

The Betty River Murder

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INT. DELANEY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- AFTERNOON

ECU BETTY RIVER'S EYE, PULL OUT SLOWLY

Her eye's are the first thing we see, still open. A small pool of blood surrounds her shoulders neck and head giving almost a shiny red halo round the gash in her throat. BETTY RIVER's, mid 20's, her body lies dead on the floor. She is wearing a white 1940's nurses uniform. Lying next to her is a vintage 1930's purse, it's strap is torn, The contents are spilled out onto the ground next to her, makeup compact, lipstick, pill bottles, identification, and a few dollars and cents.

CONTINUE SLOW PULL OUT, RISING HIGH ABOVE THE CRIME SCENE.

Time lapse: We see the silhouette of someone leaving the crime scene. Next the shadow of someone discovering the body. Finally Mercury County Medical Examiners, Lead M.E. JANET WELDON, mid. 30's, and Intern M.E. DAVID PRUITT, early 20's are busy collecting evidence. Continue time lapse as they process the scene. Set up lights, take blood samples, lay markers and collect the evidence, outline the body, etc...

HOLD HIGH WS OF CRIME SCENE.

Janet takes Betty Rivers fingerprints and scans them into a small laptop. The M.E.'s collect their gear, and prepare to exit the scene. The last thing they do is close her eyes, and cover the body with a sheet.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- EVENING

Janet looks at her laptop screen.

JANET

That can be right.

Janet continues to collect her tools. David collects their equipment. Janet stops him before he takes the laptop.

JANET (CONT'D)

We still waiting on Watts, and Von?

David checks his watch.

DAVID

They were suppose to be here an hour ago.

Janet hands David her tool box, and the evidence bags.

JANET

Take these back to the van, and  
bring the stretcher.

DAVID

Don't you think they want to see  
the body before we move it?

JANET

I'll call them, let'em know we're  
done here.

David exits the house via the patio french doors that lead out to the driveway entrance. Janet pulls her cell phone and speed dials the Mercury County Police Dept. The phone rings, and crackles with bad reception.

JANET (CONT'D)

Damn it.

The phone loses its signal and cuts out before anyone can answer. She walks around the room for a moment until she finds a good signal and tries the call again. Her wondering has taken her close into a corner of the house near a bedroom door. The phone rings again, there is still a little static.

OVS JANET, SHADOW ENTERS THE ROOM

Janet turns to see David standing over the body he no longer has the toolbox or the evidence bags, and he hasn't brought the stretcher back. Janet watches David curiously as she listens on the phone for the dispatcher.

JANET (CONT'D)

(to David)

Hey, where's the stretcher?

David looks up at Janet with a dark look in his eyes. Janet is suspicious for a second. David has changed, his movements are slow and zombie like, something is a miss. Janet is quickly oblivious as she hears the voice of the dispatcher. She looks away from David. David moves closer to her slowly. He is hiding something in his right hand.

MCPD DISPATCHER

This is the Mercury County Police-

The signal is lost.

JANET

Damn!

Janet turns to find David standing a little too close. He smiles and holds up his right hand which is covered in blood. Janet is thrown violently against the far wall by some supernatural force. Her cellphone is knocked from her hand and crashes to the floor. She lifts up her head and tries to pick herself up off the floor, but she is immediately slammed back to the ground.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME/DRIVE WAY -- EVENING - MOMENTS LATER

The detectives arrive at the crime scene. Small sedan pulls into the driveway only as far as the front gate. ISABEL VON, late 20's, gets out of the passenger side of the car. She's a first year detective. A straight laced by the book type of girl, single, serious, and sexy. A little too serious for her own good. She see the M.E.'s van still parked outside. The driver steps out, ROBERT WATTS, early 40's, Seven years as homicide detective. A career officer from a family of detectives. Forensics expert, with a relaxed sense of duty. A practical joker always looking for the humor in the tensest situations.

ISABEL

I don't think it's a good idea is all.

ROBERT

Oh, it's fine, I had a twenty two when I was five.

