

THE BRANDED
EPISODE 1: LOST & FOUND

Written by

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&
Christopher Kiser

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FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

KITCHEN

DR. LAYLA ROSS (Late 40's, Female) leans against the kitchen counter while emptying the last of a bottle of wine into her glass. The late night news is playing on the television.

REPORTER

The deal has officially been signed to pursue the final stages of FDA approval for the cure to cancer. Dr. Layla Ross leads the way on the scientific breakthrough.

Dr. Ross Raises the glass.

DR. ROSS

We did it.

She takes a long drink and walks from the kitchen to

OFFICE

She flips on a small light walking into the large home office. Slightly stumbling from the buzz of the wine, she thuds into a chair.

A dark figure sits in a chair in the corner of the room.

Dr. Ross notices the figure and stops cold in fear.

POLICE CHIEF (50's Male) appears behind her as he closes the door to the office and blocks it.

TOBIAS (early 30s, male) a mountain of a man, stands from the chair and perches his mighty hands on the desk in front of her.

TOBIAS

Tell me, Doctor. When did you become such a bleeding heart?

Her wine glass shatters and splashes across the floor.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAWN

ADAM (Mid 30's, Male) sits beside a headstone in the middle of well maintained graveyard.

ADAM (V.O.)
Since the beginning of time humans
have been the dominant race on
earth.

Adam stands and lightly touches the head of the gravestone.
He turns and walks away.

ADAM (V.O.)
In the shadows The Branded have
stood watch, protecting, and
enforcing balance as the humans
progressed into the modern day.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Adam drops his keys on the desk, pours a cup of coffee, then
sits in-front of his computer.

ADAM (V.O.)
During this time The Chaos gained a
foothold in the world, they
injected fear, hate, and anarchy to
slowly erode at the foundations of
humankind.
They targeted The Branded,
executing them one by one until
their numbers were so few that they
were unable to keep up with the
ever tipping scales toward
darkness. Only a few Branded
remain.

Videos of the Branded breaching buildings, fighting, and
shooting are across the screens in his room.

ADAM (V.O.)
But I believe they are still out
there, they are still following
their creed, and that balance will
be restored.

The Video is paused on the face of ASA (early 20's,M).

ADAM
I have to.

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE CARD: "THE BRANDED"

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

ASA (Early 20's, Male) Is walking down an alley in a full tactical load out. His face is covered with a black balaclava. He racks the slide on his rifle back slightly to view the bullet in the chamber.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

The BOOKING OFFICER (30's,M) is scribbling on some paperwork. The front door opens and a canister rolls inside. The officer peers over the counter as it rolls to a stop.

The flash bang goes off.

The officer jerks back.

Asa is over the counter instantly. He hits the officer with the butt of his rifle.

Asa rushes past the counter, pulls a smoke grenade and flash grenade from his belt and tosses them.

THREE OFFICERS flinch at the blast before smoke devours them.

Asa moves toward the stairs and ascends, keeping his rifle trained on the second story landing.

Asa turns at the landing and halts. He scans the second floor.

He tosses another smoke Grenade down the stairs before going up the second flight.

Asa moves up the second flight. He scans left then right.

He moves forward to the double doors and positions outside of the door frame ready to move in.

A shotgun blast splinters the middle of the two doors.

An officer runs up the stairs behind Asa.

The sound of a sniper shot rings out, a fire extinguisher blasts into the officers face, he falls down the stairs.

Asa looks back as the extinguisher continues blasting white smoke.

ASA

I love that guy.

He readies a flash bang. He pushes the flash bang through the new hole in the door. It goes off.

Asa kicks open the door. The Police Chief struggles to steady the shotgun from being disoriented. Asa jumps the desk and knocks his chair over disarming him.

Asa spins the Police Chief around and shoves him onto his desk.

Asa mounts him, pulling out his knife and drives it downward toward the Police Chief's throat.

The Police Chief grabs ahold of Asa's wrist with one hand and tries to push Asa's face with the other.

Asa jerks his head free of the open palm and through the struggle Asa's balaclava falls revealing his face.

