

Characters:

Lucie Mayer - Any age. Taxi cab driver. Know a bit too much. Not what she seems.

Jamison Billings (Jamie) - 20's. Trying to get to hospital across town for brother.

Nicolas Billings (Nick) - 20's. Brother of Jamison.

Rick Contie - 20's. All-around criminal. Thief/drug dealer.

Locations:

1. Apartment parking lot
2. Inside a moving car
3. Gas station

Time of day:

Night

Only The Devil Knows

IN AN APARTMENT PARKING LOT DURING THE DAY.

Efx: outside ambiance, wind, birds, people talking in the distance, etc. Car pulls up to a stop. Window is lowered.

LUCIE

Jamison?

JAMIE

Yeah, but everyone calls me Jamie.
You're my driver?

LUCIE

How else would I know your name?

NARRATOR

The wait times for an Uber or a taxi from any of the major cab companies were all too long so he'd called a limo service called "Horns Limo Service" who promised to be there within ten minutes.

The car that pulled up in front Jamie Billings was nothing like what he'd expected. It was an older Lincoln Continental.

A girl with a twisted smile sat behind the steering wheel in a black business suit.

JAMIE

Good point. I need to get-

LUCIE

(in unison)

-to Mercy General North.

JAMIE

(in unison)

-to Mercy General North.

LUCIE

So...

JAMIE

What?

LUCIE

Get in.

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE

Oh.
(Efx: car door
attempting to open,
but it's locked)
Uh. It's locked?

LUCIE

Sit up front.

For later.

JAMIE

(surprised a little)
Huh.

LUCIE

Trust me.

JAMIE

O-kay...
(Efx: car door
opening)
This is my first time?
(Efx: car door
closing. outdoor
ambiance
disappears.)

LUCIE

Driving someplace?

JAMIE

No. Using a limo service. I
usually drive everywhere. Do
people normally sit in the front
of these?

LUCIE

No, but like I said: it's where
you'll want to be. Buckle your
seat belt.

JAMIE

Right. Sorry.
(Efx: Seat belt
pulling and then
clicking)

LUCIE

What happened to your car?

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE

Wouldn't start so I'm trapped here
when I need to be across town.

Since when do limo companies use
cars like this?

LUCIE

'67 Lincoln Continentals?

They don't,
(shrugs)
I do.

JAMIE

Oh. Right. Sorry, I'm...
distracted.

NARRATOR

Jamie tried to keep the thought of
his brother dying before he got to
the hospital out of his mind.

LUCIE

I can tell. You ready?

JAMIE

Yeah. Yeah, I guess.

LUCIE

I don't have to take you. You
could just get out and we could
act like you never called.

JAMIE

No... no, I need to go. No one
else can make it in time so I've
gotta.

LUCIE

Sounds like you have a story to
tell. That's good, because I do
too.

You sure you're ready, Jamison?

JAMIE

(uncomfortable)
Yeah.

LUCIE

Great. Let's get your first taxi
ride started.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

LUCIE (CONT'D)

You're never gonna forget it.

Efx: Driving in car noises

NARRATOR

Jamie looked out the window as-

JAMIE

What's your name?

LUCIE

Lucie.

NARRATOR

Jamie looked out the window as Lucie drove away from his complex, merging with traffic easily. At the corner of his apartment, where most cars got stuck trying to turn for several minutes at least, a spot opened right up for her.

JAMIE

Huh. That never happens.

LUCIE

No?

JAMIE

No.

LUCIE

Lucky me.

JAMIE

You know how to get to Mercy General North, right?

LUCIE

Yeah. I was there last night.

JAMIE

For a fare?

LUCIE

Something like that.

JAMIE

Cool.

(CONTINUED)

LUCIE

Yeah.
(Sarcastically)
Cool.

NARRATOR

Jamie looked over at Lucie, but Lucie was focused on driving and didn't bother to acknowledge his stare. They drove in silence for a few moments until Jamie caught a glimpse of a Tesco coming up.

JAMIE

Can you pull into tha-
(Efx: car blinker
being activated.
Clicking as the car
turns into gas
station. Clicking
stops.)