ISABEL

Five?

ROBERT

Ten, twelve.

ISABEL

And you turned out fine.

ROBERT

Yeah that's my point.

The detectives make their way up to a small entry gate, and enter the property.

ISABEL

I just think kids and guns are a bad idea.

ROBERT  
You think people should choose  
kids, or guns?

ISABEL  
Yeah.

ROBERT  
Guns don't need college.

ISABEL  
You're getting it.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME/DRIVE WAY ENTRANCE -- EVENING-- CONTINUOUS

Isabel and Robert walk casually under the Yellow crime scene tape and make their way through a narrow breeze way toward the backyard patio entrance.

ROBERT  
I don't know. I remember my father  
having a peculiar sense of pride as  
he watched me blow the heads off of  
my sister's dolls.

ISABEL  
And look where you are now.

They stop for a moment when they see, blood splatter. Isabel cautiously starts to step over it.

ROBERT  
Don't step in the blood.

The evidence bags lying on the ground. The M.E.'s tool kit is open beside it.

ISABEL  
Is that blood?

Robert shines a flash light onto the ground. The speckles of blood splatter track across the ground.

ROBERT  
Oh, maybe we should go through the  
front entrance.

ISABEL  
I think I can squeeze by here.

ROBERT

Wait.

Isabel stops.

ISABEL

What?

Robert scans the ground to see the splatter is against the far wall.

ISABEL (CONT'D)

I think it's okay.

ROBERT

Okay let's go.

The landscape is illuminated by a series of state issued, generator powered lights. Smaller lamps can be seen through the patio doors and into the living room crime scene.

ISABEL

Where are they?

ROBERT

I don't know.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- EVENING - CONTINUOUS

The detectives enter through the patio's french doors. The front door on the far side of the room is open.

ROBERT

(to M.E.'s)

Hello! Mercury County P.D.

Robert looks to Isabel, she shrugs. They put on latex gloves as they walk over to the body. Robert kneels down and Isabel is looking over his shoulder. Robert pulls the sheet away from Betty Rivers face. Her eyes are open. Isabel's makes eye contact with Betty River. Robert leans between their line of sight and the stair is broken. Isabel's concentration is thrown off for a second. Robert picks up the M.E.'s clip board, and starts to read the report to himself. Isabel looks around the room surveying the crime scene.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Well I don't need a medical report to tell me the cause of death. These lacerations-

Robert inspects the body closely. Isabel has become consumed by something else in the room. She feels a presence in the room with them, but sees no one. She is yanked back to reality by Robert.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Isabel, detective Von?

ISABEL  
Yeah.

ROBERT  
You okay?

ISABEL  
Where are the M.E.'s?

They both look around the room, evidence markers are in place, and their equipment is packed up, and stacked ready to go.

ROBERT  
It looks like they're done, maybe they're at the van.

Isabel glares at him, she's not convinced.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Relax, the body is still here. They're probably getting the stretcher. We just missed them.

Robert looks to the open front door.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
See, they have to come this way, you remember, that back corridor is to small.

ISABEL  
Yeah, I get it.

Robert takes a look at the M.E.'s laptop.

ROBERT  
This doesn't make any since.

ISABEL  
What?

Robert turns the computer for Isabel to see.

ISABEL (CONT'D)  
A missing person's report?

ROBERT  
Yeah, but it's wrong.

ISABEL  
Why?

ROBERT  
1944, that's one hell of a surgeon.

They both look at Betty Rivers young perfect pale dead face.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
I'm serious there's not a wrinkle  
on her.

Robert kneels down to admire her beauty.

ISABEL  
King Kong.

ROBERT  
Excuse me.

ISABEL  
King Kong premiered in 1944.

ROBERT  
Alright Molder thanks for the  
update. Our vic probably bought  
Mis. Betty River's identity for a  
hundred pesos off E-bay.

