TVRA Writing

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Drama Assignment

Law & Order

Thiss[The actual tag line for the show is better.]

**Show Description**

Law & Order is an American crime drama that revolves around the investigation and prosecution of the crimes handled by the homicide division of the New York City Police Department. The show is usually broken up into two parts. The first half deals with the investigation of a murder by detectives, and the second half is the prosecution of the defendant. The show has a revolving main cast that changes throughout the years, but each week focuses on a new investigation and prosecution.

**Main Cast**

Lennie Briscoe

Briscoe is the senior detective, he is an old school cop who takes his job seriously, but knows how to have a laugh every now and then. He also is an alcoholic, who has been sober for many years.

Ed Green

Green is the junior detective; he is partners with Briscoe. He is a young ambitious detective who is highly motivated. Briscoe and Green keep each other in balance.

Anita Van Buren

Van Buren Lt. of the 27th precinct detective squad, she is stern and hard working. She knows how to get things done and plays by the books.

Jack McCoy

McCoy is the executive assistant district attorney. He is strict and intense, he is like a skilled hunter in the court room, he knows when to strike.

Arthur Branch

Branch is the District Attorney of Manhattan. He is intimidating and fights hard to inforce the law.

**Recurring Cast**

Randy Dworkin

A short and stocky defense attorney who is defending Clarence Harmon.

**Guest Cast**

Clarence Harmon

The defendant of the episode, who is on trial for the murder of his wife, Donna Harmon.

Julia Briscoe

The daughter of detective Briscoe, who has a rocky relationship with her father due to his alcoholism, and the death of her older sister, all of which tore the family apart.

**Plot A**

Detectives Briscoe and Green attempt to solve the murder of Donna Harmon, the wife of a bodega owner who was killed in her store.

**Plot B**

Executive assistant district attorney, Jack McCoy, faces the obstacles of trying a difficult case against Clarence Harmon, accused of killing his wife.

**Plot C**

It is the anniversary of the death of Detective Briscoe’s daughter and Briscoe attempts to reconnect with his other daughter, Julia.

**Episode One-liner**

The wife of a bodega owner is killed in their own store, detectives Briscoe and Green are on the case.

**Episode Title**

Anniversary

**ACT ONE**

**Scene 1**

It is early morning; a newspaper delivery man is making his route. He enters a bodega in lower Manhattan with a large stack of newspapers. He sees a dead woman behind the counter on the floor with a gash in her head. The police arrive, and detectives Briscoe and Green are at the scene. The woman is identified as Donna Harmon, wife of Clarence Harmon, owner of the bodega. The medical examiner determines that her head was smashed into the corner of the counter. All of the money is gone from the register, which points to a robbery gone wrong. At the crime scene, Clarence Harmon arrives and begins to freak out due to the death of his wife.

**Scene 2**

All are back at the precinct. Briscoe and Green proceed to ask Harmon about his whereabouts during the time of the murder. He claims that he just returned from a weekend fishing trip, and that he was alone most of the time at their cabin. However, he did visit a bait and tackle shop, located right outside of the city.

**Scene 3**

Briscoe and Green go to the bait and tackle shop to check on his alibi. They speak to the owner, who shows the detectives security footage of Harmon at the tackle shop during the weekend he said he was there. The video shows Harmon making a credit card purchase. Upon leaving the shop, Green notes that the owner seemed particularly anxious. Briscoe responds, but seems annoyed and distracted.

**Scene 4**

Briscoe and Green are back is reviewing Harmon’s credit card purchase, and notes that there is a significant amount of extravagant purchases. But there are no receipts of any recent purchases at the bait and tackle shop. Van Buren asks if they have a motive in mind and suggests that they pay a visit to Harmon.

**ACT TWO**

**Scene 1**

Briscoe and Green arrive at Harmon’s home in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.  Harmon is not home. They walk around the property.  There are two high end cars in the driveway, a pool, and peering through the window confirms that the Harmons are living way above their lifestyle. Pretending he hears a commotion inside, Briscoe breaks in the back door.  Inside they discover boxes of papers and a shredding machine along with a few bags of shredded documents all of which they take back to the station using the excuse that it was “in plain sight.” A nerdy forensic accountant begins investigating.  Among the papers is a handwritten note with the last name of the bait and tackle shop owner and $ 5,000 written on it.

**Scene 2**

The owner of the bait and tackle shop has been brought in for questioning. He breaks quickly and admits that he doctored the date on the surveillance tapes for $ 5,000 at Harmons request.  They read him his rights, and arrest him. Van Bruen tells Briscoe and Green to pick up Harmon.

**ACT THREE**

**Scene 1**

Jack McCoy is yelling at Van Buren, Briscoe, and Green, complaining that this is a half-baked case.  Briscoe is annoyed and sarcastic, telling McCoy that they can’t do all of his work for him and storms out of his office.  McCoy is sure that the documents will be thrown out of the trial because they were obtained without a warrant and he yells that they still do not have a motive. While walking out of McCoy’s office, Van Buren tells Green to cut Briscoe some slack because he always gets a little rough around the edges around the anniversary of the murder of his daughter.

