

TAG, YOU'RE IT!

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SUPERIMPOSE: THURSDAY OCTOBER 31, 2019 - HALLOWEEN

BLACK. SILENT SCREEN portends the moment. A crowd CHEERS. LOUDER and louder as

FADE IN:

The BLACK becomes a night sky streaked with lightning and torrential rain, falling on -- St. Cassandra herself.

1 **EXT. ST. CASSANDRA H.S. - WILMETTE, ILLINOIS - RAIN - NIGHT 1**

In Greek mythology, Cassandra was a daughter of Priam endowed with the gift of prophecy but fated never to be believed. She predicted the fall of Troy. 2: one that predicts misfortune or disaster.

In front: a large, dripping wet stone statue of a weeping nun. Alongside this --

AN ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD reads: **ST. CASSANDRA HIGH SCHOOL**
ST. CASSIE v LOYOLA - STATE SEMI-FINALS TONITE 8 PM.

2 **INT. ST. CASSANDRA HIGH - GYM** 2

FULL SCREEN: A BASKETBALL BOUNCES OFF THE BASKET RIM

A cheering, packed house on their feet with seventeen seconds frozen on the clock.

Scoreboard: ST. CASSANDRA 64, LOYOLA 65.

Poised on the free-throw line: St. Cassie center #21 KEVIN McMANUS 18, African-American, athletic, Midwestern good looks a mere five years away from his own *WHEATIES* box.

CHEERS as Kevin glances up, exchanges a smile and wink with NICOLE WYNTER: 18, Latina, with long ebony hair, and easily the most desirable young lady in the stands.

After missing the first shot, Kevin makes his second shot.

Score tied!

2a **ON THE SIDE OF THE BLEACHERS** 2a

A thin pale man with bushy eyebrows in wrinkled clothes is in a heated phone conversation.

2b **IN THE BLEACHERS** 2b

Nicole applauds enthusiastically, is playfully nudged by BFF CHLOE THOMPSON, 18, cute and spirited with short blonde hair, she glows even while walking in Nicole's shadow. Both APPLAUD enthusiastically for their men.

2c **ON THE COURT** 2c

Play resumes. Loyola gains control, tries to score. Kevin guards, blocks the throw. St. Cassie gets the ball.

Across the court, ball's passed to Kevin. Takes the shot and misses. The CROWD chants FIVE...FOUR...THREE as Kevin leaps, puts back his own rebound...the crowd continues...

TWO...ONE...BUZZER SOUNDS.

St. Cassie victorious: 67-65. Celebration and excitement as the CROWD pours from the stands, hoists a jubilant Kevin into the air.

3 **EXT. IN FRONT OF LEFTY'S - AN OLD BLUE VOLVO - NIGHT** 3

Rain pounds a "vintage" Blue Volvo in front of a hole-in-the-wall restaurant.

The Game's highlights are on the car RADIO.

4 **INT. MAN ON THE PHONE IN THE OLD BLUE VOLVO - NIGHT** 4

The same man from the sidelines is waiting in the old blue volvo outside of Lefty's. Again, he's on the phone, but this time we only see his hand which sports a Jack of Spade tattoo.

He is a degenerate low level mobster agitated because he took Loyola -the favorite. He's now out of a bundle and Kevin just cost him a lot of money.

Before he hangs up he says....

MAN ON PHONE

Okay, I'll see you in 15 minutes.

5 **INT. LEFTY'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

5

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Tonight in high school sports, a
real buzzer-beater as **St.**
Cassandra's Oracles took on arch-
rival Loyola in the Illinois State
Semi-Finals --

DEREK (O.S.)

Hey! Turn that up!

KEVIN (O.S.)

Man don't. We can hear it fine.

An Oracle is a priest or priestess that utters prophecies. In Christianity, specifically it is used for the concept of divine revelation.

6 **INT. LEFTY'S IN A BOOTH - NIGHT**

6

In a secluded corner of the restaurant. KEVIN slips on his glasses to watch, sits with NICOLE alongside.

Huddled at the same table is 18 year old, DEREK BYRNE, tall, athletic build, handsome and really obnoxious, his arm around a reluctant CHLOE. All focus on the plasma screen behind the counter as news highlights of the basketball game play.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

(on TV)

-- where the performance of the
night, if not the year, was put on
by Saint Cassandra center #21,
senior Kevin McManus --

DEREK

"Performance of the year," dude!

He raises his hand to high five. Kevin reluctantly complies.

NICOLE

Derek, do you mind? We're trying
to listen.

6a **ON THE TV**

6a

Video replay echoes the newscaster's words.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

(on TV)

-- with only 5 seconds left on the clock, McManus goes for it, misses, then recovers as he puts back his own rebound, handing St. Cassie a 67-65 victory over Loyola, propelling them into the State Finals.

6b

IN THE BOOTH

6b

All but Kevin APPLAUD, as Nicole leans into him.

DEREK

They could'a mentioned my assist -

CHLOE

Derek please -

DEREK

Well, they could've --

NICOLE

Muy spectacular, novio. That full boat scholarship's a lock for sure.

KEVIN

Hey, we're a package deal, remember: without you, they don't get me.

He kisses her, again.

NICOLE

I'm really tired -- Do we have to go to Stevenson's Halloween party?

KEVIN

His dad's some big deal at Marquette and I had hoped to talk to him about a basketball scholarship. I promise, fifteen minutes and we're History Channel.

