

BROKER'S SPECIAL

2020s

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

CORNELIUS makes a trip home on a train that he normally does not take. Cornelius is a dapper man in business attire, about 35 years old. He sits in a seat alone with other passengers on board. The CONDUCTOR punches tickets on the other end of the car. Three BUSINESSMEN converse across the aisle from Cornelius as he looks out the window.

YOUNG BUSINESSMAN #1

In all your years as a trial lawyer! And you think cars are the best murder weapon?

YOUNG BUSINESSMAN #2

Yeah, how come a car isn't a weapon in Clue?

OLDER BUSINESSMAN

Guns? Knives? A lead pipe? You can throw all those out the window as far as I'm concerned. The perfect weapon is a car. Any car. Why? Because when a car is going fast enough... it will kill anyone it hits. And if the driver gets out and looks sorry? He'll be the one getting everyone's sympathy, not the corpse on the ground, who shouldn't have been in the way anyhow.

The other two men look at the older businessman as he rants to one of them.

OLDER BUSINESSMAN (CONT'D)

Think about it, man. To most people the car is some sort of God, and if He (the man points up) happens to strike you down... tough shit. Me? I say a little prayer when I cross the street.

CONDUCTOR

Ticket please!

The conductor interrupts Cornelius' eavesdropping as steps directly in front of him.

CORNELIUS
Oh yes sir, excuse me.

Cornelius hands over his ticket as the Conductor punches the hole.

CONDUCTOR
You're not a regular on this train,
are you?

CORNELIUS
No, not the early train. I usually
travel on the Broker's Special.

CONDUCTOR
Well I hope you found our service
just as good... and I will ask of
you what I ask of all the
passengers--

The conductor returns the punched ticket to Cornelius as he turns to leave...

CONDUCTOR (CONT'D)
Just make sure you have your ticket
ready.

CORNELIUS
Will do, thank you.

EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM

The passenger train pulls into the station, and a group of passengers exit the train platform.

EXT. PARK LOT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius heads from the train station towards the sea of commuter cars. He searches in his over-the-shoulder bag and pulls out his keys. Cornelius reaches his sedan and gets in the driver's seat.

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

Cornelius puts his phone in a holder on the dash, and there is a picture of a young woman with her arms in the air on the phone's wallpaper. He pauses to look at the woman on the screen. Cornelius turns on a podcast on the speakers as he prepares for the final part of his commute.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius' sedan heads out of the station.

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

Cornelius drives casually through the countryside, this is his commute home and the route is very familiar. He enjoys the trip as he listens to the show.

PODCASTER #1

As if I need to be dropped off and
picked up like a kid at school?

PODCASTER #2

I know. And they always both get
out and kiss each other goodbye
with some long ritual like mwah
mwah mwah! I know the type. Do that
shit at home.

PODCASTER #1

That's exactly what I was trying to
tell my girlfriend!

Cornelius chuckles to himself and nods in agreement at the conversation.

EXT. COUNTRY RAILROAD CROSSING - AFTERNOON

The sedan approaches a railroad crossing with loud bells and blinking lights. There is no gate at the crossing. A freight train approaches...

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

Cornelius stops at the crossing with both hands on the wheel.

CORNELIUS

I took the early train... what is
this?

BLAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAM!

The diesel horn wails as it approaches the crossing.

He restlessly taps his fingers on the steering wheel as a freight train passes through the crossing.

Cornelius taps his phone screen, and it displays the time 2:30 along with the wallpaper again.

MOMENTS LATER

Cornelius taps the screen again, the time is 2:36 as the final freight car passes in front of him. Cornelius looks down to put the car in gear, looks up-- his face completely in shock.

EXT. COUNTRY RAILROAD CROSSING - AFTERNOON

An SUV approaches fast and roars by him through the crossing. The driver is a large BLOND MAN with a YOUNG WOMAN leans against him, a joyful expression on each of them.

