

TALES OF THE DAMNED:

Episode 12 - "BLINDED BY MURDER"

By

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Based on the concept by Richard Evans

FIRST DRAFT (REVISED)

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"BLINDED BY MURDER"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. PSYCHIATRISTS OFFICE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

DOCTOR MICHAEL SAUNDERS sits in a leather armchair, legs crossed, pen in his hand and a legal pad on his lap.

Across from Saunders and seated on a leather couch we see the back of Saunders PATIENT, a balding man with grey hair. We do not see the patients face, we just hear his voice.

SAUNDERS

Shall we start at the beginning?

PATIENT

You have all day doc?

SAUNDERS

Well this is only your first visit. You're more than welcome to book more appointments with my secretary after our session has concluded.

PATIENT

The beginning it is then.

Saunders readjusts his position as he prepares to take notes.

PATIENT (CONT'D)

Have you ever been in love doctor?

Saunders seems surprised by his patient's question.

SAUNDERS

Sure, why?

PATIENT

I thought I was in love once. I thought I had everything I ever wanted in a woman, that's why I married her.

(beat)

Have you ever been married doc?

Saunders frowns as he replies...

SAUNDERS

Yes.

(beat)

Yes I have.

PATIENT

Do you still love her?

SAUNDERS

I'm sorry, but shouldn't we be discussing you?

PATIENT

Of course, it's just that sharing stories helps me to open up more.

SAUNDERS

Please continue.

PATIENT

Isn't it funny how quick feelings can change.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - GRAVESIDE - DAY

A congregation is gathered around a graveside. At the front of the congregation is Saunders, his arm around his wife CARLA. She looks beautiful, with long brown curly hair and brown eyes. She sobs gently against her husband's shoulder.

PATIENT (V.O.)

I loved her. I thought I'd always love her. That was until her father passed away.

Saunders gently kisses his wife's head. She is now crying uncontrollably.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Cars approach a large house surrounded by sand dunes. A small bank and private beach area separate the house from the ocean.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Funeral guests talk amongst themselves. Saunders stands at the front door welcoming more guests into the house.

PATIENT (V.O.)

You see I was always aware of the money. I knew that one day it would be my wife's future, our future. I knew that there would be plenty for us to retire on, to be able to do the things we dreamed about doing. Only for me, from the moment we discovered my wife's father was terminally ill the 'we' became 'I'.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

Saunders follows his guests into the lounge. Carla is speaking with guests on the far side of the room. She notices Saunders. He looks at her and smiles incoherently.

PATIENT (V.O.)

I could never understand it when you'd read about these greedy bastards who'd off their family for inheritance. But suddenly I found myself thinking about it. What if I had that money? What if I could pay off the loans I had taken out for the business? Her father never wanted to help. It was all down to me.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Saunders makes his way up a wide staircase. Nearer the top he passes under a skylight, rays of sunshine cascade down onto the staircase from the skylight. He approaches a door and knocks.

CARLA (O.S.)

Come in.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Saunders approaches his wife and sits next to her on the bed.

SAUNDERS

How are you holding up?

CARLA

I'm fine.

(pause)

Thanks.

SAUNDERS

For what?

CARLA

Just being here.

They kiss gently then hug.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUNDERS OFFICE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Saunders looks a little uncomfortable.

PATIENT

Greed doc. Greed is a killer that could give cancer a run for its money.

Saunders loosens his tie.

PATIENT (CONT'D)

You OK, doc?

SAUNDERS

Just wondering if this conversation is going where I think it is.

PATIENT

And where's that?

SAUNDERS

Did you kill your wife?

PATIENT

If I was to say yes then would that mean the end of our session and a phone call to the police?

SAUNDERS

Listen I think we should wrap this up. I have a list of other psychiatrists you can use...

The patient cuts Saunders off.

PATIENT

I don't want another doctor.

Saunders is visibly nervous.

SAUNDERS

I don't think I, I mean I'm not sure...

PATIENT

It's OK, doc. This is the end for me anyway. I need to do this. I need to get it all out in the open. Please feel free to do what you think is right afterwards, but please just let me finish.

Saunders takes a deep breath.

SAUNDERS

OK, continue.

