

BRAD POWELL

18.

We REVERSE ON what they're watching: a cell phone video of Mark Haber in his office a few moments before he dies. He looks up as the camera moves toward him.

Yes, can I help you?

BRAD'S VOICE (O.S. VIDEO)
Hey, Professor Haber? Remember me?
(See Appendix)

In the present, Brad picks up a GOLD LIGHTER and a cigar, tapping Ryan and pointing to the screen as he lights it.

START /

BRAD POWELL

You took his class, too, right? That was before you dropped out. Remember how he used to pontificate about composition: foreground, mid-ground, background? The circle of confusion! Film vs digital. He was always so sure of himself. Well, watch this.

Ryan gazes on, horrified, as we hear the gunshot and the thud of Haber's head hitting the desk.

BRAD POWELL (CONT'D)
He's no Daniel Day Lewis, of course, but I was right and he was wrong. The writer tells the story. And the picture documents it.

Brad picks up a CAN OF "ENSURE" and toasts, standing:

BRAD POWELL (CONT'D)
To Mom. Who believed in me even after Haber gave me an F for contradicting "the language of cinema."

(swigging the Ensure)
Mom got me hooked on these last year. You wouldn't know that, of course, because I gave up my work to take care of her and you never even stopped by to see how she was.

In the kitchen, Brad rummages through the refrigerator.

Ryan waits - then looks from Brad to the ZIP-TIES holding his wrists together - and to the lighter on the coffee table...

PLEASE READ ONLY SC. 1 & 2
NOT THE FYI PAGES. Mark 4/20/18

MAJIC CRIMES
5/2/18

19.

BRAD POWELL (CONT'D)
Not that pictures don't have a place. Forget the girl in the hallway, by the way. I only held the phone up and wished her Merry Christmas to make it harder for her to see my face. It's the police cars racing to the scene that give you a sense of urgency.

While Brad talks in the kitchen, Ryan stretches and struggles to reach the lighter with his foot. He manages to KNOCK IT TO THE GROUND - then leans over to pick it up...

...only to look up to find Brad LOOMING over him with two cans of Ensure and the gun.

BRAD POWELL (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you, Ryan? Do you want to go back in the closet?

RYAN POWELL
No, Brad. No. But...but listen. I'll help you get away. I'll help you with cash and with -

BRAD POWELL
Get away? Why would I - Ryan. This is going to be one of the most important movies of all time! This - this is going to lift us above the Coen Brothers. The Wachowski siblings. And show up all those people who didn't think we had what it took to succeed. Do you not care about that anymore? Because, to me, it's the only thing that matters. (as Ryan stares at him) After all I've done here, are you going to disappoint me again?

RYAN POWELL
No, Brad. No.

Brad grabs the lighter and hurls it across the room.

INT. MURDER ROOM - DAY (LATER)

Sharon, Provenza, Sykes, Sanchez, Tao and Buzz go through DMV photos as Flynn pulls the last few from the printer and dumps a few dollars in Provenza's jar.

2/8