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

Cornelius is shakes his head in disbelief, as if what he saw was unbelievable. He grabs the steering wheel again and visibly shakes. Cornelius looks straight ahead as he continues to drive. The podcast is still on but is muffled and not discernable.

EXT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

The sedan slowly drives up the large house and pulls in to the driveway.

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

Cornelius shuts off the engine and taps his phone screen. He turns off the podcast to exit the car but stops stares at the wallpaper. It is clear that it is the same woman as the one at the crossing, and in the photo, she is in front of the same SUV with the "FOR SALE" tag still on it.

FLASHBACK MONTAGE

INT. CORNELIUS' OFFICE

The young woman, dressed modestly, sits in a chair across Cornelius as they share a conversation across the desk. The pair joyfully converse for a few moments. Finally, they both stand up, smile, and shake hands in pleasant agreement.

INT. STOCK BROKER'S OFFICE

The woman sits at a small desk outside of Cornelius office, he is at his desk. Cornelius calls out, and the woman eagerly gets up to assist him in the office.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Many men in suits sit around the table for a meeting. Cornelius sits at the head with the woman just behind him. She diligently writes notes. Cornelius waves his hands and commands the meeting. The men laugh after Cornelius speaks, and he looks behind him to see the woman smile.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - EVENING

Cornelius and the woman sit across from each other with wine and food on the table. The woman wears similar modest clothes. They smile and converse through the course of a meal.

INT. CORNELIUS' HOUSE - EVENING

The pair enter the front door with the same clothes from the restaurant. They laugh and kiss passionately. The woman turns on an inaudible sound system and coerces Cornelius to dance with her. Just as he does a few dance moves, the woman laughs and runs to the bedroom. She is followed by Cornelius as he shuts the door.

EXT. PIER - EVEN

The couple walk down a pier dressed black tie formal wear. Cornelius gets down on one knee to propose to the woman. She cheerfully accepts, and they embrace.

EXT. CAR DEALERSHIP PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius walks up to the woman and hands her car keys as they kiss. Cornelius directs her to stand in front of the SUV. The woman throws her arms in the air and poses as Cornelius takes the picture.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

The wallpaper on Cornelius' phone as he stares at the screen.

Cornelius shuts off the screen and exits the car.

INT. LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Cornelius walks into the library and sits down at the desk and pulls a key from his pocket. He unlocks the top drawer and opens it. Slowly, he pulls a short barreled .38 from the drawer and looks at it. He slowly bounces the gun once or twice, he feels the weight of it in his hand. Cornelius looks up for a moment...

OLDER BUSINESSMAN V.O.
Guns? Knives? A lead pipe? You can
throw all those out the window as
far as I'm concerned.

Cornelius carefully places the gun back in the top drawer, closes it, and locks it shut. Cornelius sits at his desk as he stares forward for a few moments.

The young woman from the car enters the library with a large bag of groceries. She is almost out of breath...

WOMAN
I saw your car in the garage. I was
afraid something was wrong--

CORNELIUS CLAIRE
Hello Claire. --that you weren't feeling well.

Cornelius pauses and stares at her.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
I feel fine.

CLAIRE
But you're home so early, when have
you ever been home at this time?

CORNELIUS
I've managed to refuse the invite
to weekday dinners up until this.

CLAIRE
Oh my god! The party! I completely forgot. I was so busy all day.

CORNELIUS
With what?

CLAIRE

Well, the entire staff is off today
so I cleaned the entire house, and
then saw we needed a few things in
the pantry, so I went into town.

Cornelius stares at his wife at his wife in the doorway. She
awaits a response but Cornelius says nothing. Claire adjusts
the grocery bag in her arms...

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

As soon as I put this stuff away I
will get your suit out. It was
picked up yesterday from the
cleaners.

Cornelius watches as Claire exits the library.

INT. TRAIN CAR - AFTERNOON

Cornelius commutes home on the early train hidden behind a
newspaper, feature: the date July 10, 2025. The conductor
takes Cornelius' ticket from the holder on the seat and
punches it. Cornelius does not look up from behind the
newspaper.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius drives his car out of the train station parking
lot. He parks behind the corner of a nearby building and
scans the area. The area is empty and no other cars can be
seen. Claire and the blond man drive the SUV into the
deserted side street just beyond the train station and park.
The pair kiss intensely.

