

WE OPEN WITH...

News clips & photos. Behind it all runs this reporter's dialogue.

REPORTER

After seventeen long and horrifying months, the self-proclaimed serial killer known as "God's hand" is finally captured. All ten murder scenes filled with religious overtones, led the FBI on a long and winding road to here, Pots Dam New York, where agent Evan Collins finally caught his murderer.

CUT TO:

EVAN

It was a long road, I had a great team and cooperation from many agencies and organizations, all of which led to the capture of the murderer. That's all I can say at this time.

REPORTER

The murderer is 34-year-old Cecil McKnight, a former altar boy who went through Saint Joseph's Seminary in New York. He never became a priest, instead becoming a professor of theology. He was described by those who knew him as an extreme introvert. (voice starts to fade.) We now go to Meredith Knowles for the neighborhood reaction.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN

INT. OFFICE - DAY

We are not sure what we are looking at. We see Agent Collins, along with his wife and two other people, sitting signing papers.

REALTOR

This is the last page.

They both sign.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REALTOR (CONT'D)
That's it! You are know the proud owners
of Preston Oak Manor.

CUT TO:

EXT - PARKING LOT - DAY

All three stand saying their good-byes in the parking lot.

REALTOR
I have a favor to ask.

LILLY
Sure.

REALTOR
It's actually for your husband.

EVAN
Sure.

REALTOR
Do you mind signing your book.

EVAN
Sure. (signing) I didn't write this you
know.

REALTOR
But it's about your case, isn't it?

EVAN
Yes.

REALTOR
Thank you so much. My husband will be
thrilled. I am giving it to him for
Christmas.

Collins finishes.

REALTOR (CONT'D)
It was such a joy working with you two. I
know you're going to love it here.

LILLY
Thank you. We think so too.

REALTOR
You two take care. I will pop in next
week.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They all say their good-byes.

CUT TO:

A quaint small down town.

INT. CAFE - DAY

LILLY and EVAN sit in their new small town cafe, eating lunch.

LILLY

...and when the kids head off to college,
we turn it into a quaint little inn that
everyone wants to come to. What do you
think?

EVAN

(slight beat)

I think, ah, it's a bit scary how much
thought you've actually given all this.

LILLY

I like to think ahead. Plan our future.

EVAN

(smiling)

Yes, you do.

We HEAR a commotion. Then we see three men with guns quickly moving into the cafe.

GUNMAN 1

Everyone, stay calm, and we will be on
our way in a minute.

We SEE GUNMAN 2 grab the owner at the register.

GUNMAN 2

Open the register.

He does as told.

We SEE LILLY looking directly at EVAN.

LILLY

(knowingly)

They'll leave...don't....

CLOSE UP.

We SEE EVAN slowly unholster his weapon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LILLY'S Face. We can READ hear lips repeatedly saying "No" "please".

GUNMAN 2
Now, where is your safe?

CAFE OWNER
I don't have a safe.

GUNMAN 2
Don't lie to me old man!!

GUNMAN 3
(Calls out loudly)
We're at 3 minutes!!!

GUNMAN 2
(pulling back the hammer on the
gun)
You've got until the count of 5.
1...2...3..

EVAN rises and fires, hitting GUNMAN 2. GUNMAN 1 & 3 return fire. People dive down as EVAN moves, returns fire, and hits GUNMAN 1. GUNMAN 3 fires three more rounds and heads out the door. People scream, and EVAN trails him into the street. Traffic stops and people move for cover as the GUNMAN 3 continues to fire at EVAN. The sound of gunfire fills the small downtown street.

EVAN drops behind a parked car as bullets riddle it. GUNMAN 3, now in the middle of the intersection, starts to move towards a stopped car with a woman hiding inside. As the GUNMAN 3 gets to the car, he discovers that the doors are locked. He raises his gun at the woman crouched inside. Just before he has a chance to pull the trigger....

EVAN fires two rounds, which instantly kill him. His lifeless body falls against the car and slides to the ground. EVAN quickly moves and secures the GUNMAN's weapon.

GUNMAN 1 staggers from the cafe shooting. EVAN is hit and falls to the ground. GUNMAN 1 continues firing EVAN returns fire, striking GUNMAN 1. GUNMAN 1 falls dead.

EVAN slowly rises and re-enters the cafe, HE SEES people gathered around someone on the floor. As he approaches, HE SEES it's his wife, who has been mortally wounded.

FADE OUT.

FIVE YEARS LATER

OUT OF THE DARKNESS WE HEAR MUSIC.

FADE IN:

ARIEL SHOT

We are floating above a two-lane country road. Beautiful country scenery clicks by. We follow along, watching as the green hills pass by.

Then slowly, we can see police lights up a head as we approach its A Sheriff's Jeep blazing along.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERIFFS JEEP.DAY

The Sheriff, aware of something, scans his mirrors. Then looks up.

EXT. A HELICOPTER

Passing overhead

CUT TO:

P.O.V. - HELICOPTER

We see the Sheriff passing underneath.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARMHOUSE

We can tell from all of the police and FBI activity that something big has taken place. Three FBI agents stand by a suburban, watching the helicopter land in a nearby field.

CHASE

Here comes the white knight.

