

Concealed
by
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Based on the Sean Nelson article:

"I Had Never Touched a Gun Before the Las Vegas
Massacre. Then I Bought One."

FADE IN

We see a gun sitting on a kitchen table, atop a red towel bathed in glowing light.

EPHRAIM (V.O.)

1 I've never held a gun before, much 1
less shot one. The only one I've seen
up close was my father's Walter PPK.

The CAMERA PUSHES IN towards a pair of strong hands cradling a gun. The hands offer it to us. The CAMERA SLOWLY PULLS BACK.

EPHRAIM (V.O.)

2 I was too afraid to touch it -- for 2
fear of it going off.

1 INT. TAXI CAB - MORNING 1

Sunlight pierces the tint of the ride-share's windows. The middle-aged foreign looking driver twirls a toothpick as the radio rambles in the background. A name-tag attached to the dash reads "Yuri Kovalik".

RADIO HOST

3 ...this news comes as the latest wave 3
of opinions circulates through
political circles on how to regulate
gun ownership. Officials are still
investigating the identity of the
shooter. So far not much is known
about sixty seven year old Stephen
Paddock of Las Vegas, or his motives
for a shooting spree that took the
lives of over 60 people.

Yuri quiets the radio as his fare walks up.
In enters EPHRAIM FOSTER (20), handsome and dressed professionally, but not quite filling the clothes with his thin frame. He looks thoughtful and intelligent but always a little out of place.

Yuri studies Ephraim in the mirror for a moment then starts the trip.

YURI

4 This is the newspaper? (the address) 4

5 EPHRAIM 5
Ya, Seattle Tribunal.

6 YURI 6
You work there?

7 EPHRAIM 7
Yes -almost. I'm an intern.

8 YURI 8
You are a journalist?

9 EPHRAIM 9
Not yet.

10 YURI 10
You write stories?

11 EPHRAIM 11
Sometimes.

12 YURI 12
Do you investigate things?

13 EPHRAIM 13
Ya.

Yuri catches Ephraim in the mirror.

14 YURI 14
Then you are a journalist. What's with
you Americans and your guns?

15 EPHRAIM 15
Don't ask me.

16 YURI 16
Why not ask you?

17 EPHRAIM 17
I know nothing about guns. Never even
held one.

18 YURI 18
I thought all Americans have guns?

Ephraim snorts.

19 EPHRAIM 19
My dad has a bunch of guns.

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| | YURI | |
| 20 | Ah see! In America, always someone you know has a gun. You should write about this. | 20 |

EPHRAIM

21 I am the last person that should write about guns. I haven't written anything good in a while anyway. I don't think the Tribunal is going to hire me if I don't come up with something new soon. 21

| | | |
|----|------------------|----|
| | YURI | |
| 22 | How old are you? | 22 |

EPHRAIM

23 Twenty. 23

YURI

24 You have time. 24

EPHRAIM
25 Tell my boss that. (under breath) 25

Yuri seems satisfied he has completed his passenger's taxi cab therapy session and turns the volume back up on the radio.

EPHRAIM (V.O.)

26 The last article I wrote was about how
Seattle's most beloved video store,
Scarecrow video, is keeping the video
rental experience alive. It was
popular. In the age of streaming
people loved to be reminded that a
physical place still existed where you
could go and rub elbows with other
movie lovers, and do some "reel" talk.
It's been a month since I wrote that.
It seems the ink well has since run
dry.

26

2 INT. SEATTLE TRIBUNAL - DAY 2

The newsroom hums with hushed conversation and the tapping of keys. Reporters are at their desks in the bullpen doing reporterly things. Making calls, online research, spinning pens on their fingers. At the smallest desk sits Ephraim doing none of the above. Instead he is staring at a mostly blank page on his computer screen titled "Ideas".

27 EPHRAIM (V.O.) 27
At some point the ideas stopped
coming. It could have been after I
stopped taking my medication -brain
fog set in. Yuri says I have time.

Ephraim shakes his head wearing a malaise stare.

28 EPHRAIM (V.O.) 28
Time is worthless without an idea.
They want a feature by next Friday and
I've got nothing.

A voice brings Ephraim back to reality.

29 KEVIN 29
Whatchoo workin on there golden boy?

A preppy looking KEVIN REED leans in to EPHRAIM's cubicle.
He's 5-10 years older and confident to a fault.

30 EPHRAIM (V.O.) 30
Meet Kevin Reed. The resident asshole.
He writes for the biz and tech columns
where creativity is an afterthought.

31 KEVIN 31
Another article about VHS tapes?
Fascinating. And guns? What do you
know about guns?

Before Ephraim can answer Kevin notices something out of the
corner of his eye and straightens up.

32 KEVIN 32
Here comes the boss.
Bootlicker. (hushed)

They both watch as the well dressed Arthur Roland editor-in-
chief and newsroom manager approaches. Little bits of grey
shine through his hair and beard surrounding a kind but
weathered face. Arthur notices Ephraim's wincing expression.

33 ARTHUR 33
What's going on here? Everything
alright? (to Ephraim)

Ephraim starts to answer but is cut off.

34 EPHRAIM 34
We were just-

35 KEVIN 35
Going over Ephraim's ideas? Or lack
thereof.

36 ARTHUR 36
That's enough Reed. Don't you have
some specs to finish? Instead of
harassing the interns.

Kevin give a flippant nod.

37 KEVIN 37
Later golden boy.

Trods off.

38 ARTHUR 38
I swear if he wasn't a useful business
and tech writer...

39 EPHRAIM 39
He'd just talk his way into some other
job where he would walk all over
everyone.

Arthur's casual expression tightens.

40 ARTHUR 40
So you have set of ideas here?

He looks to see a short list of: the best song of the year,
guns(?).

41 ARTHUR 41
Guns? What aspects are you focusing
on? Quite appropriate given the
climate.

42 EPHRAIM 42
I wasn't serious about that. Just
something someone suggested. That
would be like me writing about AI.
Zero knowledge.

43 ARTHUR 43
Well you can't write about music
again. And that's what journalists do.
They find a subject relevant to the