

# "OUTSIDE THE LAW"

Treatment for a Novel  
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An original story  
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## ACT I

Date: 1974

A shiny, new 1974 Station Wagon drives along tree lined suburban streets. A severe middle aged man is driving. In the back, two eleven year old boys. The man is singing along with Merle Haggard's 'Okie from Muskogee'. One boy, WILF, is engrossed in a comic book, but it is obvious he's embarrassed by his father's singing. The other boy, QUINN, is looking out the windows, apprehensively. He is clutching a backpack.

Along the residential streets the car continues until it pulls into the driveway of an immaculate suburban home. The dad gets out and goes into the house. Wilf climbs out and follows, leaving Quinn in the car.

Struggling with his backpack, Quinn gets out of the car, crosses the yard and enters the house. He shuts the open front door behind him.

Quinn moves thru the empty house to the kitchen. There, the MOM is working away at dinner. A pretty but withdrawn 16 year old girl, DANIELLE, is slouching at the kitchen table. Wilf sullenly introduces Quinn as his billet, then goes downstairs. After a moment of indifferent silence, Quinn follows him.

Thru the unfinished basement Quinn wanders, looking for Wilf. He opens one door to find Danielle's bedroom. A 45 RMP is playing on a small stereo. 'Billy, Don't be a Hero' by Paper Lace. Thru another door is a partially finished rec room. Unable to find Wilf anywhere in the basement, Quinn returns to the rec room, opens his pack and starts writing on a postcard.

Car doors slam outside, but the car doesn't start up. Confused, Quinn climbs up onto the couch and peers out the small casement window. In the car, the mom and dad are having a fight, with lots of gesturing and muffled yelling. Behind Quinn, Danielle has entered the den and is watching him. Out in the car, the dad violently slaps the mom. Quinn recoils from the slap like he was hit himself. He turns around to see Danielle watching him.

When Quinn asks where her brother is, Danielle informs him that Wilf isn't her brother and that he's outside in a maple tree. She returns to her room. 'Billy Don't be a Hero' starts playing again. Quinn goes out into the backyard. As soon as he shuts the back door, Danielle comes out of her room and starts looking thru Quinn's stuff. Car doors opening and closing outside send her rushing back to the security of her room.

Outside, Quinn wanders over to a large maple. Up in the tree, Wilf is sitting. How he got up there, who knows, there's no low branches, no ladder. Wilf pointedly asks Quinn if any of his parents are dead. Quinn replies no. From the basement, 'Billy Don't be a Hero' starts playing again. Wilf scowls. He hates that song.

From the kitchen window, the mom calls for the boys to come in for dinner. The mark from the slap is clearly visible on her face.

When the boys enter the dining room, Danielle tells Quinn to sit at the head of the table. Not knowing what to do, Quinn sits down, staring down the table into the kitchen. The father comes in and scowls to see Quinn in his place. The mother starts to placate, it's just for one night, he's our guest... The father grimaces and sits down at the other end of the table and stares down at Quinn. The mother returns from the kitchen with a large smoked salmon on a platter and places it in front of Quinn. The father reacts immediately.

"That's for a special guest."

"Quinn is our special guest, dear."

"No he isn't. Take it away."

The mother smiles, wanly, at Quinn then returns to the kitchen with the salmon. Quinn passes the ashtray that's in front of him down to the dad. A few torturously long minutes later, the mom appears with a plate of cold, sliced roast beef.

Later on in the still silent dinner. The father puts the last of the pot roast on his plate and asks for more gravy. Into the kitchen, goes the mom. Quinn looks down at the over cooked cauliflower, swimming in gravy, on his plate. The mother comes back in, carrying a heavy skillet. She walks up behind the father and throttles him on the side of the head with the skillet. He topples onto the floor, stunned.

As Quinn stares in complete incomprehension, Wilf and Danielle quickly drag their father to the top of the basement stairs. They struggle to stand him up. He is groggy and trying to focus. Danielle gives him a push and he topples down the stairs, landing at the bottom with a sickening thunk.

