

Homicide: The Game

Presents

Painseeker

“Death in the Balance”

by Sharon Wolfe

Since agreeing to become a part of this web site, I waited for the chance to read Kyle McAllister’s and Geoffrey MacIntyre’s personal accounts of the events of August 17, 2000. The last two weeks have served up exactly that. I have read Kyle’s “A Day in Hell” and Geoffrey’s “Day in Replay” with great interest. I wondered if conflicts in their stories would arise, especially around the fight between them at Terror Trax earlier that day. Since I was there that day, I was looking forward to breaking any tie that might arise.

None occurred.

At first I wondered how this could happen. Geoffrey and Kyle hate one another. They should! The constant battles between them during Raychel’s first recording sessions between February and June of 2000 ensured the project would never reach completion. The top really blew off in June, when Kyle learned what I had already known: Geoffrey was sleeping with Raychel.

They never should have worked together in the first place. Their personalities can’t handle one another (even without the history between them). In one corner you have Kyle McAllister. Kyle is responsible for bringing Raychel to the music business (despite what Ken Kincaid says). He is dark, passionate, and possesses one of the most violent tempers I have ever experienced. In the other corner you have Geoffrey MacIntyre. Geoffrey is responsible for (possibly) exposing Raychel’s music to a larger audience than had previously been possible. He is specific, scientific, and possesses one of the sharpest minds I have ever met. It is the meeting of rage and reason. Fire and earth.

The result was scorched earth.

It should have been expected. I believe it was, but not by either Kyle or Geoffrey. It was expected by Raychel.

In one of my Q&A Responses, I said that I thought Raychel was better off with Kyle than with Laura Douglass. While I still believe that is correct, I didn't say if I thought she was better off between Kyle or Geoffrey. The question is interesting. However, it is also a false option.

Raychel never would have chosen between them. She didn't have to.

Why?

Kyle and Geoffrey were two of the central points in Raychel's human balance. Raychel didn't keep her friends because she liked them (ask yourself if you like her friends). Raychel understood people, but she understood her "friends" better. Raychel understood them to the point that she structured her friends around her like a baby's mobile, carefully balanced to keep any single person from controlling her. However, the balance allowed Raychel to control any person in the equation when needed.

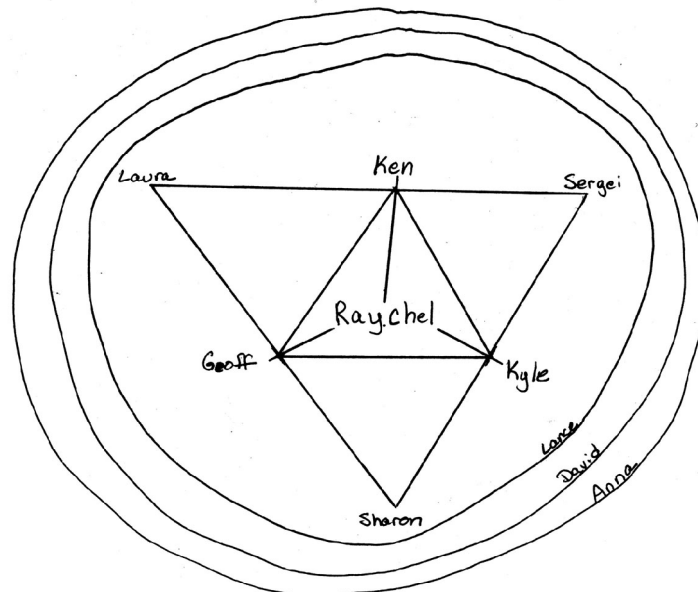
Here is how it worked. Raychel was at the center of the equation (as you would expect). On each point of a triangle around her were Ken Kincaid, Kyle McAllister, and Geoffrey MacIntyre. Since they were all opposed to each other they managed to balance each other out. If one of the three tried to pressure Raychel into something she didn't want, she would use one or both of the others to fight against it. Likewise, if she wanted something, she could use two of them to get something that the other one didn't want.

The perfect example of this balance in practice were Raychel's "secret" recording sessions in late July and early August. Since Geoffrey was not to know about it, Raychel used Kyle (who played the instruments and knew how to use the studio) and Ken (who provided access to the Terror Trax studio) against Geoffrey. Raychel got what she wanted and the plan worked perfectly until Geoffrey found out on the day Raychel was murdered.

The next level of the balance was also a triangle. This one is inverted and is large enough to contain the first triangle. The people on these points are those who bridge the gaps between those on the first triangle. Laura Douglass fits between Geoffrey and Ken (she knew them both), Sergei Brosovsky fits between Ken and Kyle (the “secret” recording sessions), and I fit between Geoffrey and Kyle. The people on these points were conduits, able to provide assistance to Raychel between those in the primary triangle. Keeping the earlier example of Raychel’s recording sessions, Ken used Sergei Brosovsky to allow Kyle and Raychel access to the Terror Trax recording studios. Had Ken attempted to open the back door for them, Geoffrey would have become suspicious of Ken’s daily movements. Using Sergei delayed Geoffrey’s eventual discovery.