Isabel excited by the mystery, turns back to the computer to read the rest of the M.E.'s report. Before she can touch the computer the power goes out. The computer shuts off and all the lights power down. Robert flicks his flashlight on and illuminates Isabel.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
What did you do?

ISABEL  
It wasn't me.

Isabel pulls her flashlight.

ISABEL (CONT'D)  
Our generators must've failed.

ROBERT  
This is bullshit.

Robert walks over to one of the light switches, and flicks it on. A practical living room lamp comes on. Illuminating the crime scene from a different dimmer perspective. Isabel turns back to the computer, s still dark screen.

ISABEL  
Damn.

Robert heads for the front door.

ROBERT  
Stay with the body, I'm gonna check  
on our M.E.'s

Robert exits. Isabel, unplugs the laptop, a small USB Flash Drive falls off in her hand, she sets it aside and tries to reboot the computer using the battery power. The computer chirps and beeps as it comes back to life. Isabel feels something dark and cold watching her. She turns around quickly, but sees no one. She reaches for her gun and moves across the room slowly.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME, FRONT ENTRY/DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Robert walks briskly back to the front gate.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Isabel draws her gun and moves toward the bedroom door. The door is cracked open slightly. The light in the room comes on from suddenly. Isabel stops for a moment. She listens, and hears a whimper coming from inside.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME, DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Robert is almost to the gate when he hears something fall on the far side of the garage. He points his light, and sees a sneaker sticking out from behind a garbage can.

ROBERT  
I can see you.

Robert moves in to investigate, he finds an old pair of sneakers.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Brilliant bobby, you just pinched  
Chuck Taylor.

There is another sound a rustling from the bushes. Robert pulls his light quick enough to catch a glimpse of someone in a black windbreaker, escape into the shadows behind the garage.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Stop! Police!

Robert chases the shadow past the patio, he looks inside, Isabel is not with the body, he can't stop, he continues the chase around the edge of the house, deeper into the backyard. He uses his Walkie-talkie quickly to contact Isabel.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Isabel, suspect headed into the  
backyard, I'm in pursuit.

He gets no response.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Isabel?

No response. He continues the chase.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME, BEDROOM -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

She enters the room slowly and tactically. The room appears clear. She still hears the whimpering.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME, BACKYARD -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Robert races around the corner to see a couple neighbor kids, 10-13 years old, climbing over the fence. They make it over before he reaches them.

ROBERT  
Yeah, that's right, and stay out.  
Think I don't know where you live!

Robert puts his gun away and heads back to the house. He tries to contact Isabel again on the Walkie-talkie.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Isabel?

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME, BEDROOM -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Isabel sees Janet hunched over holding herself in the fetal position on the floor just the otherside of the bed. A small pool of blood is in front of her dripping from her mouth. Isabel doesn't know what to say, she shakes for a moment. Janet lifts her head up and looks at Isabel.

ISABEL'S POV, SHE SEES BETTY RIVER INSTEAD OF JANET.

Janet screams and Isabel is knocked aside by David. She is caught off guard, and thrown to the floor. Her gun is knocked out of her hand it falls under the bed.

ISABEL'S POV, SHEE SEES DAVID AS MARCUS PENNY

Marcus Penny (David) grabs Betty River (Janet) from off the floor and violently drags her out of the room. Isabel scrambles to fetch her gun out from under the bed. She recovers it and gets to the door.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Isabel enters the living room to see Robert at the lap top. The lights are all back on. Robert is surprised to see her gun drawn.

ISABEL

Did you see them?

ROBERT

Who?

Isabel sees how quiet everything is.

ISABEL

The M.E.'s

ROBERT

Not yet.

ISABEL

You got the generator back on.

Robert continues to play with the laptop.

ROBERT

Yeah, but this things a different story.

Robert closes the computer before she gets to close.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I'll take this back to the car patch it into the onboard system.

ISABEL

Wait maybe I can fix it.

ROBERT

Maybe, but we don't pay you to be the I.T. Go get the evidence bags we passed on the way inside. I just chased a couple kids out of here. I don't want anymore contamination risks.