Wilf and Danielle stand at the top of the stairs for a few moments, watching. Then Wilf telephones the police, explaining that his father has fallen down the stairs. The mother has gone into the kitchen and is scrubbing the skillet in the kitchen sink. Quinn continues to sit at the head of the table, staring at Danielle, who's still looking down into the basement. She realizes Quinn is there and comes over to him.

Danielle pulls him close to her chest.

DANIELLE

"He had to be killed, Quinn, you

understand, don't you?"

Unsure of what to do, Quinn nods and Danielle starts to cry, clutching him to her.

Outside in the backyard, Wilf sits in his tree, listening as the police car sirens get louder.

The next morning, it's time for Quinn to go. As he leaves Wilfs' house, Danielle gives him a big hug. It's now the second time he's had a hug by a girl who's even slightly developed. It's a memorable experience. The mom honks the car horn. Quinn heads over and gets in.

Driving. Silence. The mom is listening to the radio and singing along with 'Okie from Muskokie'. Quinn is rummaging in his backpack and pulls out a postcard. Something is written on it.

'Billy, you are my hero. Thank you. We couldn't have done it without you. xoxo Danielle'

Quinn carefully puts the postcard in the back of his journal and returns it to his backpack. Wilf looks up from his comic book and asks Quinn if he likes Spiderman. Quinn shrugs and Wilf offers his comic book.

WILF

This is the best one ever..

Quinn smiles and opens the comic book.

## ACT 2

Date: 1993

In the back of a limo, Quinn looks at a copy of the same comic book. But this one is in protective plastic. He looks at it intently for a while, then recommends to the other people in the car that they should buy it. The comic's in good shape, and only going to appreciate in value, in his opinion. It's a steal at only \$1250.00.

Everyone in the limo are grateful for his advice, as the limo pulls up in front of Quinn's house, blocking his driveway. He climbs out of the limo and sighs. Quinn's the nice guy everyone turns to for advice, but they don't offer him anything for his time.

As he stands beside the limo, his wife, EMMA, pulls up and parks their car on the street in front of the limo. She hops out and rushes for the house. She's got to go to the bathroom. Their daughter, MOLLY, is in the back, can Quinn get her?

Quinn nods as Emma dashes inside and the limo drives off. After it disappears from view, Quinn starts over to their car. He has

got Molly, their rambunctious three year old, unstrapped from her carseat when the limo pulls up outside the car. They honk, he bonks his head. Molly laughs.

With Molly loose and playing in the backseat, Quinn goes around to the limo. A window rolls down. A hand comes out with a fifty dollar bill. Quinn takes it and sighs. A good day after all. The limo pulls away as Emma comes thru the front door.

Quinn turns to her and waves the fifty over his head.

She smiles then her face drops and turns to a look of terror.

Quinn turns around to see what she's looking at. A pickup truck is careening around the corner, out of control.

They both watch as it hurtles straight at their car. And their daughter. Quinn starts towards their car, but it's too late. The truck smashes into their car, launching it up onto their lawn, and crashing down on its side.

The truck continues on down the street, coming to a halt against another car. Three obviously drunk guys stumble out of it.

Emma is screaming and trying to get to their daughter, and Quinn is holding her back as their shattered car is leaking gas and smoking. Blood is quickly covering the back window where Molly is. Their baby is dead.

The trial.

Because Quinn and Emma were concentrating on their daughter, neither of them know for sure who exactly was the driver. Of the three, Quinn is sure it was EVAN, but there weren't any other witnesses. Armed with a really good defence attorney, Evan says all the right things on the stand. It was an accident, he wishes that it didn't happen, we wishes he could take the place of their baby, etc. What you hear every night of the week on repeats of 'Law & Order'.

