
Before you can be honest with me, you have to be honest with yourself. You have to look within yourself and see why this story means so much. (a beat) One story won't make or break your future. I was very much like (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

HOFFMAN (cont'd)
you when I was starting out. Young
and very ambitious. I ended up
hurting a lot of people, including
myself. I don't want to see you get
hurt.

Hoffman pulls the car up in front of Jeff's dorm.

HOFFMAN
Think about it. Give me a call
if you need to talk.

Jeff nods, gets out of the car, and walks inside.

INT. JEFF'S ROOM-NIGHT
Keith is asleep on his bed. Jeff enters. Keith wakes up.

KEITH
Well hello, ruiner of my life.

JEFF
I'm not in the mood.

KEITH
Sorry.

Jeff slumps at his desk.

Keith digs through his stuff and comes up with a liquor
bottle and two glasses. He goes over to Jeff and fills the
glasses.

JEFF
I said I wasn't in the mood.

KEITH
Come on, I have a tradition of
drinking heavily every time the
police pick me up.

Jeff and Keith drink. Jeff starts to cough violently.

JEFF
What...

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KEITH

About one hundred and fifty proof. Nothing warms my heart like a good woman or Jamaican rum.

JEFF

I thought we had him.

KEITH

What do you want me to say?

JEFF

I don't know. I don't know.

Both go back to drinking.

KEITH

I think you're taking this too seriously.

JEFF

There are people dying on this campus and I can't stop it!

KEITH

It's not your job to stop it. You're just a reporter. Your not supposed to change the world.

JEFF

One man can change the world.

KEITH

Yes, but should he?

JEFF

What?

KEITH

Sorry, I thought I'd get a bit abstract and lighten the mood. (a beat) Look, I can see what the story is doing to you and I'm telling you for your own good to back off. Let it go.

A moment of silence.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
Have you ever heard of My Lai?

KEITH
What about your Lai?

JEFF
It was a small village in South Vietnam.

KEITH
Oh.

JEFF
In 1968 there was a massacre of civilians by American troops.

KEITH
That was a long time ago.

JEFF
My father was there. He was a platoon sergeant. He tried to stop the killing, but nobody would listen. When the story hit the press he ended up being court-martialed right along with everyone else. There was no dirt on him, but the reporters still managed to ruin his life.

KEITH
I'm sorry.

JEFF
He was given a dishonorable discharge. The army was everything to him and they just took it away.

KEITH
This will help.

Keith pours two more drinks.

JEFF
Ever since then he's hated reporters. He begged me to choose something else for a living.

KEITH
Why didn't you?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
Writing's been all I ever loved.
And I always wanted to prove
to him that writers can do some
good. I can't even do that.

EXT. STREET CORNER-DAY

There is a large group of STUDENTS listening to a STUDENT
SPEAKER on a raised platform. Jeff is in the crowd taking
notes. Around the crowd's perimeter are several POLICEMEN.
Behind the Speaker is a large banner with "Protection
Council" written on it.

SPEAKER
How much more are we going to
take?

No answer.

SPEAKER
I said how much more are we
going to take?

Several people in the crowd shout, "No more!"

SPEAKER
That's right! We were told this
campus was safe. The police said
they would protect us. But they
can't and they won't. We have to
take care of ourselves...

Lt. Rigby pulls up in his car. He gets out and steps up to
one of the Policeman.

RIGBY
Anything yet?

POLICEMAN
They're still pretty peaceful.

RIGBY
Just be ready break this up
if I give the word.

SPEAKER
We have to arm ourselves. We
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
SPEAKER (con't)

can't wait for anymore answers
from the police like Lt. Rigby
there. Tell us Lt. Rigby, when
will the killing stop? When?

Rigby makes his way to the stage.

SPEAKER

He has no answer because the police
can't stop it.

Rigby steps up onto the platform and turns to address the
crowd.

RIGBY

The police are doing everything
that can be done.

SPEAKER

That's not enough! We want
answers! We want the killing
to stop!

RIGBY

It will. But we will take care
of it. Do not take the law into
your own hands. Now I have to
ask you to disperse before you
spill over into the street.

