

SEATTLE RIPPER

Written by

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EXT. LAKE STEVENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM - EARLY MORNING

SEATTLE RIPPER, in baggy black clothes and wearing a mask, DRAGS two large sea bags that are clipped together at the opening to the front door.

They undo the clips, dump the contents, and walk away.

There is the body of a dead woman in the doorway.

EXT. GAS STATION - PAYPHONE - MOMENTS LATER

A gloved hand picks up the receiver. A second gloved hand holds a BUSINESS CARD and dials.

BUSINESS CARD  
Detective Astoria Stormfeather.  
Lake Stevens Police Department  
(425) 752...

Seattle Ripper, still in the mask, puts the receiver to their ear.

INT. LAKE STEVENS POLICE DEPARTMENT - SAME

DETECTIVE ASTORIA STORMFEATHER, 35, tall and in plain clothes, flips through three case files on her cluttered desk. Her desk phone rings.

ASTORIA  
You've reached Detective  
Stormfeather, how can I help you?

CALLER (V.O.)  
(distorted voice)  
There's another body to find.

ASTORIA  
Who is this?

CALLER (V.O.)  
(distorted voice)  
It will be found soon.

The phone CLICKS and a DIAL TONE sounds.

She hangs up and shakes her head.

ASTORIA  
(mutters)  
I hate prank calls.  
(MORE)

ASTORIA (CONT'D)  
Sick fuckers jacking off on recent  
crimes and wasting my time.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT, 50 portly and dressed in plain clothes, stops  
at her desk.

He hands her a new case file.

Astoria opens it. It is empty. She looks at Elliot.

ELLIOT  
Go to the museum.

ASTORIA  
Yes, Captain.

ELLIOT  
The responding officers are still  
clearing the scene. Looks like a  
dump site.

Astoria closes the open case files and drops them in a  
drawer. She puts the empty file it on top.

She walks out of the station as a UNIFORMED OFFICER puts an  
envelope on her desk.

EXT. LAKE STEVENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM - MORNING

Astoria arrives at the museum just as OFFICER JARED REN, 21  
and lean, kneels on the shore and vomits into the lake.

ASTORIA  
You alright there, Ren?

JARED  
Yeah.

ASTORIA  
First dead body?

JARED  
Yeah.

ASTORIA  
It never gets better, but  
eventually you will stop puking.  
Now back to work.

Jared stands. There is mud on his uniform.

JARED

We were dispatched about 20 minutes ago. Someone had reported suspicious activity in front of the museum. When we got here, there was no one around. Just the victim. We called for the county coroner and taped off the scene.

Astoria walks over to the body. She crouches next to the body. There is a colorful card on the victim's face.

JARED (CONT'D)

That's a student ID card for Lake Stevens High school. I had one just like it, 4 years ago. They change yearly. I am not sure if it's her or if it's something else.

ASTORIA

This one is for 12th grade. Did you know her, Jared?

Jared shakes his head.

JARED

I don't recognize her at all. I can bring you my year book for that year.

EXT. LAKE STEVENS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM - DAY

POLICE TAPE secures the scene. Astoria and Jared stand next to the body. The COUNTY CORONER, 45 balding and thin, puts his equipment away as he kneels next to the body.

A news van is haphazardly parked and TRACY VEDDER, 40 and in a business suit, stands in front of the scene. She is holding a microphone.

TRACY

There has been a fourth murder in the small town of Lake Stevens. I'm Tracy Vedder, and I will be bringing you this story tonight at six on KOMO 4 news.

INT. LAKE STEVENS POLICE DEPARTMENT - NOON

Astoria is sitting at her desk. A roughly opened envelope is on the desk's edge in an evidence bag. She holds a letter in another bag.

## THE LETTER

You are a rather poor detective,  
aren't you, Stormfeather. You won't  
catch me. You can't even put  
together the proper puzzle pieces  
you have. Perhaps you should just  
give up. S.R.

## ASTORIA

A Puzzle?

Astoria takes the case files out of her drawer. She adds her notes from the most recent murder to the empty file. Taking the evidence bags and case files with her, Astoria briskly walks out of the station.

## INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

Hip Hop music plays softly from a radio on the counter. The Case files are spread across the surface of Astoria's kitchen table. She sits at the head of the table and compares four photographs. She writes notes on a pad. She absently nods her head in time with the music.

A timer DINGS and Astoria jumps. She puts on an oven mitt and pulls a pan of lasagna out of the oven. She replaces the lasagna with garlic bread and resets the timer.

Her cell phone RINGS shrilly from her pocket. Astoria fishes it out and answers.

## ASTORIA

Hello?

CLICK.

She stares at the phone and drops it onto the counter. She looks at the clock and clears the table.

She stashes the case files in her briefcase and sets the table for two.

She looks at the clock again as the timer DINGS.

## INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - LATER

The table is set for two. There are candles and flowers in the center. The lasagna and bread are on the plates. Astoria sits at the head of the table. She visibly vibrates as the kitchen door opens.

