

RISING STAR II

Written by

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INT. LOGAN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - SUNRISE

1986

Birds sing as LOGAN FORD [44] awakens in bed next to AUDREY FORD [39] and reaches for his watch on the side table.

5:00 A.M.

He glances at his wife then silently rises from bed.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Logan steps out holding a cup of coffee and a cigarette.

Police, SWAT and FBI vehicles are parked along the leafy street with armed officers quietly approaching PETER DENTON'S [36] house next door.

A SWAT OFFICER gestures for him to return to his house.

SWAT OFFICER
Sir - back inside. Now.

Logan doesn't move.

He watches the officer continue then drags on his cigarette.

EXT. PETER DENTON'S HOUSE/PORCH - CONTINUOUS

OFFICER CRUIKSHANK [34] of the SWAT team bangs loudly on the door.

OFFICER CRUIKSHANK
Police! Search warrant!

Nothing.

Cruikshank steps aside.

An officer raises a battering ram.

OFFICER CRUIKSHANK
Breach!

The ram slams into the door.

CRACK.

Second hit.

The door bursts open.

SWAT officers flood into the house.

INT. PETER DENTON'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A marionette with blackened eyes and an evil smile hangs from the ceiling.

SWAT officers OFFICER RILEY [35] and OFFICER BROUGHAM [33] glance at each other as they advance.

Beat.

They open the living room door to the right.

OFFICER RILEY

Clear!

Officer Riley and Brougham approach the kitchen door.

INT. PETER DENTON'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Officer Riley pushes the door open and enters.

More weighted marionettes hang from the ceiling in the darkened room.

The officers follow the cables from the puppets up to the ceiling and through a hole.

Beat.

A cylindrical contraption sits in the middle of the floor.

Beat.

A mechanism CLICKS as the door stops moving.

The marionettes drop from the ceiling.

A red light flashes on the contraption.

OFFICER RILEY

Shit!

EXT. LOGAN'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - SAME TIME

BOOM!

The front of Denton's house erupts in a fireball.

The shockwave blasts across the street.

Logan hits the ground hard.

EXT. LOGAN'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - LATER

Firemen are putting out the blaze.

Logan Ford, Audrey Ford, CALLUM FORD [9] and CHRISTINA FORD [12] stand on the porch.

FBI Officer LARRY DRAKE [41] approaches.

LARRY DRAKE
They never told me you were Peter
Denton's neighbour.

LOGAN FORD
They never told me you were
planning on redesigning his house.

Larry smirks.

LARRY DRAKE
Yeah, well it was on a need-to-know
basis.

LOGAN FORD
I could've told you it was sold
weeks ago.

He gestures to the wreckage.

LOGAN FORD
The new owners are gonna get a
surprise.

*

The two men glance over to see a u-Haul van approach.

The driver stares in disbelief.

LARRY DRAKE
That's the least of our problems.

Beat.

LARRY DRAKE
You may have solved your last case
but who'd have guessed he was a
copycat?

LOGAN FORD
And you've let Denton escape? Nice
job, Larry.

Larry Drake stares hard.

LARRY DRAKE
He won't be far. We'll get him.

Beat.

LARRY DRAKE
Just don't poke your nose into our
business.

Larry Drake stares hard.

LARRY DRAKE
It's not your case.

Logan watches him saunter back to the congregation of
vehicles.

He turns to his family.

LOGAN FORD
C'mon. There's nothing more to see.

AUDREY FORD
(whispers)
You knew about Denton?

Logan avoids her eyes.

LOGAN FORD
Just get in.

INT. LOGAN FORD'S CAR - LATER

Logan drives toward the police station.

The radio crackles.

RADIO NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)
A large gathering is protesting
outside the Javits Federal Building
in Manhattan. Police describe the
protest as peaceful but noisy.

EXT. JACOB JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING - SAME TIME

A large crowd protests with placards.

CROWD
NO IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT HERE!

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Logan Ford sits at his desk.

Beside him, MALIK EDWARDS [28] types a report.

Logan lights a cigarette.

MALIK EDWARDS
Do you have to?

LOGAN FORD
It's a free country as far as I
remember.

RONNIE JACKSON [31] ghosts past.

RONNIE JACKSON
Realty prices tumbling in your
neighbourhood, Logan?

He chuckles.

LOGAN FORD
Fuck you, Jackson.

MALIK EDWARDS
What's that about?

LOGAN FORD
Evans.

Beat.

INT. RICHARD EVAN'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

FLASHBACK

Piles of books and newspapers fill the room.

