

Eddie, The 25 Year Reunion

Chapter One Ongoing Projects

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Driving up the street with his excavator on a trailer towed by his dump truck, Mark quickly and easily finds the job site. Walking down the sidewalk and, pointing to a specific house, Braden yells out to Mark, “that’s the one, right over there on the left! That’s the piece of shit we’re knocking down today!” Mark, who already knew exactly which house he was demolishing today, yells back, “thanks, bro, for letting me know! If I knocked down the wrong house, I think the owner might get a little upset.” Braden yells out to Mark, “I bet so! Especially if it’s Hoffer’s house!”

Getting out of the truck, Mark asks Braden, “so, is this the last one?” Braden replies, “for a while. I don’t see any more shit around here that I want to get rid of. I think we got this neighborhood just about the way we want it.” Mark asks, “how many houses are left?” Braden explains, “there were 75 houses in this neighborhood when we first started. We’re down to ten. And, I’m in the middle of remodeling the last one. I’m gonna put that one up for sale soon. But, I ain’t gonna just sell it to anybody. We want to get someone we like in here. And, there’s those two houses that we ain’t built yet.” Mark assures Braden, “don’t worry, bro. They’re on their way. I got the building permits the other day.”

Mark mentions to Braden, “it’s really looking great around here now, bro. And, the park you guys put in is looking really good too.” Braden laughs, and boasts, “now that we turned the park over to the town, they get to maintain it.” Mark smiles, and replies, “good. Make it their problem to cut the lawn.” Braden laughs, and reminds Mark, “John’s landscaping company got the contract with the town. The town pays him to cut the lawn and maintain it. And, that means I don’t have to do it.” Mark replies, asking, “what? John works?” Braden replies, “that’s the rumor, bro! But, I ain’t seen his ass out here doing any real work.” Eddie’s younger brother, John, has been running a very successful

landscaping company over the years. While he is not averse to hard work, John still has his lazy moments.

Over a period of fifteen years, Braden, Johnson, and Mitchell, following Eddie's stock market advice, were able to amass a huge fortune and buy all the houses in their neighborhood. Instead of sitting on a half acre, each house now sits on at least two acres. On the block located in the center of the neighborhood, Braden, Mitchell, and Johnson funded a beautiful park, complete with a three-lane 200-meter running track, a pad to launch the shot-put, and a playground for younger kids, designed by their friend from high school, Louis Zaino, and installed by Mark. Becoming real estate developers in their spare time, Braden, Johnson, and Mitchell now have their own semi-private oasis in the town in which they grew up.

Not wanting to miss out on the action, Kathy drives up in her Porsche 914. Getting out of her Porsche, Kathy yells out to Braden and Mark, "whose house are we knocking down today?" Braden yells back, "Mike Mahoney's house!" Hearing Braden perfectly well, Kathy yells back, "say again? Whose house?" Braden laughs, and yells back, "Mike Mahoney, like in Mahoney baloney!" On today's agenda is for Mark to demolish the house once owned by Michael Mahoney, the father of Paul Mahoney, who was a thorn in Kathy's side for many years. For some unknown reason, Michael Mahoney sold his house a month ago to Braden, and is in the process of leaving the country. Applying for the demolition permit immediately after signing the contract to purchase the house, Braden was way ahead of the curve on this project.

While Paul Mahoney, the son of Michael Mahoney, was doing reasonably well for many years, things suddenly took a turn for the worse. Paul Mahoney lost his mind again when Eddie and Kathy's son, Eddie, Jr. was a senior in high school. Paul Mahoney's son, Brian, tried out for the track team, but got cut after the first tryout session. Hearing that there is now an Eddie, Jr. around and that he is just as good of a track athlete as Eddie, Sr. was, Paul became quite distressed. Later discovering that Eric Johnson is the high school's track coach, a large dose of déjà vu almost landed Paul in the sanitarium again. Same story, different decade.

Watching as Mark unloads his excavator, Kathy mentions to Braden, "I just came to watch." Braden replies, "me too. I can't wait to see that piece of shit come down." Kathy replies, "yeah, I know. Right?" Kathy asks Braden, "where's Wendy?" Braden replies, "she's gonna be here in a minute. She stopped by the Johnson's house to get Barbara."

Hearing earlier from Wendy that Hunter is not feeling well, Kathy mentions to Braden, "it's too bad Hunter is going to miss this." Braden explains, "I know. He told us he was sick this morning, and couldn't help with the yard work. But, then he tells us that he wanted to help knock the house down. So, I asked him, 'if your ass is so sick, how are you gonna help knock the house down?' So, his ass got busted big time." Kathy laughs, and replies, "I don't think I ever pulled that kind of stuff when I was his age." Braden replies, "me neither. Hunter has come up with some pretty good ones over the years. It's funny, though, how he never gets sick during the track season." Kathy smiles, and replies, "go figure."

Walking down the street with Barbara, Wendy yells out, "it looks like we're having a neighborhood party!" With no hesitation, Kathy yells back, "yeah! The grand finale!" Walking up, Wendy asks, "who else is coming?" Kathy replies, "Erika said she'll stop by around lunch. I think she's just coming for the pizza." Wendy asks, "we're getting pizza?" Barbara laughs, telling Wendy, "what's the matter with you, girl? Of course we're getting pizza!" Kathy reassures Wendy, "Eddie and Bobby B. will be bringing the pizza and drinks later." Some things with this group never change.

Backing the excavator off the trailer, with no hesitation, Mark heads straight for the house. As Mark rams the business end of his excavator directly through the front door, Braden laughs, and comments to the group, "now, that's what I call breaking and entering!" Mark yells out, "does anyone want to take a look inside before I take this pile of shit down?" Kathy replies, "we might as well. Who knows? There might be something in there that can be donated to a homeless shelter." Mark turns off the excavator, joining the group entering the home.

