

1 **CHILLIN'**

2 Cast:

3 Announcer

4 Cabbie

5 Olivia

6 Amber Sorensen, punky teen

7 Simon Strong, aged punk rocker

8 Det. Howard Upton, tough cop

9 Det. Phyllis Jermyn, nice cop

10 Bouncers

11 ANNOUNCER 19 Nocturne Boulevard.

12 CABBIE Nocturne Boulevard? Not far. When you hit
13 Howard, hang a right. Howard meets Phillip
14 at a weird kind of angle, then you cross
15 James and Poe. You can't miss Nocturne -
16 it's just past the automat.

17 ANNOUNCER 19 Nocturne Boulevard, your address for
18 suspenseful stories of the speculative,
19 strange, and supernatural. Tonight's story,
20 "Chillin", was inspired by a story from H.P.
21 Lovecraft.

22 SOUND KNOCK ON DOOR. DOOR OPENS.

23 OLIVIA [sultry voice] Yes. This is 19 Nocturne
24 Boulevard, won't you step inside?

25 SOUND FOOTSTEPS

26 OLIVIA Did you have any trouble finding it? What
27 do you mean, what kind of a place is it?
28 Why, it's a police station, can't you tell?

29 MUSIC MODERN COP DRAMA STING

30 SOUND THUNK OF TAPE RECORDER TURNING ON.

1 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM - WHIR OF TAPE RECORDER.
2 OCCASIONAL SCUFFLE OF CHAIRS

3 UPTON Name?

4 AMBER [mocking] Sorensen. Amber. S-O-R-E-N-S-E-N.
5 O-N is Norwegian.

6 UPTON What?

7 AMBER [said a million times] O-N is Norwegian, E-N
8 is Danish.

9 UPTON So you're Danish?

10 AMBER [disgusted noise] Do I sound Danish? Uch.
11 Like my great great great great great was.

12 UPTON Then why--?

13 JERMYN I understand. My name gets misspelled all
14 the time. Let's move on. Present are
15 detectives Howard Upton and Phyllis Jermyn
16 [pronounced "german", pause] J-E-R-M-Y-N,
17 and Amber Sorensen, with an E-N.

18 UPTON Age?

19 AMBER I have the right to remain silent. I have
20 the right to an attorney. If I cannot
21 afford one, one will be ... assigned?
22 Allocated? Oh, crap, I should know this - I
23 watch enough Law and Order. Dammit!

24 UPTON [sigh] We don't read witnesses their rights.
25 That's for suspects. Age?

26 AMBER [sullen] You got my I.D. What does it say?

27 UPTON Hmm. You don't look 21.

28 JERMYN [sympathetic] You really don't.

1 AMBER Fine. So it's a fake - I want to speak to
2 the D.A., like trade my information in
3 return for a slide on the bogus I.D., can
4 I--??

5 SOUND PHONE BEEP

6 UPTON Oh, turn that off. Not just silent, either.
7 Off.

8 SOUND PHONE BEING TURNED OFF

9 JERMYN We're really not interested in prosecuting
10 you. We just want to know about Simon
11 Strong.

12 UPTON The alleged Simon Strong.

13 AMBER Dude. He was the full meal deal, you know.
14 I watched videos of his band, from like
15 before I was born, and it was totally him.

