

Note: Overall vibe is that of an intense drama, no irony.

INT. BYRON'S HOUSE. FRONT DOOR. NIGHT

There is a knock at the front door. A woman, Donna, opens the front door to reveal two police officers. Officer's Carlson and Malick.

CARLSON

Good evening, Mrs Howard. I'm officer Carlson, this is my partner Officer Malick. We have a few questions for your husband. May we come in?

Donna is nervous but opens the door wider to let them in.

DONNA

Of course, we've been expecting you.

INT. BYRON'S HOUSE. LOUNGE. NIGHT

Byron sits on the sofa, he is battered and bruised, and has the energy of a traumatized wild animal.

DONNA (O.S.)

Byron, honey. Some police are here to see you.

As Donna and the officer's enter, Byron gets up to greet them. He nervously shakes their hands.

BYRON

Good evening, officers. Thank you for coming.

DONNA

Can I get anyone something to drink?

BYRON

Nothing for me, Donna.

MALICK

A water would be fine.

CARLSON

Same.

Donna leaves the room. Byron gestures for them to sit down.

MALICK

You look in pretty bad shape there.

BYRON

You should see the other guy.

CARLSON

That's funny you say that. When you gave your statement earlier you said you were attacked, but now he's saying you started it.

Byron shakes his head in horror.

BYRON

No, no, that's not true. I'm the victim.

Malick holds his hands up to calm Byron.

MALICK

Please calm down, Mr Howard.

Donna returns and she can see that Byron is upset.

DONNA

Is everything okay in here?

She hands the waters to the officers then takes a seat beside Byron.

BYRON

These officers are saying they think I started the fight.

MALICK

--that's not what we're saying at all.

DONNA

There has to be a mistake. My husband's a good man. He would never--

CARLSON

We just need to understand what happened last night.

Byron takes Donna's hand for emotional support.

BYRON

Like I told the officers down at the station. I was coming home from work, I got in my car and he was there... in the backseat. I told him to get out but he attacked me.

MALICK

And had you ever met him before last night?

Byron looks shifty.

BYRON

No, of course not.

CARLSON

(calls bullshit)

So, you're telling me a strange badger just hopped into the back of your car and attacked you for no reason? Why would it do that?

BYRON

I don't know. Those things are feral, maybe it planned to rob me but got interrupted?

Carlson bangs his hand on the table and Byron flinches.

CARLSON

Tell me the truth, did you know that badger?

BYRON

I swear, I've never met that badger before in my life.

Byron turns to Donna, tearfully implores her.

BYRON (cont'd)

I swear, darling. I'm innocent. They've got the wrong idea.

Donna squeezes his hand.

DONNA

I believe you.

Donna gets to her feet and gives the officers a stern look.

DONNA (cont'd)

My husband has been through a lot. I think it would be best if you question him some other time.

Malick nods graciously, while Carlson glares at Byron with suspicion.

MALICK

We'll show ourselves out.

Byron looks shifty, he knows Carlson knows he isn't telling the whole truth. The officers leave.

INT. POLICE CAR. NIGHT

The officers get into their car and stare at Byron's house.

Malick leans back in his seat. He turns to Carlson.

MALICK
Do you believe him?

Carlson shakes his head in disgust.

CARLSON
I don't know. The whole things seems suspicious as hell.

MALICK
I agree, he's definitely hiding something...

Carlson rubs his jaw thoughtfully and narrows his eyes.

CARLSON
There's one thing that I just can't wrap my head around.

MALICK
Yeah, what's that?

Carlson looks intense.

CARLSON
How did a badger even get in the car?

Malick nods, it is such a salient question.

INT. BYRON'S CAR. FRONT SEAT. NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Byron sits in the front seat of his car, he looks agitated and upset. Like he is delivering bad news.

He speaks to someone in the backseat via the rear-view mirror.

BYRON
Look, I'm sorry but I just can't do this anymore. Donna is starting to get suspicious.

Byron looks up at the mirror.

BYRON (cont'd)

I know I said I would leave her but
she needs me.

(beat)

I love my wife. This whole thing was
a stupid mistake, please understand.

Byron looks over his shoulder.

CUT TO:

INT. BYRON'S CAR. BACK SEAT. BYRON'S POV. NIGHT - FLASHBACK

SFX: An intense piano chord.

The badger appears in view. It's angry.

BYRON (O.S.)

No, please!

CUT TO:

EXT. BYRON'S CAR. NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The car shakes as Byron is mauled.

SFX: Growling, scratching and Byron screaming.