Video Scriptwriting sample 2 (Crime Documentary)

Rich Mass Killer Realizes She's Been Caught 8 Years Later

Single-column narration script with bracketed visual cues. Sample covers the first 15 minutes of the source video. Narration is original; interview and 911 audio are public-record clips to be cut from the source footage.

Format key: [VISUAL] = what is on screen. [SOT] = sound on tape (original audio). [LT] = lower-third caption. [MUSIC] and [SFX] = sound cues. NARRATOR = voiceover. *[verify]* = confirm before publishing. Times in brackets are approximate timecodes from the source video.

Chapter 1: The Unsolved Quadruple Murder

[0:00 VISUAL: Black. A front door, early morning, body-camera angle. Two detectives wait on the step.]

[SOT: A detective apologizes for waking the woman inside, then introduces himself and his partner.]

[0:08 VISUAL: Freeze on Amy Vilardi in the doorway. LT: "Amy Vilardi, 42." MUSIC: low, sustained tone begins.]

NARRATOR: For eight years, Amy Vilardi has been keeping a secret. This morning, two detectives are standing at her door to take it from her.

[0:19 VISUAL: Back to live footage. The detectives explain why they are here. Amy's face shifts.]

[SOT: The detective says he has been assigned the 2015 Pendleton homicide case and wants to talk. Amy responds with alarm.]

[0:27 VISUAL: Family photographs of the four victims fade up one at a time, each with an LT: Cathy Scott, Mike Scott, Barbara Scott, Violet Taylor. Use licensed or family-approved images only.]

NARRATOR: In 2015, Amy's mother, her stepfather and two elderly relatives were found murdered inside the family's home in Anderson County, South Carolina.

[0:35 VISUAL: Exterior of the home at dusk. Evidence markers on the ground. Keep imagery non-graphic.]

NARRATOR: No witnesses came forward. Nothing at the scene pointed to a suspect. And slowly, the case went cold.

[0:46 VISUAL: Montage of public social media stills: Amy and Ross Vilardi, a new truck, a larger house, exotic animals. Warm color grade that turns cold.]

NARRATOR: Years later, Amy and her husband Ross appeared to be doing well: new cars, a new house, even exotic pets. But the killers, it would turn out, had never been far away.

[1:01 VISUAL: Rapid preview cuts from the interrogation footage that appears later in the film.]

[SOT (fragments): Detectives tell Ross they are certain, and that the evidence is piling up. Another voice dismisses the investigation as botched.]

[1:24 VISUAL: Title card on black: RICH MASS KILLER REALIZES SHE'S BEEN CAUGHT 8 YEARS LATER. MUSIC: sting.]

NARRATOR: This is the case of the Scott family murders, South Carolina's most disturbing quadruple homicide, and the moment the people behind it understood the questions had finally found them.

[1:33 VISUAL: Channel brand sequence. Insert channel intro and sponsor read here, if any.]

Chapter 2: Initial Investigation

[1:40 VISUAL: Aerial of rural Anderson County at morning. Cut to the exterior of the Sheriff's Office. LT: "Monday, November 2, 2015."]

NARRATOR: It is a little after 10:30 on a Monday morning, just days after Halloween, when a frantic call reaches the Anderson County Sheriff's Office.

[1:52 VISUAL: 911 audio waveform over a dark screen, with the dispatcher's questions captioned.]

[SOT: 911 call, public record. The caller is hysterical and struggles to give the address. She says people inside a home are dead and there is blood everywhere. The dispatcher works to keep her on the line.]

[2:22 VISUAL: LT: "Amy Vilardi, 32 (in 2015)." Patrol cars race down a country road.]

NARRATOR: The caller is Amy Vilardi. She is reporting that her family has been murdered. Within minutes, deputies are at the door, and what they find is worse than anything she described.

[2:40 VISUAL: Simple floor-plan graphic of the home: living room, hallway, bedroom. Four markers appear, one at a time. No crime-scene photographs.]

NARRATOR: In the living room lie Mike Scott, Barbara Scott and Violet Taylor. A few feet away, in a bedroom, is the fourth victim, Cathy Scott. Each has suffered stab wounds and a gunshot to the head.

