

SAMPLE – SHADOWS OF THE CONDEMNED

Written by

Julia Dietrich

Story by

Stanley Agbalizu

FADE IN:

EXT. CRIME SCENE, ALLEYWAY - DAY

DETECTIVE JOHNSON COOPER (mid-30s, little rough around the edges, fit) is standing still, his eyes fixed on the ground. We see a limp, bloody hand. We see a white sheet cover a body. Cooper is transfixed on the body, all other sounds drowning out.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Detective Cooper looks like he's just snapped out of the memory. He's swirling a glass half filled with liquor and ice in his hand. He's sitting quietly and bitterly in his seat. Across from him is DR. MADISON SAWYER (early 30s, beautiful, composed), his therapist, with a pen and notepad. She eyes the drink in his hand, then looks up at him.

Cooper refuses to make eye contact as he looks out the window.

DR. SAWYER  
Something on your mind?

Cooper sighs, annoyed.

DR. SAWYER (CONT'D)  
I get it. You think this is  
just a routine check. Mindless  
protocol. Bureaucratic procedure.

Cooper scoffs, clearly agreeing with her, but still refusing to speak.

DR. SAWYER (CONT'D)  
But if you don't talk about  
it, then I can't clear you for  
active duty.

Cooper clenches his hands in fists. Dr. Sawyer leans in.

DR. SAWYER (CONT'D)  
You've been through a lot.  
It's natural to want to shut down.  
Close yourself off from everyone,  
but talking about it can really  
help... You're hurting. You're  
grievi-

DET. COOPER  
I'm fine.

Dr. Sawyer leans back, a hint of frustration crosses her face.

DR. SAWYER

Then prove it. Tell me about the case. Cooper rolls his eyes, but takes a deep breath.

DET. COOPER

Fine.

EXT. ALLEY, STREET, CRIME SCENE - DAY - PAST

Cooper is standing still, his eyes fixed on the ground. We see a limp, bloody hand. We see a white sheet cover a body. Cooper is transfixed on the body, all other sounds drowning out.

We realize this is the memory from the beginning.

There's blood all over the ground and on the walls. The area is blocked off with police tape. Cops and medical officers swarm around the area.

A cop pulls back the white sheet for them. Cooper sees Parker's lifeless corpse. He's face down. His shirt is soaked in blood. Cooper takes a moment to take it all in.

He then bends down and begins to examine the body.

DET. COOPER (V.O.)

Elijah Parker did not die a quick or painless death.