The crowd begins to disperse. Rigby starts off towards his
car.

SPEAKER

We will not be silent anymore!
You can't just ignore us!
We must take care of ourselves.

Rigby runs into Jeff.

RIGBY

What are you doing here?

JEFF

Story. You know.

RIGBY

So far your theory checks out.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
I know.

RIGBY
We still need to check out a few things. Next time you get any great revelations don't wait so long to let us know.

JEFF
Ahh...sure.

Rigby gets into his car and drives off.

EXT. RACHEL'S HOUSE-DAY

Jeff walks up to the door step and rings the bell.

After a few moments, Rachel opens the door.

JEFF
Hi.

RACHEL
Hi.

Can I come in?

JEFF
I don't think that would be a good idea.

RACHEL (continuing)
I've been doing some thinking. Maybe we should take some time away from each other.

JEFF
I'm sorry.

RACHEL
Please don't make this any more difficult. I've been doing some thinking about (MORE)
CONTINUED:

RACHEL (cont'd)
what our relationship
really is and it seems pretty
obvious to me that I'm not as
important to you as you are
to me.

JEFF
What do you want me to say?

RACHEL
Don't say anything. I need to
go because I think I'm going
to cry and I don't want you to
see that.

Rachel closes the door.
Jeff walks away.

INT. JEFF'S ROOM-NIGHT

Jeff is studying at his desk. He has a number of books and
papers spread all over the place. He has a piece of paper
with the heading of, "Murders", and under that the dates,
"August 31, September 8, September 30, and November 8",
written. Next to that is a calendar open to the month of
November. All of the days up to November 4 have been marked
off.

The phone rings. Jeff picks up it up immediately.

JEFF
Rachel?

A deep and menacing voice.

VOICE
(filtered)
No.

JEFF
Who is this?

VOICE
(filtered)
You mean you can't guess?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
I'm not in the mood for a prank.

Jeff starts to hang up the phone.

VOICE
(filtered)
I'm Jack.

Jeff stops.

JEFF
This isn't very funny.

VOICE
(filtered)
No. Do you want to hear about how I killed those girls?

Jeff starts to dig through his desk.

JEFF
How did you get my number?

VOICE
(filtered)
You're in the book.

Jeff finds his miniature tape recorder and a phone microphone. He quickly puts them together.

JEFF
Why did you call me?

VOICE
(filtered)
I don't have anything to do for four more days so I thought I'd call the great reporter who was covering me.

Jeff attaches the microphone to the telephone and starts recording.

JEFF
Why did you kill those girls?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

VOICE
(filtered)
I've seen you.

JEFF
When?

VOICE
(filtered)
I watched you from the quad after I killed those two girls. I watched the police take you away because they thought you were me.

JEFF
Do you always hang around to watch the police?

VOICE
(filtered)
I like to watch them stumble around.

JEFF
Why did you kill those girls?

VOICE
(filtered)
I need to go. Maybe I'll call again.

JEFF
No! Wait!

There is a CLICK as the phone is hung up. Jeff stops his tape.

EXT. BEHIND A DORMITORY-NIGHT

This is where the first murder took place.

Jeff is walking around looking at the ground. When he finds the place where Cindy Hammersmith's body was discovered, he bends down. For several seconds he stares at the cement. Very slowly, he bends down and touches the ground.
INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE—DAY

Jeff is playing a tape of the deep menacing voice for Rigby.

TAPED VOICE
I need to go. Maybe I'll call again.

Jeff turns it off.

JEFF
Well?

RIGBY
Well what?

JEFF
Don't you think this is a break in the case?

RIGBY
No. This tape doesn't tell us anything new.

JEFF
It's him.

RIGBY
You have proof?

JEFF
He said the next murder was in four, now three days.

RIGBY
When you wrote your second story, you mentioned the similarities to Jack the Ripper.

JEFF
So?

RIGBY
So, the entire campus read that and it doesn't take too much effort to figure out when the rest of the murders will take place. For all I know, you could have made this up.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
Are you accusing me...

RIGBY
No. All I'm saying is you have no proof and until you do, I really don't think this tape is credible.