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

Cornelius is in visible discomfort at his wife's affair. He
looks away and cringes in disgust.

INT. TRAIN CAR - AFTERNOON

Cornelius again commutes home behind a newspaper feature: the
date July 17, 2025. The conductor takes and punches the
ticket from the holder, again Cornelius does not look up from
the paper.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius sits in his parked car, he pulls out a sandwich from his bag. Claire drives the SUV into the train station parking lot, the blond man exits after Claire kisses him goodbye. The blond man strides happily through the parked cars to the train.

INT. SEDAN - AFTERNOON

Cornelius watches the blond man intently from the opposite side of the parking lot while he eats the sandwich.

INT. LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Cornelius works behind his desk and Claire enters the room...

CLAIRE

I have some shopping to do in the city tomorrow-- you wouldn't want to have lunch together right?

Cornelius does not look up and continues to read the papers in front of him.

CORNELIUS

Can't. Too many meetings.

Claire exits the room without a response and Cornelius finally looks up to watch her exit.

EXT. CITY TRAIN STATION - DAY

Claire walks up from the train platform to the street and attempts to signal a cab. Cornelius emerges from the shadows near the waiting area as Claire reaches the street. Claire gets in cab, and Cornelius gets in a different cab immediately after.

I/E. CAB / CITY STREET - DAY

Cornelius watches the cab a few cars in front of him that carries Claire. Claire's cab reaches a rundown apartment complex, and the blond man is waiting on the steps. Cornelius signals the cab driver to let him out a few blocks away from the apartment.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Claire and the blond man embrace and kiss passionately, he leads her into the building. Cornelius watches down the block. A stern, angered look on his face.

Cornelius turns around and walks back towards the train station.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Cornelius walks the same path as the blond man when Claire drops him off. From the parking lot to the platform, he counts the number of steps as he walks.

EXT. DESERTED ROAD - MORNING

Cornelius again counts steps from his car to a tree. He gets into the car and adjusts the position.

I/E. SEDAN / DESERTED ROAD - MORNING

About 30 yards from the tree, Cornelius grips the wheel tightly, as he prepares his simulation. Suddenly Cornelius accelerates the car. The car snarls as it comes up to speed and as it passes the tree... SCREEEECH! The car brakes to a halt.

INT. CORNELIUS' OFFICE - DAY

Cornelius packs up his briefcase and a secretary enters his office with a coat.

SECRETARY

I'll make sure to clear your
schedule the rest of the day.

CORNELIUS

Thank you Miss Wynant. Don't know
what's wrong, just not feeling
right.

MISS WYNANT

If only you didn't work so hard,
Mr. Bolinger.

CORNELIUS

Nothing that an early day won't
cure, I'm fine. Oh--

Cornelius slaps the pockets of his coat.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
My pills, Miss Wynant. They're over
there in the top drawer.

Miss Wynant hands the envelope to Cornelius and he heads for the exit.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
Thank you Miss Wynant!

Cornelius says over his shoulder.

INT. TRAIN CAR - AFTERNOON

Cornelius again commutes home while he reads a newspaper, feature: the date July 31, 2025. Cornelius folds the newspaper and places it next to him in the empty seat. Cornelius looks unwell as he raises his head back and closes his eyes. Cornelius opens his eyes and turns his view to the landscape as it passes by. The train Conductor approaches from the seat behind Cornelius...

CONDUCTOR
Ticket please!

Cornelius retrieves the ticket from his coat and hands it over.

CORNELIUS
Apologies.

As the conductor punches the ticket...

CONDUCTOR
Well hello sir. Now I know you
aren't a regular but I thought I
told you a while back to please
have your ticket ready!

CORNELIUS
Just left it in my coat. Not
feeling well is all.

CONDUCTOR
Oh don't worry about it then! Do
you have a cold?

