

STONE  
The Deserved Dead

Draft Three

by  
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BBC Radio Drama  
Manchester

1 EXT. POLICE CAR -- DAY 1

SIRENS BLAZE OUT as a POLICE CAR speeds through the rough Manchester streets of an estate.

2 INT. POLICE CAR -- DAY 2

Inside the police car we find STONE and TANNER.

TANNER  
How was your holiday?

STONE  
Idyllic, two weeks without mobile reception, three pools, babysitting service and an all you can eat buffet...

TANNER  
Haven't got much of a tan -

STONE  
Google skin cancer, see what it tells you -

TANNER  
It's a load of cobblers all that.

STONE  
Thank-you doctor Tanner.

TANNER  
Everything our parents told us was good for us they're now saying's bad - fags, red meat, sunshine...

STONE  
Your parents told you fags were good for you?

TANNER  
My dad smoked forty a day -

STONE  
How old was he when died?

TANNER  
(beat)  
Thirty two.

They howl with laughter.

3 INT. VICTIM'S HOUSE -- DAY

3

STONE and TANNER enter the scene of the attack. There is a dead body lying in a mess on the floor.

CRIME SCENE

Ah, DCI Stone and his glamorous assistant -

TANNER

Hilarious.

STONE

(to crime scene cop)  
What have we got, Rog?

CRIME SCENE - Roger Trent - (posh, 40s) pulls back a cover to reveal a very mashed person underneath. STONE and TANNER recoil.

STONE (CONT'D)

You could have warned us -

CRIME SCENE

Where's the fun in that?

TANNER

His head's puree -

He retches.

CRIME SCENE

Savage attack. Blows to the skull and testicles. I'm guessing, but I'd say we're looking at in excess of fifty strikes.

STONE

Nice.

CRIME SCENE

Whoever did this really wanted to make sure -

STONE

Time of death?

CRIME SCENE

Midday - approximately, maybe slightly earlier.

They examine the body.

STONE

Testicles, strange -

(CONTINUED)

CRIME SCENE

Not really, people often mutilate  
genitalia...

TANNER

(still retching)  
He's got the photos to prove it.

STONE

But there's no sexual element?

CRIME SCENE

No penetration of the rectum,  
nothing to suggest a sexually  
motivated attack -

STONE

Murder weapon?

CRIME SCENE

Here's the interesting part, he  
used the victim's rolling pin.

TANNER

His rolling pin?

STONE

Who has a rolling pin anymore -

TANNER

People who cook -

CRIME SCENE

Works like a truncheon, solid  
piece of wood - whack -

He motions hitting TANNER.

CRIME SCENE (CONT'D)

Whack - whack -

TANNER

You don't have to look like  
you're enjoying it so much.

CRIME SCENE

Could kill you with one blow -

TANNER

So why use fifty?

CRIME SCENE

Anger? Frenzy?

STONE

It's a show of strength. What do  
you reckon he did first, the head  
or the meat and two veg -

(CONTI NUED)

## CRIME SCENE

Again, I'm guessing but I'd say he - or they - struck the head, laid him to the floor then started on the erm -  
(with snobbish disdain)  
Meat and two vegetables.

## STONE

So he wanted him to feel pain - agony -

## TANNER

He achieved that -

## CRIME SCENE

Seems that way. But the victim wasn't expecting it, from my guess - he was busy doing something else - wasn't even looking at the attacker -

## STONE

(confused)

So, wait a minute... he breaks in -

## CRIME SCENE

Not sign of forced entry.

## STONE

Right. He's let in. No weapon, the victim's is so relaxed he turns his back on them and the killer ends up butchering the guy with his own rolling pin...

## CRIME SCENE

Yep.

## TANNER

Is it just me or does that seem a bit weird.

## CRIME SCENE

We've got a real mystery cooking.

## STONE

What was that?

## CRIME SCENE

Rolling pin, cooking...

## STONE

Don't do jokes, please, Roger, don't ever do jokes -

4 EXT. VICTIM'S HOUSE -- DAY

4

Stone and TANNER walking back to the car, where SUE is waiting for them with info.

STONE

Sue - talk to me.

SUE

Victim's name is Marcus Powell. He's lived here three and a half years - unmarried, childless, but here's the kicker, he's on the sex offenders register, served time for abusing young boys.

TANNER

A kiddie fiddler -

STONE

(wry -)

Suddenly we have a motive.

TANNER

Yeah, and about ten thousand suspects...

STONE

How long did he serve?

SUE

Five years.

STONE

What kind of abuse?

SUE

Grooming and sexual assault, he was a primary school teacher.

STONE exhales.

STONE

Great.

(beat)

Presumably he was housed here without people knowing his past -

SUE

Hard to say, these things tend to surface...

TANNER

Someone's found out. Done him.

(CONTINUED)

STONE

Possibly. Or: we've got a revenge attack - hence the testicles - by someone he abused, maybe a parent, brother, sister...

They think about this...

TANNER

Why would he let them in?

SUE

Maybe they pretended to be someone they weren't -

STONE

Either way, we've got a nightmare on our hands - because now we've gotta start pointing the finger at a bunch of abused lads. I should have stayed on holiday -

They head for the car.

STONE (CONT'D)

Get door to door started, see if anybody saw anything...

Door to door...

TANNER

We're investigating an incident at number sixty two earlier today -

NEIGHBOUR

Murder?

TANNER

Incident.

NEIGHBOUR

What kind of incident?

TANNER

Murder.

JUMP TO:





STONE

Sir -

LIAM MCCAFFREY

I want as little as possible  
going to the press until we know  
what we're dealing with -

STONE

Any reason, sir?

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Because I say so.