LUCIE

This Tesco? Sure.
(Efx: car pulling to
a stop and idling.)
Meter's running.

NARRATOR

Jamie pulled on the door handle,
but-
(Efx: door handle
pulled and then a
grunt because it's
locked)

JAMIE

Can you unlock it?

LUCIE

Nah, all the locks are busted.
Just pull the unlock tab. It's by
your shoulder.

NOTE: I can change out the following gas station scene with a street corner/parking lot scene if necessary for binaural recording/foley difficulties. Remove as many of the sound effects below as you need to.

Efx: door unlocking and opening as Jamie steps into gas station parking lot. Ambient gas station parking lot noise. Gravel crunching as Jamie walks to to gas station door. Pulls door open. Bell rings. Muzak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Walks to refrigerator, pulls open door, grabs a can of something. Fridge closes, Jamie approaches counter. Sets drink on counter.

GAS STATION ATTENDANT
Anything else?

JAMIE
Nah.

GAS STATION ATTENDANT
3.21.
(Efx: pulls out
wallet and hands gas
station attendant
\$4. Buttons pressed.
Cash drawer ejects.)

GAS STATION ATTENDANT
79 cents. Receipt?
(Efx: pulling out
coins from drawer
and placing in
Jamie's hand.)

JAMIE
Nah.

GAS STATION ATTENDANT
Thanks. Come again.

JAMIE
(grunt of
acknowledgement)

Efx: walks away from counter. Bell on door rings as door opens. Gravel as Jamie approaches cab. Car idling. Car door handle pulled, opened, and Jamie sits down, pulling the door shut behind him.

LUCIE
What'd you get?

JAMIE
Just a Monster. Let's go.

NARRATOR
Lucie pulled out of the parking
spot and back onto the road.

(CONTINUED)

LUCIE

Oh, by the way, the name of the
guy laying down in the back seat
is Rick. Rick, this is Jamie.

JAMIE

(annoyed laugh
through nose)

Funny.

LUCIE

Wasn't joking.

NARRATOR

Jamie started to turn his head
toward the back seat but-
(Efx: pistol whip
sound. Jamie
grunts/cries out in
pain.)

RICK

Let's not make that mistake a
second time, Jamie. Second time'll
cost you a bullet.

JAMIE

(in pain)
You hit me in the eye.

RICK

Yeah, well, the world is a crappy
place. I don't know what you want
from me.

JAMIE

To get out of the car?

LUCIE

Boys, let's all calm down. We've
got a bit of a drive ahead of us.

JAMIE

(to Lucie)
If you want my wallet, fine. Take
it.

LUCIE

I don't want your wallet, and he's
not with me.

(CONTINUED)

RICK

I don't want your wallet either,
unless you have a lot cash.

(pause)

Do you?

JAMIE

No.

RICK

Right. No one carries cash these
days.

What we're gonna do is drive to an
ATM, and then we're gonna have you
make several withdrawals.

So. Which bank are we headed to?

JAMIE

Look. I'm really trying to get to
the hospital. I need to see my
brother. I have to see my brother.

RICK

Right. Right. I'll make a deal
with you, okay?

(pause)

(yelling/unhinged)

Okay?!

JAMIE

Okay, okay.

RICK

Good. We're gonna go to your bank
and you're gonna pull out as much
money as you can until the ATM
cuts you off, then we're gonna go
to the cabbie's bank and do the
same thing. Do you know what you
get in exchange for all that?

(silence)

(yelling/unhinged)

Do you?!

JAMIE

No, no. What do I get?

(CONTINUED)

RICK

(lower, more
serious/threatening
voice than heard
yet)

I won't push the barrel of this
gun against the back of your
skull, pull the trigger, and watch
your face paint the inside of this
shitheap's windshield.

LUCIE

(laughing)

RICK

Fuck are you laughing at?

LUCIE

(laughing)

You.

RICK

Yeah? What about me?

LUCIE

This isn't a shitheap. It's a
classic in immaculate condition.