Asa puts his whole body weight onto the hilt of the blade and drives it into the throat of the Police Chief.

Asa sits up and stares over the lifeless body of the Police Chief.

Shouts come from downstairs. Asa jumps off the body, runs, and slams the doors shut.

He rushes toward the window, looks out, and slaps the window frame. He moves to the next window peering out below.

A voice on the computer comes on.

ADAM (V.O.)

If you want to escape do exactly what I say.

Asa looks back at the desktop computer. The mounted camera is on.

ADAM (V.O.)

Use the far right window. Wait seven seconds on my mark. Drop down on the passing delivery truck. Go to these coordinates.

A printer comes to life and spits out a sheet of paper.

ADAM (V.O.)

Move.

Asa snatches the paper form the printer and jumps out the window onto the box truck.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

A car races beside the box truck. ROWAN (Early 30's male) dressed in the same gear is driving.

ROWAN

Let's go!

Asa maneuvers off of the truck and gets into the car.

INT. CAR- NIGHT

Rowan drives away from the Police station as sirens and lights are flashing in the distance.

ASA

WOOOOOOO! Nice shot, Ro!

He smacks Rowan on the arm.

ROWAN

That is not how we do things. We are a team, there is no lone wolf bullshit.

ASA

At some point we have to actually do our jobs. We can't just hide forev...

ROWAN

-That's not a call you get to make.

Asa pulls out his phone with a video playing. He tosses it to Rowan. Rowan picks it up and watches as he swerves through traffic.

POLICE CHIEF

I have heard your concerns. I have listened to your cries. I stand here today to tell you that I am with you. No more will I allow us to be overrun. No longer will I stand by and watch our town be their foothold to our great nation. Effective immediately I am ordering more protection at the border...

Rowan pauses the video.

ROWAN
Same story, different person.

ASA
Look at his uniform just under the
left lapel.

Rowan pulls the screen closer.

ROWAN
Not as subtle as they used to be.

ASA
No need to be subtle when all the
Wolves are in hiding.

ROWAN
We have to lay low, not jump on the
first Chaos some mysterious penpal
sends you.

ASA
I don't care. This is what we do,
or have you forgotten what we stand
for?

ROWAN
I haven't forgotten shit.

BEAT

ASA
These are the coordinates my penpal
sent me.

He hands the wrinkled paper and hands it to Rowan.

Rowan looks at it and just stares ahead. Asa stares at him in
anticipation.

Rowan takes a deep breath.

ROWAN
This goes south it's on you.

ASA
MY MAN!

EXT. HAY FIELD - NIGHT

The car pulls up to a gated fence. Headlights from the car
light up a sign reading "No Trespassing." Rowan and Asa climb
out of the car and hop the fence.

They walk forward and see a red chem light sitting on the top of a tree stump.

ROWAN

This is the spot.

They approach the chem light. They look around in the darkness. Asa's phone rings. Asa and Rowan look at each other. Asa pulls it out of his pocket and answers. He puts it on speaker as they draw closer together.

ADAM (V.O.)

You made quick work of that.

ASA

Who is this?

ADAM (V.O.)

Someone who is ready to relight the candle.

ASA

Cut the Cryptic crap.

ROWAN

How did you find us?

ADAM (V.O.)

I have ways of finding anyone, even your kind, even The Chaos.

Rowan looks at Asa and opens his mouth to speak.

ASA

Where are they?

ADAM (V.O.)

I'll be in touch.

ASA

Wait.

The phone hangs up. Asa grips the phone tight and storms off into the darkness. He stares out into the night.

Rowan steps up beside him.

ASA (CONT'D)

Spare me the lecture. I'm done hearing about our brothers and sisters dying. I'm done hiding. I'm tired of sitting on my hands, Ro.

ROWAN

I am too.

Rowan looks off to his left.

ASA

We deserve a break.

Rowan nudges Asa.

Asa doesn't respond.

Rowan nudges Asa harder.

ASA (CONT'D)

What?

Rowan motions to the left.

A car in the distance is pulling a U-turn. The headlights are off but the running lights are on.

ROWAN

Ask and you shall receive.

FADE OUT.