STONE chastised. LIAM softens.

LIAM MCCAFFREY (CONT'D)

Look, John, no one's gonna feel  
sympathy for this guy, no one's  
gonna miss him -

STONE

If you say so, sir -

LIAM MCCAFFREY

I do. And I don't want the  
newspapers splashing him all over  
their front pages. We find who  
did it quietly, right, last thing  
we want is the media all over us  
inventing fictions.

STONE leaves.

LIAM MCCAFFREY (CONT'D)

Oh, John, how was the holiday?

STONE

Idyllic.

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Catrina and the kid enjoy it?

STONE

Yes, Cat and Alice loved it.

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Not much of a tan.

STONE

No, sir.

STONE arrives back to find everyone gathered round, there  
are party noises and laughter.

(CONTINUED)

STONE

What the hell 's going on?

SUE

It's Kieran's fortieth.

STONE

So suddenly the place has turned into a kindergarten.

SUE

It's only five minutes boss -

STONE

We've got a murder to investigate.

Too loud, too angry. Bit awkward now.

TANNER

It's not a school kid, John. It's only a -

STONE

What! Pervert. So suddenly he doesn't count -

STONE stomps away to his office, someone lets out a final pathetic party blower, stifled laughter.

TANNER and SUE follow STONE. Door slammed closed.

TANNER

Look, boss -

STONE

(narky)  
What have we got?

TANNER

Not much -

STONE

Door to door?

TANNER

Neighbours are doing their see no evil routine.

SUE

There's one lead - Mike Kelly - lives at seventy three -

TANNER

Kelly? Any relation?

SUE

(wry)

Yeh, we're all related, what with it being such an unusual name -

STONE

Carry on.

SUE

He complained about Powell a few weeks back - apparently he'd been hanging around outside his house -

STONE

He has kids?

SUE

Two boys and a girl.

STONE

Please tell me someone joined the dots.

SUE

Seems not. Community support were sent to have a word with Powell but there was no follow up.

TANNER

Community support, flaming waste of space.

SUE

It's not their fault.

TANNER

They're not coppers.

SUE

Some make it.

TANNER

Yeh and the rest are wet liberals who get off on wearing a uniform.

SUE

You know what I like about you Mike - nothing.

STONE

Children, children...

TANNER

(sly joke)

She started it.

CONTINUED: (

STONE

We should speak to them, community support, find out which officers it was... and what about this Mike Kelly - does he look the type to take the law into his own hands...

SUE

Not really -

TANNER

Why not?

SUE

Dunno, he was wearing marigolds.

TANNER

The marigold killer.

STONE

Marigolds and a rolling pin, this is turning into an episode of Miss Marple. Get him in - even if it's just to rule him out...

10 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM -- DAY

10

Interview room.

STONE

Interview with Michael Kelly, also present are DS Sue Kelly - no relation - and WPC Mary McGuire. Mister Kelly has refused representation.

(beat)

Mister Kelly - Mike - you're aware that your neighbour Marcus Powell, at number sixty two, was brutally murdered earlier today...

KELLY

(shaken, genuinely shocked to find himself here -)

I am now. But look, I was nothing to do with it. I thought the guy was strange, didn't like him much, but that's where it ends. I'd never hurt him. Honest.

Silence.

STONE  
Can you account for your  
movements at around eleven  
o'clock this morning?

KELLY  
I was in bed. I work nights.

STONE  
Alone?

KELLY  
Pardon?

STONE  
In bed alone?

KELLY  
Yes. My wife works. Teacher.  
Kids were at school.

STONE  
So there's no one who can verify  
you were home in bed.

KELLY  
...no... but...

STONE  
The victim let his attacker in,  
so it must have been someone  
known to him -

KELLY  
(panics, loses it)  
Why would I kill him? I've no  
reason, no motive. It's absurd.

STONE  
Unless there's something you're  
not telling us.

Pause.

STONE (CONT'D)  
Unless the row went further,  
maybe he made a pass at one of  
your kids. Is that a plausible  
scenario, Michael -

Pause.

KELLY  
I think I'd like a lawyer now. sUhde(o, Michael -) Tj 1 Ni o



STONE

Are communi ty support not informed when someone' s on the sex offenders register?

COMMUNI TY OFFI CER SWEET

We weren' t.

TANNER

So... what? You had a nice chat, had your tea and bi scui ts -

COMMUNI TY OFFI CER MORRRI SON

Coffee.

TANNER

Right, coffee. Then what? Di d you mark hi s card - tell hi m not to hang around other peopl e' s houses?

COMMUNI TY OFFI CER MORRRI SON

We j ust di d our j ob, si r -

TANNER

Whi ch i s what?

COMMUNI TY OFFI CER MORRRI SON

We expl ai ned there' d been a compl ai nt, we expl ai ned the need for harmony i n the communi ty and we tol d hi m we woul dn' t want to hear anythi ng el seagai nst hi m.

COMMUNI TY OFFI CER SWEET

I t was a storm i n a teacup.

TANNER

Not a coffee cup!

COMMUNI TY OFFI CER MORRRI SON

That' s how i t seemed. To us.

COMMUNI TY OFFI CER SWEET

I t really di d, I mean... we weren' t to know, were we...

STONE

No, of course. Thanks for your help, lads.

STONE and TANNER head away.

TANNER

(sotto)

Usl ess pratts.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
(calls after them)  
It's not like anyone'll



13 CONTINUED:

STONE

Because we'll have to prosecute him like a murderer. And he'll get sentenced like a murderer. And yet he's a victim. Powell took his innocence - who could blame him for wanting revenge?

Silence, just the car sounds.

