

CSI: MIAMI  
"Nail Gun Massacre"

by  
J. Edwin Bishop

The scene opens with a dead body, lying in the middle of the stage. Alexx and Calleigh are crouching over the body. Horatio and Det. Sgt. Frank Tripp enter from the back of the

stage.

FRANK

The body is right over here. He was killed by what appears to be multiple wounds from a nail gun.

HORATIO

Alexx?

ALEXX

It looks like this guy has been dead for about four hours, H.

CALLEIGH

And these wounds all appear to have been inflicted by a nail gun, indicated by the nails protruding from each wound.

FRANK

Looks like we have our first murder by nail gun ever in Miami here.

HORATIO

No, Frank, I'm afraid not. I'm afraid what we have here...is a serial killer

Intro music begins playing (the scream), interrupted by Frank.

FRANK

No, Horatio, this is the **first** murder by nail gun in Dade County. First. Ever. What makes you think this is a serial killing?

HORATIO

You don't go to this much trouble just to kill one man, Frank. No, no, our killer hasn't nailed his last victim yet.

Intro music (screaming) plays again. Scene changes, with dead body in same place, but Frank and Alexx remain on stage while Calleigh and Horatio leave. Horatio then re-enters from back of stage.

FRANK

Well, looks like you were right, Horatio. We've got another body.

ALEXX

This victim's been dead about six hours, H.

FRANK

It looks like the same M.O..

HORATIO

I was afraid of this, Frank.

He touches his pocket, then pulls a cell phone out.

HORATIO

Hold on a second, it's Calleigh.

Into the phone.

HORATIO

Tell me something good.

CALLEIGH

(From off stage, on the "phone") Well, we were right. I removed the nails from the body and they're just what we thought they were. They're nails.

HORATIO

Great work, Calleigh. Have you got anything else?

CALLEIGH

The nails were indeed fired from a nail gun.

HORATIO

You tested for this?

CALLEIGH

I did..

Everyone on stage gets up and leaves while Calleigh rotates in, on cell phone, and a table is brought out and the dead body lays down on it. Calleigh puts phone out of sight while continuing to talk..

CALLEIGH

I tried a variety of tests, H. First I tried just pushing a nail into a mock body.

Calleigh tries pushing a nail into the body on the table.

CALLEIGH

Then I tried pounding the nail in with the palm of my hand, to little effect.

Calleigh hurts hand while trying to slap it down on "nail" in body.

CALLEIGH

Then I tried using a hammer, and although I was able to achieve similar depth to the wounds inflicted, I still..

HORATIO

(from off stage) You still thought all of those methods would be too time consuming and allow for more struggle from the victim than was apparent at the scene of the crime.

CALLEIGH

Exactly. So then I tried a nail gun and

The set reverses again, with Calleigh going back stage and the body, Horatio, Frank and Alexx coming back out to the places they were at before, with Horatio on the phone.

CALLEIGH

(off stage, on the "phone") it looks like we were right. It was definitely a nail gun.

HORATIO

Great work, Calleigh, great work.

Hangs up the phone.

FRANK

What did she have to say?

HORATIO

It was definitely a nail gun.

ALEXX

This victim's been dead for about six hours, H.

HORATIO

Thanks, Alexx, but I think you already told us that.

ALEXX

Oh, uh, oh.

Scene shifts to just Horatio and Frank, Horatio stands at front of stage with foot on speaker, contemplating, while Frank stands back a little with his hands in his pockets, looking a little confused.

FRANK

What are you thinking, Horatio?

HORATIO

I don't know, Frank, I...just...don't...know. This is a tough one to crack.

FRANK

A serial killer that kills with a nail gun for no obvious reason. It's a mystery.

HORATIO

I wonder...I wonder if it's drug related, somehow?

FRANK

Drugs, Horatio?

HORATIO

It seems like a lot of things are related to drugs around here. Seems like a safe bet.

FRANK

Huh.

HORATIO

You know that those drug people killed my girlfriend, Erik's sister, right?

FRANK

I know.

HORATIO

Those were drug guys.

FRANK

Yeah.

HORATIO

Or maybe it has something to do with my son.

FRANK

Your son?

HORATIO

Yeah, what if he somehow got involved with the drug people who murdered my girlfriend, Erik's sister?

FRANK

But what does that have to do with these nail gun murders?

HORATIO

I don't know, I'm just grasping at straws here.

Calleigh enters.

FRANK

Calleigh! Great! How's the investigation going?

CALLEIGH

Good, good. We may have something. Ryan and Erik came up with a theory.

FRANK

Wait, where are Ryan and Erik?

CALLEIGH

Oh, they couldn't make it this week.

FRANK

Oh, all right.

CALLEIGH

But they thought of something. They both felt this case sounded familiar somehow, and after talking, they recalled a movie from their youth dealing with nail gun murders.

HORATIO

A movie, Calleigh?

CALLEIGH

Yeah, they couldn't remember the name of it. But the plot was about a construction salesman whose sister was raped, and he goes on this rampage around killing construction workers with a nail gun, taking revenge on the men responsible for his sisters rape.

FRANK

That sounds like some story, but why construction workers?

CALLEIGH

It was construction workers that raped his sister. And there's more. Ryan ran the two victim's names through the database.

FRANK

We already did that, and we didn't find anything.

CALLEIGH

That's the same problem Ryan ran into at first, but then he thought to check reports that were never followed through on concerning rapes.

FRANK

And...

CALLEIGH

And he found a case that was dropped after the initial report, containing three names as the perpetrators, two of which are our first two victims.

FRANK

Great work, Calleigh. Does this rape victim have a brother?

CALLEIGH

That's the weird part, she's an only child.

FRANK

Then we're at another dead end.

HORATIO

Not necessarily, Frank. What about the third attacker, from the original rape report?

CALLEIGH

Already on it, H. I sent Alexx out to check on him before I came down here.

HORATIO

But Alexx is just a medical examiner. What are you doing sending her out into the field alone..

Horatio and Frank run off stage in a slight panic.

CALLEIGH

But we always send medical examiners and fingerprint experts into the field..

Calleigh follows them off stage. The scene changes and opens on Alexx leaning over the dead body again, when Horatio, Frank and Calleigh suddenly run on stage from the back.

HORATIO

Alexx!

FRANK

(out of breath) Thank God you're all right!

CALLEIGH

Hey, Alexx.

ALEXX

This body's been dead for about three hours, H.

HORATIO

Good work, I'm glad you're all right. Same M.O.?

ALEXX

It appears to be.

CALLEIGH

Those are definitely nails protruding from the wounds there.

FRANK

Looks like the nail gun massacre-er has struck again.

Frank has trouble saying massacre-er.

HORATIO

Yes, Frank. And at this point, it appears he's nailed his last victim. We're back at square one, it appears.

Calleigh touches her pocket, then pulls out a cell phone and looks at the screen.

CALLEIGH

It's a text from Ryan, H. He's caught the killer.

HORATIO

How'd he even find the killer?

CALLEIGH

He finally remembered the name of the movie, then found the only place that rents it out in Miami and tracked down the three people that have rented it in the last ten years. One of them ended up being the killer. He and Erik went around and interviewed the three names, and on the third found the nail gun in the kitchen. Some guy named Terry Lofton, who admitted to the murders after Erik found the nail gun leaning against the kitchen sink. They took him into custody.

HORATIO

He said all of that in the text?

FRANK

Why didn't he just call?

CALLEIGH

I guess he didn't have the minutes.