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THE BRANDED
Episode #2: Adam

Written by: CHRISTOPHER

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EXT. INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX - NIGHT

A large industrial building looms just beyond Rowan and Asa as they move toward it as a unit. Rowan peels off from the formation and moves to high ground. He sets his sniper on a bipod and lays behind it on the ground.

Asa moves to cover and affixes a SILENCER to his rifle.

Asa engages the ear piece of his radio's push to talk.

ASA

You sure we didn't lose him? This place looks completely abandoned.

ROWAN

If he's not here, he did a good job ghosting us.

ASA

You would know all about being ghosted.

ROWAN

Clear up until the main door. Move.

Asa moves away from his cover and points his rifle toward the main area. He moves smoothly toward the garage door and positions himself along the wall.

ASA

Set. I'm going to feel stupid if I breach an empty building.

Rowan picks up from his sniper position and moves down to Asa.

He positions right behind him pulls down his night vision and places his hand on Asa's shoulder.

ROWAN

Going dark.

Asa pulls down his night vision.

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CUT TO BLACK

TITLE CARD: "THE BRANDED"

EXT. INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX - GREEN NIGHT VISION

They move together to the door.

Rowan squeezes Asa's shoulder. Asa opens the door, and pushes inside with Rowan right behind him.

INT. INDUSTRIAL BUILDING - GREEN NIGHT VISION

The dilapidated industrial building looks as if it hasn't been used in years.

Rowan and Asa scan their sectors and move as one to the closest resemblance of cover in the large open room.

They move to an office door positioned in the center wall. Light penetrates through the small gap beneath the door. Rowan and Asa both remove their night vision goggles.

INT. INDUSTRIAL BUILDING - NIGHT

They stack outside of the door, Rowan squeezes Asa's shoulder.

Asa kicks in the door.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - NIGHT

Asa rushes inside to the left, Rowan to the right. ADAM (Late 30s Male) Scrambles away from them, he fumbles over his desk and falls on the other side.

ADAM

Wait wait wait!

Asa jumps across the desk and pins Adam to the wall by his throat. Adam quickly presses a button in his hand. The whole room is covered with screens that come on. Images of Rowan and Asa are plastered across them.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Let me explain! I just...

Asa strikes Adam in the face knocking him unconscious.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. OFFICE SPACE - NIGHT

Adam's Hazy POV. Rowan and Asa are standing close together looking at the pictures on the wall. Asa looks back at Adam.

He hits Rowan in the arm.

ASA

Finally.

ROWAN

Told you that you didn't kill him.

Asa sits on the desk right in front of Adam. He reaches in and pats Adam on the cheek.

ASA

Good morning, sunshine.

Adam slowly comes to, he is tied to a chair. Asa is sitting on a desk right in-front of him staring him down. Adam is disoriented and not fully there.

ROWAN

Where did you get these?

Adam still hazy, takes a deep breath. Asa jumps up and strikes him in the solar plexus, Adam gasps for air.

ASA

He asked you a question.

Adam still gasps for air. He looks into Asa's eyes.

ADAM

I am not one of them. I can help you.

ROWAN

We are doing just fine without your help. How did you find us?

Adam adjusts his gaze to Rowan.

ADAM

I told you I can find anyone.

ASA

You said you can find the Chaos.

ADAM

The Chaos have dug deeper than you could imagine. They are growing, and I believe they are going to do something big. We have to stop them.

ASA

We?

Asa looks back at Rowan.

ASA (CONT'D)

Did he just say we?

Rowan and Asa look at each other. Asa scoffs, but Rowan is engaged.

ROWAN

Show me.

Adam looks down at the ropes and flexes his hands.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Asa, cut him loose.

Asa goes to cut the ropes holding Adam, just as the knife touches the first rope, Asa looks him in the eyes.

ASA

You've got five minutes.

Asa cuts the rope while holding Adam's eye contact. He steps around to Rowan.

Adam slowly gets up and holds his hands up. He points to a keyboard on the desk.

ADAM

I just need that computer.

Rowan gestures to him to go ahead.

Adam moves to the computer and starts typing frantically.