Saunders readjusts again. Beads of sweat begin to form on his forehead.

MANDRAKE (V.O.)

With wealth comes temptation. With greed comes evil. Combining the two can lead to sin.

MAIN TITLE

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Saunders is seated at his desk. He has numerous legal documents scattered across it. Suddenly there's a knock on the door. Saunders frantically grabs a newspaper and covers the documents on his desk.

CARLA (O.S.)
Breakfast!

SAUNDERS
Just coming!

Saunders waits for a reply. When he is happy his wife has gone he moves the newspaper and picks up a certificate of inheritance. He scans over it and smiles.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Saunders enters the kitchen. The ocean provides a backdrop to the open-planned kitchen and lounge. He pecks his wife on the cheek.

SAUNDERS
I was thinking about taking the boat out tonight. The weather forecasts a calm evening.

CARLA
Sounds nice.

She turns and kisses him.

CARLA (CONT'D)
I'll fix something to eat to take with us.

SAUNDERS
Great!

CUT TO:

INT. SAUNDERS OFFICE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

The patient continues his story. Saunders looks on now dumbfounded.

PATIENT

You see I was only halfway through my preparations. It wasn't supposed to happen as soon as it did. I wasn't ready.

Saunders looks curious, he wants to know more.

SAUNDERS

What wasn't supposed to happen?

PATIENT

Patience doc, I'm getting there.

CUT TO:

EXT. YACHT - NIGHT

A calm ocean harbours a small yacht. The moonlight is the only light source for miles around. Saunders and Carla are on the deck sitting around a small table with two glasses of red wine accompanying two used plates.

CARLA

The moon is beautiful tonight.

SAUNDERS

Not as beautiful as you.

CARLA

Nice try.

They both smile at each other. Suddenly a light breeze sweeps across the deck. Carla rubs her arms. Saunders notices her chill.

SAUNDERS

We should head back soon. Looks like the weather might be taking a turn.

EXT. YACHT (MOVING) - NIGHT

The calmness of the ocean has all but disappeared. Rough waves are chopping at the sides of the yacht. Saunders is at the wheel fighting against the waves. Heavy rain starts to smash against the deck. Carla is beside him.

SAUNDERS

(shouting)

I don't get it. The forecast was clear tonight.

CARLA

(shouting)

Don't worry about it. Just get us back.

Suddenly a large wave cracks against the side of the boat knocking Carla off her feet. Saunders struggles to hold onto the wheel as he frantically looks over his shoulder for Carla.

SAUNDERS

(shouting)

Carla!

He looks behind him on both sides. He can't see her. He forgets about the wheel and begins to search the deck.

SAUNDERS

(shouting)

Carla! Carla! Where are you?!

There's no sign of his wife. He starts to panic. He searches the deck but nothing. He looks over the edge of the boat into the dense darkness. The boat is shifting through the sea with some pace despite the conditions. He races back to the wheel and cuts off the engine.

He races over to the port side and calls out into the night.

SAUNDERS

(shouting)

Carla!!

He then dashes inside the cabin.

INT. YACHT CABIN - NIGHT

Saunders starts to frantically rummage around.

SAUNDERS

No! No! This can't be happening.

He then finds what he's looking for. He pulls out from a small cupboard a large flashlight. He darts back outside.

EXT. YACHT - NIGHT

Saunders turns the flashlight on and points it out to the ocean. All he can see are waves chopping at each other. Heavy rain causes him to squint as his vision is cut to only a few feet in all directions.

SAUNDERS
(shouting)
Shit! Carla!!

CUT TO:

INT. SAUNDERS OFFICE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Saunders is now as white as a ghost. But he tries hard to keep his composure.

SAUNDERS
Where did you get this story from?

PATIENT
What do you mean story?

SAUNDERS
I'm sorry but I don't believe this happened to you.

PATIENT
Isn't it your job to help me, not call me a liar?

SAUNDERS
It can't be.

PATIENT
Sorry what can't be, doc?

SAUNDERS
This story, I've heard it before.

Saunders dabs away at his forehead with a handkerchief.

PATIENT
Greed isn't a new form of feelings, doc. It's been around for centuries.

SAUNDERS
Greed? Why are we talking about greed? You said your wife fell? It had nothing to do with you.