Quinn and Emma sit in the courtroom, awaiting the return of the jury. Quinn is reading a comic book. The jury comes back in. Evan is led in. Quinn looks up from his comic book and makes eye contact with Evan. There is nothing that Quinn or Emma can do except watch as Evan gets off because of reasonable doubt.

Because Evan gets off, Emma leaves Quinn. She can't live with him, since every moment they're together reminds her of what they are missing. Emma still cares for Quinn, but she won't be able to get over the loss of Molly being with him.

Quinn's still got his job, owning and operating the comic shop, but the life has drained out of him. He stays at work more and more now, not wishing to return to the house that was their home. His work is an appealing kind of place, and he has a couple employees. Quinn spends most of his days in his office,

reading comics, smoking and drinking. His best friend, STEVE, can't even get him to come out for food, and has to bring it in for him. Then the two of them eat and silently read comics.

One day, over takeout sandwiches, Quinn turns to Steve and confides that he wants Evan dead. It's like Batman or Spiderman, someone has ruined his life and gotten away with it. And he wants them dead. That's the only thing Quinn knows for sure anymore.

What would you do if you were in the same situation, he asks Steve.

Steve plays the devil's advocate, forcing Quinn to admit that he's not Bruce Wayne, or Peter Parker. The cops would surely catch him, they'd figure out it was him who called for the hit, or whatever... Steve understands, but you just can't go out and kill someone, no matter what they've done to you... Steve sighs, and suggests that Quinn take some time off, go somewhere and relax.

Quinn is out in his store, looking for more comics to read. One of his employees has the radio on and cranked up. Quinn yells for him to turn it down, but the employee ignores him. Life as a boss... The song, 'Billy, Don't Be A Hero' comes on.

Quinn suddenly loses his balance and grabs the wall for support. The memories of his school field trip, Danielle, Wilf and the murder of their father rush back to him.

Quinn is sitting in his office when Steve arrives with lunch. There are no comics around and Steve is confused.

QUINN

Ever wonder if something in your past actually happened? That what you're remembering may just be part of a movie you saw a long time ago? How do you ever know for sure?

STEVE

Find some proof it really happened. If you can't find that, then I guess you won't ever know...

Quinn, suddenly agrees with Steve's advice, and announces that he's going home to see his parents, to see the town where he grew up. He's got to get some closure. His friends and employees are relieved to see him go and wish him luck.

### ACT 3

Back at his parents home, Quinn has a quiet dinner with his parents and his youngest sister. But late that night, after everyone has gone to sleep, Quinn goes down to the storage area in the basement. He digs out the old boxes of his old school

books. Stuck at the side of one box is his old battered journal about the trip. But there aren't any last names, no phone number and no address of where he was billeted. (What grade 5 kid would bother to write down that kind of junk?)

He finds his photos from the trip. One of Wilf in the tree, scowling; a couple photos of Quinn and his friends climbing all over a large iron elephant jungle gym outside Wilf's school; and one of Danielle, Wilf and their mom, the mom's head hidden by Quinn's thumb.

But Quinn can't find anything to prove that the murder he remembers did or didn't happen. No notes, nothing. Quinn's about to give up - maybe it all was just a memory of some book he read - when...

The postcard from Danielle falls out of his journal. It did happen. For a while there he wasn't positive. The memories of a 11 year old, they can get a bit blurry. But now he knows for sure.

His dad suddenly appears. Quinn pulls it together and comes up with an explanation why he's looking around in his old school work. He's never mentioned the murder to anyone.

Quinn arrives back at work. He's calm, relaxed and focused. Quinn explains that he's going to take some time off and go for a vacation, somewhere he's never been before. His friends and employees are really glad that he's getting on with things.

Quinn drives to one city and checks into a hotel, using his credit card. Quinn tells the hotel that he wants to be left alone, no interruptions. no maid service, nothing. He's writing and has to be left alone. They're cool with that.

Quinn wanders out of the hotel, his blonde hair darkened and slicked back. He adjusts a cotton ball in his cheek to make his face look fatter and puts on some glasses. A totally different Quinn.