Isabel nods and Robert goes back out the front door.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Feel like I'm going in circles.

Isabel sees the small USB Flash Drive, lying on the floor, She picks it up and pockets it.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME, FRONT ENTRY/DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Robert continues to the front gate. Hiding quietly in the bushes we see Janet, her forehead is a scarred bloody mess, and her hair is frizzed and torn. She struggles to stay quiet as Robert passes her.

JANET'S POV, SHE SEES MARCUS INSTEAD OF ROBERT.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME, FRONT ENTRY/DRIVEWAY -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

As Robert approaches the front gate he sees a young man, MARCUS PENNY, mid 20's, leaning against the gate. Marcus should be dressed a little out of place, 1940's.

ROBERT

Excuse me, this is a crime scene,  
I'm gonna have to ask you to leave.

MARCUS

Wish I could.

Robert looks at Marcus with suspicion for a moment. He is distracted by the sound of rushing air coming from behind him. He turns around to see a 2x4 knock him out. A frantic and bloody Janet, stands over Robert as he drops like a rock, the computer tumbles down crashing onto the driveway. Janet sees Robert lying bloody and cold on the driveway. She is shocked for a moment to see that it's not Marcus. She hears the crackle of dry leaves crushing under the weight of someone's foot. She looks up to see Marcus standing over Robert. He's blocking her exit, and access to the cars in the street. Janet runs, and Marcus follows.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Janet bust in and begins frantically looking for a weapon amongst the tools.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME, HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Isabel investigates further into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Janet fights with David

CUT TO:

INT. DELANY HOME, HALLWAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Isabel approaches a door at the end of the hall.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

David gets the upper hand and traps Janet in a corner. She holds a screwdriver up as a weapon. Suddenly she struggles to let go of the screwdriver. David is trying to make her stab herself. The point of the screwdriver is being pulled slowly toward her stomach.

JANET

No, no please.

She tries to resist the supernatural force pushing the tool closer to her gut. Janet shakes as her muscles strain in resistance. But slowly the screwdriver inches it's way into her gut.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME, BEDROOM -- EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Isabel sees Betty River smiling and admiring herself in the mirror. She immediately draws her gun.

ISABEL

Hands on your head.

Betty ignores her. Isabel reaches her Walkie-talkie and tries to contact Robert

ISABEL (CONT'D)

Robert-

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME/DRIVE WAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Robert is still lying unconscious on the ground. His Walkie-talkie crackles to life.

ISABEL (O.S.)  
Robert, I have the suspect at gun  
point, please respond.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME, BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Betty turns to face Isabel. Her throat is slit and blood is slowly pouring out of the wound. The generator suddenly shuts down and the lights fade out. Isabel is thrust into darkness. She starts for a sliver of light coming in from the hall, but the door is slammed before she reaches it. In the pitch black she hears someone else breathing.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANEY HOME/DRIVE WAY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Robert wakes up on the driveway. He moves slowly and feels the bump on his head. He feels the bleeding gash on his cheek. He looks around confused. The holster is empty. His gun is missing.

ROBERT  
My gun.

He picks himself up off the ground and once he is standing he is blinded by a white light.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Who's there?

Robert takes a step toward the light, and it goes out. He strains to look into the darkness. His eyes finally adjust and he makes his way back into the house through the patio door.

DISSOLVE TO:

HALLUCINATION:

INT. DELANY HOME, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT/DAY - CONTINUOUS

As Robert enters the house, night becomes day. A paranormal hallucination has taken over the room. Soft warm light enters from outside and we hear a summertime melody playing on a scratchy phonograph. He hears a woman humming somewhere in the house. Robert follows the melody to the bedroom.

INT. DELANEY HOME, BEDROOM - NIGHT- CONTINUOUS

Robert enters the room to see Betty in a deep trance as she looks at her reflection in the mirror.

ROBERT  
You.

BETTY  
Who did you expect?