PATIENT

Doc, this was just the beginning.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

The silence is broken by the sound of Saunders barging into the room. He is soaked through to the bone, but he doesn't seem to care. He seems distracted, out of touch of common emotion. He starts to rummage through his desk.

PATIENT (V.O.)

You see the plan called for me to have a body. Without a body I couldn't claim the inheritance, not without avoiding further legal wrangling and red-tape. I had to act fast, before anyone clocked on that she was missing.

Saunders is sitting at his desk, His head in his hands.

SAUNDERS

Think man! Think!

Saunders turns to his PC and switches it on.

PATIENT (V.O.)

Then it hit me. I had to find someone, someone who looked like my wife. I had to find a body.

Saunders logs onto the internet. He calls up a list of escort agencies. He clicks on a link. A page loads showing pictures of different girls. A subtitle reads:

"Pick your ideal date and more..."

He starts to scan the profiles of different girls.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Saunders sits at a table opposite a CALL-GIRL with similar features to Carla.

PATIENT (V.O.)

It wasn't that easy. Yeah sure there are girls out there with the same colour hair and eyes as my...

(MORE)

PATIENT (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...wife but they didn't look like
her. I knew I had to nail it if I
was to make this look good.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Saunders sits at a bar with another CALL-GIRL again with similar features to Carla.

PATIENT (V.O.)
On paper these girls sounded
perfect. In the flesh they just
didn't cut it and I was running
out of time. Sooner or later
Carla's friends and family would
notice something was up.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DEN - DAY

Saunders is searching the web again for call-girls. Suddenly he comes across a profile which looks perfect. He clicks a link to the girl's picture. As the image starts to appear on the screen Saunders face lights up as the girl appears to be a near on perfect version of Carla.

PATIENT (V.O.)
Then I found her. She was perfect.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Saunders sits at a table with the CALL-GIRL from the last picture. He is clearly pleased with himself, she looks uncannily like Carla. Her name is PAULA. She has brown eyes with brown curly hair.

SAUNDERS
So Paula... Can I call you Paula?

PAULA
Of course.

Paula, smiles at Saunders. Her warm personality provides Saunders with further confidence.

SAUNDERS
How long have you been doing this
kind of thing?

PAULA

A couple of months.

SAUNDERS

Really? You look so relaxed.

PAULA

I suppose I took to it like a fish
to water.

SAUNDERS

Well, when we are finished here
you're more than welcome to come
back to my house. Would that be
OK?

PAULA

If the money is OK then it's fine
by me.

SAUNDERS

Money's no object I was thinking
of the rules. I'm not used to this
kind of thing so I...

Paula interrupts.

PAULA

It's OK. I work for myself.

Saunders' face lights up.

SAUNDERS

Well, that's good to know. Maybe
you can stay until the morning?

PAULA

Like I said if the money's right
Mr Saunders?

SAUNDERS

It will be.

(pause)

Shall we?

Saunders stands and drops some cash on the table. He then
offers his hand out to Paula. She takes it and they both
leave the bar.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Saunders pours two glasses of champagne. He looks across to Paula who is seated in the lounge looking out over the ocean. Still watching Paula, Saunders reaches for a cupboard and removes a syringe of THORAZINE. He turns back to one of the glasses and gently injects the liquid into it. He stirs the drink well then takes the glasses and heads into the lounge.

PAULA

Sure is a beautiful place you have here.

SAUNDERS

I won't be here much longer. I'm selling up and moving to the city.

PAULA

What ever takes your fancy, I'd much prefer it out here.

Saunders is in no mood for conversation. He passes Paula her glass. She takes a few sips.

PAULA

So where you wanna do it? Here? Upstairs?

SAUNDERS

There's no rush. Have your champagne. There's plenty of time for that.

PAULA

Whatever you say.

Saunders watches the call-girl contently as she necks the remainder of the glass. She puts her glass down, turns to Saunders then reaches for his crutch.

Saunders moves her hand away.

SAUNDERS

Let me top you up first.

Paula looks at him and shrugs. He smiles then gets up and heads back to the kitchen.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Saunders sends the door crashing against the wall as he enters the room carrying the now unconscious Paula.