16 UPTON Then who was the deceased?

17 AMBER Like I said, it was him. What? Do you ride
18 the short bus?

19 UPTON It couldn't be him, because you said you
20 spoke with him recently, and--

21 JERMYN [cutting him off] Let's start at the
22 beginning. How did you meet Mr. Strong?

23 AMBER [miserable] He hates being called Mister.
24 [beat] I was making a delivery to the
25 Madness Machine--

26 UPTON That would be the club he owned and lived
27 over?

1 AMBER [muttered, deep sadness] Beep beep. Get
2 out of the way of the door, Billy.

3 UPTON What??

4 AMBER Nothing. [deep breath, blasé lies] I was
5 making a delivery--

6 SFX HEAVY METAL/PUNK MUSIC FADES INTO THE
7 BACKGROUND, AMBER BECOMES VOICE OVER.

8 AMBER [v.o.] --of, some box or other. I got inside, took
9 the wrong turn--

10 SFX MUSIC IS MUFFLED BY DISTANCE, BUT CLEARLY
11 LOUD

12 SOUND AMBER'S HEAVY BREATHING UP CLOSE - SOUNDS
13 LIKE ECSTASY, BUT IT'S JUST PANIC AND
14 EXERTION.

15 AMBER Oh, shit!

16 AMBER [v.o] I was supposed to go to the manager's
17 office--

18 SOUND HEAVY FOOTSTEPS APPROACH AT A RUN

19 SOUND AMBER'S BREATHING QUICKENS. HER FOOTSTEPS
20 TAKE OFF QUICKLY.

21 BOUNCER [off] Get back here, dogmeat!

22 AMBER [v.o] And I just knocked on the wrong door.

23 SOUND HEAVY FEET ARE DISTANT, BUT APPROACHING.

24 SOUND AMBER'S FEET GET CLOSE.

25 SOUND SLAM OF BODY AGAINST DOOR. POUNDING ON DOOR

26 AMBER Let me in! They're after me!!! Please!

27 SOUND POUNDING CONTINUES. HEAVY FEET GET CLOSER

1 AMBER Please! I - I'm having a heart attack here!
2 Let me in or I'll totally die!

3 SOUND SLIDING DOOR OPENS

4 AMBER Whoa!

5 SOUND STUMBLING STEPS FORWARD, BODY FALLS, SLIDING
6 DOOR SHUTS.

7 SFX MUSIC CUTS OUT COMPLETELY.

8 AMBER Oh. Shit. Look, I'm--

9 SOUND SCUTTling ACROSS WOOD FLOOR

10 SIMON [filtered, mechanical sounding] Look into
11 the camera please.

12 AMBER Camera--? Oh, there. [shivers slightly]

13 SOUND A COUPLE OF HESITANT FOOTSTEPS

14 AMBER Hi! Look, can you just tell me how to get
15 out of here? There's no need for --

16 SIMON [filter] What was that about a heart attack?

17 AMBER Oh, that. That was - that was bullshit.
18 [joking] I had it removed - years ago.

19 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM [CUTS IN SUDDENLY]

20 UPTON Was your relationship with this Mister
21 Strong, sexual?

22 AMBER Ew!!! He was like my great grandad's age -
23 like, even older than you!

24 JERMYN [coughs away a laugh] You say you made the
25 delivery and just happened to "make friends"
26 with Strong? Everyone else says he was a
27 complete recluse. Didn't like people.

1 AMBER Nah. He liked people, but he was really
2 sick. I mean, like ill, not deviant.

3 SIMON [on filter] Step through.

4 SOUND DOOR SLIDES OPEN

5 AMBIANCE COOL ROOM - THE HUM OF A HEAVY FREEZER UNIT

6 AMBER [gasps at the cold] Whoa! Um, can I just
7 go? I promise not to try any --

8 SIMON [unfiltered, but rough and almost a whisper]
9 What WERE you trying?

10 AMBER I ... really just wanted to hear the band,
11 but your guys caught me. I mean, I assume
12 since you're here, they're yours--

13 SIMON I own the club, yes.

14 AMBER [after a slight silence] Okay, is it just
15 me or is your heater broken? [brr noise]

16 SIMON [dry chuckle]

17 AMBER [noticing something] Dude!

18 SOUND A COUPLE OF EXCITED FOOTSTEPS

19 AMBER Can you watch, like, the whole entire club
20 from here?

21 SFX ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR SHIFTS

22 SIMON [disinterested] I can--

23 AMBER Omigod! Do you have sound? Is there a
24 button?

25 SIMON --but it gets boring after a while.

26 AMBER They're totally bumping uglies in the
27 bathroom, right there! Look! Look!

1 SOUND SWITCH

2 AMBER [annoyed] Hey!

3 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM CUTS IN

4 UPTON Sick? What did he have, Ebola? The state
5 of the--

6 JERMYN We really shouldn't go into that yet, Howie.

7 AMBER What time is it?

8 UPTON What? Why?

9 AMBER Just asking. I have a curfew.

10 JERMYN Would you like us to call home for you?

11 AMBER [shrug] Nah.

12 UPTON And your parents, they approved of all this?

13 AMBER My folks are... Cool. They don't care--

14 UPTON Like they don't mind that hair cut?

15 AMBER Sig and Laurie let me do dumb stuff cause
16 they know I won't do anything stupid.

17 UPTON Like spending all your time hanging out in a
18 bar?

19 AMBER It's a club. And, for a rocker, Simon was
20 pretty uptight about underage boozing and
21 ...stuff.

22 UPTON [leaps on it] Stuff? What kind of stuff?

23 AMBER What? Stuff. Just ... stuff. Dude, you
24 need to switch to decaf. Or valium.

25 UPTON Did you ever see this man with any illegal
26 substances?

1 AMBER Well, he had all kinds of medications -
2 being sick and all, and I [sounding mock
3 sorry] I guess I forgot to look them all up
4 in the handy dandy book of all things
5 illegal.

