

A Murder in Manhattan - the Flashback Killing

Scene 1: Sasha, Allison, 911 Operator (Anna)

Voiceover: NYC. Wednesday, October 3. 10:25 pm. Outside a coffee shop.

(SOUND: TRAFFIC AND STREET NOISES)

The scene opens on the right side of the stage with dim lighting. Cop and Detective are talking to each other. Basic dialogue, very relaxed. It's a patrol-type situation, they're just chatting while watching over the street.

Cop: So, the whole family was nuts then?

Detective: Sure were. Apparently, the family's grandpa was one of the most famous serial killers out there.

Cop: Yeesh.. That's a family dinner I wouldn't wanna go to.

Detective: Ha, you can say that again...

Suddenly, the Cop's radio goes off. They look down and listen to the 911 dispatcher.

911 Operator: We've got a report of a scream in apartment building 309 on East 41st St. Any available unit should go and investigate.

Cop: On it.

The cop and detective quickly run off to the side of the stage.

(SOUND: CAR ZOOMS OFF/ POLICE SIRENS)

The actors playing the cop and detective run to the other side of the stage behind the curtain.

Scene 2: (Sasha, Allison, Aidan, Ava)

Voiceover: Wednesday, Oct.3. 10:45 pm

(SOUND: ELEVATOR REACHING A FLOOR)

The lights slowly come on to outside the apartment.

Cop: **knock knock** Police! Open up!

****No response.****

Cop: .. Should we just go in??

Detective: Yeah, I'd say so anyway.

****The cop tries to open the door, but it's jammed shut. The cop looks at the detective, who just shrugs. The cop then kicks the door open, and both enter. A dead body is on the floor in a messy apartment. The accused stands a few metres away from the body, shaking. They look up instantly as the cop and detective enter. Both the detective and cop are shocked.****

Cop: Oh, Shii.... take mushrooms!

Detective: Son of a bacon bit!

Cop: Holy Crepes!

FREEZE! PUT YOUR HANDS UP WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!

Accused: N-NO! It wasn't me! I'm good, I swear officer! (shaking)

Detective: You're being placed under arrest for being at the scene of a murder; anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law, you are free to request a lawyer at any time. Do you understand what I am telling you?

Accused: I-I wouldn't do a thing like that!... I just found him here!!

Cop: *(into walkie-talkie)*

Man found dead in his apartment, homicide. A possible suspect was found at the scene, and placed under arrest.

Scene 3:(Sasha, Ava, Allison, Anna, Gracie)

Voiceover: Thursday, October 4th. 12:45 pm. Interrogation room

****The scene opens in an interrogation room, with dim lighting***

Cop: Okay, no more games. **Slams file down on the table as they sit.** Why were you at the scene? Tell me the truth.

Accused : *(is startled)* W-what..?

Cop: Answer the question!!

Accused: I-I live there!! Alex is my roommate!

Cop: That doesn't-!

Detective: No, that checks out... It makes sense. Two-bedroom apartment. Continue.

>>>>Flashback #1 ----->>>>>>>>>

(SOUND: FLASHBACK CUE RECORDING)

Voiceover: Wednesday, the evening of October 3rd.

Accused: Right... Uh, I came home from working my shift ready to relax. Only to turn on the lights and... And my roommate was dead on the floor. I can't even tell you the pure dread you feel when you see that much blood...
It must have been the loudest scream I've ever let out.

<<<<<Flashback ends <<<<<<<<<<

(SOUND: FLASHBACK CUE RECORDING)

Pausewhile Accused returns to interrogation room.

Cop: Wait, so it was you screaming?!

Accused: Probably... I was so shocked that I didn't think about how loud I was.

Cop: *(Has this thinking to self look)...**murmur* I guess we need more info.Ok well I suppose that will be all for now. I'll hold you in detention. You still need to be held for questioning as you are still a suspect.

****The cop holds the hands of Accused behind their back after they get up and walk to the nearest curtain while the lights fade****

****The scene opens up on either one of the cops entering the interrogation room with Witness 1, the Neighbour, sitting at the table****

did hear screaming coming from the apartment across from mine on the other side of the courtyard - so I got up and looked out the window.

****A scream plays, and in the flashback scene the neighbour flinches; Standing up and putting their ice cream down. Looking out a window.****

<<<<<<<<<Flashback ends here<<<<<<<<<<<

(SOUND: FLASHBACK CUE RECORDING)

Pause to give Neighbour time to return to Interrogation room.