ASTORIA

Hey, Baby! How was your day?

CHEPI JONES, 35, short, thin and in a business pants suit WHISTLES. She drops her briefcase next to Astoria's by the door. She closes the door and kisses Astoria.

CHEPI

Hey. My day was busy. You had time to make dinner?

ASTORIA

I did. I decided to take the afternoon off.

EXT. LAKE STEVENS - NIGHT

Astoria and Chepi get out of their car. They are dressed in sweats. They jog along the shore of the lake. Seattle Ripper, in all black and mask, watches them run from one of the fishing docks.

SEATTLE RIPPER.

Why aren't you trying to catch me?  
It's time to play, Detective.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD- NIGHT

Seattle Ripper watches a house. Astoria's car is in the driveway. They cross the street and hit the trunk with their fist. The alarm BLARES and lights come on across the neighborhood. Seattle Ripper runs away.

CHEPI (O.S.)

Baby, your car is shouting again.

The front door opens and the car BEEPS twice and quiets.

ASTORIA (O.S.)

Fifth time this week. Remind me to have it looked at.

CHEPI (O.S.)

Remind me to remind you. Are you gonna stay at the door all night, or are you coming to bed?

The door closes.

INT. LAKE STEVENS POLICE DEPARTMENT - ASTORIA'S DESK -  
MORNING

Astoria sits at her desk. She hangs her head as she reads a report. Captain Elliot stands over her.

ASTORIA  
There is nothing on the letter.

ELLIOT  
And the envelope?

ASTORIA  
The envelope hasn't been processed yet. It will be sometime this afternoon.

She puts the letter in the case file.

INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Astoria rubs her eyes as she compares her fourth case files to each other. An OFFICER, 50 and in uniform, taps on her shoulder.

OFFICER  
I'm not a mailman, Stormfeather.  
Pass that on to your buddies!

He shoves an envelope in her face and leaves. Captain Elliot stops him and pulls him into his office.

INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Elliot paces in front of the officer. The officer stands with his hands in his uniform pockets.

ELLIOT  
What was that about?

OFFICER  
(defiantly)  
Some woman gave me a note for her.  
I don't appreciate it.

Elliot rushes out of the office.

INT. LAKE STEVENS POLICE DEPARTMENT - ASTORIA'S DESK -  
CONTINUOUS

Astoria carefully opens the new letter. Elliot stands beside her.

LETTER SEATTLE RIPPER (V.O.)  
Tick Tock, Detective. I am giving  
you a timeline. You wanted to wife  
up and now she dies. You have until  
sunset to find her. And me. S.R.

Astoria picks up her cell phone and dials. It RINGS several times.

CHEPI (V.O.)  
You've reached me. Leave a message!

ASTORIA  
Hey. It's me. Call me back.

She turns off the phone and turns to Elliot.

ASTORIA (CONT'D)  
Captain, I think we have a serial  
killer.

ELLIOT  
You have evidence of that??

ASTORIA  
My four open cases. They are  
similar and the letters. He has a  
new one!

ELLIOT  
I need her information, Astoria.

Astoria writes on a note pad.

ASTORIA  
Chepi Jones. She is 35. Unlike the  
other victims, she is not  
"invisible". She works for the  
school district. In an elected  
position. She's not answering her  
phone.

ELLIOT  
You're too close to this one. And  
we need help. Let me call in a  
favor, and I will take over the  
case. Bring everything you have  
into my office.



Elliot walks away. Astoria gathers all of her files and notes.

INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - LATER

Astoria drops her files onto Elliot's desk. She waits for him to hang up the phone.

ELLIOT

Thanks Dave ... We have a time  
limit ... Alright.

He hangs up his phone and motions for Astoria to sit. She pulls the visitors chair to the desk and sits.

ASTORIA

Victim one was Candace Quinn.  
Thirty years-old and a transplant  
from New Jersey. She worked at  
Target, was a loner and no one  
noticed her, or that she was  
missing until I started asking  
questions. She was a Jane Doe for 2  
days and died within twelve hours  
of her last meal. Her mother became  
concerned when she missed a weekly  
phone call and called us.  
Apparently Candace had no friends  
out here. No criminal record

Elliot shakes his head.

ELLIOT

And the others?

ASTORIA

Pretty much the same. Amy Smith was  
20. She was born here and a student  
at UW. No friends, no family. ID  
made by her student ID card. Rachel  
Porter was 35 and she did not work.  
She had an ID card too. No friends,  
an ex-husband who has an alibi and  
was not worried about her. He paid  
alimony but wasn't bitter about it.  
It was just enough for her to live  
on. Neither had criminal records.  
These three died within three weeks  
of each other.

ELLIOT

How does the kid from the lake fit in?

Astoria fidgets in her chair. She leans towards the desk and flicks the appropriate file. Elliot picks it up.