6 UPTON I thought prescription pills were the latest
7 thing these days.

8 AMBER Only with the kind of freak whose parents go
9 to shrinks and who has time to sit around
10 and stare at carpet lint. I got better
11 things to do.

12 JERMYN Like what?

13 AMBER Plus it's dangerous. You know what viagra
14 can do to-- What?

15 JERMYN What kinds of things do you like to do?

16 AMBER I-- like music, I write. I function as a
17 higher organism.

18 UPTON She means what do you plan to do with your
19 life, Amber Sorensen with an E-N?

20 JERMYN Actually I was just--

21 AMBER What do you want, a mission statement and a
22 business plan? Dude, I'm 16.

23 UPTON I knew what I wanted at 16.

24 AMBER [muttered] But your ass is so tight it
25 whistles.

26 JERMYN [tries not to snicker]

27 UPTON Hmm?

28 AMBER [louder] I bet your dad was a cop.

1 UPTON So?

2 AMBER Nothing. Just you seem like maybe you grew
3 up with it.

4 UPTON Are you gonna follow in your folks'
5 footsteps?

6 AMBER [flat and sarcastic] Oh, yeah. Cars are my
7 life.

8 JERMYN We don't want to keep you here all night -
9 curfew, and all that. What was wrong with
10 your friend?

11 AMBER Simon said he had some kind of wasting thing
12 --

13 AMBIANCE COOL ROOM

14 SIMON Munoz syndrome. I have to carefully
15 regulate my body temperature.

16 AMBER So you're, like, Mr. Freeze? Not exactly
17 Ahh-nold, there, string bean.

18 SIMON And I have to avoid excitement.

19 AMBER [pause] That's a hint, eh? Can I at least
20 get out without going through the American
21 Gladiators?

22 SOUND SLIDING DOOR OPENS

23 AMBER Thanks. Hey, if you get completely bored or
24 anything, my I-M is--

25 SIMON No.

26 AMBER Um, ok. You just seem kinda lonely.

27 SOUND HER SLOW FOOTSTEPS

1 SFX WHEELCHAIR SHIFTS AGAIN

2 SIMON Perhaps you could come back tomorrow, during
3 the day. I could use someone to run errands
4 for me. The pay would be reasonable.

5 AMBER Could I see the band?

6 SIMON You could watch from here, but you'd have to
7 dress warmly--

8 AMBER I'll bring a parka!

9 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

10 UPTON Are you adopted?

11 AMBER [flabbergasted] What? Whoa! I think there
12 are some low-fling non sequiters in here.
13 Did you see where it came from?

14 JERMYN Uh... no.

15 UPTON You call your parents [checks notes] Sig and
16 Laurie.

17 AMBER Doh, everyone does. [slow and
18 condescending] Those are their names, Billy.

19 UPTON Most kids your age still call their folks
20 mom and dad.

21 AMBER Maybe most kids your age. Most of us would
22 rather be cremated. [shrugs] mm. Except to
23 their face. The folks still like to think
24 we're all the same little rugrats they knew
25 and love. [snort]

26 UPTON So you make a point of lying to your folks?

27 AMBER There's that non-sequeter again. You should
28 really get a bug zapper.

1 JERMYN You probably think of it as "humoring them"
2 rather than lying.

3 UPTON [^] Two faced is two faced.

4 AMBER [^] If you can't be two-faced, you shoulda
5 found a better one to be stuck with.

6 UPTON [^] Look here--

7 AMBER [^] I bet you never get to play good cop.

8 UPTON [^] What?

9 JERMYN Howie, maybe we should take a break. Get
10 some water.

11 UPTON [growl] I'm fine.

12 JERMYN Would you get me some? Amber?

13 AMBER Uh, sure.

14 UPTON [annoyed noise]

15 SOUND STOMPS OUT, DOOR SLAMS

16 AMBER Wow. Where do I get one?

17 JERMYN Don't be fooled - I'm not always the good
18 cop.

19 AMBER Oh?

20 JERMYN You say you don't do drugs. We could test
21 you--

22 AMBER [disgusted noise] pssh.

23 JERMYN --and go through your backpack--

24 AMBER [worried] Huh?

1 JERMYN But I'm going to trust you on that, because
2 you walked right past one of our drug dogs
3 on the way in, and I don't think you're the
4 type to get caught in a stupid lie.