The screens change from images of the Branded to various videos of drug deals, terrorist activity, news articles, and political campaigns.

ADAM (CONT'D)

They are growing.

ROWAN

We know.

Adam smirks.

ADAM

The Chaos are now deeply connected. They keep the connections distant, only a selected few know the right numbers but they are connected nonetheless.

Asa pulls Rowan back by the shoulder. Rowan looks at him.

ASA

(Under his breath)

Come on...

Rowan looks over at Adam. He gestures to Asa for one more minute.

ROWAN

How can we trust you?

ADAM

I helped you find a target. I helped you get out of the Station and nobody is kicking in the door to ambush you.

Adam changes images.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I have all the resources and my own connections to get these images to every news network in the world, not to mention to the Chao...

Asa draws Rowan's knife and steps up to Adam.

Adam jumps from his chair and throws up his hands up.

ASA

That's not what I want! I don't want them exposed. They've executed our kind and forced us into hiding. I want them in body bags.

ADAM

I can be the tool that gives you the edge on them. You are what the world needs right now.

ROWAN

Show me more.

Asa lowers the knife and steps back, gesturing to the chair.

Adam quickly jumps back in his chair and gets on the computer. He types frantically as they screens around him change.

ADAM

As of right now I have 13 connected events that trace back to the large shift in numbers.

He pulls up an image tattooed on the neck of BILLY (Early 30's male) dressed in jeans and a baggy shirt, his teeth worn away from excessive drug use. He is making a drug deal in the slums of the city.

Adam quickly stops the video of Billy and zooms in on the stilled image.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Look at his neck. That is the connection. That is symbol of the Chaos.

He types faster on the computer, the symbol is on the notebook of a politician, and etched into the rifle of a terrorist.

Rowan looks at Asa. Asa shrugs.

ROWAN

Whose first?

FADE TO BLACK.

THE BRANDED
EPISODE 3: Just One Hit

Written by:

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&
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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE SPACE - NIGHT

Adam types furiously on his computer, the screens transform into detailed photos and video of BILLY(20s,M).

ADAM

I wouldn't call this low hanging fruit, but its the first lead I've found.

ASA

I'm not going after lowlife drug dealer.

ADAM

The Chaos have infiltrated even the lowest on the scumbag chain.

Rowan flips a knife in his hand. He looks at Asa.

ASA

How do we know this isn't some guy Adam has a beef with?

ROWAN

A lead is a lead.

Asa bounces his glances between Rowan and Adam.

ASA

You drive.

Rowan and Asa head to the door to leave.

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE CARD: "THE BRANDED"

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Rowan is sitting in the drivers seat with Asa in the passenger seat. They both are in CASUAL CLOTHES.

ASA

How long are we going to watch this asshole?

ROWAN

We need to isolate him best we can.
He's got too many guys.

Asa checks the chamber of his PISTOL, and returns it to a CONCEALED HOLSTER in his waistband.

ASA

Sometimes it just takes a little
action.

Asa steps out of the car.

ROWAN

Wait.

Rowan quickly jumps out of the car.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Rowan pulls his shirt down to cover a KNIFE. He follows behind Asa.

Asa steps up to a small group of thugs. Rowan peels off in the background.

ASA

I'll take a dime.

THUG #1 steps up to Asa and shoves his hand right into his chest to stop him.

Asa stumbles back a step to gain distance and puts his hands up slightly.

ASA (CONT'D)

Chill man, I'm just looking to have
some fun.

The other three guards stand up and start backing up Thug #1.

THUG #1

Fuck off. You don't just roll up
here demanding shit.

ASA

I was talking to your boss.

Asa points to Billy. Billy laughs exposing worn away teeth. He stands up, and turns around to leave.

BILLY

Get him out of my face.

Thug #1 turns and blocks Asa's path with his body. He pushes Asa in the shoulder.

THUG #1
Get the fuck out of here.

ASA
I'm going.

Asa slightly turns to leave. He spins around.

Asa punches Thug #1 in the throat.

Thug #1 clenches his throat.