Armed with a local paper, Quinn finds a house with an old car for sale. He offers the owner five hundred dollars to rent the car for a week. He assures the owner that he's not going to do anything illegal, he just doesn't like all the questions rental places ask. Still skeptical, the guy takes the \$500 but warns Quinn, if Quinn's not back in five days, he's going call the car police. Quinn smiles. Deal.

Quinn, still in disguise, drives to the town he went to on that long ago class trip. He drives around the town, trying to remember where the school is, where Danielle and Wilf's house is. But it's been 20 years and he can't find what he's looking for.

Pretty frustrated, he checks into a cheap motel, paying cash. The next two days are spent driving around the town, trying to

figure out where Danielle and Wilf might have lived. With his trip photos, Quinn returns to the places his class went on their field trip. But they aren't helping his memory. Quinn's frustration increases and increases.

One morning, the motel clerk asks him if he will be checking out the next day. Disappointed, Quinn nods. Today is his last chance to find Danielle. He's got to get the car back or the owner is going to call the police.

Quinn wanders out of a coffee shop with a coffee and a donut. As he's standing on the sidewalk, a young mother with a young girl walk by. The young girl looks just like Quinn's daughter, Molly. The little girl smiles at him, his heart breaks and he follows them. They walk for a couple blocks before crossing a school yard. Quinn stops suddenly. The mother and the girl continue across to a playground with a large iron elephant jungle gym in it. Quinn has found the elementary school that Wilf went to.

Calming himself down, Quinn enters the school. Along the hallway are photos of grade seven graduating classes. Quinn spots Wilf's photo and learns his last name - Steinmann.

In the school office, Quinn claims to work for a lawyer. By mentioning a possible inheritance, Quinn is able to get the last known address for Wilf. Quinn is most grateful for the assistance of the secretary then leaves.

Quinn pulls up at Wilf's house. It's exactly the same as the last time he saw it, 20 years ago.

But the old woman living in the house is very suspicious of him. She doesn't know of any Danielle who used to live there, she and her husband just rent the place. Quinn is really frustrated.

As Quinn is walking back to his car, a lady comes out of the house across the street. The old woman calls out to her,

OLD WOMAN

Monique, this gentleman's looking  
for a girl who used to live here,  
called Danielle Steinmann.  
Do you recognize that name?

Monique stops cold and stares at Quinn. Quinn realizes who he's looking at. Danielle.

DANIELLE

I'll talk to him, Mrs. Porter.

The two of them walk towards each other meeting in the middle of the street, with Mrs. Porter watching intently.

Danielle doesn't remember Quinn at all. But when Quinn mentions his long ago visit, Danielle gives him a big fake hug, for the

benefit of the woman. Then she grabs Quinn's arm, walks him into her house and slams the door, still smiling away.

Once inside, Danielle spins and slams Quinn against the wall, grabbing his crotch.

Danielle angrily denies knowing him and denies that her step father was killed. She doesn't want anything to do with him, and doesn't ever want to see him again. She makes Quinn agree to leave and never come back and then, only then, does Danielle let go of his crotch.

Danielle lets him out of the house, still under the watchful eye of Mrs. Porter across the street. Quinn wanders back down to his car, looking back at Danielle's house, all the drapes closed.

The next morning, Quinn wakes up, in his car, down the street from Danielle's house. Danielle is just leaving for work. Quinn carefully starts his car and follows her.

Danielle quickly realizes that Quinn is following her, and tries to loose him. But with small town rush hour traffic it's not much of a chase. In the end, Danielle pulls into a parkade and Quinn blocks the only exit. Danielle parks her car and gets out, furious. Quinn has caught her.

Quinn threatens Danielle. Either she helps him, or he's going to the police about her step father's murder. But Danielle ups the ante. If Quinn doesn't stop hassling her, she's going to go to the police herself and claim he's trying to blackmail her into committing a murder. Quinn just stands there as Danielle enters the office building attached to the parkade. She's at work.