Walking inside, Wendy comments, "this place gives me the creeps." Kathy agrees, stating, "yeah. Seriously." Looking around, Braden comments, "it looks like to me that there ain't nothing in here worth a shit." Walking around the Mahoney's former home, the group sees a few pieces of furniture, empty boxes, and old, outdated clothing laying in a pile. Mark announces, "I agree. There's nothing in here but garbage." The group heads outside, all glad to know the former Mahoney home will be headed off to the landfill in a few hours.

Manning the bulldozer, Mark, working quickly and efficiently, systematically levels the structure. Anyone looking on can easily discern that Mark has done this many times before. Watching as Mark takes a swipe at the upper level of the structure with the backhoe, the group is suddenly surprised when a large safe crashes to the ground on the front lawn, quickly coming to rest.

Braden yells out to Mark, “yo! Hold up, bro! Hold up!” Mark pauses for a moment, asking, “what’s up?” Braden yells out, “a safe just landed in the front yard!” Walking from across the street, Braden moves in with the rest of the group to get a closer look. Wendy asks, “I wonder what’s in the safe.” Braden replies, “I don’t know. But, we’re gonna find out.” Wendy asks, “how are we going to do that?” Braden replies, “I don’t know yet. That looks like one big hefty safe to me.” Kathy suggests, “I’m sure Eddie has something down at the service station that can open it.” Braden smiles, and energetically replies, “yeah! That’s the ticket! We’ll get Eddie to open it. Now, I’m really wondering what’s in that safe.” Wendy comments, “knowing the Mahoneys, it’s probably something illegal.”

As Braden and the rest of the crew are looking over the safe, on her cell phone, Kathy calls Eddie at the service station, telling him to drive over with a trailer to move the safe. Now curious himself about the safe, Eddie heads over to Second Street to get a trailer as Bobby B. mans the service station. Meanwhile, Bobby B. makes a quick call to Erika, who is on patrol today, filling her in on the situation.

Arriving at the demolition site in her police car, Officer Erika Bradshaw is promptly greeted by Wendy, who announces, “you’re early! The pizza won’t be here for another hour!” Knowing good and well that the pizza and drinks will arrive around noon, Erika replies, asking, “what? You guys are ordering pizza?” Barbara tells Erika, “as if you didn’t already know, girl.” Erika simply smiles, knowing she has been busted.

Walking up to the safe, seeing Braden curiously staring at it, Erika asks, “what do we got here?” Braden replies, “when Mark was busting up the house, this safe came out of nowhere and landed on the front lawn.” Erika dryly comments, “I wonder what’s in it.” Braden replies, “we were wondering that too. Eddie’s headed over with a trailer to bring it over to the service station. He’s gonna crack it open up there.” Erika promptly insists, “considering the history behind the Mahoney family, I want to be there when he opens it. Could be drugs, or worse.” Braden replies, “me too!” Hearing Erika and Braden’s conversation, everyone else is now wondering what could be in the safe. No one, however, suspects the most likely scenario, which is the safe is empty.

Eddie drives up with a trailer behind his Dune Buggy, seeing a crowd gathered around the safe. Admiring the demolition, Eddie yells out to Mark, “nice work!” Mark yells back, “thanks, bro!” Hopping out of his Dune Buggy, Eddie asks, “what do we got?” Taking control of the conversation, Braden laughs, and replies, “we got a safe full of Mahoney baloney!” Seeing the five-foot high safe laying on its side, it’s anybody’s

guess what's inside. Knowing that the safe was in the Mahoney house, with the Mahoney family history of illicit activity, the safe has certainly stirred up a lot of curiosity.

Six former track stars lift the safe, easily loading it onto the trailer, as Wendy stands back and supervises. After easily accomplishing their task, Eddie comments to the group, "when I get back to the station, Bobby B. is going to ask me why it took six of us to move the safe, and that he could have loaded it by himself. Then, I'll just tell him to feel free to unload it all by himself." Braden laughs, telling Eddie, "I wish I was gonna be there to see that!" If Bobby B. were offered the challenge to unload the safe single handedly, he would find a way to do it.

Before Eddie leaves, Kathy whispers to him, "the last time I stood right here was when I was a sophomore in high school." Eddie laughs, and replies, "I remember that. Poor Mahoney." Kathy reminisces, "yeah. Me and my double from the past walked toward Mahoney, telling him, 'we are Katarina Karakova.' That was pretty funny." Pointing down the street, Kathy reminds Eddie, "and, that's where we hid our bicycles, right in front of Hoffer's house." Hoffer and Tessa, who moved into the neighborhood many years ago, had the not so pleasurable experience of living next to the Mahoney family. Eddie tells Kathy, "well, let me get this thing back to the station." Kathy asks, "are you and Bobby B. still bringing the pizza?" Eddie replies, "yeah. Once we get this safe unloaded, we'll pick up the pizza and head back this way." Kathy replies, "perfect!"

Eddie heads out, driving the safe back to the service station, where he will figure out a way to open it. But, that project can wait. There's not likely anything in the safe that anyone in the group needs or wants. Opening the safe will merely be an exercise in amusement for the tribe. And, at the moment, picking up the pizza is of utmost importance.

As Mark gets back to the demolition, driving up is none other than Paul Mahoney, who rushes out of his car, and exclaims, "hey! What's going on here?" Braden laughs, and replies, "what does it look like's going on here? I bought this piece of shit house, and we're knocking it down." Mahoney exclaims, "shit! I thought my parents were leaving tomorrow!" Braden calmly asks Mahoney, "how can your ass be that stupid, junior? They moved out yesterday! Your parents moved away, and you can't even get the dates straight? What's the matter with you?" Mark interjects, "it sounds like to me he's been taking too much of that psycho Chubin." Kathy laughs, telling Mark, "psycho Chubin! I can't believe you still remember that from high school?"