COLE

(looking at watch)

Like waiting for a fucking prom date!

FIONA

So, who is this guy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHASE
Another expert.

CUT TO:

Out of the helicopter steps AGENT EVAN COLLINS now in his mid-forties well dressed. He throws a backpack over his shoulder and starts walking towards the awaiting agents.

CHASE (CONT'D)
(to Collins)
Morning.

EVAN
(softly)
Morning.

CHASE
I'm Agent Kerns; these are agents Pollak and Giese.

EVAN
(to the others)
Morning.

EVAN starts towards the house as the agents all follow. We see the SHERIFF pulling up. EVAN pays no attention to anything around him. CHASE steps up his pace to match EVANS speed.

CHASE
Did they bring you up to speed?

EVANS nods "Yes". He stops to look at the front of the house.

EVAN
Who found him?

COLE
A real estate lady, getting ready to show the house.

FIONA
We have secured a twenty mile perimeter.

EVAN
They're already gone.

CHASE
What makes you think that there was more then one?

EVAN
I don't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVAN walks into the house. He looks around in the entryway and then walks into the living room.

As we follow him WE SEE the victim.

He is at the opposite end of the living room. His body is hung naked on a huge wooden cross. His eyes are cut out, and a thorn of roses is placed on his head. A single cross hangs from his neck.

EVAN approaches him as if looking at a painting. He stands studying him. CHASE walks up next to him.

CHASE
(to EVAN)
Is this guy a fucking freak or what?

Collins doesn't even acknowledge Kerns.

CHASE (CONT'D)
So, what are your thoughts?

EVAN
(slight pause)
He's definitely dead.

CHASE
No shit!
(pause)
Listen, I have had cases like this in the past with all kinds of CSI's and experts, all normally coming up with shit. So no offense, but I really don't have the time to...

EVAN
Do you mind giving me a minute here?

CHASE
(upset)
Whatever you want.

As CHASE turns and walks out, we see FIONA standing and watching.

EVAN continues to study.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE

CHASE and COLE standing drinking their coffee.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COLE
(looking at watch)
The guy has been in their over an hour.

CHASE
Maybe he's drawing a fucking picture.

EVAN comes out and immediately heads towards a wooded area.
FIONA trails behind.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Where the hell is he going.

COLE
Take a piss?

CHASE follows catching up to EVAN.

CHASE
Collins?

EVAN keeps walking.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Giese?

FIONA stops for CHASE.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Where the hell is he going?

FIONA
I don't know.

CHASE
Collins?

EVAN disappears into the woods. As CHASE catches up to him,
EVAN stands, cutting a piece of bark off one of the trees.

CHASE (CONT'D)
(to EVAN)
What the hell? I have a processing team
on hold waiting for you to give the all
clear!

EVAN
All clear.

FIONA approaches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHASE

Listen asshole! I know the bureau thinks you experts shit gold, but I don't put a lot of stock in you. Now if you and I are going to get along, there are a couple of things...

EVAN

I need you to back up.

CHASE

Excuse me?

EVAN

You're obviously a smoker, and a coffee drinker...

CHASE

..what the fuck are you talking about?

EVAN

Your breath. Just back up a step or two.

EVAN waits for CHASE to back up.

EVAN (CONT'D)

The cross he nailed him to was made from these trees. You can see there are two missing right there. He used hand saws to cut the trees to make less noise, and the nails are hand-forged in the old Crucifixion style. He brought the lumber into the house through the front window, where he left impressions on both the exterior and interior windowsills from resting the logs against them. I see no drag marks; I assume he rolled them up to the house. He obviously had some time in which to all this. He has had some medical training to remove the eyes and cauterize the sockets the way he did, as well as how to avoid major arteries when driving in the nails, as I'll bet our victim was alive when this was done. The crucifix around his neck is made from authentic rose petals. The beads themselves come from a Cistercian monastery in Spain. The person who did this to him is long gone. I would say that he's been there for about three days at least. This is not a serial killer; this is someone sent to do a job and send a message.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Both Kerns and Giese stand amazed.

CHASE
(slowly)
Sent by who, and what is the message?

EVAN
Those are the million-dollar questions.

EXT. HOTEL BALCONY - NIGHT

We SEE EVAN sitting, slowly turning a glass of bourbon. Next to him we SEE another man named ART WELBURN. He is EVAN'S boss. He looks like an FBI Agent, clean-cut and focused.

WELBURN
So, will you take it?

EVAN
Art I'm not sure..

WELBURN
..you pick your team and carte blanche on whatever you need. I already spoke with the local authorities, who really don't want anything to do with this case, so they are going to stay hands-off completely. I told them I would keep them briefed. I need your expertise with this, Evan. You know what you saw today. This guy likes what he does, and he's good at it. He is not going to be an easy catch. Kerns is the wrong agent for this. You know, I wouldn't ask if I didn't really...

EVAN
..ok Art, ok. I'll give it a shot. No promises.

WELBURN
A shot, is all I ask. So, what about a team?

EVAN
For now, I'll just keep one. Who do you recommend?

WELBURN
Agent Giese. She's smart. We plucked her from Harvard. Graduated top of her class at the bureau, and is all about the job.

(CONTINUED)