

TEASER

1 EXT. HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CENTRAL TEXAS -- DAYTIME (DAY 1) 1

We're a long way from San Francisco. We're in central Texas, outside of Austin. A house. Upscale, very secluded. With CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS on the front lawn...

A TRACTOR TRAILER CAB (without the trailer) pulls up. The cab says TIGER BAY TRUCKING. Below it, the company's distinctive logo: a tiger, with flames trailing behind him.

The TRUCK stops, its engine still running. Out climbs BEN GLASER. A former trucker, brooding, intense, mid-50's.

His partner, STEVEN WOODS, steps from the house. A smaller, bookish man. An accountant. He's carrying a file of papers.

START →  
Sc. 1

STEVEN WOODS

Ben.

BEN GLASER

Hello Partner. Merry Christmas.

STEVEN WOODS

When are you gonna buy a car?

BEN GLASER

I own 72 rigs. Why should I buy a car?

(amused)

What the hell are you wearing?

Woods is wearing a suit and a distinctive, colorful holiday necktie; it has CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS on it.

STEVEN WOODS

(embarrassed)

I know. It's pretty awful. It's from the Christmas party. Guess who my Secret Santa was? Monk.

BEN GLASER

Monk? I thought you were going to fire his sorry ass.

STEVEN WOODS

I didn't have the heart. You know. Christmas.

"MONK" - BEN GLASER

(CONTINUED)

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**BEN**

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1 CONTINUED:

1

BEN GLASER

Hell. I'll do it. With pleasure.

(then)

So what's so important? We being audited? The depot burn down?

Steven opens the file and takes out some PRINTED INVOICES. He holds them up, accusingly.

BEN GLASER (cont'd)

(tensing)

You were in my office?

STEVEN WOODS

It's our office, Ben. We're partners, remember? At least I thought so.

(beat)

They're forgeries.

BEN GLASER

What?

STEVEN WOODS

Not all of them. I figure maybe 20 percent.

BEN GLASER

Steven. You're a number cruncher. You're an accountant. You don't know the first thing about maintenance-

STEVEN WOODS

(snapping)

Do I have to call Chicago and cross-check these invoices? Because I will. You've been buying recycled parts for the rigs! Cheaper parts-used parts- and pocketing the difference.

BEN GLASER

I can't believe this. After nine years-

STEVEN WOODS

It's not just the money. We have 72 drivers on the road. What if something happened? How would you live with yourself?

BEN GLASER

Hey. Partner. Relax.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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**BEN**

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1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

BEN GLASER (CONT'D)

If you don't have any proof- I mean  
real proof- you better stop right  
here.

STEVEN WOODS

I have proof. There's proof in every  
truck in the fleet! You want to see  
proof?

Woods crosses to Ben's truck. He reaches in, and POPS OPEN  
the hood.

BEN GLASER

(amused)

You're a mechanic now? You don't  
know what you're looking at...

STEVEN WOODS

I know enough.

Steven steps up, onto a fender, then leans in, over the  
truck's engine, which is still running.

STEVEN WOODS (cont'd)

Exhibit A. That cross-bit assembly  
pipe.

(waving the invoices)

According to this, it's brand new.  
Look at it. The gasket is loose.  
It's all rusted out.

During this, Steven's CHRISTMAS NECKTIE is dangling...  
loose... over the engine.

STEVEN WOODS (cont'd)

If that thing cracks, the whole  
engine's gonna blow. And I don't  
want that responsibility. Do you?

Steven leans down lower. Suddenly his necktie gets CAUGHT  
IN THE SPINNING FAN BELT! It tightens. It pulls him down,  
into the engine!

STEVEN WOODS (cont'd)

GAAAAH- !

Steven grabs the hood! But he's being pulled lower, lower.  
He's being strangled!

STEVEN WOODS (cont'd)

(gasping)

BEN! HELP! CUT ME LOOSE!

(CONTINUED)

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**BEN**

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1 CONTINUED: (3)

1

Ben starts to help. He whips out a POCKET KNIFE and flips it open. Then... he hesitates.

STEVEN WOODS (cont'd)  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

Ben decides not to save his partner. He closes the knife.