Mahoney walks around the wreckage, frantically asking, “was there anything in the house? Did you guys look?” Kathy calmly replies, “just a couple of old pieces of furniture, a few boxes, and some old clothes.” Showing the real reason for his concern, Mahoney asks, “did you guys find a safe?” Braden smiles, and smugly replies, “maybe we did, maybe we didn’t.” Mahoney, who is not exactly that stupid, exclaims with unmistakable anger, “if you found my safe, I want it back!” Attempting to get rid of Mahoney as fast as possible, Braden instructs him, “why don’t you go call your mommy and daddy and ask them where that safe is? Maybe they can tell you.” Frantically walking back and forth examining the wreckage and not seeing any evidence of his safe, Mahoney drives off in a tizzy.

Erika comments to Braden, “there must be something really valuable in that safe if he wants it back that badly.” Braden replies, “I think you’re right about that. Now I’m really wondering what’s in that safe.” Erika tells Braden, “we can get Auggie out sometime and get him to open it.” Braden asks, “who’s Auggie?” Erika explains, “he’s a locksmith. Well, he’s a little more than a locksmith. He’s also a safecracker. It’s a good thing he’s working on our side.” Braden laughs, and comments, “and, I was thinking that we’re gonna be busting that safe open with all of Eddie’s tools.” Erika informs Braden, “Auggie can open the safe a lot easier. And, when he’s done, you’ll still have a safe instead of a pile of scrap metal.” Braden replies, “yeah. That makes a lot of sense.”

Understanding that there is a potential future problem, Kathy tells Erika and Braden, “I’m going to call Eddie, and tell him to hide the safe in the shop where it can’t be seen.” Erika replies, “that’s a good idea. It sounds like there’s definitely some kind of trouble ahead. It’s probably a good idea to head it off.” Braden comments, “yeah. I’d say.” Kathy points out, asking, “when is Mahoney involved and there’s not trouble?” Braden smiles, and replies, “that’s a really good point. That guy’s nothing but trouble.” Kathy replies, “always was, always will be.”

Now off to the side while Wendy, Barbara, and Kathy are watching Mark continue with the demolition, Braden casually mentions to Erika, “now, I’m wondering why that Mike Mahoney guy was so eager to leave town. He wanted a fast closing on the house. Then, he wanted to rent it back from me for a month. And, his ass was out of here, right on schedule.” Erika replies, “I’m going to look into that. There’s just something not right about that family.” Braden laughs, exclaiming, “yeah! I’d say!”

Surprising Braden, Erika immediately radios, “212 to radio.” The dispatcher replies, “212. Go ahead.” Erika requests, “I need a full 10-29¹ on a Michael Mahoney subject, last known address of 7 Rugby Road, in the 90 district.” The dispatcher replies, “212 stand by.” Standing back, watching as Mark proceeds with the demolition, Braden tells Erika, “now, I’m really wondering what’s up with all these Mahoneys. It sounds like to me they’re all on the crazy side.” Erika replies, “we’ll find out soon enough. But, some things never change.”

As Eddie and Bobby B. drive up with the pizza and drinks, Erika hears on her radio, “radio to 212.” Erika replies, “212. Go ahead.” The dispatcher informs Erika, “please be advised that there is a 10-75² for this Michael Mahoney subject by the FBI. No other wants or warrants at this time.” Erika replies, “please advise the FBI that Michael Mahoney sold his residence at 7 Rugby Road, departure yesterday. Whereabouts unknown at this time.” The dispatcher responds, “10-4.”

Braden tells Erika, “now, I’m really wondering what kind of trouble daddy Mahoney’s ass is in. Something must be up if he’s wanted by the FBI.” Erika replies, “if the FBI is involved, it’s probably some kind of white-collar crime. I’ll find out more from Chief Hayes when I get back to the precinct. There’s only so much dispatch can see.” Always wanting to stay on the top of everything, Braden tells Erika, “let me know what you find out.” Erika asks Braden, “did John Davies do the closing?” Braden replies, “yeah.” Erika suggests to Braden, who bought the house, “see if there is anything on the closing documents that might look suspicious.” Braden replies, “I’m gonna do that when I get home.”

With lunch arriving, the wrecking crew takes a lunch break, and digs into the pizza. Braden turns around, seeing his son, Hunter, walking up. Wondering why Hunter is not at home, Braden asks, “hey! How come your ass isn’t home, laying in bed?” Hunter explains, “I suddenly got better. I wanted to check out what’s going on.” Eddie comments, “he just came for the pizza.” Hunter replies, “yeah. That too. I’m kind of hungry.” Braden advises Hunter, “okay, just as long as your lazy ass gets your chores done. I don’t wanna hear how you suddenly got sick again later today.” But, Braden kind of suspected that Hunter was trying to get out of his chores and wanted to help with the demolition.

Midway through lunch, Paul Mahoney drives up to the demolition site once again. Mahoney, unfortunately, will not be getting any pizza

¹ 10-29: Records Check

² 10-75: Wanted person

today. Getting out of his car and beginning his second tirade of the day, Mahoney exclaims, "I want my safe back! I just talked to my parents and they said they left it in the house! They thought my safe was empty!" Kathy comments to the group, "so much for our peaceful life." Erika, a seasoned police officer, strategically tells Mahoney, "okay, sir. Please calm down. Let's see what we can do."

Hoping to learn of the whereabouts of Michael Mahoney, Erika asks Mahoney, "by the way, where did your parents move to?" Unaware that his father is wanted by the FBI, Mahoney replies, "they're moving to someplace in the Carribean." Acting friendly, Erika probes further, asking, "really? That must be awesome! Where are they now?" Mahoney replies, "I just talked to them. They're on the road, headed to Miami. They stopped over in North Carolina for the night on their way down." Erika comments, "wow! Miami! That must be nice, taking advantage of the warm weather and the sunshine." Falling hook, line, and sinker for Erika's perceived friendliness, Mahoney replies, "I know. They'll be there for about two weeks, taking care of some last-minute business before they leave."

