

The Actor's Assassination

Intro

- The Detective is enjoying a show at an independent theatre in the city called *The Anagnorisis Theatre*
 - Dumb note: Anagnorisis is the moment of realisation/revelation in greek theatre
- *The Anagnorisis* is hosting an opening night production of *Turncoat* in which a couple deal with the fact that one of them is a spy for the USSR, while the other is a Mafia Hitman, and neither one knows how to deal with their son's death at sea.
- During a pivotal confrontation scene, the wife/hitman levels a gun at the husband/spy and fires. The gunshot rings out over the crowd, louder than expected, seeming to reverberate around the theatre. The husband lies still, but the actress doesn't move... then she screams
 - The actor, *Chris Reffett* has been shot, the curtain falls, and the crowd (confused, scared, and shocked) is led out.
- The Detective is on the scene, and prepares to investigate.

The Scene

- The body of Chris Reffett is on the stage.
 - The set is a 1960s kitchen, Chris was backed up by the fridge when his “wife” *Betsy Lamborn* fired at him
 - The gun was supposed to have blanks.
 - There is blood on the fridge, and the counter upstage which he fell on as he died
 - Note: Blood spatter, if investigated, is consistent with a shot from the audience balcony, not the stage
 - The body is in costume (a button-up white shirt and high waisted pants) and the bullet has entered the body through the upper left torso, and is currently lodged in the right hip.
 - Only entry wound is notable on first inspection
 - Chris was facing Betsy when the shot was fired, this is more indication it was not that gun that killed him.
- Chris Reffett had his own dressing room in the theatre
 - There is nothing exceptional of note in this dressing room except for a strange letter. **[Dressing Room Ransom]**
 - Note: This should appear as if it has been received, but it is actually not yet sent by Chris to Senator Andrew Feist
- The shot was fired from a door to the upper circle
 - It is not manned, tickets are checked at the door.
 - People in the seats nearby heard the gunshot and were confused/panicked.
 - Rifle was placed in a nearby corner behind a curtain (there are curtains along the walls by the circle doors for decor)
 - A small black notebook has been discarded on the floor, as if dropped by the killer
 - Note: this notebook was dropped deliberately as a ploy by the killer.
 - The notebook has photos of Chris done up like a stalker’s notebook. It also has strange ramblings/pictures, “Mr and Mr Reffett”, etc.

The Killer

- The killer is the victim's wife: Eliska Premyslovna
- Chris Reffet had cheated on her years ago with Senator Feist's sister Penny.
- Penny lives with her brother, and Chris had been dropping off ransom notes at their house on multiple occasions.
- Eliska's friend (Carol) had seen his car at the house, and let her know. Eliska installed an app that alerted her when he went to a particular location (On his phone it is labelled as "network settings", next to settings app).
- She stole the gun from a friend from her rifle-shooting days (Mischa) who reported it "stolen" - brought it in a few days ago in an instrument case. Front desk might remark that she plays an instrument (which she doesn't).
- She knew when to fire the gun as she'd seen a lot of rehearsals.

CHRIS REFFET

- The Victim
- Married to Eliska Premyslovna
 - They had public troubles in the mid 2010s after he began a (less publicly known) affair.
 - After getting back together, Chris has been truly repentant, although still not much of an empathetic person
- Has a close working relationship with Mathias Schnak Krog, the theatre owner
 - He has been advising Mathias on the sale of the theatre, bad-mouthing the potential buyers, but lavishing praise on the strange pair with a mystery backer.
 - Chris is the mystery backer, using blackmail funds
 - The strange pair is putting off the sale, so Chris is trying to finalise on blackmail collection
- Chris went to university with Senator Andrew Feist, and it was there that he collected his blackmail (inadvertently)
 - As a student, he made a project called “Humans Being” in which he recorded his life and interactions.
 - On one of these days, he caught Andrew Feist crying about his partner cheating on him with another student: Charlie Samson
 - On another day (whose video has been removed from the archive) he recorded an altercation of Andrew seeing Charlie and screaming at him. He pulled a gun on Charlie and said “I want to see you cry” before firing.
 - Andrew was immediately shocked, claiming that he didn’t think the gun was loaded, and breaks down.
 - It is this recording that was copied and attached to the first ransom letter sent to the Senator.
- Chris began blackmailing the Senator anonymously 2 months ago, dropping letters into his mailbox secretly every few days.
 - This was to get the money to buy the theatre
 - This is what made Eliska sure that he was cheating again, as Andrew’s sister lives with him
 - This is why the strange pair had not settled the purchase yet, as the money had not been paid.