JEFF
I gave you the M.O.

RIGBY
That doesn't mean this tape is credible. Even if it is, we can't do anything about it. I'll tap your phone and trace all your calls, but I have a feeling this guy has already thought of that. Look, he's supposed to strike in three more days. I'm going to put twice the number of men on patrol. I really can't do anything more than that.

JEFF
Don't you have any clues to work on?

RIGBY
To be honest, no. This guy is good. But he's not that good. We'll catch him on the eighth. That will be the end of it.

JEFF
And if you don't?

RIGBY
We will. Now I've got work to do.

JEFF
What if you don't catch him?

RIGBY
I said I've got work to do. I'm sure you remember your way out.

Jeff exits.
INT. SCHOOL BUILDING CORRIDOR-DAY

A lot of STUDENTS are walking to class.

Jeff is minding his own business as he slowly walks down the corridor. SCOTT HESTON, an athletic college student, walks up to him.

SCOTT
Hey, aren't you Jeff Carlson?

JEFF
Yeah.

SCOTT
I'm Scott Heston, glad to meet you.

Scott holds his hand out. Jeff reluctantly shakes it.

JEFF
Nice to meet you too.

SCOTT
I've been wanting to talk to you for a long time.

JEFF
So talk.

The corridor is clearing out.

SCOTT
I wanted to talk to you about the murders.

JEFF
What about them?

SCOTT
I know you've been covering them for the newspaper and I know you've been working with the police.

JEFF
So?

SCOTT
I was wondering if there was anything you haven't been telling us.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF

Who's us?

SCOTT

All that time you were in the police station, did you see or hear anything the police aren't releasing to the public?

JEFF

I'm a reporter. I report things I see.

SCOTT

If the police asked you to keep quiet about something, would you?

JEFF

Why are you asking me all these questions?

SCOTT

Don't you agree that we have a right to know what's going on?

JEFF

You keep speaking in the plural.

SCOTT

I'm with the Protection Council.

JEFF

You're one of the vigilantes.

SCOTT

You keep changing the subject.

JEFF

I've told you all I want to.

Jeff turns to walk away. Scott grabs him and spins him around.

SCOTT

You still haven't answered my question.

JEFF

Are you threatening me?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

SCOTT
I just want an answer.

JEFF
I gave you my answer! Are you going to beat me up because you don't like what I'm saying? Things are under control. I...the police will catch the guy and that will be the end of it. Okay?!

Jeff turns and leaves.

INT. JEFF'S ROOM-DAY

Jeff is anxiously pacing the room. Keith is sitting reading a magazine.

KEITH
You're starting to make me very nervous. Please make the call.

JEFF
I'm not sure what to say.

KEITH
I don't care what you say, just stop pacing.

Jeff sits down and picks up the phone.

JEFF
I really miss her.

KEITH
So make the call.

Jeff dials. We hear a FILTERED PHONE RING, then:

RACHEL
(filtered)
Hello.

JEFF
Hi.

RACHEL
(filtered)
I'm not ready to talk yet. (CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

I am.

RACHEL
(filtered)
I have to go.

JEFF
Wait!

We hear a CLICK.

Jeff hangs up.

Strike two?

Jeff puts his head down.

What say we go and get drunk off our asses?

JEFF
I don't think drinking will make me feel any better.

What about eating quarter pounders 'til we puke?

JEFF
I really miss her. Would you mind if I were alone for a while?

KEITH
Sure, no problem. I'll go see Cindy for a couple hours. We have to make plans for the bonfire dance.

JEFF
I think it's safe to say I won't be going to that.

KEITH
Sorry, I didn't mean to bring it up.

Jeff nods his understanding.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KEITH (continuing)
Well I'll get out here, I'll see you later.

Keith exits.

Jeff lays his head down.

INT. NEWSPAPER ROOM-DAY

Students are running around preparing for the next edition. George is directing this chaos.

Jeff enters and walks over to George.

JEFF
I've got that follow-up on the double murder.

GEORGE
You've still got thirty minutes. I'm not sure what to do with all this extra time.