14 EXT. CARTWRIGHT'S HOUSE - DAY

14

Knock on the door. It opens.

STONE

Mister Cartwright?

CARTWRIGHT SENIOR

Yes.

STONE

DCI John Stone. Is your son Aaron at home?

CARTWRIGHT SENIOR

Aaron? What's it about?

STONE

We need to ask him some questions.

CARTWRIGHT SENIOR

(calls behind him)

Aaron. Police...

We hear a crash and a slam as Aaron legs it out the back.

CARTWRIGHT SENIOR (CONT'D)

Aaron!

STONE

(urgent tone)

He's legging it. Tanner - round the back.

STONE crashes through the house.

CARTWRIGHT SENIOR

Hey -

STONE

Out of the way or I'll arrest you!

We hear the sound of STONE crashing through the house and out of the back. Outside again...

(CONTINUED)

STONE (CONT'D)

Aaron, stop.

TANNER

(who has come round the  
back)

I'm on him!

Runni ng/screami ng.

STONE

Stop, stop hi m.

TANNER

Aaron, pol i ce. STOP!

More runni ng and suddenly AARON has come to a closed gate, he rattles at it hard and then starts climbi ng it.

TANNER - breathl ess - reaches hi m and grabs at a leg.

TANNER (CONT'D)

No you don' t.

AARON CARTWRIGHT

Get off me.

TANNER

No chance.

He ki cks at TANNER.

AARON CARTWRIGHT

I haven' t done anythi ng.

TANNER

Then why you runni ng -

AARON CARTWRIGHT

Leave me al one.

TANNER

Get down.

TANNER pull s at hi s leg and he fall s hard to the floor, there' s a tussle and STONE arrives to help.

AARON CARTWRIGHT

I haven' t done anythi ng!

STONE

Aaron cartwright, I'm arresting you for the murder of Marcus Powell, you do not have to say anything but it may harm your defense if you do not menti on now anything you later rely on in court. Get hi m i n the car -

15 INT. POLICE STATION. CELLS -- DAY

15

SLAM! Police door slams closed. STONE and SUE peer at him through the peep hole.

SUE  
He's just a kid.

STONE  
Kids murder, Sue -

SUE  
But that brutality. All those  
blows. It was savage -

STONE  
Revenge. People get carried away.  
Last year I arrested an  
accountant - charity worker in  
his spare time - pillar of the  
community type - he'd stabbed his  
wife forty four times - she died  
with the second -

SUE  
What had she done?

STONE  
Affair. Common or garden affair.  
Sometimes a switch clicks. People  
don't know what they're doing  
anymore.

SUE  
(of Aaron, as she shuts  
the peephole)  
Poor sod. That's his life over.

STONE  
Two lives over. This is what  
abuse does.  
(pause)  
Let him stew for an hour - then  
we'll interview him. Have we rang  
a brief?

SUE  
On to it -

STONE  
Great. You'll find me in the  
incident room, under the table  
with those Moroccan cushions.

SUE laughs.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

STONE (CONT'D)  
This jet lag's killing me.

16 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM -- DAY

16

Interview room. STONE, SUE, AARON and SOLICITOR.

STONE  
Interview with Aaron Cartwright,  
also present are DCI John Stone,  
Sue Kelly, and Mister  
Cartwright's solicitor Laurence  
Cougar -

Beat. STONE sighs.

STONE (CONT'D)  
Aaron - you okay?

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
... fine.

STONE  
Your hands are tapping the table,  
have been ever since you got in  
here. You nervous -

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
... suppose.

STONE  
You understand why we are here -

SOLICITOR  
Of course he understands, he's  
eighteen years old.

STONE  
(ignores solicitor)  
Aaron?

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
Yeah. You think I did that  
toss-pot Powell.

STONE  
Yes.

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
But you've no evidence.

STONE  
You were heard admitting to the  
crime. In a pub.

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
So?

(CONTINUED)

STONE

Then when we came to talk to you,  
you did a runner -

AARON CARTWRIGHT

So?

STONE

You have to admit, both of those  
things might look a tiny bit  
incriminating -

AARON CARTWRIGHT

... suppose.

SOLICITOR

My client is merely answering  
your question, not admitting to  
the acts being incriminating.

STONE

I know.

SOLICITOR

Just clarifying.

STONE

Thank-you Laurence. How's your  
wife by the way -

SOLICITOR

Mister Stone, you know full well  
we're getting divorced and I see  
no other reason that you should  
mention my wife than to try and  
irritate me -

STONE

My mistake, I forgot she was  
leaving you -

SOLICITOR

It's mutual. Now might we get  
back to the matter in hand -

STONE

Of course. Aaron - why did you  
boast about killing Powell, why  
did you say, quote, 'I did the  
bastard good and proper.'

AARON CARTWRIGHT

Dunno.

STONE

You don't know why you admitted  
to murder - in a busy pub -  
within ear shot of the landlord -

(CONTI NUED)

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
Just boasting wasn't it -

STONE  
Nothing else.

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
I don't even know where the scum  
lives. I never wanna see him  
again - the dirty/filthy get.

STONE  
You're in luck, you'll never see  
him again. I can guarantee it -

Silence.

STONE (CONT'D)  
Are you pleased he's been killed?

SOLICITOR  
Mister Stone... that's leading my  
client into saying something you  
might perceive as incriminating.

STONE  
I'll rephrase the question -

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
I am pleased -

SOLICITOR  
Aaron, don't -

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
(cuts in -)  
No, I am. He deserves death.

SOLICITOR  
I must advise you against saying  
anything that -

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
(cuts in -)  
He does. For what he did to me,  
and the others. We were kids.

STONE  
I understand that, Aaron.

SUE  
We all understand that.

