

Echo Chamber

Leah Tibbets

This is a sample of the screenplay (in progress), feel free to leave feedback as long as it is constructive!

Thanks,

Leah Tibbets

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

A former CIA agent, CURTIS (41) stands on the rooftop of a nondescript building. He's dressed in a black hoodie and jeans, and his eyes are fixed on a pair of high-powered binoculars.

INT. CURTIS'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CURTIS, disheveled and eyes strained, enters his cluttered office. His gaze darts between the dozen CCTV screens, flickering with grainy city feeds. A sudden distortion catches his attention. As the feed flickers back, he spots a hooded figure lurking in the shadows outside the Bank on West Avenue. His expression turns intense.

CURTIS (V.O.)

What the?

CURTIS, eyes glued to the screen, zooms in on the hooded figure. The figure, in a deserted alleyway, looks up, as if sensing his gaze. The figure raises his hand holding something that glints under the moonlight.

CURTIS (V.O.)(CONT'D)

Am I being watched?

The lights flicker a moment, then stabilize. CURTIS waits for something to happen, but nothing does.

CURTIS (V.O.)(CONT'D) (CONT'D)

I'm being warned.

INT. BACK ALLEY BY BANK - NIGHT

SARAH(31) walks down a deserted alley on her cell phone.

SARAH

Yes mom, I promise I am okay. Logan had forgotten to text me about the change in our plans.

SARAH reassures her mother she's okay, but when she hangs up her phone and looks up from the cobblestone path, a hooded figure moves to block her path.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Can I help you?

The figure moves towards her and a glint of metal catches her eye. She shrieks and stumbles backwards before turning to run.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Why are you doing this? What do you want from me?

A blow to her back sends her to the ground. The figure stands over her, a butcher knife in her back. The figure whistles, and the camera flickers and distorts.

SARAH (CONT'D)

(Crying, coughing blood)
Please don't do this.

While looking at the camera the figure puts its boot on the hilt of the knife in SARAH's back and stomps as her lifeless body falls face down in a pool of blood.

EXT. CAMERA FEED OUTSIDE FRONT OF BANK - NIGHT

The same figure from the alley walks away from the crime scene. The camera zooms in on the figure's face before the footage goes black.

INT. CURTIS'S OFFICE - DAY

CURTIS sits at his computer as he sips a cup of coffee. His phone rings, and he answers it.

CURTIS

Yeah?

MIKE

Curtis, it's Mike. I've got some bad news.

CURTIS's brows furrow.

CURTIS
What is it?

MIKE
It's SARAH, she's been murdered.

CURTIS chokes on his coffee in shock.

CURTIS
Murdered? What do you mean? I just
saw SARAH a few days ago.

He sinks back into his office chair stunned.

MIKE
I know this is hard to hear CURT, I
know you two were close.

CURTIS
How? Where did this happen MIKE?

MIKE pauses.

MIKE
Outside the bank on WEST AVENUE.
The police are still processing the
scene. CURT, do you still have
access to the city's cameras?

CURTIS
Yeah, of course I do.

CURTIS's eyes widen as he remembers the suspicious figure he
saw on the CCTV footage the night before.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
MIKE when did this happen?

MIKE
SARAH'S mom said she was near the
bank when she last spoke to her.
That puts her death at 8:45 P.M.

CURTIS
I need to see the footage.

CURTIS hangs up the phone and starts typing on the keyboard
in front of him. He pulls up the CCTV footage from the bank
on WEST AVENUE fast-forwards through it to 8:30 P.M.

INT. BANK ON WEST AVENUE - DAY (CCTV FOOTAGE)

SARAH walks down the alleyway, talking on her phone. A figure lurks in the background, watching her.

CURTIS eyes narrow as he zooms in on the figure. He rewinds the footage and lets it play again.

Shocked he calls MIKE back. MIKE answers.

CURTIS
MIKE you'll never believe what I..

CURTIS's eyes widen, seeing what is in the assailant's hand.

MIKE
Go on?

CURTIS still shocked seeing the killer stalk SARAH with the knife pauses.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You there?

CURTIS's voice is barely above a whisper now.

CURTIS
MIKE was SARAH stabbed?

MIKE
Yeah, 3 or 4 times, but the last one is what did her in, he stomped the knife right through her heart
CURT.

As CURTIS hears the words, the event plays out before his eyes on the CCTV screen.

CURTIS
Holy shit, MIKE I found the footage.

MIKE
Can you send that over to me?

CURTIS
Give me a second.

CURTIS opens his email on the screen, and sends the video in an email to MIKE.

CURTIS (CONT'D)
Done. Call me back and let me know later if you find anything from the video that we could use to identify the person in the footage.

MIKE
Will do. Talk later CURT.

CURTIS
Bye.

CURTIS hangs up the phone, his eyes still fixed on the screen.

INT. CURTIS'S OFFICE - DAY

CURTIS's eyes remain fixed on the screen. He leans back in his chair, running a hand through his hair.

CURTIS (V.O)
I knew Sarah. She was a good person. I don't understand how anyone could hurt her.

CURTIS's gaze falls on a framed photo on his desk of SARAH and him at dinner.

CURTIS (V.O) (CONT'D)
We were a team. We trusted each other with our lives. At one point, I thought I would marry her.

CURTIS's eyes narrow, his expression hardening.

CURTIS (V.O) (CONT'D)
I'm going to find out who did this.

He stands up, his movements swift and deliberate. He walks over to a large map of the city on his wall, studying it.

CURTIS (V.O) (CONT'D)
The killer was careful. He knew the cameras were there. He wanted to be seen.

CURTIS's eyes scan the map, searching for a connection between the crime scene and the surrounding area.

CURTIS (V.O) (CONT'D)
But why? Why did you want to be seen, and why SARAH?

Suddenly, his phone rings. It's MIKE.

MIKE

CURT, I found something. The police found a piece of torn fabric near the crime scene. It's from a black hoodie.

CURTIS

That's our guy. Get it to forensics. See if they can lift any DNA.

MIKE

Already on it. But there's something else. The police are getting heat from the mayor's office to solve this case ASAP.

CURTIS

Politics. Just what we need.

MIKE

I know. The mayor's office is breathing down our necks.

CURTIS

I'll get to work on the footage. See if I can enhance the image of the killer for you.

MIKE

Keep me posted.

MIKE (CONT'D)

CURT.

MIKE pauses.

CURTIS

Yeah?

MIKE

I know we aren't part of the team anymore since we got the boot from the Intelligence Agency, but thanks for having my back still. Even though I'm on city duty now.

CURTIS

That's what friends are for. I still consider you a friend.

Before MIKE can say anything else, CURTIS hangs up the phone, his eyes refocusing on the map.

CURTIS (V.O.)
Time to get to work.

He walks over to his computer then sits down and starts to enhance the CCTV footage.