Beyond these two triangles were three other people that Raychel had not apparently found enough use for. They are Lance Wagner, David Vanderhoff, and Anna Fantiani. These people were in circles orbiting the interlocking triangles. To my knowledge, Raychel never used this section of the balance. However, it seems to me that she could try to align these individual orbits of people to cause change anywhere in the rest of the balance. I never saw a way that this came into practical use. Perhaps she was waiting to find a place for them in her balance.

I expected that after reading my detailed description you would have one of two reactions. You might think my description is too descriptive. Your mind’s eye cannot grasp the image. To prevent that I have included the image below.



The other reaction would be that you might not believe me. My description and diagram might be the work of a disgruntled ex-employee. To prevent that I have this bit of information: The image above was written by Raychel. It was torn from one of her notebooks when she was living with Kyle. I wouldn't be surprised to find some "early drafts" of this might be found in the set of notebooks that Lance has in his possession.

Raychel built a quilt of dangerous people around her, then balanced them for her personal use. All the while she floated freely between them all. She was a social chemist balancing her friends to maintain stability. I have worked for some twisted people, but Raychel is the most skilled manipulator of people that I have ever worked for.

Raychel's gift was that she could draw people to her and keep them around until she figured out how and when to best use them. If you doubt my theory, just follow Raychel's path and see how she used everyone. I have learned these facts from the one person who knew everything about them: Raychel herself.

When Raychel stumbled into a meeting of The Bleeders in August of 1997, she immediately found **Laura Douglass**. The Bleeders gave Raychel a platform to read her poetry from. I cannot object to the fact that Raychel was a talented poet, but by befriending Laura (who was desperate for talent in her group at the time) she gained access to an audience, favorable publicity from one of the founders of the group, and (most importantly) access to a number of Laura's high-profile friends. The supply of drugs didn't hurt, either. Laura also provided a constant place to stay when things got rough. And when you play as hard as Raychel did, rough happens often.

Over the course of the next few weeks after joining The Bleeders, Raychel drew in the other co-founder, **Lance Wagner**. In Lance's desperation, (sufficiently detailed by Lance himself in "At First Sight") Raychel saw at first a holding pattern. As their relationship evolved, Raychel learned how deeply Lance had fallen for her. That he considered Raychel his Muse. From that point on, the relationship became boring for her. However, there was still use in Lance. Raychel knew that she had gained a

long-term legacy. Human insurance that Raychel's life (and her poetry) would never be forgotten. This web site proves that Raychel was right.

Kyle McAllister joined The Bleeders in November of 1998, but he did not "kidnap" Raychel until March. Raychel found Kyle very attractive, but she thought he had little to offer her at first. During the "kidnapping", however, Raychel learned that his passion was powerful and was worth investigating further. Kyle proved himself worthy to her by transitioning her from poetry to music during their time away from The Bleeders. For those who wonder why I am marking "kidnap" the way I am, know this: Raychel never considered herself as being held hostage. As Raychel herself put it during one of our conversations, "If I really wanted to get away from him I could have done it while he was beating the s**t out of Lance!" As it was, Raychel's life changed dramatically at that moment. She considered it a change for the better, or she wouldn't have gone.

After they returned from North Dakota and rejoined The Bleeders, they found the stage there to be too small for their new venture. As luck would have it, Laura Douglass' hate for Kyle was so strong she tried to pry them apart by introducing **Ken Kincaid**. Laura's attempt only encouraged Raychel and Kyle that they were on the right track. Ken provided Raychel with a new and larger stage to work from and a pipeline of money. Raychel told me that she thought she was mainly responsible for putting Terror Trax into bankruptcy.

When it did run into bankruptcy, again Laura came to the accidental rescue. Raychel met **Geoffrey MacIntyre** at one of Laura's parties. When Raychel learned from Geoffrey that he was being courted to become the new COO at Terror Trax, Raychel began putting her claws into him. She laid the bait out for him and he took it when he started asking Laura about her. Finally, she used him as a producer and pointed him at Kyle. With the COO producing her sessions while Cain International footed the bill, she could have stayed in the studio forever. Kyle's anger at discovering her affair with Geoffrey, however, changed that in June of 2000.

Raychel works on attracting as many low-maintenance people as possible. Most of those are men, for obvious reasons. Many of them don't ever come of use to her.

Some of them do. One of them was the janitor at Terror Trax, **Sergei Brosovsky**. When Raychel needed a bridge between herself and Ken Kincaid, Raychel broke the glass on her emergency friend. Being on the inside of a secret with a pretty woman seemed all that Sergei needed to betray Geoffrey. That was fine with Raychel. Sergei let them into Terror Trax and kept their secret.

Anna Fantiani was another type of acquisition altogether. A psychic with a degree in psychology. Raychel kept her around as a combination human Dowser's Wand and second opinion. Having Anna allowed Raychel to have someone to check her social handiwork for errors or warnings.

When Raychel was still suffering from Kyle's assault on her, she opened the escape hatch when she contacted her brother, **David Vanderhoff**. Just in case the web of friends came collapsing around her, she had another place to run to.

Unfortunately for her, she was right. There was a defect in Raychel's perfect balance. Someone Raychel "trusted" was not who she thought he/she was. In retrospect, that is not a surprise. The people Raychel were using were dangerous, desperate, rich, or unpredictable people. Raychel thought she knew better. Closing in on the one-year anniversary of Raychel's death, I wonder if we will ever find out where Raychel's calculations f**ked up.