Beat.

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
But I never done it!

(CONTINUED)

STONE

So why brag about it? Why did you claim...

AARON CARTWRIGHT

(cuts in -)

Because I wanted it to be me. I wanted to have done it. I've thought about doing it a thousand times. After what he done to me. But now someone else's got in first. Now I'll never do it. I was envious, so I claimed him for myself - yes - YES?

STONE

I don't believe you.

AARON CARTWRIGHT

Okay, so prove it. Prove it was me. You'll have your work cut out. I was signing on, on the other side of town, miles away, ten minutes before you say he was killed, what have I got - a time machine - a helicopter...

STONE

You were signing on?

AARON CARTWRIGHT

Check!

STONE

We will.

AARON CARTWRIGHT

Do.

STONE

You could have got someone to sign on for you -

AARON CARTWRIGHT

I didn't. Check. Ask the woman at the dole office, she likes me, we flirt. The red head, Jane.

STONE

We will.

AARON CARTWRIGHT

Do.

STONE

So why did you run?

16 CONTINUED: (4)

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
I was scared.

STONE  
Of what?

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
The police.

STONE  
Why?

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
Dunno. I'm a naughty boy aren't I, drink too much, can never remember what I might have done the night before...

STONE  
Maybe you can't remember murdering Powell.

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
I'd remember that - and besides I don't drink in the day -

Beat.

STONE  
No one'd blame you, Aaron. People would understand...

AARON CARTWRIGHT  
I didn't do it. And while I'm in here you're wasting time finding who did...

17 INT. CARTWRIGHT'S HOUSE -- DAY

17

Search of house taking place. TANNER overseeing it.

TANNER  
We wanted anything you can find, clothing especially, anything that might have blood stains. And we'll take the electrical gear - computers, mobiles, whatever you can see...

'Right boss'. Etc.

CARTWRIGHT SENIOR approaches.

CARTWRIGHT SENIOR  
You should be ashamed of yourself.

(CONTINUED)



TANNER

Oh yeah, how's that?

CARTWRIGHT SENI OR

After what happened to my boy -

TANNER

I'm trying to solve a murder -

CARTWRIGHT SENI OR

You a father?

TANNER

No.

CARTWRIGHT SENI OR

Then how can you know how it  
feels.

TANNER

I'm a copper - I see all sorts -

CARTWRIGHT SENI OR

You don't know, til you have your  
own, that feeling, protection,  
you wanna stop any harm coming to  
them - any pain - and then some  
bastard comes along and does  
things to them - filthy,  
unspeakable things - and you  
can't protect them, a bleedin'  
authori ty figure abused them and  
you can't do anything about it,  
because you never knew, you knew  
your kid was sad, you knew he was  
withdrawn, but you di dn't know  
WHY. That bastard deserved his  
balls cutting off for what he di d  
to my son, but he got nothing,  
five years - NOTHING - and now  
you think my Aaron, my preci ous  
boy got hi m back - well, I hope  
so, a part of me hopes he di d and  
if he di d he deserves a medal,  
not prison, but the system  
doesn't work like that does it.  
Because the system's screwed.  
Tell me I'm wrong, look me in the  
eye and tell me I'm wrong.

Beat.

17 CONTINUED: (2)

TANNER

Look, if it was up to me I'd have every paedo castrated and sent to the Falklands, but it's not up to me, I'm investigating a murder, right, so that's what I need to do... investigate...

18 INT. INCIDENT ROOM -- DAY

18

STONE marching through the office.

STONE

What are the dolo office saying?

SUE

He was there. They've even got him on CCTV. Ten minutes to eleven he signed on in Harlington Street. Five miles across town. Ten minutes later Powell gets murdered in Carson Road.

STONE

He didn't do it.

SUE

Seems very unlikely.

STONE

What if he got straight in a car, drove at fifty all the way -

SUE

Not possible.

STONE

We're only guessing time of death, maybe scene of crime got it wrong, what if they're twenty minutes out -

SUE

Possible... not likely...

STONE

DAMN!

SUE

I thought you didn't want it to be him.

STONE

I don't. But if it's not him, who is it? We're back to square one.

19 INT. STONE'S HOUSE. BABY'S ROOM -- DAY 19

Sound of a musical baby mobile playing twinkl e twinkl e  
littl e star...

STONE  
(whi spers)  
If anyone ever hurts you, I'll  
kill them. If anyone so much as  
lays a finger on your beauti ful  
preci ous gorgeous body, I'll  
break every bone in their body...

The musi c conti nues...

STONE (CONT' D)  
Ni ght ni ght preci ous angel .  
Daddy Loves you...

20 INT. STONE'S HOUSE -- DAY 20

Phone rings in the middl e of the ni ght or early hours.  
STONE awakes.

STONE  
Jeez, what time is it? Cat?  
Catrina?

No answer from CAT, just moans and groans.

STONE (CONT' D)  
Don' t worry, I'll get it...  
(grabs phone)  
Stone.  
(l i stens)  
You' re ki ddi ng.  
(l i stens)  
The Bridgeton estate.  
(l i stens)  
I' m on my way -

21 EXT. POLICE CAR -- DAY 21

Si rens.

22 EXT. CRIME SCENE -- DAY 22

STONE and TANNER walki ng to the crime scene.

STONE  
What have we got?

(CONTI NUED)

TANNER

Same M.O as the Powell killing.  
Head battered to a pump,  
testicles made into jam.

STONE

Ni ce.

TANNER

Don' t look this time -

STONE

I won' t. Who is he?

TANNER

Kenton Hammond - right seedy  
little toerag, word on the street  
is that he worked a team of  
prostitutes on Mawd Lane.