**Scene 2**

After reassembling the shredded documents and going through the papers, the forensic accountant concludes that the bodega was a front and that the store was laundering drug money. This concerns McCoy because it still doesn’t give him a motive for Harmon to have killed his wife. It ends with McCoy exclaiming that he is still sure that Randy Dworkin, the quirky but skillful defense attorney, will make sure this information will never see the light of day.

**Scene 3**
In the judges private chambers, Dworkin convinces the judge to throw out the evidence discovered in Harmon’s house but allows the use of the doctored surveillance tapes and the broken alibi because Green had already seen the tapes and investigated Harmons credit card receipts before they seized the documents without a warrant.

McCoy tells Arthur Branch, the head DA, that he hopes to trick Harmon into introducing the evidence while cross-examining him. McCoy reveals that he is still unsure of the motive and how it ties into the money laundering.

**ACT FOUR**

**Scene 1**

The owner of the bait and tackle shop is testifying that he doctored the tape. Dworkin reveals that the owner made a deal with the DA to testify for a reduced sentence. Dworkin calls Harmon to the stand who testifies that he made up the story about fishing because he was actually home alone and thought that this would make him a suspect. He admits that it was a lie and a mistake.  McCoy goes after him.  Harmon says that he fell asleep in his den doing paperwork and didn’t wake up till the morning. Realizing that Harmon had inadvertently introduced the documents, McCoy proceeds to break Harmon who admits that his wife knew nothing of the laundering and drug money and got upset when she found out. She wanted to turn him in. He slammed he head into the counter. In tears Harmon claims it was all an argument gone bad.

**Scene 2**

Dworkin asks McCoy if they can settle the case but by then the jury has brought back a guilty verdict. Green and Briscoe are in the courtroom.  Green says something positive and is confused that Briscoe is not happy about the outcome. Briscoe leaves.

**Scene 3**

Later that night Briscoe is sitting in a restaurant alone. He is drinking a club soda and watching sports on the TV above the bar. Green enters, and they have a conversation about Briscoe’s other daughter Julia. Green decides to head home for the night, and suggests that Briscoe does the same. Briscoe decides to stay, and Green leaves. Briscoe then orders a drink, breaking his sobriety.

**Scene 4**

It is late at night and Briscoe is drunk. He is loudly knocking on an apartment door. Julia Briscoe opens the door and is shocked to see that it is her father. She instantly realizes he is drunk and gets angry. He apologizes and wants to talk to her. She slams the door in his face.

LAW & ORDER

“Anniversary”

Written by Joseph Gurbo

ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

1. EXT. OUTSIDE BODEGA - DAY 1

It is early morning, a newspaper delivery truck double parks in front of a bodega. DELIVERY MAN #1 and DELIVERY MAN #2 are having a trivial argument. They get out of the truck and start unloading the delivery.

DELIVERY MAN ONE #1

Look, I’m not gonna have this argument with you again. The rice in salt shakers is there to absorb moisture!

DELIVERY MAN #2

I don’t buy that.

DELIVERY MAN #1

Then you tell me, why is it there?

DELIVERY MAN #2

I don’t know, maybe it adds flavor?

DELIVERY MAN #1

I can’t with you right now.

Don’t start with me till I’ve had my coffee.

1. INT. BODEGA - DAY 2

Delivery man #1 enters the store with a hand truck of newspapers. He looks around and sees no one in the store.

DELIVERY MAN #1

Mr. Harmon, delivery!

Delivery man #1 notices a pool of blood on the floor, emerging from behind the counter. He looks behind the counter and sees Donna Harmon dead on the floor.

DELIVERY MAN #1

Hey, man call 911!

1. INT. BODEGA - DAY 3

CUT TO:

A medical examiner is taking a picture of the body. Detectives LENNIE BRISCOE and ED GREEN enter the bodega. Green is catching Briscoe up on the details.

GREEN

According to one of the delivery men, her name is Donna Harmon age

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2.

GREEN (cont’d)

43. She runs the store with her husband Clarence. Medical examiner puts the time of death around 6 this morning. Her head was bashed in right here.

Green points to the counter.

BRISCOE

Possible robbery?

GREEN

It looks that way, the register was cleared out.

BRISCOE

What’s the story with the husband?

GREEN

We’re trying to get in contact with him now. The drivers say they are usually here together in the mornings.

From outside the street, someone is yelling. Briscoe and Green leave to check out the commotion. CLARENCE HARMON is trying to get past an officer. He is clearly panicking.

CLARENCE HARMON

Let me through! What is going on? That is my store!

GREEN

Sir, please calm down!

Just then the medical examiner wheels out the body covered on a stretcher.

Harmon then collapses in tears with the realization that the body is his wife.