Quinn is sitting on the playground at Wilf's elementary school reading a comic book. A police car rolls up. Tells him to get moving, they'll arrest him for hanging around a school playground.

Quinn pulls up outside Danielle's house. After a bit of waiting, Mr. and Mrs. Porter come out and drive off. Quinn hops the fence and climbs up into the maple tree that Wilf used to sit in. He just sits there, thinking. He doesn't notice that Danielle has walked up and is watching him.

When he finally notices her, Quinn lets go of the postcard and it floats down to her. Danielle reads it, the words she wrote, 20 years ago. She finishes, looks up and asks him, quite simply...

DANIELLE

What are you going to do if I don't help you?

QUINN

I don't know. But I can't continue to live knowing that Evan is out there, and hasn't paid for the damage he's done to me, my ex-wife and our baby.

That's what gets her. He's looking for justice, the same way that she was looking for it, 20 years ago. Looking for justice outside the courts, knowing it's not going to happen within.

#### ACT 4

Quinn and Danielle are in Quinn's car, driving thru the mountains. Quinn's hair is back to his normal light brown. They aren't talking. Danielle is looking at Quinn's trip photos, images of a different time.

They arrive, many hours later, outside a small town motel. Quinn is torn between keeping an eye on Danielle and not being ever being seen with her. In the end, Danielle gets out, with some of Quinn's cash - no credit cards, no bank cards, etc. No record for the motel. Quinn watches her check in then goes to another hotel where he gets a room, using his credit card.

The next morning. Quinn drives back to pick up Danielle. But she isn't waiting outside. He's starting to get nervous. Maybe she did split, he shouldn't have trusted her. Now he's back where he started from, again. He pulls out a comic book and nervously starts to read.

Quinn spots a pretty blonde woman, dressed nicely, coming out of a diner down the block, carrying a coffee. Absentmindedly, he watches the woman as she saunters along the street. But she stops at his car and climbs in. Quinn frowns. It's Danielle, now with long blonde hair. Relieved, he starts the car and drives off.

Quinn tries to engage Danielle in conversation about what they're about to do, but she doesn't want to talk. Quinn sighs and returns to driving.

Quinn mentions that he remembered her because of the song. This is a break in Danielle's veneer, she really loved that song. And the band that sang it, 'Paper Lace'. She talks a bit about the band, how much she liked them, then shuts up again.

Back in the city, Quinn drops Danielle off at a cheap hotel on the edge of downtown.

That night, Quinn is alone at home, Danielle alone in her hotel. They are both watching a repeat of Law & Order. Danielle opens up her purse and takes out a photo of a young girl. She starts to cry. Meanwhile, Quinn glances up at his family portrait above the fireplace.

The next morning, Quinn phones Danielle's hotel from a pay

phone. But since Danielle didn't check in using her real name, he doesn't know who to ask for. Then he remembers. 'Paper Lace'. The band that sang Danielle's favorite song, 'Billy don't be a Hero'. Ms. Lace's room, please. He is put thru to Danielle.

In a secluded forest, Danielle and Quinn sit on a bench and argue about what they're about to do. Quinn keeps suggesting elaborate plans straight out of Mission:Impossible, each of which Danielle hates.

Finally, Danielle gets totally exasperated with Quinn and his complicated plans. She lays down an ultimatum. From now on, she's in charge. They do things by her rules, she's in control. Quinn doesn't like her bossiness, but he really doesn't have a choice.

First thing Danielle wants to do is find Evan, and watch him. But Quinn doesn't even know where Evan lives. Danielle gets his address from the phone book and all they go. Sitting in a bistro, they see Evan, across the street in a restaurant, having a good time, laughing, which makes Quinn even angrier - he shouldn't be laughing after what he did to me! - kind of stuff.

Danielle watches Evan while Quinn is back at work, trying to focus on his business. Which is really hard, knowing that Danielle is out and working on their plan.