Mahoney then asks, "so, can I get my safe back?" Braden stares over at Mahoney, saying absolutely nothing if anyone can believe that. Likewise, the others in the tribe are silent, ignoring Mahoney. Not getting the attention he thinks he deserves, Mahoney exclaims, "did you guys hear me?" Hunter calmly tells Mahoney, "it looks to me like my dad kicked your flimsy ass again, just like he did when you guys were in high school." In the middle of taking a bite of her pizza, Kathy laughs hysterically, which does not go unnoticed by Mahoney. Mahoney exclaims, "this isn't funny! I want my safe back!" Not wanting her peaceful lunch interrupted, Kathy stands up and walks toward Mahoney, saying in a monotone voice, "I am Katarina Karakova." Having a sudden flashback to his high school years, Mahoney exclaims, "nooooo! Stop it! Not this again! Stop it!" Staring right through Mahoney, Kathy again announces, "I am Katarina Karakova."

Rushing to his car, Mahoney gets in and starts the engine. Seeing Mahoney leaving some rubber on the road as he drives off, Eddie comments, "today's Saturday. He should have scheduled his nervous breakdown for another day." Kathy mentions, "well, he's a big boy now. Maybe he'll drive himself to the sanitarium. They're probably open seven days a week." With far less than a serious tone, Barbara asks Kathy, "where's your sympathy, girl?" Kathy replies, "when it comes to that idiot, it went down the toilet a long, long time ago."

Hunter asks anyone willing to answer, "what's wrong with that guy, anyway?" Eddie succinctly replies, "he was born." Mark comments, "he

took way too much of that psycho Chubin when he was in high school.” Surprised at Mark’s vivid recollection of his high school years, Kathy again laughs hysterically. Braden tells Hunter, “son, that guy got his ass kicked so many times in high school that his ass is now flat as a pancake. That’s exactly why you wanna be the one doing the ass kicking! If you get your ass kicked over and over, that’s how you’re gonna turn out!” Sounding a bit like his father, Hunter exclaims, “ain’t nobody kicking my ass!”

Hunter, now a senior in high school, following in his father’s footsteps, is a star member of the track team. Running the 100-meter dash, the 400-meter dash, and the 4 by 400-meter relay, Hunter is unstoppable on the track.

Meanwhile, Erika steps off to the side and, over the radio, advises the precinct that Michael Mahoney has plans to move to the Caribbean and that he is currently South of North Carolina en route to Miami, Florida. The precinct will relay that information to the FBI and other local authorities, who will hopefully detain Michael Mahoney before he has a chance to leave the country.

Lunch comes to a close, and Mark continues with the demolition, offering to anyone who wants to drive the bulldozer a chance to help with the heavy work. Hunter quickly volunteers, announcing, “I’ll help!” Braden quickly tells Hunter, “how are you gonna help? You gotta get your ass behind a lawnmower! How are you gonna drive a bulldozer and push a lawnmower at the same time?” Hunter reluctantly goes back home to get his chores done, but that’s the way things go when you’re seventeen years old.

Once Hunter is far enough away, Mark tells Braden, “Hunter could always drive the bulldozer to school when school starts. That would be almost as good as the Porsche 914 he wants.” Eddie suggests, “it’s too bad Mr. Crum’s old VW Beetle isn’t there. Hunter could pick up the Beetle with the bulldozer, and dump it in the dumpster.” Kathy laughs, exclaiming, “why didn’t we think of that when we were in high school?” Eddie replies, “well, probably because we didn’t exactly have access to a bulldozer back then. But, I do remember a few delicate and fragile women wedging Mr. Crum’s Beetle between two trees.” Kathy laughs, and exclaims, “that was seriously fun!”

A few days after the demolition of the Mahoney house, Erika arrives at Eddie’s Service Station, dressed in uniform, along with Auggie, the local locksmith, who also has a high level of skill in cracking safes. Announcing her entrance, Erika yells out to Eddie and Bobby B., “are you

ready to crack that baby open?" Eddie yells back, "go for it! It's all yours."

Auggie takes a look at the safe, quickly stating, "this won't take too long. It'll be easy." Eddie asks, "how easy?" Auggie explains, "this safe has a group one lock with a three-number combination. It's common in high-end consumer safes. It's a lot more secure than a gun safe. It's typically used to store gold, silver, or other valuables. If it's bolted down well, it will keep the common and experienced criminals away. Opening this safe is far beyond their skill level. I can open it with a drill or I can crack it." Erika suggests, "try to crack it first. Maybe Braden would want to keep it." Auggie then announces, "no problem. Let me get some equipment out of my truck."

While Auggie steps away, Erika tells Eddie, "now, I'm really wondering what's so valuable in that safe. Mahoney sounded like he really wanted it back." Recalling how Mahoney was a bit on the crazy side, Bobby B. suggests, "it's probably where he hid his private stash of psycho Chubin." Eddie laughs, telling Bobby B., "you're beginning to sound like Mark." Erika informs Eddie and Bobby B., "depending on what's in that safe, we might be taking Mahoney in for questioning. Just to annoy him, of course." Eddie reminds Erika, "you might be questioning him in the sanatorium, which is where he probably is right now."

Auggie returns with a stethoscope, an interesting piece of electronic equipment with a built-in oscilloscope, and a box of wires. Hooking a bunch of sensors to the front of the safe, Auggie gets to work. Briefly explaining the method of cracking this particular safe, Auggie explains, "using this method, I can determine the three numbers of the combination, which will leave me with six possible combinations to the safe." Erika comments, "that should be easy enough." Eddie suggests, "if it can't be cracked, we can just get Bobby B. to rip the door open." Taking a look at Bobby B., Auggie responds, "there's probably a few safes out there that he can open with his bare hands."