5 AMBER [thinks, then] You think I'll get caught in
6 a smart one?

7 JERMYN Let's just agree that I won't underestimate
8 you and you do me the same favor.

9 AMBIANCE COLD ROOM

10 SOUND DOOR SLIDES OPEN

11 SIMON You can leave it there.

12 SOUND BAGS SET DOWN, FOOTSTEPS

13 AMBER Hey. Wassup?

14 SOUND WHIR OF WHEELCHAIR TURNING

15 SIMON [annoyed] What?

16 AMBER Just making conversation.

17 SIMON "Wassup" isn't conversation.

18 AMBER It is if you answer. Besides, with most of
19 my friends, I-M-H-O O-M-G L-O-L is
20 conversation. Wassup is practically a
21 monolog.

22 SIMON [snort, then painful noise, trying not to
23 cough] Well. [dismissive] Now that that's
24 settled--

25 AMBER [overly casual] If you want me to go, just
26 say. [shrug] I got stuff to do.

27 SOUND a MOMENT, then FOOTSTEPS GO AWAY

1 SIMON [calling] You... you wanted to watch the
2 band?

3 SOUND FOOTSTEPS STOP, SQUEAK AS THEY TURN BACK

4 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

5 SOUND DOOR OPENS, FOOTSTEPS

6 UPTON Your water.

7 SOUND WATER BOTTLES GET SLAMMED DOWN, ONE BY ONE

8 JERMYN Thank you. Howie.

9 UPTON [makes disgruntled noises]

10 AMBER Yeah. Cheers, Howie.

11 UPTON [disgusted noise] Huh.

12 AMBER Look, my parents actually like me to use
13 their names - makes them feel like they're
14 helping me assert my personhood or
15 something. I do it to humor them.

16 UPTON Fine.

17 SOUND RUSTLING SOME PAPER

18 UPTON [trying to sound unconcerned] We need a
19 physical description of the alleged Mr.
20 Strong.

21 AMBER Watch a video of Madness Machine on Youtube.
22 Then figure older. A bunch older.

23 JERMYN How very...specific. How tall was he?

24 AMBER That's kind of a pickle. I never saw him
25 stand up - he was always in his bumper car.

26 UPTON What?

27 JERMYN The mechanized wheelchair.

1 AMBER He had to avoid exerting himself [thinking]
2 OK, so imagine classic Simon, then really
3 thin - like even more than heroin-chic,
4 maybe almost to starving third world skinny.

5 JERMYN Could it have been faked? Perhaps something
6 in the way he dressed?

7 AMBER Doubtful, Phyllis. He usually kicked it in
8 jams. Not much to hide behind.

9 UPTON Speak English.

10 AMBER [sounding british-ish] The subject in
11 question had a strong tendency to desport
12 himself in capacious yet abbreviated
13 trousers, much as those the predominant
14 choice of American surfboard riders leans
15 toward.

16 JERMYN [Snicker]

17 UPTON You mean he wore shorts. In that cold?

18 AMBIANCE COLD ROOM

19 SIMON If it bothers you, I could put something
20 else on.

21 AMBER Yeah, 'cuz like you're so tasty, Bubba-Ho-
22 Tep, that I'm gonna totally jump on you if
23 you keep wheeling around half-naked like
24 that. [beat] Nah - it's kinda creepy, but
25 I'll adjust. Like having a weird uncle.

26 SIMON [wheezy laugh]

27 AMBER But a cool one. I mean - not just [brrr],
28 but cool.

1 SIMON I must be, since you're neglecting your
2 social whirl to spend time here in the
3 arctic wasteland.

4 AMBER Oh, yeah - I have to sneak out the window to
5 get away from the endless line of bimboons
6 waiting to take me to the prom.

