Final Script

**\*Spotlight on Interviewer\***

Interviewer: Today is December 8th, current time is \_\_\_\_\_ in the afternoon I am interviewing Vincent Fernando of the National City Police department. Vincent what is your official job title?

**\*Lights down on Interviewer\***

**\*Spotlight on Vince\***

Vince: Uhhh my official job title is homicide detective. So I handle all homicides, attempted homicides and crimes of violence. So if someone gets shot, stabbed, gets beat up, basically if they end up in a hospital and its because of criminal activity then me or one of the other two guys will have to investigate it.

**\*Lights up on Interviewer\***

Interviewer: “That sounds like a very dangerous job, what made you want to become a detective?”

**\*Lights down on Interviewer\***

Vince: “… as a detective you get to work the entire case all the way through. So you have your hand in everything and you know all the details of what’s going on. So it’s more of a, uh, holistic approach to get the whole picture and you get to actually solve the crime.”

“Every time, uhh just to give a little analogy, every time I like turn over a rock, you know some cockroaches fly out and I catch those cockroaches and you know it .. it turns into another rock that I open up and more cockroaches fly out. So, there’s always something. Everytime I turn something over, there’s more leads that that are generated.”

**\*Lights up on Interviewer\***

Interviewer: “Is there any case that sticks out to you that you’d be willing to tell us about?”

**\*Lights down on Interviewer\***

Vince: “I guess that would have to be uh, it was a domestic violence case that I was working, where the victim was a female, her boyfriend was a suspect, and he was \*dramatic pause\*, he was just tormenting her. He would beat her up, he’d go to her apartment, he’d break into her apartment, and he would damage her equipment, her car, and do all kinds of vandalism and stuff like that.

And she would report it right off the bat, because she was angry that her stuff was being destroyed. Then the officer would go out, and she’d give him all the information, and then we’d go out and start our investigation. She’d just backtrack on everything that was being said. And this would happen 3 or 4 times, and it was not only happening in national city, but in other parts of the area.

So when she’d go to his house in Chula Vista the same thing would happen over there. When we look at the cases we look to see if there’s other cases going on, not just in our city, but wherever it may be. And so we could see the pattern going on, and um so we had to do a lot of work on that one to really show that there was a pattern and you know to convince her to move forward with persecuting the suspect. And in this case she fit the classical, textbook victim.

Where typically the victim doesn’t report the incident to the police until she’s been abused - I think the average is about 30 times - and I don’t mean that she got beat up 30 times, but you know: emotional abuse, yelling, breaking things, getting your dog kicked, and stuff like that. But she totally fit the mold of how we see a domestic violence victim. So we worked that case for quite some time, and then eventually we did arrest the suspect, and he did get some jail time. And so… I would say that one.”

**\*Lights up on Interviewer\***

Interviewer: “Why is it that that one sticks out to you?”

**\*Lights down on Interviewer\***

Vince: “Uh, just because I worked so much with that particular victim, and uh the suspect was in denial the whole time, and uh, he kind of prided himself as a ladies man, and he’s, he’s a work of art.”

**\*Lights up on Interviewer\***

Interviewer: “Can you tell us about a case that you investigated where there was a lot of evidence?”

**\*Lights down on Interviewer\***

Vince: Yeah okay umm... this happened around a few years back, where I was working on graveyards at the time and ahh, it was probably about 2 o’clock in the morning and we got a call to respond to a an 11 8 an unresponsive adult male and he’s suppose to be in the doorway of his apartment.

So its 2 o’clock and in my head I'm thinking - what is it that I’m responding to so that I can think about what I need to do before I get there - so okay this is someone that is probably drunk - and we get a lot of drunk calls especially at 2 o’clock in the morning - so I’m thinking this guy is probably drunk and hes just passed out.

So I respond to the scene and uh I get there and we tactically park and I say tactically park I mean that we don’t park in front of the house we park further back so you can’t see or hear us coming up, then we walk up, so I park my patrol car and I’m walking up as I’m walking up there is already a crowd thats gathered outside and they're like totally like motioning me to come over and, like oh my GOD, HES OVER THERE, he's over there¨, and um there was another officer that got there right before I did, and ahh so hes already there, and as I’m walking up I hear him say oh “person has multiple stab wounds."

