

Deltoir
by
Brad Baker

Story:
Brad Baker
Kim Hoffmann
Tommy Stein

Divided Frame Productions
678-983-5468
contact@dividedframe.com

1 EXT. SANTA FE STREETS - NIGHT 1

It is nighttime; we see a montage of Santa Fe, desolate. A near-empty street. A lone traffic light. A chainlink fence. Slowly, the sun begins to come up. The mountains begin to show color. A two-lane road is barely visible. The sky is coming alive. We move to:

2 EXT. DESERT - MORNING 2

The sun shines down on a barren landscape. In the distance, there is a figure: a man in his early twenties lies unconscious on the ground. His clothes are ripped and dirty. This man is JAMES CALVINO.

Slowly, he wakes up. He opens his eyes, blinks, his memory fuzzy. He stands up and begins to inspect himself. He has no major injuries. His pockets are empty. He has no idea where he is or how long he's been there.

James looks up at the sun to determine direction. He starts walking north, hoping for the best.

3 EXT. TWO-LANE ROAD - HOURS LATER 3

James stumbles upon a lonely two-lane road. He is thirty and tired, ready to collapse. Instead, he starts walking down the road. He eventually passes a road sign: "SANTA FE 34 MI". He pauses, wondering how he ended up so far from home, then continues walking, desperate for food and rest.

4 EXT. SMALL REST STOP - HALF AN HOUR LATER 4

Barely standing, James reaches a small and empty rest stop. He sees a vending machine and desperately presses buttons. Nothing happens. He looks around, searching the ground for change, when he sees a lone car. He cautiously walks over to it, then looks around for people. There is no one around.

James begins to search the area for items. He finds two thin pieces of metal, a long thin branch, and two rocks. He rips a strip of fabric from his shirt and uses this to tie the two metal scraps to a rock, making a wedge. He then slides this wedge between the car body and the car door, prying the door open. He hits the wedge with the other rock, slowly opening the door.

The car's alarm goes off; James glances around, sees nothing, and continues.

When the door is cracked open, James uses the branch to reach inside the car the hit the unlock button. The car is open--James opens the door and begins to search the car. He pockets some loose cash and change and walks back over to the vending machine. He buys some food and water and sits down to rest.

A few minutes pass.

James notices a payphone a few feet away and walks over to it. Using some change from the car, he tries to call a friend; there is no answer. He leaves a message:

JAMES

Hey, it's me. Look, I'm not really sure how or why, but I'm in New Mexico. I . . . I don't know what day it is, but I, um, I guess if you get this, wait to hear from me again. I think I'm going to try and figure out what happened.

As he speaks, we move on to the next few scenes.

James goes back over to the car. He opens up the steering wheel cover to get to the ignition mechanism. After a few minutes, he's started the car and is on the road.

5

EXT. DESERT - MINUTES LATER

5

James drives back to where he woke up to look for clues. He gets out of the car, leaving it running, and begins to search the ground for anything unusual. He sees the location as it was when he was left there: nighttime. A car lights the area in front of it, where James lies on the ground.

He sees a cigarette on the ground: he sees it reverse and fall into the mouth of someone, who inhales smoke and unlights the cigarette.

He sees a broken piece of plastic: he sees it fall up onto the car and reattach itself to the brake light cover. He flips the plastic over and finds a serial number.

James walks back to the car and drives away.

- 6 EXT. LIBRARY - AN HOUR LATER 6
James drives up to a parking space, gets out of the car and walks into:
- 7 INT. LIBRARY 7
James walks over to a computer. He turns it on and opens the command prompt: a few seconds later, he's typing the serial number in and getting back the license plate number and the make and model of the car it came from. After this, he's using the license plate number to get a name: Madison Perez. He writes everything down on a scrap piece of paper, puts it in his pocket, and walks out of the library.
- 8 EXT. PAYPHONE - MINUTES LATER 8
James is flipping through a phone book to find Madison Perez; he gets a phone number and address. He tries calling first, but the line is disconnected. He then writes down the address and drives away.
- 9 EXT. DELTOIR BUILDING - LATER 9
James pulls up next to a large office building. He pauses and checks his address, then looks back at the building, then checks the address again.

Troubled, he drives away. The building is owned by Deltoir--James' company.
- 10 EXT. EMPTY PARKING LOT - THAT NIGHT 10
James is asleep in the backseat of his car.
- 11 INT. DRESSING ROOM - THE NEXT DAY 11
James is putting on new clothes and then putting his old clothes over them. He has a few items he's found--a marker, a pair of scissors--that he puts in his pockets. He walks away.