7 SIMON Bimboon?

8 AMBER It's like someone in a boy band, The guy
9 equivalent of a bimbo.

10 SIMON [laughs]

11 MUSIC

12 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

13 UPTON He scooted around in a wheelchair, wearing
14 shorts, and you didn't think that was odd?

15 AMBER Duh. Of course.

16 UPTON But you never told anyone about him?

17 AMBER He'd'a been pissed. Plus people woulda
18 thought - you know - creepy stuff.

19 UPTON What if he decided to do something?

20 AMBER Beep beep. I could outrun the wheelchair.
21 At least as far as the stairs.

22 UPTON And what if he could really get up?

23 AMBER I doubt it, Billy. He didn't have any
24 little blue pills.

25 UPTON [flustered] I didn't-- I meant get up and
26 walk.

1 AMBER Yeah you did. You're the one who's all
2 worried he's gonna go all perv on me.

3 UPTON If you were my daughter--

4 AMBER Beep beep. One of us would probably be
5 dead.

6 MUSIC

7 AMBIANCE COLD ROOM

8 AMBER The bottles - it's all for your illness,
9 right? Like the meth lab in the bathroom?

10 SIMON [shocked] It's not a--!

11 AMBER Doh, yeah. I was kidding. So is it a big
12 secret experiment thing?

13 SIMON I - I keep tracking down recipes for
14 preparations and elixirs that ... might help
15 me. Some seem to work for a little while,
16 but nothing ... lasts.

17 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

18 JERMYN [snap] Howie. Did you have any more
19 questions?

20 UPTON What about his hair?

21 AMBER [snapped back] What? It looked pretty much
22 the same.

23 UPTON A-ha! Too clever for his own good.

24 AMBER Not every guy over 50 needs canned hair,
25 Billy.

26 UPTON And this guy claimed to be THE Simon Strong.

1 AMBER I already told you he was. I didn't even
2 know who that was that first time, cause
3 like I'd never heard of him before, but soon
4 as I could, I googled him and voy-la!

5 UPTON Vwa-la.

6 AMBER [whispered] Beep Beep.

7 UPTON What?

8 JERMYN For the record, Simon Strong was the lead
9 singer and songwriter for a punk band called
10 Madness Machine in the mid to late 1970s.

11 AMBER American punk band.

12 UPTON Who cares?

13 AMBER [earnest] It's important - British punk was
14 British punk and American punk was--

15 JERMYN But you'd never heard of this band before
16 you met Strong?

17 AMBER [sigh] Pre-cisely. Funny sort of six
18 degrees thing, though - once I saw the band
19 name, it clicked, 'cuz my grandad had one of
20 their albums in his LP collection. Serious.
21 How's that for whoo-oo-oo [spooky noise]?

22 UPTON [disbelieving snort] Your grandpa listened
23 to punk?

24 AMBER Duh. He willed his tattoos to science.
25 Stay back from the door, Billy.

26 JERMYN You said you met Mr. Strong --?

27 AMBER Halloween night. That's why they had such a
28 cool band in the house.

1 JERMYN About nine months, then. And how often did
2 you see him?

3 AMBER Most days. I did his shopping and stuff and
4 stopped in for a chat.

5 AMBIANCE COOL ROOM

6 SIMON Are you a retard? The Sex Pistols were
7 totally the Monkees of punk. They were a
8 made band. Their manager put them together.

9 AMBER [teasing] I suppose you met him too?

10 SIMON Once. How much respect can you have for a
11 guy who also created Bow Wow Wow?

12 AMBER Bow Wow What?

13 SIMON You must ride the short bus. Beep beep,
14 Billy, don't stand in the way of the door.
15 [wheezy chuckle] The Ramones, now, they
16 were the real thing. They lived punk.

17 AMBER You're pretty feisty for an old crip who's
18 s'posed to keep frosty.

19 SIMON [dry chuckle]

20 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

21 JERMYN When our people searched the "residence"
22 over the club, they found a number of, um -
23 unusual items.

24 AMBER Like?

25 JERMYN The enormous refrigeration unit that
26 apparently kept the place fairly, um--

27 UPTON Meat locker-ish.

1 AMBER [wry] So he was cool. So?

2 UPTON According to electric company records, he
3 was using enough energy to be frozen.

4 AMBER And? What, didn't he pay his bill? It's
5 his business what he does with his juice.

6 UPTON There are a lot of things you can do with
7 that much juice. Things, for instance, that
8 the narcotics squad would be very interested
9 in.

10 AMBER [exasperated] Beep beep.

11 UPTON I am getting really sick of--

12 JERMYN Amber. Can you shed any light on the occult
13 paraphernalia he apparently collected?

14 AMBER It's not like I had the run of the place.
15 We'd just hang in the main room - where all
16 the video consoles are. He talked about
17 some old books, though.