Gonna make a killing when I get
rid of it. One other thing...

RICK

Yeah?

LUCIE

I don't have a bank account.

RICK

Bullshit. Everyone has a bank
account.

LUCIE

Sure about that?

RICK

I'll just take your car then.

LUCIE

Right into the sunset.

JAMIE

(to Lucie)

What's wrong with you?

(CONTINUED)

LUCIE

(shrugs)

Nothing. Just telling the truth.
Now, are we ready to raise the
stakes and start having a bit more
fun?

RICK

(to Jamie)

What's she talking about?

JAMIE

No clue.

RICK

Luckily, I have the right tool for
the job.

(Efx: gun pressed to
Lucie's head)

NARRATOR

Rick pressed the gun into the back
of Lucie's head.

RICK

Looka-there. Perfect fit.

JAMIE

Rick, c'mon, if you shoot her
we'll crash and then all of us
will die. You too, man.

RICK

I think it might be worth a shot.

LUCIE

(laughing)

RICK

There she goes again. What's
funny?

LUCIE

You are, Rick Contie.
(silence)

NARRATOR

No one said anything for a few
seconds. Jamie started to open his
mouth but closed it. Rick just
stared at the back of Lucie's
head.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (10)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Lucie kept her eyes on the road,
that twisted smile still on her
face.

RICK

I want you to-

RICK

(in unison)
tell me how you-

LUCIE

(in unison)
tell me how you-

RICK

(clears throat.
Uncomfortable.)

I want you to tell me how you-

RICK

(in unison)
-knew my full name.

LUCIE

(in unison)
-knew my full name.

NARRATOR

Jamie thought the darkness outside
of the car increased twofold.

JAMIE

Jesus...

LUCIE

(laughing, then sing-
song)

Not in this car, Jamison Billings
(regular voice)
You should really give your
parents a call.

JAMIE

What?

LUCIE

Don't you think Martin and Denise
should know what your brother did?

JAMIE

I-

RICK

(interrupting)
(to Jamie)

Shut up.

(to Lucie)

How do you know my name?

(CONTINUED)

LUCIE

I know everything there is to know about you, Rick. Have you ever wondered what happened to Katie?

RICK

Katie... you know who took her?

LUCIE

(laughing)
Yeah. I know.

RICK

Who was it?

LUCIE

I'll make a deal with you, okay?

RICK

Okay.

LUCIE

When the time comes, I'm going to ask you to do something. You're going to do that thing automatically and without question. Do you know what you get in exchange for all that?

(Silence)

(laughing)

Do you?

RICK

No, what?

LUCIE

(lower, more serious/threatening voice than heard yet)

I won't make you push the barrel of that gun against the back of your throat, pull the trigger, and watch the back of your skull paint the inside of this classic's back window.

RICK

Why would I put my own gun in my mou-

(choking/gagging on own gun)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (12)

NARRATOR

Jamie turned around to see a thin, pale man looking back at him with terrified eyes as he pressed a gun to the back of his throat.

LUCIE

Or maybe I will.
(laughing)
Only the devil knows...

RICK

(gagging stops.
Coughing and heavy
breathing as he
tries to catch his
breath.)

NARRATOR

Rick pulled the gun out of his mouth and tossed it down in the seat next to him, staring at it like it might come to life all on its own.

RICK

Who are you?

LUCIE

Bet you'll guess my name.

NARRATOR

No one attempted a guess as the car drove. After a few moments the back seat came alive with the sounds of frantic movement.

RICK

C'mon, c'mon.
(Efx: Rick
desperately trying
to get out of the
car. Trying to open
the door, nothing
happens. Kicking the
door, nothing
happens. Window,
nothing happens.
Grunting through all
of this. Mumbling
c'mon, c'mon, or
something similar.)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (13)

NARRATOR

As Jamie watched Rick throwing himself around the rear seat, kicking at the door and window, he had a thought.

JAMIE

(to Lucie)

You said the locks were busted.

LUCIE

Did I?

JAMIE

Yeah. So how did he get in?

RICK

(panting)

The door was unlocked.

