

London Time

Ironside meets Lethal Weapon meets CSI: Crime Scene Investigators

Logline:

A paralyzed detective fights for his job and his department by proving the worth of time honored police investigating versus the popular rise of Crime Scene Investigative teams in solving crimes. Meanwhile falling in love with an old time friend when she returns to lead the Crime Scene Investigating team as they race to solve and capture a serial killer before the next film critic is murdered.

Story:

Dallas, Texas. Present day. DETECTIVE LONDON, later thirties, is dressed in an old and dirty Army fatigue jacket and wearing a Texas Rangers Baseball cap rolls in a wheelchair across a busy downtown street crosswalk. In the opposite direction two nervous men, being chased at a fast walking pace by two plain clothes police officers, cross the street separated by the lunchtime crowd of people. Detective London positions himself in front of the first nervous man and falls out of his wheelchair as he secures the nervous man on the ground with his body. The second nervous man comes to the rescue but is halted when Detective London pulls his weapon out before the second man. Now in his signature way, Detective London asks what time it is. Not looking for a literal answer, he explains by clarifying that it's a more figurative and sometimes philosophical answer he seeks. This is London time. The two plain clothes police officers make it to the scene and knowing the look in Detective London's eyes they try to calm him down before he kills one or both of the suspects. The uniform police officers show up in their sirens and lights going. Detective London secures the two suspects and then returns to his wheelchair and the suspects are surprised that Detective London is really paralyzed.

At the police station, Detective London's partner, DETECTIVE STEVE RICHMOND, 29 returns from his family vacation. Detective Richmond is a clean-cut, sharp and idealistic police officer. Although he is new to the Robbery/Homicide department and being a detective, he has the street smarts from his uniform days. First teamed with Detective London three months ago when assigned to the department. The other officers give Detective Richmond a hard time now that he's returned from vacation and has to be subjected to "London Time."

Detective London, who prefers to be called London and no one knows his first name, returns to the police station and is mobbed by reporters and cameras. The reporters ask about the success of the downtown arrests and Detective London tells them exactly what he thinks of them. London feels the news media is as helpful as the paparazzi are to celebrity life. After telling how he feels he spits on the ground and goes in to the safety of the police station where he is welcomed by a round of applause from fellow officers.

That night, London is awoken by a nightmare recalling the events of the accident that left him paralyzed and took the life of his wife and daughter five years ago. Wrought with emotional pain and anxiety, London attempts suicide. A mouthful of prescription medication is thwarted when he knocks over his glass of water next to his bed. After spitting out the pills, he reaches for his weapon and sticks it in his mouth. Troubled and near pulling the trigger he is interrupted by the ringing of his telephone. Once again his job saves his life as he is called out on a homicide case. London pulls into the parking lot of a gay nightclub where police have sectioned off an area where the victim, an entertainment reporter for a local television station, lays dead in his car.

When MATTHEW CONNER, 37, shows up with his Crime Scene Investigators, London blows up at them. He cannot stand the fame they receive, especially since nearly half of them are civilians and he openly takes it out on them.

Later that morning back at the police station, London is cornered by, JAMES BOYER, 44, the police department's psychiatrist. He tells London that he has until the end of the week to take his evaluation and because he has missed two previous ones, this would be the last before the department takes serious action and fires him. London rolls out into the hall and when James says that he understands how London feels, London goes off on him telling him there is no way, regardless of his education that he can know how he feels. After London ditches James he returns to the hallway.

London is surprised by the appearance of an old friend, MARCI WATERS, 37, whom he attended the police academy with. She is in town for a job interview. Marci is a beautiful, confident and strong woman. She only spent three years on the police force, half of them back east and then went back to college for a medical degree. Although she doesn't practice she is an expert in medical research. Combined with her police skills she is an excellent Crime Scene Investigator. The two agree to have dinner to catch up on old times.

During dinner London is interrupted by a phone call and has to depart for another homicide. It turns out to be another entertainment reporter for another local television station. London is shocked when Marci shows up as the new head of the Crime Scene Investigators. London conducts his investigations making it clear that he is in charge and leaving Marci to handle all the high tech forensics. Marci takes charge of her team gaining the respect of them as they process the crime scene. Marci finds some fiber with blood on a table and collects the evidence.

London is called into his superior, CAPTAIN CARTWRIGHT'S office and warned that he better walk carefully with the media and the CSI team because the Mayor of Dallas and the Chief of Police are looking for an easy way to fire him. They feel London is a public relations nightmare and afraid that he'll make them look bad in the up coming elections.

A tip from, MUSTANG SALLY, 30, a local female entertainer with The Men's Club, a high priced gentleman's club, leads London and Detective Richmond to interview DAVID CLAYTON, 48, a successful Dallas businessman. According to David, he was once a Hollywood movie executive who has returned to his home in Dallas to go back to making money. Mr. Clayton now runs among his other enterprises, a non-profit corporation called, Fair and Ethical Media Coverage. He claims that it is to promote just as the name implies within the entertainment industry. This is how he has connections with the two victims. Moments before London and Detective Richmond show up at Clayton's office, Clayton paid two seedy characters large sums of money. One of them complained that he had to go to Los Angeles and wasn't chosen to go to New York. Once London and Detective Richmond start to ask too many questions, Clayton gets nervous and politely excuses himself for another appointment.

London and Detective Richmond show up for the first time ever at the CSI lab and work with Marci to find that although they do have good physical evidence, none of it matches to unidentified persons. They remain anonymous.