Jeff hands him some pages.

JEFF
Anything else?

GEORGE
No, I guess not.

Jeff goes over to his desk. There is a pile of papers sitting on top. He starts to go through the papers. On the bottom, there is a sealed envelope with no writing on it. He opens it up. There is a piece of paper that says, "Just wanted you to know I haven't forgot about you," signed, "Jack."

INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE-DAY

Rigby is working at his desk when Jeff walks in.

RIGBY
Why are you making this a habit?

JEFF
He sent me a letter.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

RIGBY
Did you handle it?

JEFF
Yes.

RIGBY
Then it's no good as evidence.

Rigby goes back to his work.

JEFF
Don't you want to look at it?

RIGBY
No.

JEFF
Why...

RIGBY
Look, I've been more than fair with you. I've got a lot of work to do and you're starting to get in the way.

JEFF
In the way?!

RIGBY
Yes. You're just a college student. If you don't butt out of this I'll haul your ass in as an accessory when we catch this guy! Now please leave, I've got a lot of work to do!

Jeff leaves.

INT. JEFF'S ROOM-LATE AFTERNOON

Jeff is pouring over his Jack the Ripper notes.

Keith enters.

KEITH
I've got it!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
He's going to hit tonight.

KEITH
What?

JEFF
Tonight's the eighth, he's going commit the last murder tonight.

KEITH
I bring you the way to win back Rachel, and you're still thinking about some psycho.

JEFF
I'm sure there is something I missed...if I just keep looking.

KEITH
Are you listening to me?

Jeff stops.

JEFF
Okay what?

KEITH
Flowers.

JEFF
Flowers?

KEITH
Didn't you tell me that flowers really melt Rachel's butter?

JEFF
I don't think a rose will fix this mess.

KEITH
A rose, no. But what about a shit load of roses.

JEFF
A shit load?
CONTINUED:

KEITH
Like more than one man can
carry. More than a tractor
trailer can carry.

JEFF
That's a lot of money.

KEITH
What's more important, some
worthless green paper or the
only girl who brought you love
and isn't bad in the sack either?

Jeff goes back to his notes.

KEITH (continuing)
Well just think about it.
I've got to go and pick up
Cindy for the dance. (a beat)
Hope to see you there.

Keith exits.

Jeff stops his studying and thinks for a moment. He pulls a
phone book out of his desk. After thumbing through it, he
picks up the phone and dials. We hear the PHONE RING and AN
ELDERLY FEMALE VOICE ANSWERS.

FEMALE VOICE
(filtered)
Flowers by Steve.

JEFF
Yes, I'd like to order one,
no make that two of your largest
bouquets.

FEMALE VOICE
(filtered)
Hang on while I get an order
form.

Jeff digs through his notes. He comes up with a page with
the heading, "Addresses." Below this is a list consisting
of, "Buck's Row, 29 Hanbury St., Berner St., Mitre Square,
and Miller's Court."

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

FEMALE VOICE
(filtered)
Okay, let me have the address
of where you want these delivered.

JEFF
The name is Rachel Rouiller and
the address is seven thirty
four Miller's Court...

Jeff double checks the page of his notes.

FEMALE VOICE
(filtered)
Could you give me the zip code?

JEFF
Ahh, never mind... I changed
my mind...

Jeff hangs up. After a moment he dials another number. The
PHONE RINGS a few times, then:

RACHEL
(filtered)
Hello?

JEFF
Rachel! Listen to me...

RACHEL
(filtered)
...Jeff, I don't want to talk.

She hangs up.

Jeff redials. This time he gets a BUSY SIGNAL.

JEFF
Shit!

He slams down the phone.

Jeff paces the room. He returns to the phone and dials. We
hear several RINGS.

LT. RIGBY
(filtered)
Lt. Rigby.

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
I know where he's going!

LT. RIGBY
(filtered)
Jeffery, is that you?

JEFF
Yes. I know where he's ...

LT. RIGBY
(filtered)
I thought I told you to keep out of this.

JEFF
He's going to Miller's Court.

LT. RIGBY
(filtered)
I have things under control. Now I want you to stay out of this.