18 JERMYN Did you ever see anyone else with him? Did
19 he talk about other visitors?

20 AMBER Oh, heck no. He didn't like people to see
21 how sick he was, but like, since I already
22 knew, he had somebody to talk to, you know?

23 AMBIANCE COOL ROOM

24 SOUND DOOR SLIDES SHUT

25 AMBER Hey!

26 SIMON [anxious] You're late.

27 AMBER [aping his wiped out voice] "Hi Amber, so
28 glad to see you."

1 SIMON I was-- [slight chuckle, sigh] I am. Yes.

2 AMBER You worried about me or your [singsong]
3 Special Delivery!?

4 SIMON It's here?

5 AMBER No, it's a phone book I wrapped up and sent
6 the long way, let's see, through - wow.
7 Egypt and London? That's tight!

8 SIMON Open it, please.

9 AMBER 'kay.

10 SOUND PAPER UNWRAPS FROM LARGE BOOK.

11 AMBER Oh, jeez - you got so ripped off.

12 SIMON What do you mean?

13 AMBER This is such a gag gift. It's like from
14 that movie - "I'll swallow your soul! I'll
15 swallow your soul!"

16 SIMON Give it here. [pause] Ah. No, this is the
17 real thing. The dark jewel of any occult
18 collection.

19 AMBER [sniffing] Ok, so it smells older than Bruce
20 Campbell, but still --

21 SIMON I need to be alone. Come back next
22 Wednesday.

23 SFX ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR RECEDES

1 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

2 AMBER He did burn incense and drink weird stuff.
3 I figured it was alternative medicine, or
4 maybe Kabbalah - that's all the rage with
5 the red carpet crowd, right?

6 UPTON Did he ever say what was wrong with him?

7 AMBER Mun-yoes syn-drome, Billy.

8 UPTON Stop calling--

9 JERMYN But what is Munoz syndrome? Did you ever,
10 say, Google it?

11 AMBER Well, yeeah. There were a couple - but they
12 had longer names, and were like degenerative
13 eye diseases, so I figured, you know, that
14 wasn't it.

15 UPTON Did you ever ask him?

16 AMBER Well, right off I asked if it was catching,
17 and he said no, so I figured that's all I
18 care about, and if wants to talk about it
19 he'll say so.

20 AMBIANCE COOL ROOM

21 SIMON Why do you want to know?

22 AMBER You're ...my ...friend. I give a shit. I
23 don't want to be all stupid and accidentally
24 do something that would make it worse or
25 anything.

26 SIMON Munoz syndrome is extremely rare. I
27 contracted it almost thirty years ago--

1 AMBER Ooh! Let me guess. When you [reporter
2 voice] "vanished from the public eye"!
3 SIMON Where--?
4 AMBER Wikipedia. Shh. I'm shushing.
5 SIMON My band was in New Orleans. When this came
6 on, normal medicine couldn't help, so I
7 turned to the uh, folk practitioners.
8 AMBER Like Voodoo? No wonder you're buying all
9 creepy books and incense.
10 SIMON It's a lot more serious than movie voodoo,
11 but that's close enough.
12 AMBER And the cold?
13 SIMON Slows my metabolism.
14 AMBER Mine too - Brr.
15 SFX THE HUM OF THE FREEZER DIPS FOR A MOMENT
16 SIMON [gasps and holds his breath until the power
17 returns]
18 AMBER Wha--?
19 SIMON [very tense] The wiring's getting old.
20 AMBER So get a new fridge.
21 SIMON No, the building's wiring. Between music
22 and lights and all, it carries quite a load.
23 AMBER You should move, then - and before summer.
24 Seriously.
25 SIMON How can I go anywhere? I have to stay at a
26 constant level.

1 AMBER I dunno. [thinking] Hey, ice cream truck -
2 I once saw this movie where they were
3 carting a corpse around in the back--

4 SIMON [strong] No. Tomorrow, maybe you could
5 take a look at generators.

6 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

7 JERMYN But he was well off - according to the IRS.

8 AMBER He spent a buttload on his creepy books and
9 exotic bags of dirt and stuff. [catching
10 herself] Or, that's what he told me.

11 UPTON And he trusted you to carry around these
12 expensive packages?

13 AMBER I didn't know they were. I'd probably have
14 freaked and got all paranoid. He said other
15 people were after them too.