BEN GLASER  
(calmly)  
Sorry, partner.

**// END SC. 1**

We stay on Ben Glaser as he watches Steven being strangled. We HEAR Steven gurgling, gasping. Then the truck's engine KICKS, then STALLS OUT.

END OF TEASER

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**BEN**

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50 INT. CAB OF TRUCK -- SAME TIME 50

In the cab. It's over. Monk and his father exhale.

JACK MONK  
Are you okay?

Monk nods, shaken.

JACK MONK (cont'd)  
(smiles)  
You called me Dad.

Monk ignores this. He indicates the TRUCK'S ODOMETER. It now reads: 5002.

MONK  
(sighs)  
There goes the case. It's all been  
erased. It looks like your boss is  
gonna get away with murder.

JACK MONK  
(still smiling)  
You called me Dad.

51 INT. TIGER TRUCKING OFFICE - AUSTIN, TEXAS -- DAY (DAY 4) 51

The next day. Back in Texas. Ben Glaser, Valarie, and THREE OTHER EMPLOYEES are in the Tiger Trucking Office.

There's a CHRISTMAS TREE and some DECORATIONS up, but the mood is far from festive. They're all still in shock.

Valarie has a BOX of Steven Woods's personal belongings.

VALARIE  
(sadly)  
I cleaned out his desk.

BEN GLASER  
Thank you Valarie. I'll take that.

Glaser takes the box. He addresses the staff, solemnly...

BEN GLASER (cont'd)  
People. Listen. I know it's tough.  
Steven always said we were more than  
just an office- we were family. And  
that's how we're going to get through  
his: sticking together, supporting  
each other, like a family...

(CONTINUED)

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**START**  
**SC. 2** →

**BEN**

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51 CONTINUED:

51

Then they HEAR: a TRUCK approaching. Valarie glances out a window.

VALARIE  
It's Jack Monk.

BEN GLASER  
Finally.

52 EXT. BEHIND OFFICE - TRUCK DEPOT AREA -- SAME TIME

52

Outside. The TRUCK DEPOT, behind the office. Jack Monk's truck pulls in.

Ben Glaser and Valarie emerge from the office. Glaser smirks... like a man who just got away with murder.

The truck parks. Jack Monk and Monk climb out.

BEN GLASER  
You're late.  
(noticing Monk)  
Who's this? You know the rule about passengers in the cabs.

JACK MONK  
You know the rule about killing your partner.

A SQUAD CAR and a POLICE SEDAN pulls up. A UNIFORM COP and TWO LOCAL DETECTIVES- who we saw earlier- get out.

AUSTIN DETECTIVE  
Hello Ben. I told you we might be back.  
(holds up a paper)  
This is a warrant for your arrest.

BEN GLASER  
You've got to be kidding. We already went through this-

MONK  
You were with your partner, Steven Woods, when he was killed. And we can prove it.

BEN GLASER  
Jack. Who the hell is this guy?

JACK MONK  
My son.

(CONTINUED)

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BEN

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52 CONTINUED:

52

BEN GLASER

(smirking)

I don't believe this. Some orthopedist from Baltimore is accusing me-

JACK MONK

(interrupting, proudly)

This is my other son. Adrian. He's a homicide detective.

MONK

~~Ex-detective. I hope to be reinstated...~~

JACK MONK

(to Monk, meddling)

~~Have you applied? Maybe I could make some calls.~~

MONK

(embarrassed)

~~Dad, I'm fine... I can take care of myself....~~

The Austin Detective indicates Jack's truck.

AUSTIN DETECTIVE

You were in this truck- this particular truck- the day Steven disappeared. We saw the sign-out sheet.

BEN GLASER

That's right. I borrowed the truck. I went fishing.

A beat. Everyone stares at Glaser, accusingly.

BEN GLASER (cont'd)

Can you prove I didn't?

(nervously)

If you're talking about the GPS system- it's already been erased. It has a five thousand mile memory...

MONK

We don't need the GPS system to prove anything.

JACK MONK

~~There was a noise. A flapping sound.~~

(MORE)

// END  
SC.2

(CONTINUED)

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