But...

LT. RIGBY
(filtered)
I said I have things under control. Good bye.

We hear the phone CLICK. Jeff bangs the phone several times.

JEFF
Why won't anyone listen?!

Jeff thinks for a moment.

He picks up the phone and dials. We hear a few FILTERED RINGS.

HOFFMAN
(filtered)
Hello?

JEFF
It's Jeff. I need to see you right away.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

HOFFMAN
(filtered)
Right now?

JEFF
Yes.

HOFFMAN
(filtered)
Did you want to meet me somewhere?

JEFF
How about the diner?

HOFFMAN
(filtered)
I'll see you there in ten minutes.

JEFF
I need a ride.

HOFFMAN
I'll pick you up outside your dorm.

JEFF
Right.

Jeff hangs up and exits.

A moment later, Jeff re-enters. He grabs some paper and a pen and quickly writes a note.

Jeff exits.

INT. DINER-NIGHT

Jeff and Hoffman are sitting in a booth.

HOFFMAN
No, Jeff. You stay out of this.

JEFF
I can't not go.

HOFFMAN
Jeffery. This isn't a game. Once you start making the news, you stop being a reporter.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Jeffery thinks.

JEFF
This isn't about reporting any more.

HOFFMAN
I know.

JEFF
Then you know why I have to do something.

HOFFMAN
Why did you ask to see me?

JEFF
I wanted your advice.

HOFFMAN
No, you wanted justification. In the real world, things are never the way we imagine. If you go tonight, you may not like what you find. This person is a killer. How do you expect him to act if he finds you?

JEFF
Jack the Ripper never killed a man.

HOFFMAN
Yes, but this isn't Jack the Ripper. Jack the Ripper lived and died one hundred years ago.

JEFF
He won't hurt me.

Hoffman is becoming frustrated.

HOFFMAN
I don't know what else to tell you. I don't know what you want me to say. All I can tell you is leave this alone. Obsession is not healthy and you're obsessed.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
Maybe you're right. I suppose
Rachel's involvement has something
to do with my feelings

HOFFMAN
That's more like it. Now you're
starting to see this for what it
really is.

JEFF
We'd probably better go.
I have some work to do.

They exit.

INT. HOFFMAN'S CAR-NIGHT
Hoffman is driving. Jeff is on the passenger side.
Hoffman pulls up to Jeff's dorm.

HOFFMAN
You've made the right decision.

JEFF
I know. Thanks.

HOFFMAN
I'll see you tomorrow.

JEFF
Right.

Jeff gets out and walks into his dorm. Hoffman pulls away.

As soon as Hoffman is out of sight, Jeff emerges from the
dorm. He looks around, then takes off into the night.

EXT. RACHEL'S COURT-NIGHT

The court is dead quiet. Nobody is in sight. There is a
light on in Rachel's house. Also, there is a car that is
parked across the court form Rachel's house. The car
appears empty.

Jeff runs up. He stops in the shadows and looks around.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Jeff starts to walk out into the court when he sees a cigarette being lit in the front seat of the car. Jeff stops. The light from the cigarette shows an UNDERCOVER POLICEMAN in conservative dress. Jeff returns to the shadows and settles in.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RACHEL'S COURT-NIGHT

The Undercover Policeman in the car is reading a magazine.

Jeff is still sitting in the shadows. He is starting to nod off.

Across the street, Jeff sees a shadow move between two houses. Jeff is instantly awake. The Undercover Policeman is still reading his magazine. Jeff stares across the street. The shadow moves between two more houses. The movement is in the general direction of Rachel's house.

Jeff jumps to his feet. He looks around on the ground. He finds a good sized rock in the shadows and picks it up. He takes off into the darkness.

Jeff is slowly making his way towards the shadow. He is being careful to avoid the sight of the Undercover Policeman.

Jeff has stopped behind a house. He is looking around intently. He sees a shadow move up ahead. Jeff slowly starts to creep towards it. As he gets closer, he raises the rock to strike.

Just before Jeff is in position, the shadow swings around and hits Jeff with a baseball bat. Jeff falls to the ground moaning. The shadow puts his hand over Jeff's mouth. The shadow is Keith.