STONE

Li ke a pimp.

TANNER

Exactly like a pimp. Nasty piece  
of work too by all accounts -  
thought nothing of smashing  
women' s heads in if they stepped  
out of line. Spent time inside -  
violence, rape, extorti on.

STONE

An all round good egg. . .

TANNER

Couldn' t have happened to a nicer  
fella -

They enter the house.

They are met by the scene of a dead body and the CRIME  
SCENE INVESTIGATOR again.

CRIME SCENE

Morning gentlemen, I trust we  
didn' t rouse you from your beauty  
sleep -

STONE

No, I' m always up at fi ve am.

CRIME SCENE

Well , murder' s a 24/7 busi ness,  
if you wanted regul ar hours you  
shoul d have joi ned the banki ng  
i ndustry - care to see -

(CONTI NUED)

STONE

No! Do bankers have to look at  
mashed testicles -

CRIME SCENE

Only metaphorically.

STONE

Do you think it's the same killer  
as the Powell murder -

CRIME SCENE

Well, it's got all the hallmarks.  
In fact it's almost identical -  
no forced entry, brutal attack  
with a blunt instrument -

STONE

Rolling pin?

CRIME SCENE

No, interestingly, this time they  
choose a house brick.

STONE

Really?

CRIME SCENE

Yes. Perhaps poor Mister Hammond  
didn't have a rolling pin - he  
doesn't look the cake making type  
-

TANNER

How can you tell -

CRIME SCENE

His fingernails. Filthy. People  
who cook always have clean nails.

TANNER

You're a mine of useful  
information.

CRIME SCENE

I try my best -

STONE

Where did the house brick come  
from? Outside?

CRIME SCENE

No, he has them all over the  
house, as door stops. They're  
cheap but effective, they do,  
however, rather have the downside  
that if someone wants to murder  
you they provide a handy weapon -

(CONTINUED)

STONE

I must remember that -

CRIME SCENE

Do.

STONE

Time of attack?

CRIME SCENE

Around ten pm. Certainly between then and midnight. Neighbours heard screams, thought it was sex at first - apparently mister Hammond was something of a bedroom gymnast...

TANNER

Who found him?

CRIME SCENE

Same neighbour, came round later to check if 'everything was alright'.

STONE

We should talk to him.

CRIME SCENE

Her. Leslie she's called... already been round once. Lovely... personality. Definitely worth a visit if you need perking up -

STONE

I do.

TANNER

So... we've either got a copycat killing or the same bloke striking twice -

STONE

Can't be copycat - we didn't release details to the press, nothing specific, all that was reported was the murder, instructions from on high -

TANNER

So we've got ourselves a serial killer -

CRIME SCENE

Does two count as serial -

STONE

Why would someone have a grudge  
against a paedo and a pimp on the  
same estate -

Silence.

STONE

Dispensing with the court and  
judicial system, ridding the  
streets of unsavoury characters.

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Two crimes doesn't spell  
vigilantes, John -

STONE

Brutal murders, two in the space  
of three days, it's like they're  
sending a message to us - saying  
they can deal with these scumbags  
better than we can -

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Okay, then we do a swoop of known  
criminals on the Bridgeton  
estate, people who might have  
taken it upon themselves to act  
as judge, jury and executioner.

STONE

I don't think that's the way to  
go -

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Why not?

STONE

Because there's no evidence  
suggesting a gang motive. The  
pimp - Hammond - was a lowlife -  
he might have crossed the line,  
pissed off some big time  
criminal, possibly, but Powell,  
the sex offender, don't think so -  
and why would they attack them  
both in the same way - exact same  
M.O. -

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Perhaps they're cleaning up their  
manor -

STONE

No break in - they were invited  
in, like the victims knew them.  
In both cases there was evidence  
of the kettle boiling, cups  
produced, like the victim was  
having a chat, then wallop!

LIAM MCCAFFREY

I see what you're saying John,  
but I think it's worth going my  
way on this one...

(MORE)

(CONTI NUED)



23 CONTINUED: (2)

LIAM MCCAFFREY (CONT'D)  
do me a list of all the Bridgeton  
big hitters who might have an  
interest in hitting these guys.

STONE  
Sir - please -

LIAM MCCAFFREY  
By noon, John.

STONE exits, grumbling to himself...

24 INT. INCIDENT ROOM -- DAY

24

STONE enters, angry. TANNER and SUE here.

STONE  
Bleedin' McCaffrey.

SUE  
What is it?

STONE  
He wants a big scalp.

TANNER  
Meaning?

STONE  
Meaning - the rest of our day is  
wasted playing silly buggers!

25 INT. ESTATE -- DAY

25

Bridgeton estate. We hear POLICE VANS sweeping into the  
estate, then ARMED POLICE emerging.

STONE  
You - front door, you lot - round  
the back. We only want Keenan.

JUMP TO:

Different part of the estate. More vans. More armed  
police. TANNER hops out first -

TANNER  
If the lowlife resists, shoot  
him, we're not here for a picnic.

One, two, three... door gets smashed in with a battering  
ram. POLICE enter the house -

STONE  
Ryan Keenan! Keenan!  
(no reply)  
See if he's still in bed.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

Same at the other house. Door smashed open.

TANNER  
Upstairs, now. Go, go, go... I  
want Greenhalgh in that van in  
twenty seconds flat...

26 INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

26

Intercut between two different interview sessions.

STONE  
Where were you between the hours  
of midnight and two o'clock on  
the evening of the fourth -

JUMP TO:

TANNER  
Can anyone confirm you were at  
that address?

JUMP TO:

STONE  
Have you any connection at all to  
mister Kenton Hammond?

