

Tom Grady, from *Global Village*

FADE IN:

EXT. BUDD DWYER'S HOUSE, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NY - DAY

Establish. An upscale brick colonial nestled tightly among other similar homes.

INT. DWYER HOUSE, BATHROOM - DAY

ON BUDD DWYER, 60, a career politician who should have retired a long time ago. He stands in front of the mirror, tying his tie, staring at the ruin of his life. He completes his Windsor knot and exhales weightily.

He moves to a closet and pulls out a PISTOL and places it in his briefcase.

INT. DWYER KITCHEN - DAY

BUDD'S WIFE mopes around the kitchen as Budd absent-mindedly eats his oatmeal. All the curtains are closed.

She peeks outside.

BUDD'S WIFE

Not today. They're not out there.

BUDD

Good.

BUDD'S WIFE

Thought today they might.

BUDD

Press conference is at 2:30. In the city. Why would they show up here?

BUDD'S WIFE

(pause) Are you sure you don't want me there?

BUDD

Yes.

BUDD'S WIFE

All right. I just want this to be over.

BUDD

I know you do.

BUDD'S WIFE

Maybe I can open the curtains, huh? Let some light in.

BUDD

Good idea.

BUDD'S WIFE

It'll be nice not to be watched.

(pause) 2:30? What'll you do till then?

Budd stands with his briefcase and moves to leave.

EXT. 5TH AVENUE - DAY

Budd strolls, killing time among the throng. He approaches corner to Central Park. Waiting for the light, he observes a series of vignettes of people in the FLOW OF LIFE.

-A pair of teens take selfies in front of a hot dog cart.

-a group of tourists rattle maps, argue over the next steps

-A woman hitches up her skirt, checks her nylons.

-A group of Amnesty International-type advocates hold signs decrying US foreign policy. They engage with people in animated discourse, except..

Budd leans in closer...

CLOSE ON LINDA and SAM, a couple in their 30's. Linda appears despondent. Sam comforts her. They're talking in whispers.

Budd takes a few steps toward them, overhears,

LINDA

People just walk by. If they only knew.

SAM

I know.

LINDA

If they only knew the suffering.

SAM

They're just not aware.

LINDA

These are human beings, for
God's sake.

SAM

That's why we're here.

Linda looks up DIRECTLY AT THE CAMERA (BUDD).

LINDA

Why are you here?

Budd is surprised, caught, tries to speak. Then he's
distracted when he sees...

A CAMERAMAN and JOURNALIST approach Sam & Linda.

SAM

Oh Good! Finally.

Budd walk-runs across the street.

EXT. 5TH AVE. ALONG CENTRAL PARK - MIDDAY

Budd walks, paranoid among the other PEDESTRIANS.

BUDD'S POV - A NEWSSTAND.

CLOSER ON NY POST FRONT PAGE:

AN ENORMOUS PICTURE OF BUDD. UNDERNEATH IN A HUGE FONT:
"KICKBACK KING SPEAKS!"

He looks at his watch.

ON WATCH: 12:15.

He anxiously looks for some sort of sanctuary.