[3:02 VISUAL: Evidence markers over a kitchen sink, a bleach bottle, footprints, and two phones lying outside.]

NARRATOR: As technicians work the scene, they find a trail of shoe prints, a bottle of bleach in the kitchen sink, and two cell phones tossed outside. It is not much. There is no murder weapon.

[3:18 VISUAL: Deputies speak with Amy outside the home.]

NARRATOR: Amy tells deputies that she and her husband Ross live next door. She says she grew worried when her mother failed to let the dog out, went over to check, and found her family.

[3:44 VISUAL: Detectives gather around a map of the property with colored pins.]

NARRATOR: With no weapon and almost no physical evidence, investigators fear they are dealing with a calculating killer, and perhaps not a first-time one. For now, the only people near the case are grieving relatives.

[4:07 VISUAL: Evening local-news montage as the story spreads across the county.]

NARRATOR: That night, as news of the murders spreads, a phone call comes in from Amy's first husband.

[4:16 VISUAL: Audio-only. Phone-call waveform. LT: "Amy's ex-husband."]

[SOT: The ex-husband tells a detective he believes Amy is capable of this. He says she once tried to stab him during their marriage, and describes other violent fights. The detective thanks him and says he will keep the information handy.]

[4:57 VISUAL: Slow push toward Amy and Ross standing together outside the home. MUSIC: darkens.]

NARRATOR: Amy's violent past puts her on investigators' radar. But within days, it will matter far less than how she and Ross choose to behave.

Chapter 3: Questioning the Couple

[5:13 VISUAL: Search-warrant paperwork, then the exterior of the Vilardis' trailer at first light. LT: "Wednesday morning."]

NARRATOR: Two days later, acting on the ex-husband's tip, investigators obtain a warrant to search Amy's trailer.

[5:22 VISUAL: Interior of the trailer (recreation or still frames). A bedroom safe is opened. Bundled cash and a rack of firearms appear.]

NARRATOR: The moment they step inside, officers notice an odd smell, one that reminds them of the murder scene. In a bedroom safe they find about $68,000 in bundled cash, alongside 18 firearms. All of it is seized.

[5:47 VISUAL: Graphic: a modest trailer beside a stack of cash.]

NARRATOR: For a couple living so modestly, that much money raises an obvious question.

[5:55 VISUAL: The Vilardis walk into the sheriff's station together.]

NARRATOR: Detectives invite Amy and Ross to the station to clear their names. Both agree at once, almost as if they have been expecting the call.

[6:06 VISUAL: A polygraph room: a chair, sensors, a desk.]

NARRATOR: Then comes a request that is rarely made of mere witnesses: would they take a polygraph? Ross agrees and goes first.

[6:32 VISUAL: Ross seated across from the examiner (source footage). LT: "Ross Vilardi, former Marine."]

[SOT: The examiner explains that he is a private examiner who works with law enforcement and carries no badge or gun. Ross says he served in the Marines, with one combat deployment to Iraq and later embassy duty. The examiner notes that he knows what gunfire and screaming sound like.]

[7:23 VISUAL: Ross, tight on his face.]

[SOT: Asked whether he heard anything unusual that night, Ross says no. His wife sleeps with the television on, and he regrets not being able to help. Asked whether Amy had any part in this, he says no.]

[7:39 VISUAL: Archive-style graphic: Marine training, close-quarters knife drills, resistance-to-interrogation instruction.]

NARRATOR: Ross spent five years in the Marine Corps. He received hand-to-hand combat training that included knives, and instruction in how to resist questioning if captured. It is a background that makes him very hard to read.

[8:05 VISUAL: The examiner invites Ross to speculate. Ross shrugs and begins listing ideas.]

NARRATOR: The examiner asks Ross who he thinks is responsible. His answer is three theories, and none of them points at himself or Amy.

[8:23 VISUAL: Three graphic cards, one per theory, appear in sequence.]

NARRATOR: One: Mike traded in gold, guns and video games, so maybe an unhappy customer, or someone hoping to cash in. Two: Mike had recently said he spotted Amy's ex-husband lurking nearby. Three: Mike had developed an odd habit of walking to the end of the driveway, circling, and looking up and down the road.