Ten short minutes go by, and Auggie opens the door to the safe. Erika is the first one to take a peek. It doesn't take Erika long to announce, "it looks like there's a lot of shit to sort through." Eddie and Bobby B. take a look inside the safe, seeing papers, an old camera, photographs, notebooks, and a few locked strong boxes.

Eddie takes one of the strong boxes, hands it to Bobby B., telling him, "here, bro. Open this." Taking hold of the box, Bobby B., with his bare hands, breaks the flimsy hinged lock and opens the box. Inside is found a pile of cash. Eddie comments, "no wonder Mahoney wanted his

safe back.” Erika observes, “he probably forgot there was cash in the safe. All of those drugs he took probably damaged his memory.” Not that anyone in the tribe needs it, Eddie asks Erika, “who gets to keep the cash?” Erika replies, “technically, anything found in the safe is Braden’s. He bought the house, so anything left behind is his unless, of course, it’s stolen or illegal. Then, we take it in. But, anyway, I’ll run the serial numbers to see if the bills have been used in any drug deals or gambling activity. There was a lot of that going on back then.” Eddie suggests, “Braden could use the money to buy more radios.” Bobby B. comments, “or, Wendy can use the money to buy more plants.”

Eddie asks Auggie, “is there any way we can change the combination?” Auggie replies, “sure. It’s pretty simple. Do you have any Loctite?” Eddie replies, “yeah.” Auggie asks Eddie, “what do you want the combination to be?” Eddie replies, “just make it random. Braden might want to keep the safe.” After all, Braden is all into security. Auggie gets busy changing the combination, as Eddie carefully watches how it is done.

Once he is finished, Auggie announces, “good luck, guys, sorting through this mess. It looks like you guys hit pay dirt.” Erika tells Auggie, “send the department your bill. I’ll make sure it gets taken care of.” Auggie replies, “thanks. I’m glad I could help.” With his job done, Auggie heads out. Eddie and Bobby B. also get back to work, if tuning up their Dune Buggies for Spring can even be called work.

Erika’s job, however, is only just beginning. Erika spends the next hour sorting through the evidence, dividing what she found into potential evidence against Paul Mahoney and garbage. Of interest to Erika and the police department is anything that can be construed to be related to Paul Mahoney’s past drug dealing operation. Although any evidence found is well past any statutes of limitations, items found in Mahoney’s safe can minimally be used for closure of cases from many years ago.

Eddie walks over, asking Erika, “did you find anything interesting?” Erika hands Eddie a clear evidence bag, telling him, “take a look at these.” Inside the bag are photographs from many years ago. Thumbing through Mahoney’s photographs, Eddie exclaims, “shit! What the? I should go back through the portal and kick his ass!” Mahoney, during his senior year in high school, apparently took more than one hundred photographs of Kathy, including a few when she was out on a date with Eddie at the pizzeria. Eddie exclaims, “this guy is a major-league stalker!” Erika replies, “seriously. Add that to his list of mental conditions. It’s just too bad the statute of limitation has past.” Eddie replies, “and, it’s just too bad for Mahoney that there’s no statute of

limitations in the portal.” Erika smiles, and replies, “oh, yeah. I forgot about that.”

Eddie asks Erika, “what else did you find?” Erika replies, “drugs, a few fake IDs, a camera, a lot of other photos, and another box of money. And, I found a notebook with a few names and numbers in it. But, it’s probably 25 or 30 years old, and not of much value.” Eddie asks, “is there anyone we know in it?” Erika replies, “I haven’t looked through it yet. Probably all the losers from high school.” Recalling his high school years, Eddie laughs, and comments, “I wonder if Mr. Crum’s name is in that book.” Erika sighs, and replies, “Maurice Crum, lifer extraordinaire. He ain’t getting out anytime soon. Right now, he’s probably on his hands and knees, cleaning some prisoner’s toilet or making their bed.”

Seeing a picture of him and Kathy sitting in the pizzeria together when Eddie was in the ninth grade, Eddie asks Erika, “can I have this picture?” Erika takes a look, and tells Eddie, “I don’t see why not.” Referring to the pictures of Kathy, Eddie asks, “can I have the rest of them too?” Erika replies, “sure. Take them. They’re yours.” Old pictures of Kathy are obviously of no use to the police department.

With her immediate job completed, Erika packs up the evidence found in the safe, loading it into her patrol car. She will then transport it to the police station, where it will be sifted through. Anything not considered evidence in a crime will be returned to Braden, including the stash of money. Eddie gets back to work, thinking of ways to mess with Mahoney for stalking him and Kathy back when they were in high school.

Later that afternoon Eddie heads home and walks through the door. Kathy exclaims, “oh, good! You’re home! Look what I got!” Taking a seat on the sofa next to Kathy, Eddie asks, “what’s that?” Showing some excitement, Kathy replies, “it’s a laptop computer!” Eddie asks, “really? What’s it good for?” Kathy replies, “I’m not exactly sure yet, but it looks like it could be useful for something.” Eddie looks at the screen to the computer, seeing a vague resemblance to a computer he saw the mechanic using during one of his trips to the future when he was in high school.

Changing the subject, Eddie hands Kathy the photograph that Mahoney took when she was a sophomore in high school, telling her, “look what I got.” Recognizing the setting, herself, and Eddie in the photograph, Kathy asks, “where did you get this?” Eddie replies, “it was in Mahoney’s safe.” Taking a closer look at the photo, Kathy exclaims, “what the! That guy’s a stalker! There’s something seriously wrong with

that moron!” Eddie replies, “I know. I was thinking about ways all day to mess with him.”