The conductor rears back as if disgusted by the hypothetical germs.

CORNELIUS
No I don't think so. Just a bad
headache feels like. I do have some
aspirin. Could you--

CONDUCTOR
I'll be right back.

The conductor hastily returns with a cup of water. Cornelius
downs the aspirin and follows with a drink of water.

CORNELIUS
Thank you.

Cornelius slinks back into his seat.

CONDUCTOR
You're welcome. Would they fetch
you water on the Special? (laughs)
I don't think so. Let me know if
you need anything else.

The conductor retreats to another car. Cornelius looks out
the window as the train passes on and on...

EXT. TRAIN STATION PLATFORM

The train pulls into the station and the conductor guides the
passengers to the platform. As Cornelius steps off...

CONDUCTOR
Hope you feel better sir!

CORNELIUS
Thanks again. See you next time.

Cornelius walks from the platform and enters the train
station building.

INT. TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

Cornelius sits on a bench across from the ticket window, his
head rests on the wall behind him. He has sweat on his face
and appears to be nauseous. The ticket agent looks at him in
between her duties.

When the clock changes to 2:50, he stands slowly and
cautiously walks out of the station to the parking lot exit.
The agent watches him exit.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius walks to his sedan, opens the door, and climbs into the driver's seat. He shuts the door and switches on the engine. Cornelius sits up straight with his hands on the wheel, a new energetic look on his face.

INT. SEDAN BACK SEAT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius is looks out at the parking lot. The engine of Cornelius' sedan rumbles. The tall blond man, his wife's lover, appears from the right of Cornelius and he rapidly walks through the lot in front of the sedan. The exact area Cornelius planned for...

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

The blond man walks through the cars with a smile on his face. The man sings loudly as he makes his way in the direction of the station. He moves with carelessness and does not look for traffic as he moves through the aisles.

INT. SEDAN DASHBOARD - AFTERNOON

Cornelius intently watches the blond man in the parking lot.

The blond man's song can now be heard. Cornelius puts the car into the drive and it surges out of the spot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

The blond man steps out from between the cars into the lane where Cornelius is. His song still can be heard.

INT. SEDAN DASHBOARD - AFTERNOON

Cornelius presses on the horn but continues to accelerate the sedan.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

The blond man's song stops, and his head swings towards the sound of the horn. A look of terror is on his face and he reaches his arms out to defend himself. He screams when the sedan is a couple of feet away.

INT. SEDAN BACK SEAT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius can see the blond man as he screams in horror in front of his car. Cornelius braces himself on the door with his left arm and slams on the brakes.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

BAM...SCREEEECH! The scream is cut off as the sedan crashes into the blond man and brakes sharply to a stop. The blond man is thrown into a crumpled pile of human in front of the sedan.

The seemingly empty parking lot springs to life as ten people run towards the scene from all directions.

INT. SEDAN DASHBOARD - AFTERNOON

Cornelius sighs, unbuckles his seat belt and steps hastily out of the car.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Cornelius wades into the small crowd that has formed to look at the body.

BYSTANDER #1
Better not look.

Cornelius continues to push through and stops when he sees the blond man. His body twisted and limbs crossed over each other, completely lifeless and gray.

Cornelius stands over the body with a blank expression on his face. Several members of the crowd reach out to console him.

BYSTANDER #2
Walked right into it... I saw it.

BYSTANDER #1
I could hear the horn a block away.

BYSTANDER #3
Drunk maybe-- looked like a deer
int the headlights.

EXT. PARKING LOT REAR OF SEDAN

Cornelius sits in his car at the sight of the crash. A policeman questions him through the driver's window. The crowd is still gathered.

INT. SEDAN DASHBOARD - AFTERNOON

CORNELIUS

And like I said before. I slammed
on the brakes but he didn't move. I
don't know what would make him step
out without looking...

Cornelius shakes his head and the policeman nods at the same tempo.

POLICEMAN

I understand-- Well I think we have
everything.

CORNELIUS

Do you need me to come down to the
station, Officer?