16 UPTON Other people? Do you think they might have
17 taken the books after Strong disappeared?

18 AMBER Tscha. He didn't disappear. He's dead.
19 Beep Beep.

20 UPTON [takes in an angry breath]

21 JERMYN Ok, let's go back--

22 UPTON No, let's talk about this. You're saying
23 that the corpse you discovered in what you
24 call "the cold room" was the person you knew
25 as Simon Strong.

26 AMBER It had to be.

1 UPTON Then pray explain to me how it could be that
2 that body had been dead for well over a
3 decade?

4 AMBER [shrug, statement] You're wrong.

5 UPTON So all our experts are wrong. And you know
6 better.

7 AMBER [trying] Your experts obviously aren't
8 familiar with Munoz Syndrome. That's all.

9 UPTON Right. So you know better. You know what I
10 think?

11 JERMYN [warning] Howie...

12 UPTON No, Phyl. Not this time. I'm getting tired
13 of this little girl, trying to live in a
14 dream world. She needs a dose of harsh
15 reality.

16 AMBER [hysterical laughter] Harsh reality?
17 [can't stop laughing] You don't have a clue
18 how harsh reality can get. [breaks down
19 into tears]

20 AMBIANCE COLD ROOM

21 SIMON Turn the thermostat down a bit, would you?

22 AMBER Down? Dude, my eyeballs are already icing
23 over.

24 SIMON [pause] Maybe you shouldn't come here any
25 more.

26 AMBER [upset] What? [beat, then blasé] And lose
27 the school credit I'm getting for looking
28 after the elderly and infirm? Uh-uh.

1 SIMON [slight wheezing laugh, turns into cough,
2 then deep breath] I... I probably won't
3 last much longer.

4 AMBER No way! You're fine! Well, not fine, but--

5 SIMON It's been coming a long time. And the
6 elixirs aren't working any more. Nothing is
7 working.

8 AMBER The book can't--?

9 SIMON I thought there would be things I could
10 bring myself to do, but it's - it's not
11 worth it.

12 AMBER It's always worth living.

13 SIMON When I'm gone, take it and burn it.
14 Promise?

15 AMBER If you can't use it, sell it! Use the money
16 to get more colder. You'll be fine.

17 SIMON No.

18 SFX POWER DIP - LONG ONE, THEN HUM RETURNS

19 SIMON [long shaky breath] I always think it will
20 be the last one.

21 AMBER I'LL buy you a generator.

22 SIMON Cooling takes too much energy - even if you
23 get one, I won't be able to afford the
24 gasoline.

25 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

26 AMBER [still breathing in little gasps, coming
27 down from a crying jag]

1 SOUND WATER COOLER POURS

2 JERMYN Drink.

3 SOUND PLASTIC CUP SET ON TABLE

4 UPTON [annoyed] Are you through?

5 AMBER [cough, sniff]

6 UPTON So, here's what I think is going on. This
7 guy has been trying to establish himself as
8 Simon Strong, famous recluse and mysterious
9 celebrity.

10 AMBER That's too dumb even for the short bus.

11 UPTON Oh, yeah? Dumb to the tune of half a mil a
12 year. Between the club, which the real
13 Strong did purchase in December of 1979, and
14 the royalties on his old music -
15 particularly the musical um, chunks, or
16 segments--

17 JERMYN Riffs.

18 UPTON Yes, whatever, that people used in their
19 own--

20 JERMYN Sampled.

21 UPTON [deep annoyed sigh] During the 80s and 90s--
22 [waits, but there is no interjection] --he
23 had pots of money rolling in.

24 AMBER Which he spent on books and crud. I told
25 you.

26 UPTON Kid, no one spends that much on books. Did
27 you ever actually see these books, or did
28 you just bring him book-shaped packages?

1 AMBER [silent for a beat] No, I guess I never
2 actually saw them.

3 UPTON I say he's been salting it away, staying
4 around long enough to move everything to the
5 Caymans and then - Voy-la - take a powder.

6 AMBER But the body--

7 JERMYN [sadly] WAS the real Simon Strong. Dental
8 records have confirmed it. But Amber, he'd
9 been dead for a very long time.

10 UPTON Which explains the cold. The fake didn't
11 want the - uh - deceased stinking up the
12 place.

13 AMBER [muttered] Yeah, easier to freeze the whole
14 place, than just pack a corpse in a chest
15 freezer.

16 JERMYN Are you up to telling us how you discovered
17 the body?

18 AMBER [very subdued] Sure. I got to the club, and
19 everything was dark. I freaked-- Well, I
20 got really worried, and ran up to his room.
21 The body was just... there... and it was...