JUMP TO:

TANNER  
Local pimp, low life scumbag -  
somebody must have wanted him off  
the block -

JUMP TO:

STONE  
We've got two attacks and the  
indications are gang related -  
retribution, revenge... somebody  
wanting rid of these people...

JUMP TO:

TANNER  
You're the eyes and ears of that  
estate Greenhalgh, if anyone  
knows what's going on it's you -

27 INT. INCIDENT ROOM -- DAY

27

STONE and TANNER with SUE KELLY.

(CONTINUED)

SUE

Raids haven't thrown up anything from the houses - not a single link to either of the murders.

STONE

That's because we're barking up the wrong tree. Keenan was in Blackpool on a stag night -

TANNER

Greenhalgh was his usual charming self, but he did offer one tidbit...

STONE

Being?

TANNER

Pallancio.

SUE

Who?

TANNER

Edwin Pallancio, Italian grandparents, he's only twenty one, fancies himself as the new big shot on the Bridgeton, he's been trying to impress the Godlin mob - he's one of these act-first-think-later characters, ruffling feathers apparently.

STONE

Doing what?

TANNER

Well, here's the interesting bit - Greenhalgh reckons he thinks nothing of dealing in drugs, handling guns all that stuff... but he has this weird Catholic puritan streak when it comes to women and kids -

STONE

Very Italian.

SUE

What... like the mafia.

STONE

So this lad might be hitting targets on the estate because he disapproves of their crimes -

TANNER  
Worth a sniff, surely.

SUE  
Seems unlikely to me.

TANNER  
And that's why he's DCI and  
you're just out of uniform.

SUE pulls a face (great radio!).

28 EXT. ESTATE -- DAY

28

STONE's car parked up on the

STONE

Get down!

STONE shoves TANNER downwards in the car, they both hide beneath window level -

TANNER

What you doi ng?

STONE

Them Communi ty support lads -  
Morri son and Sweet - we can' t let  
them see us -

TANNER

You' ve got your bum i n my face.

STONE

(I aughing)

STONE  
That and drinking tea - how long  
we gonna have to stay like this -

TANNER  
Dunno, but if you fart I'm  
blowing the whole operation.

They laugh.

STONE  
Have another look.

TANNER peers up over the window.

TANNER  
They're going. Give it another  
two minutes and we're in the  
clear.

STONE  
Shame, I was starting to enjoy  
myself down here -

They laugh.

TIME PASSING

STONE (CONT'D)

We've already freaked the estate by bringing in Keenan and Greenhalgh, if we want to stand a chance of prosecuting Pallancio we need to make sure we do the job properly.

LIAM MCCAFFREY

I'm not authorising a stakeout.

STONE

Sir - me and Tanner can't tail him, we're running an investigation, we have to pursue other leads...

LIAM MCCAFFREY

Bring him in.

STONE

We haven't got any evidence, we're going off a shaky tip off from an unreliable gangster.

LIAM MCCAFFREY

John, the streets know their own kind, if Greenhalgh is bothering to open his mouth at all, it's for a reason, this is the nearest you'll get to him grassing up one of his own type. Get a search warrant, turn his place upside down and get Pallancio off that estate...

STONE sighs with resignation.

STONE

Sir.

STONE stomps back into the incident room. TANNER and SUE are here working.

STONE

Arrange a raid - armed response - we'll go in first thing on Pallancio -

TANNER

Thought you didn't want that.

STONE

I don't! But being a detective means nothing anymore, because every single decision I make gets scrutinised upstairs.

STONE grabs his coat and starts to exit.

SUE  
Sir, sir -

STONE  
I'm going the pub. Leave me an  
hour then feel free to join me.

He slams out.

TANNER  
(to Sue)  
You know what, a part of me  
thinks whoever's doing this is  
doing us a favour - because let's  
face it, we can't keep do our  
bloody job anymore -

He grabs his coat and leaves too.

32 EXT. ESTATE -- DAY

32

New day. Morning, early morning. POLICE VAN arrives  
onto the Bridgeton estate - quietly.

STONE in back of the van.

STONE  
Okay, we do this as efficiently  
as possible. He has a  
girlfriend, bit of a wildcat,  
feral by aiw ( 73cD86 Tc -R-0.18 i18 Tc 0 TA5snnUTONE) Tj



They charge upstairs. STONE follows on behind. Doors are kicked in, shouts of 'police' etc...

Others take the downstairs with TANNER. They head through the living room door and...

TANNER  
Oh no, oh God.

TANNER retches, flies out of the room.

TANNER (CONT'D)  
(barely manages to shout  
-)  
Boss, boss...

STONE  
(heading back down)  
What is it?

TANNER  
Front room.  
(he retches some more)  
They've done him -  
(violent retching,  
barely audible)  
He's dead.

STONE  
What?

TANNER  
Pallancio - they've done him.  
(more retching)  
Same as the others.

STONE horrified. TANNER retches in the background.

STONE giving a briefing.

STONE  
Pallancio was murdered at some time around five o'clock yesterday afternoon - same M.O. as the other murders - extremely brutal - frenzied - attack to both head and testicles. No sign of forced entry. Nothing to indicate a struggle. So once again, the attacker was known to his victim, or was someone he didn't suspect was going to do him any harm...

35 INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

35

Corridor. STONE walking along with SUE.

STONE

Sue, I want you to trawl CCTV from the estate, everything they have over there.

(beat)

I want you to bring me all the footage from the time period Pallancio's killer struck.

SUE

Will do.

STONE

But you hand it to me, right - no one else -

SUE

Okay -

STONE

And don't tell anyone else I'm looking at it -

SUE

(confused)

Okay -

STONE

And if McAffrey asks I'm out of the building -

INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

STONE arrives at the records department in the station. His mate KEN BROADHURST works here.