MATHIAS SCHNAK KROG

- Owner of the *Anagnorisis Theatre*
- Has been trying to sell the theatre for 6 months (which he bought off its initial owner 44 years ago) and retire to the country with his husband
- He greatly valued Chris's opinions on art and theatre, and usually discussed prospective buyers with him.
 - Chris has turned him off most of the buyers, but been supportive of a strange pair of buyers: Ann and Catrin Sundelin
 - Chris also turned the other buyers off the sale by complaining about the state of the theatre.
 - Matthias wants to finalise the sale with the Sundelins, but they are dragging their feet, so he'll sell it to another buyer "Ferdinand Weisenhorn" if they don't come up with the money.
- He has some gossip and facts:
 - Chris and Eliska were having troubles a while ago, something to do with an affair.
 - Chris knew some powerful people, senators, etc.
 - Betsy Lamborn is a little star struck working with Chris, and also by Eliska who she saw in the biathlon at Sochi.
 - Eve (the director) is a cold person, but creates incredibly poignant performances

EVE

- Mononymous director of *Turncoat*
 - Very theatre focussed, straight to the point, not very expressive with emotion
 - Eve can tell you about Chris's early work, and will include information on their obscure project "Humans Being"
 - Knows that only the cast, Mathias, and Eliska had been to all the rehearsals.
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BETSY LAMBORN

- Very distraught at Chris's death.
 - Initially blames herself for the shooting, is relieved to know it wasn't her gun that fired.
 - Knows about Eliska and Chris's relationship, thinks that Mathias should sell the theatre to normal people, is surprised he hasn't sold it already.
 - Likes to gossip and reveal this stuff
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ELISKA PREMYSLOVNA

- Chris Reffet's wife. They have been together since 2009. Eliska has supported Chris's career and they have been in the public light together for most of their lives.
 - Eliska was a biathlon competitor in the winter olympics, and competed in Sochi in 2014. She knows how to fire a rifle and still shoots casually.
 - Starting in 2014, Chris began a long term affair with Penny Feist, sister of his university room-mate Senator Andrew Feist.
 - After gruelling counselling, they kept their marriage together, but it was a very hard period for both of them.
 - Recently, Chris has been acting suspiciously, and she took his phone (he lost it 1 month ago) and added tracking software
 - Eliska had seen his car at the Feist's house, and installed find-my-phone to track him. She kept note of all the times he had been to the house, and assumed the affair was back on.
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ANN AND CATRIN SUNDELIN

- A pair of tall, blonde, swinton-esque sisters who dress in black suits with long flowing overcoats
- They have been trying to buy the *Agnorisis Theatre* on behalf of a mysterious backer.
 - This backer is Chris Reffet, but he has not received a payment from Andrew Feist, so cannot finalise the offer.
 - They know it is him, but cannot reveal it. Private correspondence or an overheard conversation might reveal this.

PENNY FEIST

- The sister of Andrew Feist. Is not available to talk to in this mystery as she is on a cruise (paid for by her brother) and has been for a week. She is not callable until she arrives in Lisbon in 8 days.
 - She and Chris had an affair in 2014 until 2016. She feels like a terrible person because of it, and hasn't spoken to Chris since.
 - She works at a homeless shelter.
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ANDREW FEIST

- A wealthy senator and university room-mate of Chris Reffet.
- Has been receiving ransom notes for the last 2 months from an unknown source.
 - The first ransom note arrived with a copy of a video file from Chris's "Human's Being" in which Andrew is seen accidentally shooting a young man named Charlie.
 - Andrew initially confronted Chris, but he claimed he threw out the files years ago, and someone else must have found them.
- Andrew made his money as a lawyer, and investing it well. And of course, his investments continue as a senator.
- He has received confused messages from his accountants (light on details) and his stockbroker.
 - He has already liquified \$5 million, and is delivering it the night after the murder.
 - You may follow him to the dropoff, especially if you see the \$5 million duffel bag in his house.
 - Chris is not at the meeting point, as he is dead. Ideally this should prove to the detective that Andrew didn't do the murder.