

# TOM BUCKNER I

LIFE EP. 207 "JACKPOT" - STUDIO DRAFT 7/30/2008 6.

## ACT ONE

6 INT. ST. THOMAS CHURCH - MEETING ROOM - DAY 6

Right where we left off. Those eleven millionaire lottery winners looking at Crews and Reese. Crews goes and sits in that empty chair, softly he says...

CREWS

Is Hannah Ronson a member of this group?

WES

We're anonymous, we don't use last names... but there is a Hannah who belongs here. Why?

REESE

Hannah Ronson was found in her car, this morning...

DALE, 30-year-old John Hodgman type, in designer sweats, speaks up.

DALE

Found? Like found dead?

TOM

Was it an accident?

CREWS

No... it wasn't an accident. And what's your name?

TOM

Tom...

CREWS

Tom what?

But before Tom answers.

DALE

If it wasn't an accident... you're saying Hannah... our Hannah...

Dale stands up now... hyperventilating a little.

TOM

He's saying someone killed Hannah, numbnuts. You heard him.

LIFE 207 - Tom Buckner  
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START  
→

END

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# TOM BUCKNER II

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15 CONTINUED:

15

None of them have an answer. Ted turns his back and begins to write PROFITEERING on the board. As he does...

OLIVIA (O.S.)

Because business is not just about money.

Ted turns and sees OLIVIA has come into the classroom.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Business is also about people. How we treat each other as people.

Ted and Olivia look at each other. But then...

VAIRAM

Please tell her that is just what they say on the commercials but it is really not true.

16 EXT. TOM BUCKNER'S HOUSE - DAY

Crews sprawled on the house side of the fence. Dazed. Not shot. He looks around. The house in front of him has METAL SHUTTERS AND A METAL SECURITY DOOR.

REESE (O.S.)

Crews!

CREWS

Yeah... I'm OK.

**START**

Crews reaches for his gun but hears...

TOM BUCKNER (O.S.)

Don't move...

The voice is coming from the house. Crews sees the barrel of a rifle poking out of one of the shutters, right at him.

~~██████████~~  
CREWS...

CREWS

(to Reese)

Still here. Stay where you are.

(to the house)

I'm a cop.

TOM BUCKNER (O.S.)

Why'd you climb my fence?

All Crews can see is that rifle barrel, pointing at him.

LIFE 207 - Tom Buckner  
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# TOM BUCKNER II

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16 CONTINUED:

16

CREWS

Just looking for the doorbell. I'm  
going to take out my badge. OK...

Crews slowly takes out his badge. WE HEAR SIRENS approaching.  
Crews holds up his badge. Now he stands. The barrel of that  
rifle following his every move. THE SIRENS CLOSER.

Holding the badge up, Crews takes a step toward the house.  
BUT BAM... a rifle shot at his feet stops him.

RENEE (O.S.)

Crews

The SOUND of CARS and TRUCKS pulling up beyond the fence.

TOM BUCKNER (O.S.)

Hands up and step toward the house.

Crews walks toward the house, the rifle barrel tracks him.

CREWS

What's with the fence, Tom? And  
those metal shutters...?

TOM BUCKNER (O.S.)

Toward the door now. Hands up.

Crews is at the front door. FROM THE STREET, WE HEAR boots on  
pavement, doors opening, magazines locked into weapons.

TOM BUCKNER (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You're coming in.

CREWS

That's why I'm here, Tom.

A LOUD BUZZ as the front security door UNLOCKS... Crews puts  
his hand on the knob and opens the door, HOLDING IT OPEN,  
Crews stays in the doorway, leans into the house and SEES...

17 INT. TOM BUCKNER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

TOM BUCKNER'S LIVING ROOM... it is a white and sterile  
environment, the anal world of a defense engineer. Crews also  
sees lots of GUNS. In racks, pistols, shotguns, rifles...

Crews also sees stick thin Tom Buckner. Holding a rifle.

CREWS

What's with all the guns, Tom?

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# TOM BUCKNER II

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17 CONTINUED:

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TOM BUCKNER  
Get in and close the door.

CREWS  
(staying put)  
173 million dollars, Tom, and  
you've got SWAT at your curb.

TOM BUCKNER  
GET IN AND CLOSE THE DOOR.

END

But Crews doesn't. Just stands there, flat against the open door as SOMETHING FLIES BY him and lands on the floor of Tom's living room. It is a TEAR GAS CANISTER. They both look at it as it spews its gas and CLANK, another one comes in.