22 JERMYN --In an advanced state of decomposition.

23 AMBER Yes.

24 SFX NO SOUND OF FRIDGE, JUST DISTANT STREET
25 NOISES.

26 SOUND DOOR SLIDES OPEN WITH DIFFICULTY.

1 AMBER [Grunts] Dammit, open! damm---it [squeaks
2 through] Simon! Simon? [almost chokes]
3 What is-- oh jeez!

4 SOUND HESITANT FOOTSTEPS

5 AMBER What the he-e-e-ll?

6 SIMON [Almost inaudible] Turn off the flashlight.

7 SOUND CLICK FLASHLIGHT OFF

8 AMBER I'll get you some ice, I'll ---

9 SIMON Damage is done. Don't go. I wasn't sure if
10 I wanted you here or not -- for this.

11 AMBER Can I--? Do you need--?

12 SIMON Don't... touch me. Please. Just listen.
13 Take the books and burn them. I need to
14 know you will.

15 AMBER Yeah, sure.

16 SIMON I've willed the club to you. Don't get your
17 hopes up, the police aren't going to
18 [trails off]

19 AMBER Simon! [breaking down] I don't want you to
20 die. You can't die! [etc., sobbing]

21 SIMON This isn't -- I... haven't... been living...
22 for a long time. Let me go.

23 AMBER No!

24 SIMON Shh!

25 AMBER [controls herself] Shushing. [gasp]

1 SIMON In 1977, I O.D.ed on heroin and, [gasping
2 cough] -- I... died. It was never reported
3 because a local Bocor brought me back...

4 AMBER [small voice] Like a zombie?

5 SIMON [sigh, not quite a chuckle] I knew you'd
6 understand.

7 AMBER But we can do it again, right? Bring you
8 back?

9 SIMON [dying, trailing off] Beep Beep. Get out
10 of the way of the door, Billy....

11 AMBER [sobs]

12 AMBIANCE INTERVIEW ROOM

13 AMBER Guess I'm glad it ain't him - the ...
14 borscht. But he was cool. For an old dude.

15 UPTON If he contacts you in any way--

16 AMBER [dryly sarcastic] Oh, sure. I'll be right
17 on the phone to you.

18 UPTON Do you understand the meaning of accessory
19 to fraud? Harboring a fugitive?

20 AMBER Well, I do watch a lot of TV. Besides, it's
21 not like I'm getting anything out of it.

22 UPTON The club has been transferred into your
23 name, Amber Sorensen with an S-E-N. The
24 heirs of the real Simon Strong will probably
25 contest it.

26 AMBER Pff. Don't care. Are we done?

1 JERMYN You'll have to wait a few minutes while your
2 statement is typed up. Once you sign it,
3 you're good to go.

4 AMBER Sure. Hey, did your CSI guys really not
5 find any books or anything at the scene?

6 JERMYN Nothing of any value.

7 UPTON And no clue to his offshore account.

8 AMBER Hmm. Oh well. [grunts with effort]

9 SOUND CREAK OF LIFTING A HEAVY BACKPACK ONTO HER
10 BACK

11 JERMYN You going to be OK without a coat? It's a
12 bit chilly out tonight.

13 SOUND DOOR OPENS.

14 SFX OFFICE NOISE.

15 SOUND COUPLE FOOTSTEPS

16 AMBER Really? [laughs] Nah. I'm cool.

17 SOUND FOOTSTEPS LEAVE.

18 MUSIC MODERN COP THEME, FADE OUT

19 CLOSER

20 OLIVIA Now that you know how to find us, you'll
21 have to come back. Maybe next week? Don't
22 be a stranger - we have enough of those
23 already...

1 Tonight's production of "Chillin" was
2 inspired by the story "Cool Air" by H.P.
3 Lovecraft. The script was written by Julie
4 Hoverson and directed by _____ Amber was
5 played by _____, Simon by _____,
6 Upton by _____ and Jermyn by _____.
7 Special thanks goes to Robyn Fitzhugh. And
8 I am your host, Olivia, this week and every
9 week.

10 Sound effects by _____, music by
11 _____, and the 19 Nocturne
12 Boulevard theme was composed by Kevin
13 MacLeod. This is ART - American Radio
14 Theater.

15