She didn't even turn around when I slid in.

JAMIE

So the locks weren't busted.

(pause)

So you lied.

LUCIE

(laughing through nose then sarcastically)

Oh no. Not lying. That just won't do.

(serious)

Do you want to talk about some of the lies you've told yourself recently?

JAMIE

What?

LUCIE

Let me put it a different way.

Tell me some of the lies you've told in the past... oh, I don't know, 24 hours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (14)

NARRATOR

Jamie opened his mouth to tell Lucie that she couldn't make him do anything that he didn't want to, that she was crazy, that she should pull over so he could get out of the car.

Something very different spilled out though.

JAMIE

The guy on the corner doesn't need my money.

I hope you have a nice day.

Hey, sorry. I'm really busy right now so I can't come pick you up.

Yeah, work has me swamped. Can we catch up next week?

That's okay. I'll call you.

He'll sleep this off.

He'll be fine in the morning.

I hope he doesn't die.

NARRATOR

Tears came to Jamie's eyes as the last few lies spilled out. He'd said them all while talking on the phone to his brother. Right before his brother apparently overdosed.

LUCIE

I can see that you're real big on the truth. Rick? Do you want to go next?

RICK

No.

LUCIE

You'll go soon enough, but I suppose we can wait. So, boys, now both of you know that the locks on this car work just fine. Interesting, right?

(CONTINUED)

RICK

Not really.

LUCIE

Exactly. So what question should you both be asking?

NARRATOR

Rick and Jamie looked at each other. Neither one of them knew what she was talking about.

LUCIE

Hmmm.

Good point.

Let's get that adrenaline pumping first?

That should help you think better.

JAMIE

What are you-
(Efx: car being
floored)

NARRATOR

Ahead was an intersection where a cop car idled at a stop light and a woman in a stroller was walking across the crosswalk.

LUCIE

(calm)
You're gonna love this. Make your choice.

JAMIE

(stressed and
confused)
What?

LUCIE

Make your choice.

JAMIE

Between what?

LUCIE

The woman or the stroller.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (16)

JAMIE

I can't... I can't choose.

LUCIE

Sure you can. Which am I hitting?

JAMIE

I don't...

LUCIE

If you don't choose, I'll hit both.

RICK

Pick the woman.

JAMIE

I-

RICK

The woman. Hit the woman.

JAMIE

I can't-

RICK

Pick!

JAMIE

The woman. Hit the woman.
(Efx: car swerve)

NARRATOR

The woman noticed the car
barrelling towards her and froze,
letting go of the stroller. It
rolled forward across the
crosswalk. Lucie swerved toward
the woman and just clipped her.

(Efx: thump)

Jamie could hear a scream from the
other side of the glass as the
woman flew, cartwheeling through
the air like a girl at gymnastics
class. She landed on the pavement
in front of the cop car, and
didn't move.

JAMIE

What happened to the stroller?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (17)

NARRATOR

Rick was staring out the back window, watching as a semi plowed through the stroller.

(Efx: truck
destroying stroller)

RICK

(laughing)

Oh Jesus.

JAMIE

Are those...

RICK

Yeah, cans of beer. The stroller was filled with cans of beer.

NARRATOR

Jamie tore his eyes from the fizzing cans of beer in the street, looking into the side view mirror to see if the woman was alright.

She hadn't moved.

LUCIE

Great choice, Jamie. So is that two people in the last 24 hours?

JAMIE

Shut up.

LUCIE

Maybe we should get your count higher.

RICK

This is almost finished. Won't be long 'til the cops are on us.

LUCIE

No, he won't.

JAMIE

You just murdered a lady in front of him. Of course he will.

LUCIE

Correction, you murdered a lady in front of him.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (18)

LUCIE (CONT'D)

By the way, did you happen to sneak a glance at him as we rolled by?

JAMIE

No, but that doesn't matter. Even if he has to render aid, he'll have called it in.

RICK

I saw him.

LUCIE

And?

RICK

He looked like we startled him.

LUCIE

How do you mean?