The GAS spreads quickly, Crews charges toward Tom but the gas obscures his fleeing figure.

CREWS' POV -- the gas filling the room. Crews sees the guns on the white walls, a reality show on the TV, more gas and in the gas... figures moving around, like ghosts...

One of them approaches Crews... it is a fully gassed SWAT member, wearing a respirator-mask. He has an extra mask in his hand, he places it over Crews' face as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

18 INT. TOM BUCKNER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

Gas cleared. Metal shutters open. Crews on the couch, a wet towel on his face. Lots of cops here, Tidwell and Reese too.

TIDWELL  
You sure you're OK?

REESE  
Yes. I'm fine. Thank you.

TIDWELL  
Sometimes an emotional injury  
doesn't show itself right away.

REESE  
I'm fine. Thank you.

CREWS  
I'm fine too... If you're asking.

Out the window, COPS cart off a hand-cuffed Tom Buckner. Tidwell goes off to deal with evidence. Reese looks at her partner... then at the guns on the wall.

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# TOM BUCKNER III

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19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

As Crews considers Dale, he takes out an apple and bites it.

DALE  
Does the apple help?

CREWS  
Help? With what?

DALE  
With the solving of crimes.

REESE  
You know you're a suspect, right?

DALE  
I just wanted to know if the apple  
helped. I'm new to all this.  
(off their look)  
I'm going. I'm going.

They watch Dale go and then...

TIDWELL (O.S.)  
Detectives...

They see Tidwell in Buckner's doorway, waving to them...

TIDWELL (CONT'D)  
You should come look at this.

20 INT. TOM BUCKNER'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Crews, Reese, Tidwell and some UNIFORMED COPS, some of whom  
hold jackhammers. They have just dug up a hole in the  
concrete. In that hole is CASH. MILLIONS AND MILLIONS.

TIDWELL  
Looked like he'd just patched  
something over so we dug it up.

REESE  
He was burying his cash...

REESE (CONT'D)  
That's just crazy, right?

TIDWELL  
OK... get this into evidence.

21 INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

21

Crews, Reese and Tom Buckner.

REESE  
Why'd you shoot at my partner, Tom?

**START** →

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# TOM BUCKNER III

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21 CONTINUED:

21

TOM BUCKNER

He was coming over the wall. I thought he was coming to get my money. And I was right.

REESE

It's all been logged with the property clerk.

TOM BUCKNER

Like things don't get "lost" from there?

CREWS

Let's talk about Hannah. Why'd you run when we told you she'd been murdered?

TOM BUCKNER

Because I knew who killed her. And I thought he'd be coming for me next. I needed to get ready.

REESE

Who killed Hannah, Tom?

TOM BUCKNER

Ronald...

CREWS

Your friend from across the street?

TOM BUCKNER

He's not my friend.

CREWS

Carpooled for twenty years. In and out of each other's houses. Used to split the cost of lottery tickets.

TOM BUCKNER

But not that day... the day I won.

CREWS

Not on your "lucky" day, right Tom?

TOM BUCKNER

I know he wanted my money, but he couldn't get to it. So he took the only other thing I had...

REESE

Tom, are you... saying you were having a relationship with Hannah?

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# TOM BUCKNER III

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21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

TOM BUCKNER

Hannah loved me... for who I was.  
Ronald couldn't get my money... so  
he took Hannah instead.

REESE

Maybe you can tell us where you  
were the night Hannah was killed.

TOM BUCKNER

Gun show in Covina. Picked up a  
Bushmaster 223. You can ask my  
dealer. He'll tell you.

**END**

Crews and Reese look at the stick thin shell of Tom Buckner.

22 INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Crews, Reese, Tidwell and Ronald. On the LIVE FEED from the  
interrogation room, Tom Buckner all by himself.

RONALD

The night that woman was killed? I  
was bowling with my wife and kids.  
Family league night.

REESE

We'll need to check that out.

Ronald nods yes, then looks at sickly Tom on the live feed.

RONALD

He thought I wanted his money. I  
never did. All I really wanted was  
to be his friend again.

CREWS

You want to say that to him?

Ronald looks at Crews and then... nods "yes". He does.

23 INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

Crews, Reese and Tidwell watch the monitor. In interrogation  
Tom sees the door open, his old friend Ronald enter. They  
look at each other, then Ronald sits down across from Tom.

CREWS

The guy who doesn't win the lottery  
goes bowling with his family...

REESE

The guy who wins spends his nights  
all by himself at gun shows.

LIFE 207 - Tom Buckner  
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