A Victorian style cast-iron bath stands, full of water. He places her in the bath. She slowly slides under the water.

Saunders places his hand gently on her face and pushes her head to the bottom of the bath. There is no struggle as she passes away.

CUT TO:

INT. SAUNDERS OFFICE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

Saunders seems bewildered. He wants to know where his patient is getting this story from but seems too afraid to ask.

PATIENT

I was forced into making rash decisions. I wasn't ready for my wife's death. I had to act fast.

(beat)

If the correct dosage is used, Thorazine can be an excellent tranquiliser. Did you know that, doc?

Saunders nods.

PATIENT (CONT'D)

I was sure I'd thought of everything. I arranged for a closed casket. I cancelled my wife's credit cards. Hell, I even abused my own position to make sure the call-girl had the same blood type as my wife.

(beat)

However I missed the document from her father's lawyers, which stipulated that no inheritance would be paid out on the grounds of suicide.

(pause)

I can't sleep at night, doc. My greed forced me to sin and for all the wrong reasons. I need closure.

This is all too familiar to Saunders. He replies scared of what his patients answer will be.

SAUNDERS

(apprehensively)

And how do you think you will achieve closure?

PATIENT

By going back to the scene of the crime, only then will I fully come to terms with my actions. Only then can I accept my destiny.

Saunders looks at the clock on the wall. He is scared and anxious to see the back of his patient. He stands nervously.

SAUNDERS

We're going to have to wrap there I'm afraid.

PATIENT

That's it?

SAUNDERS

I'm afraid I have a prior engagement, I have to leave.

We see the patient for the first time as he reaches for his fedora placed next to him on the leather couch. It's MANDRAKE. He puts his hat on and stands in front of Saunders.

MANDRAKE

Yes I'll definitely be going back to the house. It's the only way.

Mandrake turns and heads for the door. He removes his trench coat from the coat stand and folds it over his arm. He then turns back to Saunders.

MANDRAKE

Goodbye, doc.

Mandrake leaves the room as Saunders looks on, discomposure ever present in his stare.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. YACHT - NIGHT

The rain is crashing down on an empty deck. The yacht bounces around vigorously on the ocean.

Carla stands alone on the deck. She turns to her right to see a huge wave come crashing on the deck towards her.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING (PRESENT DAY)

Sam springs up-right as she wakes from her dream. She is sweating and shocked. She seems a little disorientated. She closes her eyes tight then opens them again trying to focus in on her surroundings. As she recognises where she is she slowly climbs out of bed.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam is walking down the street contently.

CUT TO:

EXT. YACHT - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Carla is again standing on the deck of the boat. This time she can see the back of Saunders as he tries to steer the boat. The waves are crashing against the sides of the yacht.

Carla screams out to Saunders...

CARLA

Who are you?

(beat)

Who the hell are you?

Saunders turns around and looks directly at Carla.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Sam is now leaning against a cast-iron gate. Her face is pale white. She is clearly in shock. She frantically tries to recall her flashback.

Suddenly realisation engulfs her frantic expression. She reaches into her handbag and retrieves her cell-phone. She dials out.

SAM

Rachel. It's, Sam. I need to borrow your computer. Can I come over?

(pause)

Good. I'll be there in ten minutes.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Sam knocks on an apartment door. RACHEL answers the door.

RACHEL

Hi Sam, you OK? You sounded strange on the phone.

SAM

I'm not sure. Can I come in?

RACHEL

Of course.

Rachel opens the door for Sam to enter.

INT. RACHEL'S APARTMENT - LOUNGE - DAY

Sam is searching the web at Rachel's computer. Rachel stands over her shoulder.

RACHEL

What is it? What's got you spooked?

SAM

I think I remember something.

RACHEL

From your past?

SAM

Yeah.

RACHEL

What?

Sam turns to face her friend.

SAM

I've seen his face. I remember him.

RACHEL

Are you still having those dreams?

SAM

Yeah, only this time he turned around.

RACHEL

Are you sure you recognise him? I've known you five years and you haven't been able to remember anything from before I knew you. What's changed?

Sam turns back to the computer and continues to type.

SAM

I don't know but something wants me to know. It's weird. Now I've seen him things have started to come back to me. I'm sure he was a doctor of some kind. We had a boat so we must've lived by the ocean. I just can't...