KEITH
Jesus Christ! What the hell are you doing.?!?

Jeff can't talk. He is still trying to catch his breath.

KEITH (continuing)
What's wrong? Can't breath?

Jeff stops coughing and glares at Keith.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
What are you doing here?

KEITH
I forgot my condoms so I had to back to the room and I saw your note. I canceled my date for the dance.

JEFF
I'll make it up to you.

KEITH
You'd better be one hell of a good lay.

JEFF
Is your car around here?

KEITH
Yeah, I almost drove up until I saw the cop.

JEFF
How do you know he's a cop?

KEITH
I think I've been arrested enough times to tell. (a beat) Why is it so dead around here?

JEFF
Everyone must be at the dance.

KEITH
Except for Rachel.

JEFF
Right.

KEITH
So what now?

JEFF
We wait and hope I was wrong about him coming here.

KEITH
Okay.

They start to move off.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KEITH
I almost forgot. I noticed that a couple of the houses were left open.

JEFF
So?

KEITH
Do you know of anyone who leaves their house open and unlocked to the world?

JEFF
You think he's hiding in one of these houses?

KEITH
Hiding or looking?

JEFF
Looking?

KEITH
For someone to kill.

JEFF
You always know just what to say.

They move off.

EXT. BEHIND RACHEL'S HOUSE-NIGHT
Keith and Jeff walk up. The speak in hushed tones.

KEITH
If she hears us back here she's liable to call the police.

JEFF
I don't care.

KEITH
I really don't want to be arrested again.

JEFF
Do you think I'm a masochist?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KEITH
Here's a funny thought. Why don't we just go in and tell her what's going on?

JEFF
I tried to tell her once and she hung up on me.

KEITH
Why don't you forget your fucking pride. If you're right, there's a good chance someone may try and kill her tonight.

JEFF
Maybe you're right.

KEITH
I think this is the first time you ever agreed with me.

Keith walks to the back door and opens it.

KEITH
Good, I really didn't want to have to walk around to the front again.

JEFF
Wait!

KEITH
What? What?

JEFF
That door is never unlocked!

KEITH
So, maybe she heard us.

JEFF
He's in there.

Keith steps away from the door.

KEITH
Okay. Let's call the police.

JEFF
I'd be arrested.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

    Jeff!
We hear a bump from inside.
Jeff leaps inside.  

    Jeff! Don't!
Keith quickly paces back and forth.  

    Oh well hell.
Keith follows Jeff into the house.

INT. RACHEL'S KITCHEN-NIGHT.
Keith is standing in darkness. He looks around disoriented.
The lights come on. Keith jumps. Rachel is standing in the doorway.

    What...Keith? What...How...
KEITH
No time to explain. Go out front.  
There is a cop sitting in a car...
Another bump.

    Where's Jeff?
Rachel
Keith starts out of the room.

    Get out of the house!

INT. RACHEL'S HALLWAY-NIGHT
Jeff is listening.
After a moment, he starts down the hallway. He creeps into the first door. With his back to the hall, a shadow moves behind him and disappears.
INT. RACHEL'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Keith is listening to the rest of the house. After a moment, he moves off.

EXT. RACHEL'S COURT - NIGHT

Rachel runs up to the car. The Undercover Policeman is dozing. She beats on the windows.

RACHEL

Wake up! Wake up!

Undercover Policeman awakens with a start.

UNDERCOVER POLICEMAN

What?!

RACHEL

There is a man in my house!

Undercover Policeman grabs his police radio.

UNDERCOVER POLICEMAN

This is unit five. I think I've got him!

Undercover Policeman jumps out of the car and heads into the house.

A deep voice responds.

DEEP VOICE

Roger that. All available units. Officer requesting back up. Miller's Court.

INT. RACHEL'S HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jeff is listening. From one of the rooms halfway down the hall, he hears a bump. He slowly starts to head that way.

Jeff gets right next to the door when a shadowy body appears. Jeff and the body see each other at the same time and both jump.

The figure moves into the light. It's Keith again.