Kathy curiously asks, “what else was in the safe?” Eddie replies, “money, drugs, photographs, and about a hundred photos of you.” Kathy screams out, “what? That idiot jerk had a hundred photos of me?” Handing Kathy a bag with the photos of Kathy, Eddie replies, “yeah. Here they are. That guy is seriously crazy.” Seeing the photos, Kathy goes on a rant, getting her adrenaline levels up, exclaiming to the world what an idiot Mahoney is.

Once Kathy calms down, Eddie informs her, “Erika took everything else away in evidence bags. Once they go through it all, it looks like Braden will get what’s left of it.” Kathy replies, “I want all the photos of me. I want to know what that guy was up to!” Eddie assures Kathy, “if there are any others, I’m sure Braden will give them to you. But, I think this is all of them. And the negatives were with the photos, so you don’t have to worry about that.”

Kathy asks Eddie, “do you know when this photo was taken?” Eddie replies, “I think it was right before Spring track tryouts during my freshman year.” Kathy exclaims, “that’s right! Then, during the Spring track season, Mahoney ended up back in the sanitarium and dropped out of school.”

Eddie mentions, “you know, I’m really getting tired of all these idiots from the past. Whenever they show up, it’s always a big problem. They just won’t go away. From now on, whenever one of them shows up, I’m getting rid of them in an esoteric manner.” Teasing Eddie, Kathy comments, “wow! ‘Esoteric’. That’s a college word.” Eddie replies, “I learned it from Athena.” Kathy smiles, and asks, “so, Mr. Mechanic, what esoteric manners of disposing of these idiots are in your arsenal?” Clearly ticked off, Eddie replies, “I’m gonna put their fat ass in the portal, and ship them off to somewhere where it’s gonna take them a month to get home. And, when they do get home, they ain’t gonna know what’s real and what’s not real.” Kathy laughs, and replies, “that kind of sounded like something Braden would say.” Eddie responds, “I’m sure Braden would like to help taking out the trash. So would Bobby B.” Kathy responds, “you can’t leave Mark out. He always enjoys messing with people.”

Now curious, Kathy asks, “so, who’s on your hit list?” Eddie replies, “at the top of the list right now is Mahoney. But, there’s the Chuckie, Goldshit, the Harmon sisters, the bitchkrieg, whatever her name was, and anyone named McCrutchen. And, any of McCrutchen’s college friends, like that lug nut guy and Brad Evans are high on my list too.”

Kathy mentions, “how can you leave out Jimmy O’Brien?” Eddie continues, “oh yeah. Jimmy O’Brien and his communist father. And, I might as well throw in Mr. Crum, and any of those other clowns from high school while I’m at it. They’ve all got to go.” Eddie thinks for a moment, and adds, “and, there’s those other clowns from our University years, like Dean Grimsby, Dr. Paxton, Frank Glooma, good ole Giuseppe Vio Otto, and Mayor Jamieson. If they ever show up again, they’ll be shipped off to Siberia. The same with that Major Nachlobrocklin guy.” Kathy laughs, and points out, “Nachlobrocklin has probably self destructed by now.” Eddie replies, “you’re probably right about that.” Apparently, Eddie and Kathy have had enough of certain people from their past.

Now with a plan, Kathy stands up, and announces, “I’m totally with you! I’m taking care of this, and I’m doing it right now!” Eddie asks, “what are you talking about?” Kathy replies, “I’m going to the past, and telling that jerk, Mahoney, to never take a picture of me again.” Eddie informs Kathy, “you know, Katarina, we can have some fun with this, if you want.” Wondering what Eddie is planning, Kathy asks, “what are you thinking?” Eddie explains, “we go back to the past, after he got out of the sanitarium, and you approach him, telling him you are Katarina Karakova, from the future.” Suddenly filled with excitement, Kathy energetically gives Eddie a high-five, telling him, “let’s go!”

Kathy puts her computer down for the moment, and she and Eddie go into to the back yard where Kathy heads straight for their home portal. On their way, Kathy asks Eddie, “when did he get out of the sanitarium? Do you remember?” Eddie replies, “sometime in the Summer right before my sophomore year.” Kathy replies, “that’s right. I remember that now. I remember giving you the news when it happened.” Entering the portal with the picture taken by Mahoney, Kathy announces, “take us to the end of the Summer of my junior year, in front of Paul Mahoney’s house.”

Upon arriving in the past, Kathy and Eddie find themselves in Mahoney’s front yard. Kathy tells Eddie, “good news. His piece of shit car is here. That means he’s around here somewhere.” Eddie replies, “actually, the Corvette is a really great car. It’s the owner that’s the problem.”

Kathy instructs Eddie, “start looking through the windows of his car. I want to get him out of his house. Play along with me.” Eddie asks, “what’s the plan?” Kathy replies, “I don’t know yet. I’ll have to play this one out like a bird in flight.” Not knowing what Kathy is up to, Eddie replies, “got it.”

Kathy walks up to the door, and knocks. Mrs. Mahoney comes to the door, asking, "may I help you?" Kathy replies, "yes, ma'am. You certainly can. We need to speak to the owner of the blue Corvette parked in the driveway immediately." Mrs. Mahoney asks, "is there a problem?" Kathy strategically replies, "yes, ma'am. There is a serious problem. But, we're only authorized to speak to the owner. Are you the owner?" Now looking very worried, Mrs. Mahoney replies, "no. Let me get Paul. I'll be right back." Waiting for Mahoney to come out of the house, Kathy takes a brief trek down the walk, joining Eddie at Mahoney's blue Corvette.