Sam suddenly springs to life as a page from a newspaper article appears on the screen.

SAM

I think I've found something.

The headline reads:

"WOMAN FOUND DEAD AT BEACH HOME"

Below the headline is a picture of the beach house. Followed by the article:

"Mrs Carla Saunders, a 32-year - old teacher from Florida, was found dead yesterday. A police statement has confirmed the cause was suicide. Her autopsy confirmed

that she had drowned in the bath after overdosing on Thorazine."

SAM

That's it! That's it! I remember this house from my dreams. But what's all this about my suicide?

Rachel looks at the screen.

RACHEL

(jokingly)

Please don't tell me I've been speaking to a ghost the last five years.

Sam ignores her friend's wit.

SAM

This is it! I'm positive.

Sam turns to her friend.

SAM (CONT'D)

I need to use your car.

(beat)

I'm going to find out what's going on.

EXT. SAUNDERS HOUSE - NIGHT

Saunders gets out of his car, closes the door and heads for his house.

We see the back of a woman who watches Saunders' every move from beneath a lamppost across the street.

INT. SAUNDERS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Saunders enters the kitchen. BILLY, 2-years old and TOM, 4-years old, sit at the table. Saunders' wife SUSAN prepares dinner.

SUSAN

Hey honey.

Saunders looks tired and drained.

SAUNDERS

Hey.

Susan turns from the stove to look at her husband. Saunders grabs a tube of pills from the cupboard and takes a couple helping himself to some water to wash them down.

SUSAN

You have to see Phillip, Michael.
You can't go on like this.

SAUNDERS

I'm fine.

SUSAN

Fine? You haven't had a full-
nights sleep since I've known you
and you're still fretting about
that damn house you haven't
managed to sell.

SAUNDERS

Potential buyers back off when
they find out what happened there.

Susan walks over to her husband and puts her arms around him.

SUSAN

I'm sorry baby.

SAUNDERS

Ah forget it. You're right maybe
when I sell it I can relax a
little bit more.

Suddenly, Tom speaks, pointing out of the kitchen window.

TOM

Mommy, that lady is there again.

SUSAN

That's nice honey.

Saunders turns to his eldest son.

SAUNDERS

What lady Tom?

TOM

The window lady.

Saunders moves over to the window and looks out. The street is empty of people. Saunders turns to Susan. He seems a little on edge.

SAUNDERS

What's all this about a window lady?

Susan replies as she continues to prepare dinner.

SUSAN

I think Tom has an imaginary friend. He keeps harping on about some lady across the street that watches the house. He says she's been in his room too. I'm always here and I can assure you if someone else was in this house we wouldn't be. I think he's just at that age.

Saunders pulls a chair out and sits next to Tom.

SAUNDERS

Tell me about the window lady Tom. What does she look like?

TOM

She is pretty.

Saunders manages a smile at his son's innocence.

SAUNDERS

What else?

TOM

She has long brown hair.

Saunders looks at his wife and smiles nervously. She doesn't take any notice of his unease.

TOM (CONT'D)

Her hair is really, really curly.

EXT. SAUNDERS HOUSE - NIGHT

Saunders leaves the house followed by Susan.

SUSAN

Where are you going?

SAUNDERS

I promised I'd meet Geoff for a beer. I can't let him down.

SUSAN
What about dinner?

SAUNDERS
I'll have to pass.

Saunders heads for his car. Susan calls after him.

SUSAN
How long will you be?

SAUNDERS
A couple of hours max.

He gets in his car and pulls out.

EXT. SAUNDERS CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Saunders' car follows a winding road towards the ocean.

INT. SAUNDERS CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

Saunders rubs his tired eyes as he struggles to stay awake.

Suddenly the sound of a tire blowing out provokes Saunders into action as the car swerves frantically across the road. He manages to get control of the car and pulls it into a lay-by.

SAUNDERS
Damn it!

EXT. SAUNDERS CAR - NIGHT

Saunders moves around to the passenger side and bends down at the front tyre.

As he does a car slowly passes by. Sam sits at the wheel. She turns to stare at Saunders. He is oblivious to the car and his ex-wife as he curses at the flat tyre.