Betty moves quickly, she gathers her purse and heads for the exit Robert grabs her by the arm.

ROBERT  
Wait.

While she is in his grasp the hallucination is broken and Robert can see Isabel instead of Betty. Betty pulls away from him quickly.

BETTY  
No, Marcus, I'm gonna be late.

Robert struggles with her for a moment.

ROBERT  
Look at me, Isabel!

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- DAY - CONTINUOUS

Robert chases after Isabel who is under the influence of Betty River.

BETTY  
Let go!

ROBERT  
Something's wrong here.

ISABEL  
No!

BETTY  
No!

ROBERT  
Listen to me! Isabel! Detective  
Von! Detective!

The room goes back to night.

ISABEL  
Robert?

ROBERT  
Yeah, you okay?

ISABEL  
What happened?

ROBERT  
I don't know, but I think our  
suspects still here.

Isabel notices a shadow moving outside coming from the garage. Robert notices a fear full expression wash over her face.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
What?

He turns around and sees the silhouette of someone moving slowly toward the back patio. Robert pulls his backup side arm. They both take cover behind the counter.

CUT TO:

EXT. DELANY HOME/BACK PATIO - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The figure slowly staggers into the light and they see it is Janet with a screwdriver in her stomach.

ISABEL  
Oh god!

Janet drops to the ground and they rush to her aid.

ROBERT  
We gotta get her out of here.

ISABEL  
Don't move her yet let me stop some  
of this bleeding.

ROBERT  
The first aid kit's still with the  
gear.

Isabel runs back inside to grab the kit.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Janet, can you hear me?

JANET  
You can't kill him.

ROBERT  
What's happened here?

JANET  
Don't kill him.

Janet starts to pass out.

ROBERT  
Janet? Janet, come on now.

He checks her pulse still there but weak.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
Isabel! Hurry up. Detective Von!

Robert stands up and looks back inside for Isabel, she is nowhere to be seen.

ROBERT (CONT'D)  
God-damnit! (to Janet) I have to go  
inside real quick, I'll be right  
back.

JANET  
No,

ROBERT  
I have to, I need the first aid  
kit.

JANET  
No, you're gonna kill him.

ROBERT  
If I have to.

JANET  
Please there is a gun loaded with  
tranquilizers in my gear. Please  
Robert.

Janet passes out.

CUT TO:

INT. DELANEY HOME/LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Robert is back inside.

ROBERT  
Isabel?

Robert goes to the gear and grabs the tranquilizer gun. He heads for the bedroom.

MARCUS  
Sure you wanta do this champ?

Robert stops and turns to see Marcus standing over Betty River's body.

ROBERT  
Who are you?

MARCUS  
I'm Marcus Penny, And my hands did  
this deed, but I did not do this.

ROBERT  
Put your hands up.

MARCUS  
Come on now.

Marcus starts to walk toward Robert.

ROBERT  
Now, hands up.

MARCUS  
I'm not the one you should be  
worrying about.

Robert hears Isabel sobbing behind him, he turns to see David face to face. Robert is blown back across the room and collapses to the floor. David drags Isabel to the center of the room.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
(to Robert) This is the good part.

David pulls up a straight razor to slit Isabel's throat. Robert shoots David with the tranquilizer and he goes down.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

You stupid son of a bitch. Don't  
you know what goes around comes  
around.

Robert shoots Isabel with the tranquilizer and she goes down. Marcus disappears, and Robert drops the tranquilizer gun and reaches for his back-up side arm. He turns to Janet who is still clinging to life. His expression is demonic and evil, Robert is now possessed by Marcus Penny. Janet has Roberts Gun already pointed at him. She fires several rounds into him and he slowly drops to the ground, falling dead. A dark ethereal mist emerges from Robert and dissipates into nothing. Janet collapses and Betty Rivers body dissolves, and the sheet covering her falls slowly to the ground. The blood stains, and purse also vanish.

PAN ACROSS THE FLOOR UNTIL WE SEE THE FLASH DRIVE.

FADE TO BLACK.