Interrogation room

Cop: OK, good. Did you go and investigate the noise and find anything?

Neighbour: No, I called 911 as any reasonable person would!

Cop: R-right... Well, thank you for your cooperation ma'am.

Neighbour: Yeah...no problem.

****The neighbour stands up and walks off stage into the darkness and the light fades out.****

****The light opens in the same area but with The Landlord****

Landlord: Why do I gotta be here? I don't know anything about what happened!

Detective: Well where were you?

****The landlord gets a little nervous****

Landlord: I-I was out getting the uhh- groceries, my dog needed dog food, nothing else. Honest!

Cop: Ohhh - k... well do you know anything about the murder? Do you know the person well as a friend or what have they been doing before?

Landlord: No... or I... sorta do. We used to be good friends until we didn't really get along anymore, with how different our lives were getting. ***sigh*** It's been a while since I saw him..

Detective: Well... Times change and we can't always keep things the way we want them to be, but we can make it better.

Cop: Thank you for your information. You can go now.

****The landlord gets up and leaves, then the lights fade****

Scene 4: (Allison, Sasha, Gracie, Aidan)

Voiceover: Thursday, October 5th, 4:00 pm. Green's apartment.

The detective and cop walk in through the door to the apartment, to examine the crime scene. They search through the evidence trying to make sense of it. They both kneel to look better. The room is very clearly shown to have had a struggle (shown by everything being thrown around the apartment or messy).

Cop: It's such a mess in here...

Detective: Hey, look at that... Pass Exhibit 5 over a second. Don't get your prints on it.

Cop: Alright then.

****The cop hands over a set of keys that were on the floor.****

Detective: ***talking to self*** The keys....why would they be...wait,
there's a name on these...
It's the Landlord!
The murderer!
It's...it's Vanessa Hobbs!

Cop: Hobbs? Why do you think it's her?

Detective: These keys. These are to all of the apartments... that's the reason there was no evidence of a broken lock. The landlord could have gotten in by using their keys to unlock the door...

Cop: Yeah.. and it did seem like Hobbs knew the victim pretty well. Considering Mr. Green was a tenant of the building and all.

>>>>>>>>>Flashback begins here>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>

(SOUND: FLASHBACK CUE RECORDING)

As the cop speaks, the lights fade out. The body is quickly removed and the mess is cleared. Spotlight comes back on, showing a flashback of what actually happened. The landlord looks around, before using her keys to get inside the apartment. She looks around for something specific she wants to take but is interrupted by the victim entering the room.

Detective: The Landlord was probably looking for something.. And Alex was home.

The landlord panics, and a fight breaks out. A folder of papers is scattered over as the fight ensues; at some point, the landlord is truly panicked, so they grab a lamp and hit the victim in the head with it. The victim falls to the ground, dead.

Detective: And Hobbs flees the scene...

<<<<<<<<<Flashback ends<<<<<<<<<<<

As lights fade

Scene 5: Gracie, Allison, Sasha

Voiceover: Friday. October 6th. 6:10 pm. Vanessa Hobbs' house

The scene opens up to the landlord's house, looking similar to the apartment but with stuff rearranged. (The lights will be on the cop and detective as they knock on the door.) The landlord gets up and opens the door a little bit.

Landlord: How's it going fellas...

Detective: How's it? Can we talk to you about a few things?

Landlord: Sure... about wha-

****door gets kicked open and the landlord falls to the ground****

Cop: You arrested on suspicion if the murder of Alex Green
pointing finger gun

Detective: You didn't have to do that.

Cop: She's fine.

****The landlord gets cuffed by the detective and cop before they grab the landlord and sit her on something in the landlord's house for questioning, while the landlord keeps her hands behind her back to look like she is cuffed****

Detective: So, why did you murder Alex ----you said you were good friends with him?

Landlord: We were until he started acting differently. I heard he was mixed up with a bad crowd, so I tried to have a look around and confront him by surprise. Only the surprise was on me when he was still home. I only wanted to help him out but everything went wrong! I never meant to kill him!

****it goes quiet for a bit until someone speaks****

Detective: That was brave of you ma'am but when there's something as dangerous as this happening you call the cops. You wouldn't have gotten to be in this situation if you did.

Landlord: I just wanted to save what was left of my friend, not end it.

Cop: Well, you'll have plenty of time to think about that in jail,
and maybe make some new friends there.

****they walk out the door and off stage as the light fades****

THE END.