RICK

He was clutching his chest.

LUCIE

(laughing)

That wasn't from surprise.

(fake seriousness)

Officer Strand is no longer one of our City's Finest.

NARRATOR

Jamie closed his eyes. He hadn't seen the officer, but he could tell that Lucie was telling the truth.

LUCIE

(snapping fingers)

Alright. Let's keep this thing moving, I've got other appointments to make. So, boys, what question should you both be asking?

JAMIE

(sighing)

I don't know. I just need to see my brother.

LUCIE

We can work with that. Rick?

(CONTINUED)

RICK

Huh?

LUCIE

Rick, pay attention. Jamie just said that he needs to get to the hospital to see his brother.

RICK

Oh. Sorry, Jamie.

LUCIE

That's a great start. Let's keep this going. Jamie?

JAMIE

What?

LUCIE

Tell Rick about your brother.

JAMIE

He overdosed last night.

NARRATOR

Rick grew very still.

RICK

What was he using?

LUCIE

Warm.

JAMIE

Heroin was always his favorite, but probably anything he could get his hands on.

RICK

Where's he stay at?

LUCIE

Warmer.

JAMIE

Up north, right off Plimpton.

RICK

Shit. What was his name?

LUCIE

Warmer.

(CONTINUED)

JAMIE

Nicolas.

RICK

You're Nicky's brother?

LUCIE

You're on fire.

JAMIE

Yeah. How do you know my brother?

RICK

(to Lucie)

Why did you put us in the same car? Did he hire you for this?

LUCIE

Answer his question, Rick.

(serious deep voice)

Tell the truth.

RICK

I sold him the shit that he OD'ed on.

JAMIE

Jesus...

NARRATOR

The car slowed to a stop at a red light.

LUCIE

Rick? You can go now.

NARRATOR

Rick attempted to unlock the door to the left and then the door to the right. Neither budged. When he looked up at Lucie, she just shrugged.

LUCIE

Use the door in the seat.

RICK

Door in the... oh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (21)

NARRATOR

Rick's eyes went blank as he reached out and picked up the gun from the seat, not hesitating for an instant as he jammed it into his mouth and pulled the trigger.

(Efx: cocking of gun,
gun shot, slumping
body.)

JAMIE

No... I...

LUCIE

Use your words, Jamie.

JAMIE

I...

LUCIE

Green light. There's the hospital.
(Efx: car moving
again.)

JAMIE

Why are you doing this?

LUCIE

We made a deal.

JAMIE

You and I never made a deal.

LUCIE

Nicky and I made a deal.

Last night when I was at the hospital.

(Efx: car speeding
up.)

JAMIE

What was the deal?

LUCIE

He gave me the thing I always ask for from you humans, and all I had to do was take care of the guy that sold him the bad drugs, take care of the woman that left him there when he started seizing, and deliver his brother to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (22)

JAMIE

We're coming up on the hospital
really fast.

LUCIE

Yeah. I've got a delivery to make,
Jamie.

JAMIE

Slow down.

LUCIE

Can't do that.
(Efx: car
accelerating)
(lower voice)
Unbuckle your seat belt.

NARRATOR

To Jamie's horror, his hands did
Lucie's bidding without
hesitation. The car barrelled
toward a low concrete wall that
was just shorter than the grill of
the Continental. Twenty feet
beyond that was the hospital.

LUCIE

You know what I love about these
old cars?
(pause)
No airbags.

JAMIE

Shit, shit, shit.

LUCIE

Time to fly, Jamie-boy.

Efx: massive car crash, Jamie screaming as he's ejected
through the front windshield and flies through the air,
sudden stop and thump as he hits the wall of the
hospital.

Efx: Far away voices

NURSE

We need doctors out here now.

Looks like the driver was ejected
from the car. He was the only one
inside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (23)

Efx: Screaming

Efx: Crying

Efx: Footsteps approach mic

MALE VOICE

Holy shit. What happened?

LUCIE

Looks like someone didn't buckle
their seat belt.

Or maybe they did and it snapped.

(laughing)

Only the devil knows...