POLICEMAN

No sir. We will call you if we need
anything else Mr. Bolinger. You are
free to go home. Do you need a
ride?

CORNELIUS

Would I be able to call my wife? My
phone is dead.

POLICEMAN

Of course.

The policeman hands his cell phone to Cornelius.

EXT. PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

After the crash, Cornelius waits in his car for Claire to pick him up. The crowd looks at him through the window, as they sympathetically discuss the incident and inform newcomers to the crowd.

Claire's SUV drives into the parking lot and a path is created for her vehicle. Claire exits her car and helps Cornelius into the passenger seat, the appearance of a devoted wife.

CLAIRE
What about your car?

CORNELIUS
They're gonna tow--

POLICEMAN
It shouldn't be too much longer,
you don't have to wait. We'll make
sure it's towed.

INT. SUV DASHBOARD - AFTERNOON

Claire is in the driver's seat and Cornelius is settles in next to her. As Cornelius puts his arm through Claire's and grabs her hand, he signals to the policeman.

CORNELIUS
Thank you officer.
Oh by the way... do you know who
the man was? Did he have a license
on him?

The policeman nods.

POLICEMAN
Young guy from the city. We'll have
to check for his details and family
down there. Name is Robert Lungren
from the I.D.

Claire visibly tenses up and Cornelius notices. He looks at her face and she shivers with her face straight ahead.

CORNELIUS
All right, Claire... let's go home.

EXT. BACK ROAD - AFTERNOON

Claire drives the couple home in the SUV, the same route Cornelius uses to commute to the train station.

INT. SUV - AFTERNOON

Claire stares straight ahead with both hand on the wheel, lifeless expression on her face. Cornelius sits comfortably in the passenger seat. Claire breaks the silence...

CLAIRE
You knew... you knew about us and
you killed him for it.

CORNELIUS
Yes-- I knew about it.

CLAIRE
The you're crazy.

She pauses, eyes still dead ahead.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
You must be crazy to kill someone
like that.

CORNELIUS
It was justice. He had it coming.

CLAIRE
You don't understand.

Still with her eyes on the road, Cornelius cannot see her face.

CORNELIUS
Understand what?

Claire turns towards him, eyes full of tears...

CLAIRE
I knew him since we were kids!
Before I ever knew you-- before I
ever started working in your
office.

She stops to wipe away tears from her face.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
We always were together, to us...
there is no point of living if we
can't be together...

Neither of them speak for a moment. Cornelius face turns red...

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Things didn't work out, he had big
ideas that never amounted to
anything. We were both born poor
and I couldn't stand the thought of
dying poor-- that's why I married
you. I tried to be a good wife to
you... but you didn't want a wife.
You want something to parade in
front of everyone so they can
applaud you for owning it--

CORNELIUS
You sound like an idiot.

He cuts her off and attempts to change her attention.

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
And watch the road, this is our
turn.

CLAIRE
Listen to me! I was going to tell
you!

CORNELIUS
I don't care honestly.

CLAIRE
I was going to ask you for a
divorce. No money or anything, just
the divorce so we could make up
missed time and get on with our
lives. If you had only asked me--

CORNELIUS
You'll get over it.

Claire redirects her attention to the road and Cornelius
relaxes into his seat, he looks out the passenger window.

Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong! Ding! Dong!

Cornelius snaps up to look where they are and investigate the
bells.

I/E. SUV / COUNTRY RAILROAD CROSSING - AFTERNOON

A train barrels down the tracks not far from the crossing.

BLAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAM!

The diesel horn wails as it approaches the crossing.

Claire's SUV does not slow down as it reaches the tracks.

The train is just before the crossing, feature: painted on
the side of a train car "THE BROKER'S SPECIAL."

CORNELIUS
Watch out!

Cornelius cries out to Claire. Claire stares ahead and her
foot slams on the gas pedal.

Cornelius looks to his right to see the giant train as it is about to collide with the SUV. Cornelius cries again...

CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ what are you doing?!

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END