Sam continues up the road towards the ocean.

Saunders stands back up and kicks the wheel in frustration. He does the zip of his jacket up, stuffs his hands into the pockets and starts to continue along the road on foot.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

A westerly wind blows in off the ocean. Saunders approaches the house from the east. A car is parked behind the house on the west side. Boards cover the downstairs windows. A 'FOR SALE' sign hangs from the porch swinging back and forth in the wind.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The key hits the lock and the door slowly opens. Saunders steps in. He is clearly nervous and shaking uncontrollably from the cold ocean air outside. He continues into the house then into the lounge.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

All the mourners fill the lounge at the wake of Carla's father's funeral.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

Saunders steps inside and looks around. Suddenly he hears a noise coming from upstairs. He cautiously heads out of the lounge and up the staircase.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LANDING - NIGHT

He approaches a door and opens it.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Saunders steps into the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Paula lies dead in the bathtub.

CUT TO:

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

The door shuts behind Saunders. Sam stands next to the door, her face cast in shadow.

He turns just as she drives herself into his chest at full pelt sending Saunders sprawling across the tiled floor.

Before he has the chance to get up, she dives on top of him. Both struggle to get the upper hand. Finally Saunders gets Sam on her back. He sits across her midriff and pins her arms down to the floor.

Only now does Saunders realise who his attacker is.

SAUNDERS

What the hell? Carla?

Disbelief engulfs Saunders as he slowly slides off Carla's body. She immediately jumps to her feet.

CARLA

You sick bastard. Do you have any idea what you have done to me?

SAUNDERS

I... I thought you were dead?

CARLA

Five years you took from me! Five god damn years! Until today my earliest memory was waking up in a hospital bed. You left me to drown out there and then you framed my death as suicide. Why? So you could have Daddy's money?!

She swings a punch at him. Saunders manages to move out the way. He quickly jumps to his feet. He is scared shitless.

CARLA

Looks like you've seen a ghost.

SAUNDERS

But what... where have you been?

CARLA

Living a stranger's life! I had no recollection of my old life. All I knew is that I was found out there.

Carla points out towards the ocean.

Saunders is thinking.

SAUNDERS

You lying bitch! You've been watching my house. You've been in my son's room!

CARLA

What the hell are you talking about? I don't even know where you live? I came here hoping to find that out and instead I found you.

Saunders is struggling to take all this on-board and therefore fails to duck the second time as Carla catches him flush on the chin sending him to the floor again.

Saunders manages to get back up and grab Carla's arm as she attempts to swing again. He turns her towards the bath and pushes her down. As she falls to the floor the back of her head catches the edge of the cast-iron bath, knocking her out.

Without a seconds thought Saunders heads out the door onto the landing.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LANDING - NIGHT

Saunders makes his way to the top of the stairs. As he begins his descent he feels a drop of water hit his forehead, immediately followed by another, then another. He looks up to the skylight and gasps in horror at the sight of PAULA as she descends towards him. Her clothes and hair are dripping wet, her face bloated and pale looking.

CUT TO:

INT. PLUSH HOTEL LOUNGE - DAY

A 42" plasma TV flicks from channel to channel. It stops on a news station. A female reporter looks into the camera. A large building with pillars acts as her backdrop.

NEWS REPORTER

The case against Carla Saunders came to a conclusion today when Judge Cornell brought an end to the proceedings due to a lack of

evidence. Mrs Saunders, who was missing for more than five years, pleaded not guilty to the murder of her ex-husband, Doctor Michael Saunders. Further investigations proved that Mr Saunders deceived both family and friends by portraying his former wife's disappearance as suicide. The body of the well respected psychiatrist from Orange County was found in the bath at the couple's former beach home. Traces of Thorazine were also found in his system.

Sitting on a brown leather couch opposite the TV is Carla. She stares incoherently at TV screen.

A hotel porter approaches her.

PORTER

Mrs Saunders.

Carla turns to the man addressing her.

PORTER (CONT'D)

Your limo has arrived.

Carla smiles at the porter.

CARLA

Thank you.

She then gathers her leather coat and bag beside her, stands and walks away leaving the seat empty.

FADE OUT.

END OF EPISODE