12

EXT. DELTOIR BUILDING - LATER

12

James goes back to the Deltoir building. He parks and walks through the parking lot, looking for the license plate number he found. When he spots it, he walks away and waits.

Hours pass.

Soon, a woman begins to walk towards the car James is watching. She is in business casual attire and carries a briefcase. This woman is MADISON PEREZ.

James stands up and watches her from behind. He pulls the scissors out of his pocket, pauses, and pulls the marker out instead. He begins to walk toward Madison.

Right before she reaches her car, James reaches her. He sticks the end of the marker against the small of her back.

JAMES

Don't move. [beat] That car against the curb. We're going to walk there.

Slowly, they move to James' car. He walks her around to the passenger side.

JAMES

Open it.

Madison opens the door and James pushes her in. He quickly puts the marker in his pocket and shuts the door; then he walks around the front of the car and gets in the driver's seat. James reaches into the backseat and grabs his old shirt. He rips a strip off of it and uses it to tie Madison's hands. She flinches at every move he makes.

They sit in silence for a few moments.

JAMES

Do you know who I am?

Madison doesn't move; after a while, she slowly nods.

JAMES

Why did Deltoir try to kill me?

Madison is silent.

JAMES

Who's doing this?

Again, Madison is silent. James then starts the car and begins to drive. Time goes by. Soon, they have reached the spot where James woke up.

13 EXT. DESERT - LATER 13

Without a word, James gets out of the car and pulls Madison out of her seat and onto the ground. He then ties her feet with a strip of what remains of his old shirt and gets back in the car. He opens Madison's briefcase and finds a stack of folders: rifling through them, he spots one with his last name on it. Intrigued, he opens the folder and finds a few pages of information.

The first page has a picture of him and details about him. He turns the page. A page on Madison. Another page, and James finds himself looking at a picture of a man he doesn't recognize. He studies the page more closely and finds a name: Tristan Safford.

Satisfied, James drives away, leaving Madison to die.

14 EXT. DELTOIR BUILDING - THE NEXT AFTERNOON 14

James is sitting in his car in his lookout spot, this time watching for a face. After a few minutes, he spots TRISTAN SAFFORD. He is in a suit and is walking slowly. James watches Tristan get into a car and drive away.

James follows.

The sky turns black and they have reached a desolate two-lane road. James flashes his lights and honks at Tristan, who pulls over. James pulls in behind him and gets out of the car. He walks to Tristan's car and knocks on his trunk. Tristan rolls down the window.

JAMES
(walking to Tristan's door)
Yeah, sorry, I think that one of
your brake lights is--

By now, James has reached Tristan's open window and punches him in the face. Tristan reels back and James flings open the door, smashes Tristan into the steering wheel, and pulls him onto the ground in front of the car.

James straddles Tristan's legs and slams him into the ground.

JAMES
 (angrily yelling)
 Who the fuck are you? Who the fuck
 is doing this?

Tristan can only grunt. James stops hitting him for a moment: silence. James then pulls the scissors out of his pocket and sticks them into Tristan's thigh.

Tristan screams.

TRISTAN
 (panting)
 Donovan! Donovan!

JAMES
 Who the fuck is Donovan?

Incredibly, Tristan manages a slight laugh.

TRISTAN
 (in disbelief)
 Northrop. [beat] Donovan Northrop.

James slowly gets up, registering this information. In a few moments, his shock becomes understanding. Silently, he ties up Tristan's arms and legs and pulls him into the road. James then gets back into his car and drives away.

15 INT. OFFICE RESTROOM - THE NEXT DAY

15

A well-dressed man comes out of a stall and begins to wash his hands and study himself in the mirror.

This man is DONOVAN NORTHROP.

From another stall, James walks up and stops right behind him.

JAMES
 Hello, Donovan. [beat] As I'm sure
 you're aware, I know some things.
 [beat] That's why you wanted me
 gone.

DONOVAN
 It was necessary.

JAMES
 No, I completely understand.
 Sometimes you need to get rid of
 people who are in your way.

A beat. James walks to Donovan's side.

JAMES

But here's the difference. I'm
going to expose your little secret.
And I also know that when you get
rid of someone--

James leans in to Donovan.

JAMES

--you do it right the first time.

James closes and locks the door to the bathroom.

16

EXT. EMPTY PARKING LOT - THE NEXT MORNING

16

James is in his car, reading the paper; specifically, a
certain article:

"DELTOIR CEO FOUND DEAD; SUICIDE ASSUMED DUE TO FRAUD
CHARGES"

James smirks, puts the paper in the passenger seat, and
drives away.