Asa kicks Thug #1 in the knee forcing him to drop to his knees. Asa grabs Thug #1 by the back of the of the head and slams his face into the ground.

Billy slips behind the rest of his guards.

BILLY
Kill that motherfucker.

The rest of the crew jumps in to help.

Asa fights the other guards and puts them all down.

Billy pulls out a PISTOL and fires several shots at Asa.

Asa dives and kicks over a table for cover as the other shots ring out. He pulls his pistol from his waistband, leans from behind cover, and fires his pistol at Billy.

Billy turns to run as a bullet catches him in the shoulder.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Billy rounds the corner an alley. Asa close on his tail.

Billy slams through a DOOR.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Billy runs through the building. He shoves an ELDERLY WOMAN holding groceries.

Asa leaps over the Elderly Woman, using the wall for balance.

Billy sees an exit. He fires off random shots behind him as he runs.

Asa stops at a corner as the drywall explodes from one of the random bullets.

Billy puts down his good shoulder and rams the door. It doesn't budge and he bounces back slightly.

The door slams open from the outside and hits Billy.

Rowan charges through the door and pounces on him.

Billy tries to raise the pistol.

Rowan grips his wrist and slams it against the concrete. The gun slides free. Rowan and Billy struggle.

A guard slams through the door Rowan came from and grabs Rowan by the shoulders.

Asa rounds the corner and quickly shoots the Guard.

Rowan pulls his knife, leans into Billy and jams the blade into his neck. He slowly twists and rams it deeper.

Rowan stands, sheaths his knife and pulls his pistol.

ROWAN

On me!

Rowan and Asa tactically move through the building. FIVE GUARDS run in. Gun fire rings out from down the next hallway. Concrete around them starts busting from the shots.

Asa moves across the open hallway and fires back at the enemy. Three of the five drop to the ground. The other two take cover

ASA

Move.

Rowan follows across the hallway and positions behind Asa. They make their way out of the building.

ROWAN

I got left.

The pause behind a parked car as the other two come out of the building.

Rowan and Asa both fire shots. The two guards slump to the ground.

They scan the street.

ROWAN (CONT'D)

Clear.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Rowan crosses the street back to their parked car.

Asa jumps into the passenger seat.

Rowan jumps into the driver seat.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Asa is holstering his pistol.

ROWAN
What the hell was that?

ASA
I call that a success.

ROWAN
It was too messy.

ASA
Come on Ro, live a little.

ROWAN
Can't live if we act reckless and die.

Rowan starts the car and pulls away.

ROWAN (CONT'D)
We have to be more calculated than that.

ASA
Sometimes we just have to act. Not every situation calls for secret squirrel bullshit.

ROWAN
It's not bullshit. It's how we operate. It's how we stay alive.

ASA
No, It's how you operate.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - NIGHT

Adam is sitting focused on his computer.

Rowan and Asa open the door.

ADAM
Did you get him?

Rowan pulls his knife, and a rag. He slumps in a chair.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Where is Billy?

Asa drags his thumb across his throat with a smile.

ADAM (CONT'D)
You killed him?

ASA
That's what we do.

ADAM
You could have questioned him.

Asa shrugs and drops into his chair, swiveling back and forth.

ASA
He wouldn't have talked.

ROWAN
We eliminated the target. Let's see
where the pieces fall.

Adam brings his focus down to his computer. Asa and Rowan avoid looking at each other.

ADAM
I'm sure this will stir something
up.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE BRANDED
EPISODE 4: OBJECTION

Written by

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&
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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Asa is leaning back in a chair with his feet propped up on the desk. He is cleaning under his fingernails with his knife. Rowan is sitting at a table cleaning his rifle while Adam works fiercely on his computer.

ADAM

I'm picking up some chatter.

Asa rocks his chair back on the back legs, swinging forward to lean in close to Adam.

ASA

About time.

ADAM

You were right about stirring something up but-

Rowan looks up from his weapon but his hands are still working at cleaning the bolt of his rifle.

ROWAN

But what?

ADAM

That can't be right.

ASA

Spit it out already.

ADAM

Moments after you killed Billy a phone call went out to Joe Merchen. It lasted only seven seconds.