KEITH

Jesus Christ! I almost flattened you again.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
See anything?

KEITH
Nothing in this end of the house.
Maybe he left already.

JEFF
Where's Rachel?

KEITH
She went to get the cop.

A crash comes from the room father down the hallway. Keith and Jeff freeze.

KEITH
Let's not make any rash judgments here.

JEFF
Let's go.

KEITH
Wait! It could be the cop.

Jeff stares at him for a minute then creeps down the hallway towards the noise. Keith reluctantly follows.

As Jeff gets closer to an open door, noise of someone stumbling around gets louder. Jeff stops by the side of the door. After he gathers himself, he slowly starts to peek around the door. Suddenly the door slams in his face. Jeff tries the knob but it's locked.

JEFF
Come on!

Keith pushes Jeff out of the way and starts to beat the door with his bat.

JEFF
(to himself)
Come on. Come on.

Keith's bat breaks a hole in the door. Jeff looks through and sees a dark figure crawl out the window.

Keith breaks the door in. Jeff rushes in and starts to dive out the window.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KEITH

Jeff!

Jeff's gone. Keith starts to follow when the lights come on. Undercover Policeman is standing in the door with a revolver pointed at Keith.

UNDERCOVER POLICEMAN

Freeze! Police! Drop the bat!

Keith complies and puts his hands up.

KEITH

He's getting away!

TURN AROUND.

Keith turns.

Rachel enters.

RACHEL

That's not him!

UNDERCOVER POLICEMAN

What?

RACHEL

Where is Jeff?!

KEITH

He went out the window.

Rachel looks out the window.

RACHEL

Jeff.

EXT. RACHEL'S NEIGHBORHOOD-NIGHT

Jeff is running. He is chasing the shadowy figure. No matter how hard Jeff runs, he never gets any closer.

JEFF

Hey!

In the distance, approaching police sirens can be heard.

JEFF (continuing)

I need to talk to you!
EXT. PIZZA PARLOR-NIGHT

There is a small number of STUDENTS are milling around.

Jeff runs up from around the corner. He stops to catch his breath. He looks around anxiously. Jeff grabs one of the passing students.

JEFF
Did you just see a guy run by!?

STUDENT
(motions towards the pizza parlor)
I think he went in there.

Jeff releases him and enters the pizza parlor.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR-NIGHT

A few STUDENTS sit scattered around.

Jeff enters. He slowly begins to walk around and look at everyone.

The last person he comes to is reading a newspaper. Jeff examines him closely. There is mud on the reader's shoes and he is breathing heavily.

Jeff reaches out to take the paper. Just as he gets his hands on it, the reader flips the table up. Jeff falls to the ground. The reader bolts outside. Jeff follows.

EXT. PIZZA PARLOR-NIGHT

POLICE SIRENS are approaching.

Jeff is chasing the figure again. Jeff is starting to tire.

Just as the shadowy figure runs through an intersection, a police car emerges from a side street and hits him. He is thrown into the air and lands unconscious.

Jeff runs up to the body. It is the KILLER, a very average looking college student.

A small CROWD starts to form. A POLICE OFFICER gets out of his car.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

POLICE OFFICER

Who is he?

JEFF

I don't know. I don't know.

The Police Officer starts to administer first aid to the Killer. Jeff continues to stare him.

JEFF

Who are you?!

POLICE OFFICER

Why don't you just step back?

He pushes Jeff away.

Jeff wanders over to the sidewalk.

JEFF

(to himself)

I don't understand. Who are you?

INT. HOSPITAL-DAY

Jeff and Hoffman are standing at the end of a hallway. At the other end are two POLICE OFFICERS guarding a door.

HOFFMAN

I'm still not sure if this is such a good idea. You're still too close to this story.

JEFF

I have to talk to him. I appreciate the advice, but I have to talk to him.

Hoffman nods.

JEFF

I was told they'd be expecting me.

HOFFMAN

I'll wait down in the car.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Jeff nods and heads toward the two Police Officers.
Jeff stops at the guarded door.

JEFF
Lt. Rigby said you'd be...

One of the Police Officers opens the door for Jeff.