That evening, London and Marci resume their dinner date at the Hard Rock Café where they used to go many years ago. Their budding romance takes shape as it is once again interrupted. This time by suspects that were found rummaging through the first victim's place of employment. London and Marci follow the suspects into the Cheese Club room at the Hard Rock Café. After being told to wait for entrance into the Cheese Club room, London forces the door open. He finds sitting at the head of the table the new leader of drug distribution in Dallas, LORI LOVE, 35. After being invited to the table, London finds out that it was David Clayton who paid off the drug debt the first victim owed to Ms. Love.

Outside the Hard Rock Café as London and Marci wait for the VALET to return his car, London is surprised again by the television reporters and cameras. London makes a couple of comments and before he blows up, Marci takes control and diplomatically answers the reporters questions as London transfers into the car, pulls his wheelchair in and they drive away.

Despite being invited up to Marci's place for the evening, London chooses to go back to work. He tells Marci that it is not her but him. Although he doesn't tell her, he doesn't want to burden her life with the complications of his disabled lifestyle. This is revealed back at the police station where, Detective Richmond is working late and in a dramatic confrontation that Detective Richmond didn't expect London tells about himself. London leaves for a solitary drive on the highways of Dallas to contemplate the realities of his life and that of Marci's.

Two other entertainment reporters were killed the night before. One in Los Angeles and the other in New York. London is informed and then contacted by the Los Angeles police with whom they share information. Turns out, David Clayton was a studio executive, but was fired and had to be physically removed from the studio offices. He was and still is real bitter over the loss of his new found career.

Marci continues to try and find out whose blood is on the fibers she found at the second victim's apartment.

At David Clayton's home, Clayton has to attend to a severe cut on his leg as he makes another deal extorting money from a Hollywood studio. Clayton explains he has control over most of the entertainment media and can either create positive or negative press on any movie, actor or director.

At the police station a witness identifies the suspect at the first victim's place of employment as the one who saw the victim moments before his was murdered. London and Detective Richmond interrogate the suspect. When he doesn't reveal any new information and even mocks the police tactics, London gets surprisingly but realistically physical with the suspect. Getting the information he needed out of the suspect, London determines that the suspect didn't kill the first victim.

A entertainment reporter for the Dallas Morning News paper, SUZIE FARNSWORTH, has been beaten up and she confesses to London that David Clayton and his non-profit organization has been coercing reporters all over the country but that only recently has it gotten to this physical level. Captain Cartwright says getting a search warrant based on Suzie's testimony won't be easy, but he will try.

Marci offers to cook dinner for London. At his home, London confesses that the CSI team does provide critical help, but even with both of them on the case they are at a dead end unable to get the man they both know is responsible for the murders. Marci explains her theory and even though Clayton paid to have the first victim and the ones in New York and L.A. killed, he personally killed the second victim, Cindy Ross and not for business but rather personal reasons.

Marci and London get personal themselves and in the bedroom the inevitable questions of sex with someone paralyzed from the waist down are answered.

Meanwhile, Detective Richmond goes back to the Men's Club where David Clayton is known to frequent. After convincing Mustang Sally to help, she surprises Clayton and he cuts his hand on his broken glass. Clayton cleans up in the restroom where Detective Richmond waits in a stall. Detective Richmond obtains the towels with Clayton's blood. Unfortunately this sample for DNA comparison will not hold up in court.

In the middle of the night, London is again awakened by the same nightmare. This time Marci is there and London confesses he feels partly responsible for the accident and wishes that it was him and not his wife and daughter to be killed by the drunk driver. Marci convinces London that

there was no way to avoid what happened and that if the roles were reversed then his wife and daughter would be the ones going through this trauma rather than being in a much better place. London deals with the pain and finally faces the issues that have plagued him since the accident.

The next morning, the Mayor and Chief of Police confront London. Convinced London won't make his third and final psychiatric evaluation by the end of the day, they threaten him with the loss of his job. London vows to get Clayton and return to expose the Mayor for the person he truly is. Captain Cartwright shows up with a search warrant based on Suzie Farnsworth's testimony that includes DNA collection from David Clayton.

London, Marci and Detective Richmond rush off to Clayton's house. After they arrive and get out of the car gunfire is shot in their direction. They split up and go inside the house where they each encounter gunmen protecting Clayton. Marci holds her own and saves Detective Richmond who is pinned down by one of the gunmen. London uses his wheelchair to speed through and hide from the other gunmen as he kills them. Clayton captures Marci and threatens to kill her if London doesn't come out in plain view. London covertly moves on the first floor as Clayton brings Marci down the stairs. A loose board trips up London on the hardwood floor and he falls out of his wheelchair. He loses his weapon and is lying on the floor when Clayton promises to kill them both. London sits up and pulls his wheelchair near him. Marci distracts Clayton and then punches him. Clayton releases Marci and doubles over with pain. Before Clayton recuperates Marci makes it down the stairs and inches away from London's weapon lying on the floor. Clayton quickly raises his weapon to kill Marci. London pulls out his spare weapon that is holstered inconspicuously under the seat of his wheelchair and fires multiple shots at Clayton. They all connect and Clayton falls down the stairs. Marci runs over to London and down into his arms. Detective Richmond runs over to pick up his weapon and verifies Clayton's death.

The next morning, London cooks breakfast for Marci. They are both interrupted by phone calls from work. Another homicide case to investigate and they decide to ride together in London's car.

Fade out.