Mahoney walks out the front door toward his car, and immediately asks, "hey! I hear there's a problem, something about my car. What's the problem?" Kathy asks, "are you Paul Mahoney?" Clearly concerned, Mahoney replies, "yeah. Is there a problem here?" As Mahoney approaches, Kathy replies, "yes, sir. There's a very serious problem. Would you please take a close look at this photograph?" Mahoney takes a look at the photograph, quickly recognizing it as one he took a few years back. Mahoney exclaims, "hey! Where did you get this?" Staring Mahoney in the face, Kathy replies, "I am Katarina Karakova, and I have come from the future to tell you to stop taking pictures of me. And, this is Eddie, from the future, and he's going to kick your moronic little ass if you so much as point a camera at me again. Got it?" Hearing the words, "I am Katarina Karakova," Mahoney has a flashback, suddenly and momentarily freezing.

In a few seconds, Mahoney looks around, rubs his eyes, and exclaims, "this can't be! What's going on here?" Staring Mahoney in the face, Kathy whispers to the twirp, "rub your eyes all you want, junior. I'm not going away. I am Katarina Karakova from the future." Before Kathy can finish her warning to Mahoney, Mahoney screams out, "nooooo! They said I was all better! This can't be happening! They said I was all better!" Kathy sternly informs Mahoney, "you're not any better, junior. All those drugs they gave you are messing you up even more. Why don't you go inside, get the keys to your car, and drive yourself to the sanitarium?"

Watching as Mahoney runs back inside, Kathy tells Eddie, "I think we're all done here." Kathy grabs Eddie's hand, and walks back into the portal, suddenly disappearing from Mahoney's front yard. Looking out into his front yard before he closes the door, Mahoney caught a glimpse of Eddie and Kathy suddenly disappearing into oblivion, causing him to be more frightened than ever.

Arriving back at their time, Kathy tells Eddie, "well, I guess it's back to the good old sanitarium for Mahoney." Eddie reminds Kathy, "I guess we now know how he ended up back in the sanitarium that year." Kathy

suggests, “maybe we should go back in time and visit him in the sanatorium. We can bring the whole tribe with us, and pay him a surprise visit.” Eddie laughs and, perceiving how Kathy’s plan would go, orates, “good morning. My name is Dr. Axel Braden. I’m here to give you your ass kicking therapy session. Please step right up and turn around so I can personally give you your ass kicking.” Kathy laughs, telling Eddie, “you know, that would be kind of funny! And, I can’t even imagine what Mark would come up with.” Eddie replies, “Mark would tell Mahoney that his shoelaces are untied. Mahoney would look, and Mark would exclaim, ‘junior! You’re in a mental ward! They don’t give you shoelaces! They won’t even give you a pencil! All you get to write with are crayons! And, the sheets on your bed are like paper towels, so you can’t hang yourself!” Kathy laughs, replying, “Mahoney couldn’t tie his shoelaces anyway.”

Arriving back inside, Eddie asks Kathy, “now, where were we?” Kathy replies, “I was looking at my new computer, wondering what it’s good for.” Eddie replies, “show me what it does.” Eddie sits down with Kathy, exploring the technology of the future that has finally arrived.

The next week, driving into Eddie’s Service Station one morning is a familiar face, one who Eddie and Bobby B. wishes they’d never have to see again. Looking out of the service bays, Eddie tells Bobby B., “well, well, well, look what just drove in.” Bobby B. laughs, replying, “I wonder what he wants.” Eddie replies, “it looks like he wants to buy gas.” Bobby B. replies, “that’s his problem. It’s Saturday. We’re closed. And, we don’t sell gas to idiots. They might set themselves on fire.” Quick with a comeback, Eddie tells Bobby B., “especially with that piece of shit. It might end up with an engine fire.”

Jimmy O’Brien pulls up to the pumps, where there is a sign that clearly states the pumps are closed. Today, Eddie and Bobby B. are working on two Porsche 914s, getting them ready for Eddie, Jr. to convert to electric vehicles. A while ago, with Eddie’s help, Eddie, Jr. removed all the mechanicals from both 914s. With Eddie and Bobby B. today is Kurt Richter, who is helping Eddie with the project. Working closely with Kurt today, Eddie does not have the time for O’Brien at the moment.

While O’Brien waits for someone to come out and pump his gas, Bobby B. tells Eddie, “he’s just sitting out there.” Eddie replies, “let him sit there. We don’t have time for him today.” Kurt comments, “it sounds like you guys know that guy.” Eddie replies, “yeah. He’s a jerk from high school who never grew up.” Kurt replies, “every high school has one of those. In my class, the class idiot was a guy named Charles Smith.” Eddie laughs, and informs Kurt, “we had another guy in our high

school named Charles Black. We called him the little Chuckie.” Kurt laughs, and tells Eddie, “that’s really funny. A lot of the guys called Charles Smith ‘Chuckie.’” Bobby B. comments, “anyone named Chuckie sounds like a character from a horror movie.” Eddie and Kurt laugh, clearly agreeing with Bobby B’s. assessment.

Not getting any service for about three or four minutes, O’Brien walks up to the service bays and yells out, “hey! Can somebody get out here and help me?” Eddie yells back, “we’re not open to the public, junior. Take a hike.” O’Brien, sounding a bit like his father, slyly replies, “you look like you’re open to me.” Eddie firmly tells O’Brien, “well, we’re not, junior. It’s Saturday. We’re closed. So, leave.” O’Brien, with a demanding tone, asks, “can’t I just get a tank of gas?” Orating hard and fast logic, Eddie replies, “I told you. We’re not open to the public. You are the public, O’Brien. To you, we’re closed. So, go home.” O’Brien exclaims, “that’s not fair!” Attempting to get rid of O’Brien from another angle, Eddie tells him, “I’m not here, O’Brien. I’m a figment of your imagination.” Not the least bit happy, O’Brien, who makes a sport of intentionally trying to irritate Eddie and Bobby B., walks away and drives off to another service station.