ASTORIA

April MacKenzie. 22. She attended Everett Community College. According to the prelim reports, She had just had breakfast. Her mother says she had no friends and no enemies. She was a quiet girl who did not make waves. She has similar injuries to the other three. My concern is that the last victim was killed only three days ago. Not two weeks like the others. And then there is the taunt. I haven't gotten one before this. Now I have two. Another escalation is Chepi. April was killed yesterday, and he has already taken a new victim.

ELLIOT

So they are all "invisible" people. Except Chepi.

ASTORIA

Yes, Sir.

ELLIOT

Why? Why did he break pattern for her?

ASTORIA

I think he's been stalking me.

She holds up her phone as Elliot's desk phone RINGS.

ELLIOT

Elliot .... Yes .... OK... Thanks, Dave.... Yeah, We're even.

He hangs up the phone.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)

They are at the Ice Caves. That's all Dave could get without opening an FBI case. Do you want to pull that string?

ASTORIA

No. We can handle this. Sunset is at 5 p.m. Today. That's in seven hours. He has time to do a lot of damage. So we need to get moving.

ELLIOT

I am officially taking over. You can help, but you don't get to arrest or shoot this guy.

ASTORIA

I don't care who gets the credit.

INT. ICE CAVERN 4 - AFTERNOON

A cell phone lies on the ground. Its display screen is lit.

DISPLAY

4 Missed calls

INT. CAR/DRIVING - AFTERNOON

Elliot looks over at Astoria as he turns his phone off. Her hand flexes and releases as she closes her phone.

ELLIOT

We are almost there.

ASTORIA

I know.

ELLIOT

Dave said her phone is stationary.

Astoria sees heavy traffic. There is an unusual amount for Highway 9.

ASTORIA

Is there something going on today? Because we are not moving. We have been sitting 3 lights away from the turn for an hour. Maybe we should use the lights and sirens now.

ELLIOT

I thought we wanted surprise.

ASTORIA

How much surprise can there be when he already knows I am coming?

ELLIOT  
Good point.

He turns the lights on and Astoria activates the SIREN.

The cars in front of them inch forward, turn signals blinking to move onto the shoulder.

ELLIOT (CONT'D)  
There see. We are closer now.

Astoria sighs.

INT. ICE CAVERN 4 - LATE AFTERNOON

Chepi is tied to a folding chair in the center of the cave. Blood flows from deep wounds on her arms and legs. She is gagged and SEATTLE RIPPER, 35, female in baggy black clothes, paces in front of her. A mask lies face down in the snow.

SEATTLE RIPPER  
I wonder if your detective is smart enough to consider this old cave. I don't normally torture my kills. It is distasteful. But you are fun, dear Chepi.

Seattle Ripper cuts a line on Chepi's cheek with a KABAR.

SEATTLE RIPPER (CONT'D)  
I also usually leave the face alone. But I don't want anybody to remember you as pretty. My other kills were like me. Invisible. You walked passed me five times this week. Three times with the good detective.

Seattle Ripper makes a matching cut on the other side.

SEATTLE RIPPER (CONT'D)  
She should have seen me! We only grew up together! Went to boot camp together! Then to war together!

CHEPI  
You aren't worth remembering. But she does remember you. She tells me all the stories.

Seattle Ripper laughs manically.

SEATTLE RIPPER

This is how you beg to live? Tell me, Chepi, how does the little Indian remember me?

CHEPI

As a bitch.

Seattle Ripper backhands her. Blood flies from Chepi's mouth and stains the snow.

Chepi raises her head

CHEPI (CONT'D)

She said that you killed someone who was unarmed. Then you tried to get her to lie for you. Dishonorable discharge was too good for you.

SEATTLE RIPPER

She always was the golden girl. As an MP it was her job to arrest me, sure. But the Marines understand friendship and family! She SHOULD have given me a lesser charge. Murder? For an enemy? She made ME. Well her and the pretty JAG I fucked into a manslaughter plea.

Chepi flinches as Seattle Ripper slashes at her chest with the knife.

SEATTLE RIPPER (CONT'D)

I wanna play with Stormfeather's little whore...

EXT. ICE CAVERN 4 ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Elliot shoves Astoria behind him. They quietly navigate the ice and snow. Astoria pushes passed him and presses against the cave wall. A watch beeps. The sound and a voice echo around the cave

SEATTLE RIPPER (O.S.)

Time's up. Too bad for you, I get to party in your blood. I wonder how long it will take you to die?

The pair rushes into the cavern. Elliot positions himself between Astoria and the woman holding Chepi hostage and takes the only open shot.

Seattle Ripper jerks around and lands in a heap on the ice.  
Elliot kicks her knife away and handcuffs her.

Astoria runs over to Chepi and unties her. She wraps her coat  
around Chepi and guides her out of the cavern.

ELLIOT  
You have the right to remain  
silent...

EXT. ICE CAVES PARKING LOT - DUSK

Astoria kisses Chepi as an ambulance pulls up. She helps  
Chepi into the back of the vehicle as the PARAMEDICS, 25 in  
dark blue, prepare to treat her wounds.