ASA

Where can we find him?

ADAM

At this hour? In court. He's the assistant District Attorney.

Rowen looks at Asa. Asa smiles wickedly.

CUT TO BLACK:

TITLE CARD: "THE
BRANDED"

EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

Rowan in ALL BLACK is nestled in the shadows of an air unit. His rifle is propped up. He is scanning the front steps of a courthouse.

ROWAN
You remember the plan?

EXT. ALLY - DAY

Asa is leaned against a brick wall behind a dumpster wearing CASUAL CLOTHES. He is looking toward the same steps.

ASA
Tell me again why I agreed to this?

ROWAN (O.S.)
We don't know if or how many body guards he may have. This was the best solution given the circumstances.

Asa looks at his watch.

ASA
He should be coming out any time now. I feel naked without my rifle.

ROWAN (O.S.)
You've still got your side arm. Stop whining. I've got movement on the steps. Move.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Asa stands in the line of a hotdog vendor, slowly scanning the crowd. He looks down at his wallet.

ASA
Target sighted at my 7 o' clock on the eighth step.

The reticle of the scope scans around and stops on JOE MERCHEN (M, 40's). He is in a fine suit and holding a briefcase. He is nodding and smiling as he talks with a GENTLEMAN (M, 30'S). THREE MEN are around him scanning the people moving around.

ROWAN (O.S.)
I've got three guards. Too many
civilians. No shot. I need him
isolated.

Asa flips his wallet closed and leaves the line.

ASA
Just don't shoot me.

Asa pulls out his cellphone and climbs the steps of the
courthouse. He bumps his shoulder into one of the guards.

GUARD
Watch it.

ASA
My bad, bro.

He leans around the guard and fakes a face of shock.

ASA (CONT'D)
Holy shit, you're Joe Merchen.

Joe turns and smiles.

JOE
The one and the same.

Asa squeezes around the Guard and shakes Joe's hand.

ASA
It is such an honor to meet you.
I'm a huge fan. You actually
inspired me to become a lawyer.

JOE
I'm flattered. It's a pleasure to
meet you...

ASA
Drake. Drake Swanson.

JOE
Drake, I'm glad I could be such an
inspiration to such a young mind.

ASA
I'm supposed to take the BAR exam
next month and I was hoping I could
pick your brain a bit.

Joe looks down at his watch.

JOE

I'm actually due to meet with a client but feel free to call the office and set up an appointment. I would be more than happy to assist you.

ASA

Absolutely. Thank you so much. I'll call right now.

Asa reaches into his back pocket and pulls out his cell phone. He drops his cell phone and bends down to pick it up.

Blood sprays across the ground. People scream. Joe Merchen's body falls. Asa feigning shock dives behind a pillar.

ROWAN (O.S.)

Target eliminated. Meet me at the rally point.

The Guards are scanning their surroundings. Asa leans around the pillar, snatches the briefcase and slithers away.

INT. CAR - DAY

The passenger door opens and Asa slides into the car. He lays the briefcase on his lap. Rowan in the driver seat looks over at him. Asa has blood sprayed across his face and shirt.

ASA

This was my favorite shirt.

ROWAN

You specifically said "Just don't shoot me."

Rowan laughs as he shifts into reverse.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Adam is sitting at his computer with his head in his hands. Rowan and Asa enter. Adam slaps the desk as he jumps up.

ADAM

Could you not kill them, just once so we can actually question them?

ASA

We?

He looks at Rowan and points at Adam.

ASA (CONT'D)

There he goes with we again.

ROWAN

What happened after the kill?

Adam slumps back into his chair.

ADAM

Same as Billy. A phone call was made and this time lasted 11 seconds.

ASA

To whom?

Adam shakes his head.

ADAM

No idea. This time the call was scrambled. It was untraceable.

ROWAN

So we got nothing?

ASA

We got one less 'Chaos' to worry about. Here, see if you can crack this.

Asa tosses the briefcase onto the desk in front of Adam.

ASA (CONT'D)

I'm have to take a shower thanks to someone.

ROWAN

At least I didn't shoot you.

FADE TO BLACK.