On a different night, Danielle watches as Evan tries to chat up a girl in a bar. It doesn't work at all and he's left pretty depressed. And in his failure, is her idea.

Quinn is totally unhappy with Danielle's plan.

Most men who are single will let themselves be picked up by a pretty girl. Nothing complex about that. Danielle will get herself picked up by Evan, then kill him and be gone. Simple. But Quinn doesn't like it at all, not that Danielle cares, it's the plan that she's going with.

The next day, Danielle, wearing a nice red wig, meets, is chatted up, and accepts a dinner invitation from Evan for the next night.

The date? Exactly one year after the death of Quinn's daughter. And it's the anniversary of the death of Danielle's father.

Quinn has to accept that Danielle's plan is actually working. She's completed Step 1 - she's got a date with Evan.

Danielle won't tell Quinn how she's going to do the actual killing. He doesn't like that, but realizes she's right, he shouldn't know, just in case.

The next night, Quinn drops Danielle off around the corner from the restaurant where she is to meet Evan. Quinn still wants to

watch, to make sure she's safe, and Danielle is insistent he go and get himself an alibi. She'll call him in the morning, after the murder is done.

But her going out on a date with Evan is tough on Quinn, who is finding himself drawn to Danielle.

While having dinner with Steve and some other people from work, Quinn is really distracted, thinking about Danielle and what she's doing.

Meanwhile, Danielle is actually enjoying her dinner with Evan. How do you go about killing a nice person?

Evan's divorced, because of the accident. All of this makes him a victim, no more or less than Quinn. Danielle is becoming drawn to Evan.

Quinn suddenly leaves Steve and his coworkers, claiming to not feel well.

Evan's nice. Danielle is actually having a nice time, after loosening up. They are eating dinner in a pretty nice restaurant.

Quinn is pacing the street outside the restaurant. What is he going to do? Frustrated, he climbs into his car and drives off.

Evan and Danielle are just finishing up their meal. Evan has suggested that they continue their evening together and Danielle coyly agrees. Her plan is working perfectly.

Then she sees Quinn, lurking on the other side of the restaurant.

While Evan is in the bathroom, Danielle slips over to Quinn. Is he there to call off the hit? He just couldn't stand not knowing what she was doing. Shit... Danielle can't kill Evan if Quinn's not somewhere with an ironclad alibi. She's going to have to make another date now. Quinn has screwed the evening up completely.

Danielle is able to push Quinn out of the restaurant before Evan returns. Danielle weakly breaks the rest of the date but assures Evan that she wants to see him again. Evan is pretty disappointed but settles up the bill. Danielle gives him a nice kiss on the cheek and they head off in different directions.

Once Danielle's sure that Evan is gone, she storms up and down the street until she finds Quinn, sitting in his car. Danielle drags Quinn out and lays into him. His arrival totally fucked things up for her. Now she's got to have another date, and, although Evan's a nice enough guy, she's not too interested in spending too much time with him, since she's going to kill him. She's going to get too close. Danielle storms off, leaving Quinn standing in the street.

Danielle is getting ready for the next date in her hotel room. Quinn is there, wanting to help, but she's pushing him away. She's still very angry. Where is she going to meet Evan, Quinn wants to know. But Danielle won't tell him, she doesn't want him to know anything about this date. Quinn doesn't like that at all. But Danielle doesn't care, it's for the best. Best for her - Quinn won't arrive and mess things up - and best for Quinn - he really won't know what's going on. But that still doesn't mean that Quinn likes it. He ends up stomping out of the hotel room, furious.

During the next date, Evan is actually charming enough that Danielle's kind of glad to see him. Especially considering the way the Quinn was acting earlier. She's torn a bit.

Quinn is out again with Steve and some friends, this time bowling, giving him a complete alibi.

But it is torture for Quinn to not know what is going on. His preoccupation with Danielle isn't helping his bowling game.

Meanwhile, Danielle and Evan are enjoying another fine meal and some good conversation.

Quinn and his friends leave the bowling alley and wander down the street towards a nearby pub.

Danielle and Evan leave the restaurant and stroll along the waterfront promenade.

Quinn is still off in thought, and, as they come up to an intersection, he absentmindedly steps off the sidewalk, only to be yanked back by Steve, out of the way of a speeding truck.

A bus veers out of the way, tires squealing, horn blaring, and Evan scrambles to his feet and back onto the sidewalk. Danielle is looking down at him, in shock.

## ACT 5

Why did you try to kill me?!? Evan pushes Danielle up against a lamppost. He's furious, and rightfully paranoid. She's all alone and trapped with a very confused and angry Evan.

It was an accident, Danielle quickly explains, she stumbled and tried to grab him for support... really.... Danielle can't know for sure if Evan believes her or not. But it brings out the vicious in Evan for a very brief moment. Fortunately, Danielle is able to calm him down.

But Evan is shook up enough to cancel the rest of the date. He just needs to be alone. Danielle catches a cab back to her hotel, dejected that she didn't kill Evan, yet relieved that she didn't kill Evan.

Danielle and Quinn meet the next day in a quiet bistro. Danielle isn't wearing her red wig, Quinn is wearing a wide safari hat and big sunglasses.

Quinn is really upset that Danielle failed, again. They have missed their anniversaries, Evan isn't dead and Quinn can't keep coming up with solid alibi's every night.

Evan suddenly steps in on them. They're busted. And Danielle has different hair. Thinking quickly, Danielle says she just got it cut...and dyed. And look at all the men she's getting...

Quinn is able to bluff himself out of the situation, explaining that he was just looking to chat with Danielle. That's all, no harm done... If Evan and Danielle are a couple, he's out of there.

Evan asks Quinn if he's ever seen Danielle before. Quinn says yes, saying that he originally saw her at the bar where Danielle and Evan met. Danielle is looking pretty panicked, are they busted? But Quinn's answer seems to appease Evan.

But Evan wants to talk to Danielle alone. Quinn lets them go, opening up a comic book he has in his back pocket. Evan and Danielle move up the street a bit. Evan is trying to apologize about last night, but as he's talking he looks back at Quinn.

Quinn and the comic book. Quinn sitting in the court room, reading comic books, looking up at him. Evan remembers Quinn.

The three of them are back at Evan's apartment. Evan is getting them drinks from the kitchen. Danielle is being really outgoing, chatty, bouncy. Quinn is looking at a bunch of postcards taped to the wall. One of them is the exact postcard that Danielle wrote on all those years ago. Danielle whispers to Quinn not to touch a single thing. Fingerprints.

They join Evan in the kitchen. He hands out drinks and proposes a toast, Danielle steps up.

DANIELLE  
Happy Anniversary, Evan...

Evan looks quizzically at Danielle, and Quinn hits him with a frying pan, like Danielle's mom hit her dad. Evan drops like a stone. Perfect, he's out cold. Now they just have to kill him.

But Quinn's got to get out of there and leave Danielle to deal with the body. But Quinn doesn't want to go.

Exasperated, Danielle convinces Quinn to leave, to leave her with the body and she'll get herself out of the trouble. Quinn wants to meet up with her, but she says no. She'll finish this and then she'll be gone. Forever untraceable.

Quinn starts to leave. They kiss. A good kiss. A long kiss.

Then Danielle pushes him out of the apartment.

Shutting the door, Danielle glances at Evan's inert body. She takes the frying pan and makes Evan grip the handle, covering over Quinn's fingerprints. Taking two of drinks, she pours one out, gulps down the other, then puts the glasses into the full kitchen sink.

Danielle quickly searches around the apartment until she finds a prescription container of sedatives. Returning to the kitchen, she pours some hot water into a glass, then dumps all the pills into the hot water to dissolve.

As she nervously waits for the pills to dissolve, Evan lunges up behind her. Danielle screams and drops the glass into the sink. It doesn't break, but the water and dissolved pills flows out and down the drain.

Where's Quinn?, Evan screams, grabbing Danielle.

Danielle blinks. Who?

The guy, the guy who hit me. Where the hell is he? Danielle claims she doesn't know anything about Quinn. He's just some guy who was trying to pick her up. Then he hit you and ran out.

Evan explains, groggily, about the accident and everything. Danielle gets totally offended, that Quinn had asked her all sorts of questions about Evan, how she knew him etc. Quinn must have been using her to get to him... Evan believes her and she's off the hook again.

They both sit in Evan's kitchen, Evan trying to figure out about Quinn, Danielle trying to figure out how to kill Evan. Every minute she sits there is a another minute for Evan to figure out that she's involved.

Danielle decides to leave. She's had enough of this, it's all too weird. But as she's leaving, she thanks Evan for the drink and Evan realizes something. As they are walking towards the front door of the apartment, he suddenly slams Danielle up against the wall. Why did you say happy anniversary?!?

She can't answer, as he's strangling her. So Danielle grabs him by the crotch, same move she did on Quinn. Evan drops to the ground, in pain, and Danielle dashes out of the apartment.

Clattering down the stairs and out into the street, Danielle walks quickly along the sidewalk. But as she passes the alley at the side of the building, Evan reaches out and drags her back, out of view from the street.

Danielle is trapped between two dumpsters. Evan, still recovering from the blow to the head and the crotch grab, is ready to kill her, but he wants to know what is going on. Why does she want him killed? And Quinn. Why are they working

together?!?

He is so paranoid, he's ready to kill her. Danielle won't answer and he starts slamming her head against the side of the building. But she still won't talk. The rage inside Evan is about to explode when Quinn steps out of nowhere and yanks him off of Danielle. Evan whirls around and pulls out a gun, aiming it at Quinn. Danielle crumples to the ground, clutching her head. Stalemate. Someone better start talking.

## ACT 6

Evan is waving the gun around, quite crazed. He wants to know what's going on, why they are trying to kill him. Quinn is about to answer when Danielle yells 'Rape!'.

When Evan glances over at her and Quinn pushes Evan really hard. He stumbles back from between the dumpsters right into the path of a delivery truck. The impact sends Evan twenty feet down the alley to land in a crumpled heap against the opposite wall.

Danielle pushes Quinn out of sight behind a dumpster, then collapses screaming and crying on the ground. The startled truck driver scrambles out of his cab and looks down at the very dead Evan. Danielle whispers for Quinn to get the hell out of there and find an alibi, then starts screaming that she was attacked. As the truck driver calls the police on his celphone, Quinn slips around the back of the building and out of sight.

Later that evening, Quinn phones Danielle's hotel. But she's gone, checked out, no forwarding address, nothing.

Quinn is back at work. But there are no phone calls, nothing from Danielle. He hears the news about the death of Evan. Fitting justice, remarks Steve, Quinn's got what he wanted and didn't even have to lift a finger to get it.

The next day, Quinn drives back to Danielle's hometown. he arrives to find she's cancelled her lease, by phone. And she didn't leave a forwarding address. He goes to her work, but no one knows where she is. She just phoned up and quit. She's gone. All gone.

Quinn has done it. Evan is dead, and there is no way to trace the murder to him. He gets back in his car and drives off.

Date: Present day.

Quinn has gotten on with his life. He's got a new family, a new daughter. And the comic book store is still going strong.

One day, Quinn is sitting in a park reading a comic book, his daughter is playing in the jungle gym. A woman comes up to him. It's Danielle, looking totally different - she's had a hard seven years. Quinn is very happy to see her, and wants to know what is going on with her and her life.

But Danielle isn't happy. Someone saw them kill Evan. And now that person needs someone killed. And if they don't do the killing, Quinn and Daniell are going to be turned in. They sit in the park, realizing just how trapped they are.

The cycle continues.

**THE END**

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