[9:44 VISUAL: Slow push on Ross as the examiner begins the test.]

NARRATOR: Unsurprisingly, neither Ross nor Amy appears anywhere in his theories. Now the question is whether years of military conditioning can beat the machine.

[10:02 VISUAL: Ross wired to the polygraph. Needle graphic on screen.]

[SOT: The examiner reminds Ross of what Marines are taught if captured: name, rank and little else. He runs through basic baseline questions, then asks directly whether Ross harmed anyone in the house. Ross answers no. Afterward he jokes about whether he passed his "test."]

[10:48 VISUAL: The examiner says nothing. Hard cut to Amy being escorted to another room.]

NARRATOR: The examiner gives nothing away. Ross is left wondering. And down the hall, Amy is about to take her own test.

Chapter 4: Investigation Goes Cold

[10:57 VISUAL: Amy seated across from the examiner (source footage). LT: "Amy Vilardi."]

[SOT: Asked for her own theory, Amy points to her ex-husband, who she says clashed with her parents. They had been pressing him over child support, and he was not paying. Asked why she would not be involved, she says she loves her family and could never do what was done in that home.]

[11:58 VISUAL: Graphic: the ex-husband's name with a "No evidence" stamp.]

NARRATOR: Amy steers detectives toward her ex-husband. But investigators have nothing tying him to the murders, and he is not a suspect.

[12:06 VISUAL: Slow push on Amy as sensors are attached.]

NARRATOR: Unlike Ross, Amy has no training for high-stakes questioning. And as far as she knows, both her future and her husband's depend on how she does on this test.

[12:23 VISUAL: Polygraph needle graphic. The examiner's questions appear as captions.]

[SOT: The examiner asks whether she was present when anyone in the home was shot, whether she caused any of the injuries, and whether she knows who did. Amy answers no to each.]

[13:08 VISUAL: Cut to the examiner leaning in. Amy's expression hardens.]

[SOT: The examiner tells Amy that she failed badly, that he has no doubt she was involved, and that Ross did not pass either. Amy asks to speak with her lawyer and leaves.]

[13:52 VISUAL: Quiet two-shot, the examiner and Amy at the door.]

[SOT: Before she goes, the examiner asks whether she thought he treated her fairly. She says yes.]

[14:05 VISUAL: Amy walking out of the station. The examiner watches.]

NARRATOR: It will not be the last time she thinks about that room. For years, Amy will hold a grudge against the man who tested her.

[14:14 VISUAL: Graphic: a polygraph printout with a "Not admissible" stamp.]

NARRATOR: But a failed polygraph is not proof. Without a confession or physical evidence, detectives have no choice but to let the couple go. Before long, the investigation stalls.

[14:30 VISUAL: Time-lapse of a calendar: weeks to months. Archive news clip of Amy appealing publicly for information.]

NARRATOR: Weeks turn into months. Leads dry up, and the case goes cold. For a while, Amy gives interviews pleading for the killer to be found. Behind closed doors, her life moves on.

[14:52 VISUAL: The family home under renovation, then furnished. Fade to a warm, quiet interior.]

NARRATOR: The couple inherits the family's home and begins renovating the very place where the murders happened. When the work is done, they move in and settle into a comfortable life, one funded, the video says, by the money the victims left behind. *[verify inheritance]*

[15:01 VISUAL: Slow fade to black.]

[END OF SAMPLE. The story continues past this point in the source video.]

Production Notes: Verify Before Publishing

- **Ex-husband's name:** The transcript calls him Neil at 4:16 and Daniel at 12:00. Confirm which is correct before putting a name on screen, or keep him unnamed as drafted.
- **Amy's age:** The transcript opens with "42" but gives her age as 32 in 2015. Eight years later that would be about 40, so confirm which is correct.
- **County name:** The transcript says "Peterson County" at 1:52 and Anderson County at 1:40. The script uses Anderson County.
- **Surname spelling:** The transcript spells the surname "Valardi." The script uses "Vilardi." Confirm the spelling.
- **Polygraph results:** At 13:36 the examiner tells Amy that Ross also failed, but the transcript never shows Ross's actual result. The script presents it as the examiner's statement.