STONE

Ken -

KEN

John -

STONE

Still got no fashion sense I see -

KEN

White socks will come back in, mark my words.

They laugh.

(CONTINUED)

STONE

I need a favour.

KEN

Don't you always.

STONE

No, hush, hush. Me and you type  
favour - because if I'm wrong  
this could get me in deep doodoo

CONTINUED:

He suddenly stops talking.

SUE  
What about it?

Silence.

SUE (CONT'D)  
Sir?

Silence.

STONE  
Nothing, forget it. I'm going out.

SUE  
Where?

STONE grabs his coat.

STONE  
Stay out of it, okay - I'm saying that through kindness, because I like you - best thing you can do is take the afternoon off...

He goes.

SUE  
(doesn't understand)  
Sir, sir...  
(yells after him)  
What the hell you talking about?

STONE passes TANNER who is at his desk.

STONE  
Tanner - fag break.

TANNER  
We don't smoke.

STONE  
We do now.

36 EXT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

36

STONE and TANNER standing outside the building.

STONE  
What I'm about to say stays between me and you, right -

TANNER  
COURSE.

(CONTINUED)

STONE

No, look at me, I know we're mates, I know we've got each other's back and all that crap, but I want you to swear -

TANNER

I swear - what is it?

STONE

I've got a terrible pit of my stomach feeling -

Si l ence.

STONE (CONT'D)

Mike, tell me I'm being stupid, tell me I'm so far off the mark it's not funny...

Si l ence.

STONE (CONT'D)

But... who gets access to houses - who... would those three lowlifes that got mashed, allow into their homes without fearing they were about to be murdered?

Si l ence, TANNER's brain wurr.

TANNER

You've got me.

Si l ence.

STONE

Us.

TANNER

Y-what?

STONE

Uni forms.

TANNER

Coppers?

STONE

Possi bl y, or more speci fi cal l y...

Si l ence.

TANNER

Communi ty support offi cers.

Heavy heavy si l ence.

(CONTI NUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

STONE

Tell me I'm wrong Mike, tell me  
I'm way way off track...

Silence.

TANNER

Now I've got that pit of my  
stomach feeling -

Silence.

STONE

We can't tell McCaffrey.

TANNER

What we gonna do?

Pause.

STONE

We do what's right.

37 INT/EXT. SWEET'S HOUSE -- DAY

37

STONE's car pulls up outside house. They head towards the  
door. STONE knocks. Door opens.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

(surprised to see him -)

Detective Stone. Tanner.

STONE grabs him.

STONE

Get in the car.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

Why?

STONE

(dragging him)

Get in the car.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

I've no shoes on.

STONE

Get in the bleedin' car!

38 EXT. MORRISON'S HOUSE -- DAY

38

Knocking on another door. Woman answers.

TANNER

Mrs Morrison?

(CONTINUED)

MRS MORRISON

Yes.

TANNER

(shows his badge)

DC Tanner. I need your husband -

MRS MORRISON

He's in the bath -

TANNER

(yells at her, fierce)

Then get him out of the bath!

39 EXT. STONE'S CAR -- DAY

39

Stone's car driving. STONE and TANNER in the front.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

(scared, edgy)

Where we going?

TANNER

Comfortable back there?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

(confident, brazen)

You can't do this to us.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

Take these handcuffs off!

STONE

Or what?

They drive.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

Will you PLEASE tell us where we are going?

STONE

Day trip, you'll see when we get there -

40 EXT. HILLTOP -- DAY

40

Stone's car pulls up in a steep car park at the top of large moorland area which overlooks the city beyond.

He stops the car, pulls the brake on.

Silence.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRRI SON  
(arrogant)  
Where?

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
(scared)  
We' re not anywhere.

STONE  
Lovely view though, don' t you  
think.

TANNER  
Terri fic.

STONE  
I love it up here, sometimes come  
walking - great for clearing the  
mind. Fresh air in your lungs -  
hard to find in the city, don' t  
you think.

Si l ence.

STONE (CONT' D)  
I said, ' don' t you think?'

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRRI SON  
Suppose so.

STONE  
Yes, down there, in the heart of  
the city, it' s all filth isn' t  
it. Especially the area we  
police - the estate' s - with  
their the high rises and low life  
scum. People living in their own  
squalor - bone idle, feckless,  
criminal... and that' s the good  
ones. Some of them are really  
bad - the dealers, the prossies  
and their pimps, then of course  
there' s the nonce' s - the kiddie  
fiddlers, nestled amongst us, the  
lowest of the low and there they  
are breathing the same air,  
eyeing up kiddies over garden  
hedges, storing the memory for  
later when they get home... those  
people don' t deserve to be called  
human, do they, they' re like  
slugs in your kitchen - they' re  
repellent, they make your skin  
crawl. Ri ght?

No answer. SWEET' s breathing fractures slightly.

(CONTI NUED)



STONE (CONT'D)

Yep, up here it's all pure. But  
down there... down there the  
filth of the world is round every  
corner.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

Has all this got a point to it -

STONE

Your brother died on that estate,  
Sweet -

(beat)

I've done my homework.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

So? Why do you think he wanted  
to police it -

TANNER

You're not police officers.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

No, we're better.

TANNER

What's that supposed to mean?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

We care more.

TANNER

Than who?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

You lot. You're complacent.  
Never get the job done -

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

Pete -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

They need telling, arrogant gets.  
They can't keep criminals off the  
streets -

STONE

Like the criminal who killed  
Sweet's younger brother -

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

He was never caught -

STONE

People knew who it was -

TANNER

So why didn't he go down?