DEREK

It was a really a good assist -- (Derek places his hand on his friend's arm) and says... *Khorishiy drug* (Russian translation: "good friend") drug is pronounced: droog

6c **SAME - SHORTLY AFTER**

6c

TV off, the retro jukebox breaks into Jody Reynold's "Endless Sleep" as Derek and Chloe head to the exit. Nicole waits while Kevin slips into his letter jacket. To her surprise he pulls a single red rose out of his backpack and hands it to her...

NICOLE

Kevin.....

CHLOE

You guys coming?

KEVIN

Right behind you.

NICOLE

(to Kevin)

Your scarf --

Kevin grabs his bright red, black and white-striped scarf with fringed ends, drags it across the table, accidentally knocks over the SALT SHAKER. The top slips off. Salt flows.

15 MINUTES LATER...

7 **INT. AN OLD BLUE VOLVO IN FRONT OF LEFTY'S - NIGHT**

7

Now a younger man sits in the car beside the man on the phone. The younger man places two devil masks in between them as they wait.

8 **EXT. LEFTY'S - WINDY WITH HEAVY RAIN - NIGHT**

8

Waiting, Kevin, Nicole and Chloe stand outside of Lefty's. Kevin scans the puddle-laden grounds. Nicole zips-up, carefully stuffing her rose into her lightweight jacket. Chloe reassures them that....

CHLOE

Derek's heating up the car.

KEVIN

(to Nicole)

That gonna keep you dry?

Kevin removes his scarf and wraps it around Nicole's neck. He takes his matching STOCKING CAP with A BLACK FLUFFY BALL on top, pulls it down over her head.

KEVIN
 (into phone)
 We'll get it. Be there in a few.

NICOLE
 If we're going to stop, I better
 call home to let my parents know
 I'll be late.

Kevin disconnects, hands his cell to Nicole as she hands him
 the rose. He indicates to Derek a convenience store ahead.

KEVIN
 Hey man, pull in up there.

DEREK
 Liquor store's got ice, dude.

KEVIN
 Yeah, but I need to, um, avail
 myself of the facilities.

NICOLE
 Thanks for sharing.

KEVIN
 As coach reminds us before every

KEVIN (CONT'D)
 game: leak now --

11a **KEVIN AND DEREK**

11a

-- or forever hold your piss.

Chloe and Nicole are far from amused as the car splashes past
 more barricades topped with FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS.

12 **EXT. PUMP 'N' GO PARKING LOT - RAIN - NIGHT**

12

Beneath an umbrella, Kevin and Nicole climb out of the back
 seat. Nicole stuffs her rose into the breast of her jacket.

DEREK
 Back in ten.

CHLOE
 Five if they don't believe his
 phony Iowa driver's license.

16c **AT THE COUNTER**

16c

Using his gun, Trick SWEEPS the counter displays away in a flurry of anger.

TRICK

You wanna be dead motherfucker?

The second thug - TREAT - presses his gun's muzzle into the cashier's forehead.

TREAT

Tell us again how you don't know who we are talking about.

TRICK

Treat man, check the bathroom. Maybe this asshole didn't see him go in. Is that it?

The cashier laughs nervously, then jumps as Trick FIRES at the two surveillance cameras, shattering them and causing Nicole to squeal which distracts Treat who spots Nicole in her hiding space. He yanks her into the light.

TREAT

Get your ass outta there, bitch.

Nicole SCREAMS when he pulls her to the front of the store.

NICOLE

Please don't hurt me.

16d **AT THE WALL**

16d

Kevin watches, mind racing, searching for a course of action. Scans the nearby shelves. Paper products. Napkins and towels.

16e **AT THE COUNTER**

16e

The cashier glances below the counter to a GUN resting on a shelf.

16f **IN FRONT**

16f

Staring at Nicole, Trick strokes the RED-WHITE-BLACK STRIPED SCARF, pulls it tightly around her neck while pressing the gun barrel against her temple.

TRICK

Nice scarf around the pretty lady's neck.

(to cashier)

You wanna see this bitch dead, man?
I'm counting to three --

16g **IN THE BACK AREA**

16g

Kevin inches forward, searches for a makeshift weapon.

TRICK (O.S.)

One.

Kevin finds the biggest can on the shelf. Grabs one in each hand and quietly moves forward.

TRICK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Two.

Kevin's nearly at the front when his sleeve brushes against a jar of olives. The jar falls, SHATTERS on the floor. Olives roll and all heads turn in Kevin's direction.

NICOLE

Kevin!

Treat turns, Nicole breaks free but slips on the rain-slicked floor as Trick FIRES at Kevin. The bullet meant for Kevin strikes Nicole in the head. Blood splatters on Kevin as Nicole drops to the floor, her rose falls out of her jacket and lays next to her.

KEVIN

Nicole!

Kevin lunges toward Trick, stares into bloodless eyes framed by bushy eyebrows before THE GUN FIRES again.

He's struck in the leg. Blood gushes as he falls back into a store display, collapses while simultaneously --

16h **AT THE REGISTER -- THE CASHIER**

16h

Snatches the gun from behind the counter. FIRES once. Hits Treat. Trick returns fire at the Cashier who's hit -- but he gets off one stray shot before dropping behind the counter.

Dead silence. BLACK.

FADE IN: