OPTIC EFFECT

Scene 1

GIULIANI Follow me.

GIULIANI She was found dead this morning at 9am. Come with me.

GIULIANI This is Cristina, the maid. She found the body and called us. She had just got back from a short holiday.

Scene 2

MESSAGE There is no trace of the antidepressants in the bottles, only in the glass. It was a suicide.

Scene 3

GIULIANI Something terrible happened.

GIULIANI She was assaulted this morning just outside her house. We’ve brought her here.

GIULIANI Surf the net, enjoy.

GIULIANI Yes, she is here. Okay, I’ll put you on speakerphone.

RINALDI Can you explain to me what it’s going on? I’ve already received a hundred phone calls. Politicians, journalists, everybody wants to know. Wasn’t it a suicide? Everyone is stating the opposite here. You better not fuck this up or we’re screwed.

GIULIANI Don’t look at me like that! It’s a suicide, we both know that. The politicians and the media are blowing this out of proportion just because she’s foreign and an illegal immigrant.

GIULIANI If you want the truth, stay on your computer.

Scene 4

CRISTINA My name is Nesayem Quabbani, but everybody calls me Cristina here. It’s easier.

GIULIANI How long have you been working for Mrs Lattanzi?

CRISTINA Two years. I’ve worked for other families before that.

GIULIANI What kind of relationship did you have with Mrs Lattanzi?

CRISTINA Normal. I was doing my job.

GIULIANI Did you use to sleep there?

CRISTINA Yes.

GIULIANI Have you ever noticed any weird behaviours on her part?

CRISTINA No, never.

GIULIANI Where were you on July 23rd and 24th?

CRISTINA I was in Orbetello. On holiday. I found Mrs Lattanzi on her bed when I got back, she wouldn’t wake up. So I called an ambulance and then you.

GIULIANI Were you alone in Orbetello?

CRISTINA No, I was with a friend of mine. Lucio Lambertoni.

Scene 5

LAMBERTONI Yeah. I was with Cristina at my house in Orbetello for three days.

PIZZOLATO Have you known her long?

LAMBERTONI No… well… actually it was the first time we’d met… we became friends on facebook and we started chatting… you know how it is… it was a fling (he grins)

Scene 6

LA TORRE Mrs Lattanzi was in my care from October 2012 until April 2018, she didn’t show up at our last few sessions.

GIULIANI What did she suffer from?

LA TORRE Severe depression. It was me who prescribed her the drugs.

GIULIANI This kind of disorder can lead to suicide.

LA TORRE Yes.

Scene 7

CRISTINA I was on the bus. As soon as I got on, a woman started to harass me. I replied that I didn’t do anything. Then another woman yelled in my face “Go back to your country!”. Other people surrounded me, pushed me and insulted me.

Scene 8

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Scene 9

RINALDI Where are you? Lambertoni is withdrawing his deposition. Do you want to make me go crazy? Hurry up!

Scene 10

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Scene 11

LAMBERTONI No… she’s actually never showed up to the appointment.

PIZZOLATO Do you realise you are saying the exact opposite of what you stated yesterday?

LAMBERTONI Yes, I do, I’m sorry… she asked me to say we were together… you know how it is, I really liked her… I didn’t think it was serious… but I understand now…

PIZZOLATO Is anybody putting pressure on you?

Scene 12

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Scene 13

LAMBERTONI Pressure.. me? No, no pressures. First of all, I’m friends with everybody, and also you know I did kick boxing for ten years… who can scare me?

Scene 14

GIULIANI They’re framing her. Look.

PIZZOLATO She’s clever isn’t she!? She was playing the victim… poor her, harassed by racists…

GIULIANI You’re not getting it, as per usual. Go on Lambertoni’s facebook page, and then maybe you’ll understand why he’d withdrawn.

PIZZOLATO Again with this story about facebook haters…! Giuliani, learn to be a cop! Have you investigated enough? Or have you assumed, just like this, from a couple of clues, that it was a suicide?

GIULIANI You’re telling me how to do my job… please!

GIULIANI Look, you can see it from the surveillance that the girl left on the 21st and came back on the 24th! …fuck you, dick… I’m sorry.

Scene 15

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Scene 16

GIULIANI Here are the surveillance tape from the 21st to the 24th and Lattanzi’s phone calls from the same period. Cristina leaves at 11am on the 21st and comes back at 8.45am of the 24th.

Scene 17

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Scene 18

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Scene 19

OPERATOR Good morning madam, I’m Claudio and I’m doing a consumer survey…

LATTANZI I’ve already told you I’m not interested, thank you.

OPERATOR Madam, I’m calling with regards to the offer…

CONFALONI This is Confaloni.

LATTANZI Good evening, I ordered a chandelier last month and I… Excuse me for a moment, stay on the line please.

LATTANZI Who is it?... Come up.

LATTANZI I’m sorry, I’ll call back later.

Scene 20

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Scene 21

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Scene 22

NADIA Yes… I went to her place… I took Cristina’s shawl… She opened the door for me… I didn’t know her well…

Scene 23

CRISTINA Nadia had the Pulicenter office party, at the company she works for. I told her to take my shawl because it suited her dress.

Scene 24

PIZZOLATO It appears from Dumitrescu’s phone records that she used to get many phone calls from one specific number… Giuliani, do you know who it is registered to?.. Your maid has two phones…

Scene 25

PIZZOLATO Look where she used to keep it…

Scene 26

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Scene 27

CRISTINA Not now, I said when she screams.

NADIA Today we are filming this scene to show the conditions Cristina works in and who Mrs Lattanzi is. Shhhh… there we are…

LATTANZI I’ve already answered this question, shut up! I don’t want to discuss this anymore!

CRISTINA You owe me that money. I need it.

LATTANZI You have to shut up! I told you, you will have it Cristina!

CRISTINA But I’ve been waiting for my paycheck for 4 months now.

LATTANZI Stop it, do you hear me?, stop it! You’ve got to shut up, shut up idiot! Go away, away!!

CRISTINA Did you get everything?

Scene 28

NADIA I’m Cristina, Mrs Lattanzi’s poor maid.

CRISTINA I don’t act like that.

CRISTINA Wait, I’m still to put clothes on!

NADIA Hurry up!

CRISTINA Mrs Lattanzi’s clothes…!

NADIA What if she comes back?

CRISTINA No, don’t worry, she’s at the opera. Which one? …This one.

CRISTINA Cristina! Where are you ugly bitch? I need my infusion, I have a terrible headache.

NADIA I won’t bring it to you madam, you still haven’t paid me!

CRISTINA How dare you!? You’re an idiot! I won’t pay you ever!? You should thank me!

NADIA Thank you madam! I’m sorry madam! I’ll bring you the infusion!

CRISTINA Way more.

Scene 29

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Scene 30

CRISTINA She used to harass me and didn’t pay me for months. I decided to leave and that’s why Nadia brought me the shawl I forgot. That is my nana’s shawl and I really care about it. I only came back because I thought I would have lost all the money otherwise and I found her dead. But I didn’t kill her.

Scene 31

NADIA We used to make those videos to joke around but also in order to sue Mrs Lattanzi. She was crazy.

Scene 32

CRISTINA I lied because I had a discussion with Mrs Lattanzi and I was scared I’d have been accused.

Scene 33

PIZZOLATO They are grasping at straws, it was them who did it.

GIULIANI Can you come for a moment?

PIZZOLATO Hey Giuliani! Where are you going? Too bad you missed the scene your friends put on.

GIULIANI It’s Dr. Fiore from the Parenti’s pharmacy. He wants to talk with us.

Scene 34

PHARMACIST A man came to the pharmacy on the 23rd saying he was Mrs Lattanzi’s husband. I know Mrs Lattanzi very well, she is a client of ours, but I’ve never seen him before. He asked me whether I could give him Mrs Lattanzi’s drugs because she was very ill, but he didn’t have a prescription. I know I shouldn’t have done it, but I knew Mrs Lattanzi’s situation very well and in that moment I felt it was my duty to give them to him. Then I read the news later on and felt scared, but eventually I realised coming to you was the right thing to do.

GIULIANI Do you remember what time Mrs Lattanzi’s husband showed up?

PHARMACIST At about 7pm, I know this because we were about to close.

GIULIANI That is 2 hours after Nadia left.

Scene 35

PIZZOLATO It’s him. Who the hell is this?

GIULIANI I’ll have it checked.

Scene 36

GIULIANI Still nothing, but surely something will come up by tomorrow.

Scene 37

GIULIANI Come with me…

GIULIANI She shot a man who broke into her house… Look here, enjoy.

PIZZOLATO The Lattanzi’s case has been closed, those two girls are out of it.

GIULIANI Yes she’s here.

RINALDI I want everyone to focus on this case, politicians, press and social media are putting us under pressure. I don’t want any distraction.

PIZZOLATO She shot him for another reason in my opinion.

GIULIANI What are you talking about? Look at his face, it’s as clear as day he’s a thief, he seems to be a gypsy…

Scene 38

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