So I’m like oh, okay, it’s not a drunk person. So I go out, and uumm, picture this room as the crime scene, I’m walking up from the outside, and as I come up the door’s open, and uh, the victim is laying, face down in the living room.

**\*Lights down on Vince\***

**\*Lights up on Actors\***

**\*Dead body on floor\***

And he’s not wearing any clothes and he’s just all laid out in a big pool of blood. So I’m thinking, this guy is obviously dead or about to die, so I go up to it like okay we gotta lock down the scene, and he’s right in the doorway, so I can’t get by him without stepping over him.

So, uh the officer that I’m with is covering me he’s got his gun out because we don’t know if the suspect is there, and he uh he’s covering the area, and I reach down and I touch this guy, um, I touch him right here on his neck first.

And um, actually I touch him on his hand first, and when I touch his hand, I can feel a pulse.

**\*Feels for pulse\***

And normally when you feel a pulse you always use these two fingers

**\*holds up middle and index finger\***

you never wanna use like your thumb, because your thumb has a vein in it, and you’ll feel your own pulse. Well right when I touch his pulse, I can actually feel his pulse. So I’m like oh, this guy is still alive, so I move his hand up a little bit, and he’s in full rigor, do you know what rigor is?

**\*Lights up on Interviewer still up on Vince\***

Interviewer: “Is it when your body stiffens up?

**\*Lights down on Interviewer\***

Vince: During decomposition, your body starts to build up with lactic acid and it causes your body to stiffen up. So umm I feel the rigor in him

**\*Lifts arm and arm is stiff\***

and I realize this guy is dead, but how is he dead if I feel a pulse? So then I go down and check for his umm his artery in his neck and I don’t feel any pulse, now I notice not only is this guy in rigor, but he is very cold to the touch so when a body dies the body will go to the ambient temperature of the room, so this guy is pretty cool so I know he has been dead for a while. So …(Pause)

Gabe: “Nevermind medics we don’t need medics.”

**\*Steps over dead body\***

**\*Walks off stage\***

**\*Lights up on Vince\***

**\*Lights down on Actors\***

Avoiding all the blood, we walk through clearing the room, it was a like a, I think it was a 2 bedroom apartment, and we are just going through making sure there is no suspects, victim, or witnesses, inside. And uh you know, we find objects like knives, um belts, and then when I turn the corner and I go into the bathroom. The bathroom is just covered in blood. The whole floor had blood all over it, the sink had blood all over it, the shower had blood all over it, and um I realized afterward that the reason why he was naked was because he was taking a shower. And he was murdered in his bathroom, and he was trying to stop the blood with a bunch of clothing, applying direct pressure and everything, on his clothing, on wounds, and then um it wasn’t working and the he just staggered out and dragged himself, all the way out into the living room.

**\*Dramatic Pause\***

And so, and in that particular case we had a lot of evidence there. The body for one thing, all the blood, all photographs, the bloody clothing, he had left like his wallet and ID and stuff like that, um, we had evidence in the, in the parking lot, with cars and so forth.

**\*Lights up on Interviewer\***

Interviewer: “Wow, that sounds pretty freaky like a scene a horror movie, it seems like you can handle it pretty well though. How are able to handle seeing things like that?”

**\*Lights down on Interviewer\***

Vince: “Um, well, for the most part, I can do it just because I see so much of it, and uh, it’s not personal to me. But like when I see crimes against the kids, against any little kids, then it’s harder because I have kids of my own, and I see you know what if that was my kid? Um, I’ll tell you another case I did, I was actually a patrol officer at the time, and we had a case of uh, someone called up and said “oh my roommate committed suicide in the house." So, right, okay we respond to the house, and we go in, and we’re gonna clear the house, to make sure everything’s safe inside. And we’re going through, I have my gun out, and we’re clearing the room. I’m going through the garage and when I open the door, there’s a lady hanging from the rafters, she’s got a rope around her neck, and she’s hanging, and she’s basically like this close

\***motions to distance between him and interviewer\***

from me to you, to us, and she’s a little old japanese lady, and she had just spun around, so that I could see her, like the side of her face, and I could see her body structure, and when I saw her, it looked like, it looked like my mom

**\*motions to interviewer\***

so that was kinda freaky. I think that was the one that freaked me out the most, because to me, it … (pause for dramatic effect) … it looked just like my mom.”

**\*All lights down\***

**\*FIN\***

**The end.**