Malik approaches a table.

Photographs of video stills are spread over the table beside
a brown envelope marked: RS.

Newspaper cuttings of the Philadelphia murders are scattered
around.

He picks up a photo of Robert Sanderson with Lucia Blinkley.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

PRESENT TIME

LOGAN FORD
He was a copycat.

MALIK EDWARDS
The Philly Murders?

LOGAN FORD
They stormed his place.

Beat.

LOGAN FORD
Booby-trapped.

Beat.

INT. ROBERT SANDERSON'S HOME/KITCHEN - LATER

FLASHBACK

Richard Evans grabs the gun and turns to face the detective.

Logan is beaten.

Evans rises.

LOGAN FORD
Why?

Evans raises the gun.

RICHARD EVANS
Retribution.

A gunshot ring out.

Evans freezes.

Blood seeps from his nostril.

Beat.

He turns slowly.

Malik stands with gun raised.

Evans raises his weapon.

Another shot.

He falls to the ground.

Malik approaches his partner.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE

MALIK EDWARDS
Really.

LOGAN FORD
What was it you said?

INT. MALIK'S CAR - DAY

FLASHBACK

MALIK EDWARDS
The odds of winning the lottery
would be higher than what you're
thinking.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

PRESENT TIME

Logan leans back in his chair.

Beat.

LOGAN FORD
I was fuckin' right.

EXT. JACOB JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING - SAME TIME

A noisy protest fills the plaza.

Placards wave above the crowd.

CROWD
No imperial government here!

PETER DENTON [36] holds a sign.

PETER DENTON
Government cover-up! Shame on you!

Next to him EMILY WISHAW [25] shouts with the others.

EMILY WISHAW
Not in our name!

Denton lowers his placard slightly.

Beat.

He glances at Emily.

She catches his eye.

Denton smiles.

INT. POLICE STATION OFFICE - SAME TIME

Malik types at his desk.

MALIK EDWARDS
Maybe you should get that lottery
ticket.

LOGAN FORD
I'd rather get that bastard.

CAPTAIN WALLIS HANLEY [55] steps out of his office.

CAPTAIN HANLEY
Ford! Edwards! In here.

LOGAN FORD
(whispers)
Captain Chuckles is calling.

A cassette player blares TALKING HEADS - "BURNING DOWN THE
HOUSE."

Malik stands.

MALIK EDWARDS
Say nothing.

They head into the office.

INT. POLICE STATION/HANLEY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Hanley stands behind his desk.

MALIK EDWARDS
Sir.

CAPTAIN HANLEY
I heard what happened.

LOGAN FORD
You weren't next to it.

Beat.

CAPTAIN HANLEY
I've raised it with the
commissioner.

LOGAN FORD
That'll make a difference.

Hanley exhales, frustrated.

CAPTAIN HANLEY
Christ, Logan, I'm as pissed as
you.

Beat.

CAPTAIN HANLEY
The Feds are a law unto themselves.

LOGAN FORD
What about Denton?

CAPTAIN HANLEY
It's not our case.

Beat.

LOGAN FORD
You're shitting me.

CAPTAIN HANLEY
If they need us, we're here.

Hanley gestures toward the bullpen outside.

CAPTAIN HANLEY
We've got enough nut-jobs to be
taking care of.

LOGAN FORD
So we just turn the other cheek?

CAPTAIN HANLEY
Precisely.

Logan glances at Malik.

Malik shrugs.

LOGAN FORD
Seriously?

CAPTAIN HANLEY
Go.

Logan stares at him a moment.

Then turns and leaves.

Malik raises an eyebrow and follows.

INT. JACOB JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING - SAME TIME

The protest turns violent.

Police push into the crowd.

Placards break. People scream.

Protestors clash with officers in riot gear.

Peter Denton grabs Emily's hand.

PETER DENTON

Run!

They push through the chaos.

OFFICER CAREY ROBARDS [34] strikes Emily across the side of the head.

She stumbles.

Beat.

Denton spins -

- and SLAMS into Robards.

The officer hits the pavement.

Denton pulls Emily up.

Blood runs down her temple.

PETER DENTON

C'mon!

He wraps an arm around her.

They disappear into the fleeing crowd.

EXT. POLICE STATION/CAR PARK - SAME TIME

Logan and Malik exit the station and head toward Logan's car.

LOGAN FORD

You could've backed me.

MALIK EDWARDS

It wouldn't have achieved anything.

LOGAN FORD

Bullshit.

Malik stops beside the car.