Kurt curiously asks, “what’s up with that guy, anyway?” Eddie replies, “he can’t keep a job, he can’t keep a vehicle running, he can’t stay sober for more than a few days, and he’s the biggest loser in town.” Bobby B. adds, “and, that broken down piece of shit he drove up in is his house. He lives in it.” Eddie laughs, and tells Kurt, “when he first got that thing, he complained that it is drafty and doesn’t get good gas milage. So, I told him, ‘what do you expect, junior? You bought a vehicle that is about as aerodynamic as a refrigerator.’ That really ticked him off, so we didn’t see him for a few months. But, it looks like he’s back.” Bobby B. comments, “hopefully, we won’t see him again for another few months.” Eddie surmises, “since that van is his home, he probably moves around a lot. Angelo mentioned once that O’Brien came into his shop a few times.”

Over the last decade, Jimmy O’Brien has seriously gone downhill. Mark would argue that O’Brien couldn’t have gone any further downhill than he already was. O’Brien has been let go from several jobs he has had, all for the same reason - he was stealing from the employer. Ten years ago, still living at home with his parents, O’Brien had to go out on his own when Mr. and Mrs. O’Brien lost their house again. Jimmy O’Brien, having no means of supporting himself, purchased a van, put his mattress in the back, picked up a few plastic milk crates to store his clothes and personal items, and takes a shower at a local gym where his younger brother is an employee.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien have not fared any better. After serving a prison sentence for gambling related charges, Mr. O'Brien could not find any meaningful employment. Not well suited for physical labor, over the last decade, Mr. O'Brien had to settle for entry level positions, most of which paid little more than minimum wage. Once his stash of gambling money ran out, Mr. O'Brien and his wife, Nancy, lost their house and moved into her elderly parent's basement. Today, Mr. O'Brien is a stock clerk in the shoe department of a department store, reboxing shoes that did not fit the customers' feet.

Kurt asks Eddie, "how come you're not open to the public?" Eddie explains, "we're only here fifteen to twenty hours a week. We're one of the stations that service the county vehicles, especially the police cars. We've done a lot of performance enhancements to the police vehicles and some of the officers' personal cars. The department even bought two of the VW Busses with the Porsche engine in it." Kurt laughs, and tells Eddie, "I'll remember not to speed when I see a county police Bus behind me." Eddie informs Kurt, "you won't have to worry about that. The Busses are part of the SWAT team. It's one type of vehicle they use as personnel and weapons carriers. They use them when they have to get somewhere fast." Kurt replies, "I see the point. Those massively armored SWAT vehicles couldn't get anywhere too fast." Eddie replies, "exactly." Bobby B. then mentions to Kurt, "we also work on our friend's vehicles. But, like Eddie said, we're not open to the general public."

Eddie, Bobby B., and Kurt get back to working on the project. Eddie shares with Kurt all the times O'Brien came into the station with some interesting automotive problems. Kurt is at a loss to understand how someone like Jimmy O'Brien could be so stupid. But, as Kurt said, every high school has a class idiot. At Northside High School, in Eddie's class, the class idiot was Jimmy O'Brien, who was in strong contention for that title with Chuckie.

At Kurt's high school, the class idiot was a guy named Charles Smith, who once bet a classmate that he would survive fifteen minutes in the cold Atlantic Ocean in the middle of January. Losing the bet, Smith ended up in the hospital with a severe case of hypothermia. Another of Smith's stupid stunts was to challenge a classmate in the skill of who can hold a 9-volt battery on their tongue the longest. Smith went first. Since there was no money at stake, without even making an attempt, Smith's competition conceded, which was the plan all along. That moronic challenge left Smith with a burned tongue, and no financial gain to show for it.

Coming up with a plan to strengthen and stiffen the framework of the Porsche 914, Eddie and Kurt are done for the day. Over the next

few days, Eddie and Bobby B. will get to work, doing a lot of welding and modification to the two 914s, preparing them for Eddie, Jr.'s conversion. But, before Eddie, Jr. gets to work, each vehicle will get a new paint job over at Vinnie's Body Shop.

When Eddie gets home that afternoon, Kathy mentions to Eddie, "we got some really interesting mail today." Eddie asks, "really? What's that?" Kathy explains, "we're getting audited by the IRS. We have to show up in early January." Reviewing the letter, Eddie tells Kathy, "we'll just let John Davies and Ralph deal with this. Our tax returns are the cleanest on record. There's nothing there. They're just fishing." Kathy, who takes care of the family finances, replies, "I know. But, I was just thinking that we can go just to see what they want."

Not really wanting to attend the audit, Eddie asks, "if Mr. Davies and Ralph attend the audit, do I even have to go?" Kathy replies, "no. I already called Ralph. He said he'll take care of it. But, I'm going to go anyway, just so I can see what their problem is. Why don't you come with me?" Eddie jokingly comments, "sure. And, why not? Maybe it's Dean Grimsby doing the audit." Kathy laughs, and replies, "I wouldn't miss that for the world!" Abruptly changing his mind, Eddie tells Kathy, "well, Katarina Karakova, it's a date. We can all go out and get pizza after the audit." Kathy replies, "by the way, in case you haven't noticed, it's still Katarina Bogenskaya." Eddie replies, "yeah, I know. But, Katarina Karakova just sounds so cute."

Eddie asks, "what else did we get in the mail?" Kathy replies, "we got something from someone wanting to sell us insurance." Not needing any insurance, Eddie asks, "didn't you throw it away?" Kathy replies, "no. This one is kind of funny. The insurance plan they are selling includes coverage for if you accidentally injure someone." Eddie laughs, and tells Kathy, "if I injure someone, it's not likely to be an accident. Think Chuckie, Goldshit, Mr. Crum, or McCrutchen." Kathy smiles, and replies, "good point." Eddie asks, "anything else?" Kathy yells out, "nope! Pizza time!" Not the least bit concerned with the upcoming IRS audit, Eddie and Kathy head out for pizza with the tribe.