(CONTINUED)

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Because it's lawless out there.

STONE  
So you want to bring law and  
order do you?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Of course.

STONE  
By any means necessary.

SWEET's breathing fracturing.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Meaning?

TANNER  
You know full well.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

He pukes. And pukes. Trying to breath. Hyperventilating with some sort of panic attack.

N.B This should sound like a man physically reacting to some internal nervous trauma. Visceral, upsetting.

STONE

You okay?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRRI SON

Does he look okay!

He's still trying to breathe.

TANNER

What's the matter with him?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRRI SON

All that talk of his bleedin

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
We're community support -

STONE  
Is this revenge for your brother,  
Sweet -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Leave his brother out of -

TANNER  
SHUT IT!

STONE  
See yourself as some sort of  
avenger? Some sort of vigilante?  
Cleaning shit off the streets -

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
(scared, retched)  
Can we go to the station, please.  
I think we need lawyers.

STONE  
You're going nowhere.

TANNER  
You're smart, you've covered your  
tracks -

STONE  
No evidence, no witnesses -  
victim's killed with their own  
possessions.

TANNER  
And every single one of them the  
sort of person people think got  
what was coming to them -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Maybe they did.

STONE  
Did they?

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
No -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Shut up!

STONE  
Did they Morrison? The paedo?  
The pimp? The dealer? Did they  
deserve death -

40 CONTINUED: (6)

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Don't see too many tears shed.

STONE  
And with such violence?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Violence breeds violence. It's  
all these people understand -

SWEET starts to cry.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON (CONT'D)  
What you doing? He's upset,  
you've upset him -

STONE  
Did they deserve it, Sweet?

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
No!

TANNER  
Morrison?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
I demand to be released, NOW -

STONE  
Or what?

TANNER  
You're handcuffed to a police  
car, what you gonna do, cry -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
This is detective work, is it?

STONE  
Yes!

Sweet is in a real state.

STONE (CONT'D)  
Anything you'd like to say Sweet?

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
...no.

STONE  
I understand the need for  
revenge, but this... whose idea  
was it? Did it get out of hand?  
Did he push you to go further  
than you'd -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
I want a lawyer!

(CONTINUED)

STONE

- I like, because I know who's in charge here -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

I want representation NOW!

STONE

- I know who wears the trousers in this relationship. You're not getting a lawyer, this is a Kangaroo court. So I'm gonna ask you one more time, Morrison, and I want a straight answer - did they deserve to die?

Nothing.

STONE (CONT'D)

DID THEY?

Nothing.

STONE (CONT'D)

You killed them didn't you -

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

No!

TANNER

Shut it!

STONE

You used your position and you took the law into your own hands -

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET

No!

STONE

Shut it! Morrison -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

You're the copper, Stone.

STONE

That's right and coppers put away murderers -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

Do they?

STONE

Yes. As best they can. Within the rules of the law -

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON

Then the law stinks.

(CONTINUED)

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
(getting desperate)  
Pete...

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
Say nothing.

STONE  
You killed those men because you  
thought they deserved it, thought  
they were no longer fit to walk  
the earth - you wanted revenge,  
didn't you Morrison, admit it!

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
(calm as you like)  
I admit nothing.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
Can we PLEASE go back to the  
station -

STONE  
No!

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
I wanna go back to the station!

STONE  
Tough!

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
You can't DO this...

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
You've got nothing on us -

STONE  
Wrong. I've got this. In here.  
It's called instinct. And my  
instinct's telling me I'm looking  
at two murderers -

Silence.

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET starts to hyperventilate again.  
STONE chooses to ignore him this time.

STONE (CONT'D)  
Nice up here isn't. Big hill  
though. Long way down -

Beat.

STONE (CONT'D)  
I think me and you should go for  
a walk Mike, what do you say?

(CONTINUED)

TANNER  
Could do -

STONE  
Leave these two to have a chat -

TANNER  
They've got a lot to talk about -

STONE  
Enjoy the view boys. We'll swing  
by tomorrow, see how you're  
getting on -

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
(manic now, a man who  
knows his future is  
over)  
You can't just leave us here.

STONE  
Can't we?

COMMUNITY OFFICER SWEET  
No. No. NOOOO!

STONE  
Oh.

They get out anyway.

STONE (CONT'D)  
Have a nice chat lads.

STONE slams the door closed and they make to walk away.

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
They deserved it! THEY DESERVED  
IT!!!

STONE comes back, opens the door.

STONE  
Pardon?

COMMUNITY OFFICER MORRISON  
The system lets people down. Oh. dw9wnen0riminal seopv  
ONT'D)



40 CONTINUED: (10)

They do.

STONE (CONT'D)

There's a Mahatma Gandhi quote -  
an uneducated oik like you  
wouldn't know it - but he says  
'an eye for an eye leaves us all  
blind'. And that's it innit -  
that's the truth of it.

They stand and look at the view, breathe in the air.

STONE (CONT'D)

Where do you reckon the nearest  
pub is -

TANNER

Tidy walk -

STONE

Work up a thirst.

TANNER

Absolutely.

STONE

I'm thinking that way.

TANNER

No, that way.

STONE

That's towards the reservoir.

TANNER

There's a village over that brow.

STONE

How far?

TANNER

Couple of miles.

STONE

There'd better be -

TANNER

Trust me -

They set off walking, music kicks in and we hear STONE grab  
his radio - as he walks into the distance we hear...

(CONTINUED)

STONE

This is DCI John Stone, I'd like  
you to send arresting officers to  
the quarry view at the top of  
Jacobs Hill... as soon as  
possible please...

END EPISODE