POLICE OFFICER
We were told to give you five minutes.

Jeff walks in.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM-DAY

The curtains are pulled closed making the room very dark. The Killer is lying in the bed.

Jeff walks in. Killer stares at Jeff. Jeff stares back.

JEFF
I'm Jeffery Carlson from the school newspaper.

KILLER
I know. We've talked.

JEFF
Yes.

KILLER
Are you going to stand there all day or are you going to sit down?

Jeff fumbles around and moves a chair next to the bed. He still can't help but stare at Killer. Jeff pulls out his miniature tape recorder and starts recording.

JEFF
Do you mind answering a few questions?

KILLER
No.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
I really appreciate you letting
me interview you.

KILLER
Get to the point. I know what you
want to ask me.

What?

JEFF
Did you?

KILLER
Yes.

Another pause.

JEFF
You do realize everything you
say will be printed?

KILLER
Yes. That's why I'm being honest.
I have nothing to hide.

JEFF
Why did you kill?

KILLER
I wanted to.

JEFF
You wanted to?

KILLER
Yes. I just wanted to.

JEFF
That's all? There must be
something else.

KILLER
I wanted to see if I could
get away with it.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JEFF
You didn't.

KILLER
That's pretty obvious. Are you going to ask me any other questions?

JEFF
I just want to know why?

KILLER
I told you why. There's nothing else to it.

JEFF
That can't be it.

KILLER
It is. Why does this mean so much to you? I wanted to kill. I did and I got caught. That's it.

Jeff looks away in disbelief.

JEFF
All this because you just wanted to see if you could get away with it.

KILLER
I'm tired of answering your questions. You can leave now.

JEFF
There's nothing else you want to say?

KILLER
What else do you want me to say?

Jeff stops the tape recorder and exits.

INT. JEFF'S ROOM-DAY

Jeff and Keith are listening to Jeff's miniature tape recorder.

KILLER'S VOICE
(filtered)
What else do you want me to say?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Jeff turns the tape off.

KEITH
Well?

JEFF
Well what?

KEITH
That's it?

JEFF
Yes. That's it.

Keith begins to rant. Jeff remains calm.

KEITH
I can't believe this shit! I...we went all through this... for nothing!

JEFF
Pretty much.

KEITH
This really pisses me off! How can you just sit there?

JEFF
There's nothing to do.

KEITH
Nothing to do! Can't we call the police...write our Congressman...

Keith sits down.

KEITH
You're right. We can't do anything.

Jeff takes the tape out of the machine and throws it away.

JEFF
I just don't care anymore.

Silence for a moment.

KEITH
What say you and I get drunk?

(MORE)
CONTINUED:

KEITH (cont'd)
I mean it's the middle of the afternoon and why not.

JEFF
I think you drink too much.

KEITH
Man's got to have a hobby.

JEFF
Can I borrow your car?

EXT. RACHEL'S HOUSE—DAY

Jeff walks up to the door. He hesitates before he rings the bell.

Rachel answers.

JEFF
Please don't close the door.

RACHEL
Is that the best greeting you've got?

JEFF
Sorry. Hi.

RACHEL
Hi.

JEFF
I've really missed...

Rachel comes out and gives Jeff a hug.

JEFF (continuing)
...you?

RACHEL
I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been such a bitch.

JEFF
No. You were right. I should have listened to everybody. I did a good job of leading myself into something that wasn't real.
CONTINUED:

RACHEL
That sounds very dramatic.

JEFF
I'm still not sure what part of it is real and what part I imagined.

RACHEL
You saved my life. That part was real.

No answer.

RACHEL (continuing)
How long are you going to want pity?

JEFF
I don't want pity.

RACHEL
I can always tell when you're lying. You made a mistake. We all do. The killer was caught and that's the important thing.

JEFF
Maybe...

RACHEL
I'm right. I know I'm right. Let me take you out to dinner.

JEFF
I thought that was my job.

RACHEL
This way I know you won't forget about it.

Jeff smiles.

RACHEL
Come on.

Rachel goes into the house. Jeff follows

FADE OUT:

CREDITS.