

# Homicide: The Game

Presents

# Painseeker

## “The Rites of Spring and Weaklings”

by Ken Kincaid

I know it's only February, but I can feel a change in the weather. Let the groundhog say what he will about winter, I can tell that Spring is already here. The sun seems a bit brighter. The grass is greener. There's a warmth in the air that isn't just due to the fact that I live in L.A. No, it's different from that. Even if L.A. was swamped with snow tomorrow, there is no denying that Spring is definitely here. It's visible in the eyes of everyone you meet. There's that special something that you only see during Spring. It shows in momentary flashes between strangers. Love is in the air.

This romantic sentiment takes place each year. Animals all about begin their elaborate mating rituals. Fish spawn. Birds nest. Even people are not immune to romantic behavior. Valentine's Day may be just around the corner, but it seems like now is the true height of human romantic emotions. Why even as I write this, a repressed New York attorney and a fay L.A. writer are searching their emotions to see if bonded bliss is in the cards for them!

Do you hear me, David? I know that Lance does! He is the one who put this up on the site for me. He has to. It's part of our agreement. No copyright lawsuit in exchange for no editing.

I would have let Lance make an editing exception if he had asked me. I would have let him edit anything out of the last two weeks of articles. What tripe! It was a two-week long, uninformed, whiny, lying, self-important, self-deluded, sack of crap! I had to come back to restore sanity to this site. I haven't written anything on this site in over three months, and haven't written any Memories in over nine months. I didn't really feel I had to contribute to the site back then. However, now that Laura and Sharon have been arrested, someone has to keep Lance in check. Kyle and Geoffrey are each suffering from their own delusions, so I can't leave it to them.

I don't mean to imply that neither David or Lance had any impact on Raychel's life. Quite the contrary. I thought they both had a tremendous impact on Raychel's life -- and who knows, maybe even her death.

Although he wasn't around for most (Hell, all) of Raychel's adult life, David Vanderhoff had a tremendous impact on Raychel's career as an artist. Think about this one: If David hadn't been born, would Raychel have taken as many beatings from her father as she did? Without that abuse, Raychel loses a great deal of her early material as a poet. One could also make the argument that Raychel wouldn't have been a prostitute without David's influence. (I guess we can all start mentioning that Raychel was a pro since Laura regretfully decided to bring it up.) That one works both ways. If David hadn't been born, then Raychel gets beaten less, and has a better chance of not suffering the emotional scarring that turns her to prostitution. From another angle, you can argue that if David had actually done something during his early life with Raychel (like help his sister fight back against their father) then maybe Raychel would have gone to him at college for help instead of fleeing for L.A. prostitution. While I am thinking about it, how bad was Raychel's relationship with David that she would rather turn to life as a hooker instead of go to him for help?

And let's not forget the life lessons inflicted on Raychel by Lance Wagner. If Lance had a quarter of the fight that Raychel had, would Raychel have ever left him for -- well -- everyone? Instead, he is the human chandelier who crumpled to the floor of Safehaven with the first punch from Kyle. That was the only time I would have rather been someone other than myself. Even though I wasn't there, I wish that I could have been Kyle for just that brief period. We may not get along well (or at all) but we did share a laugh when he told me that story once. I guess I could continue detailing the horror of being Lance, but he seems to do that pretty well by himself. So without further defilement...

If you take Lance's article "The Broken Point" at face value, you could wind up with a few assumptions about Raychel's Halloween 1999 concert at The Bone Yard. Some of those assumptions are grossly inaccurate, while others suffer from a case of poor perspective. Therefore, I offer a few rebuttals of Lance's "facts" and "conclusions" article.

### **1. The Bleeders were banned from attending Raychel's concert at The Bone Yard.**

None of The Bleeders were officially banned from attending the concert, I just made sure they weren't told about it. Lance uses his article to constantly intimate that this was a bad thing. His lack of understanding about this fact says volumes about his inability to actually think strategically. The reason I requested that Raychel, Kyle, and Laura not to tell anyone is because I didn't want The Bone Yard to turn into Safehaven South. If the crowd became packed with Bleeders, the crowd would have been too ready to immediately accept anything Raychel and Kyle offered them. The club needed to be fresh, and that was best accomplished by ensuring that none of The Bleeders infected The Bone Yard.

### **2. All of Raychel's friends betrayed her on Halloween 1999.**

Lance Wagner can speak for himself on that one. I never betrayed her -- not on that night, not ever. Just because Lance didn't like the fact that I booked a concert away from his precious poetry puffs is no reason to conclude that I betrayed her. For that matter, neither did Laura, just because she followed through on my request that The Bleeders not be told. If you do believe that Laura betrayed Raychel because of that, ask yourself if Raychel can be considered guilty of betraying herself. After all, Raychel didn't tell The Bleeders, either.

### **3. No one prepared Raychel for the audience at The Bone Yard.**

If Raychel wasn't prepared for The Bone Yard, you can lay the blame squarely on Kyle McAllister. Kyle was the person who didn't want to talk with me about the concert. I wasn't involved in preparing Raychel or Kyle for the concert, because Kyle considered it meddling. He told me that I wasn't part of the creative process, and therefore shouldn't be involved in preparations for the concert. Had he let me, I would have been able to prepare them both for a performance at The Bone Yard. By the way, it didn't matter that it was Halloween. At that club, *Dias de los Muertos* is always celebrated. The regulars at The Bone Yard ALWAYS paint their faces like skulls. It wouldn't have been intimidating to Raychel had she been allowed to talk to me for even a few minutes. But

Kyle didn't want me involved in the process. He wanted to be in control, and he was. Congrats to him! Now take your medicine, Kyle!

#### **4. That I put a deliberate hit on Raychel's music career by booking the concert at The Bone Yard.**

This is so wrong I'd sue if I could stop laughing at Lance's ignorance. One mistake does not add up to a deliberate attempt to kill a career. I asked them to play The Bone Yard was because their act was getting stale at Safehaven. That was also why I asked for no Bleeders. If Raychel and Kyle were going to go into the studio energized, then they needed to play somewhere other than Safehaven. I said it before: They needed to kill a new crowd and The Bone Yard has been a regular Terror Trax launching pad. Kyle wouldn't listen to me and because of that they weren't ready for that crowd. The fact that the whole show bombed was not my responsibility. Raychel and Kyle never got a proper manager, and their act suffered because of it. Besides, I wasn't the person who jumped off the stage and started a riot.

Next time you try popping off on me, Lance, try thinking about it first you sniveling, self-serving, piss-poor excuse for a husband. Enjoy your new-found family. I expect you'll get along famously. After all, you and David played almost the exact same role at different times in Raychel's life. You're both ineffective men who relied too heavily on Raychel to provide strength where you each lacked it personally. Now that you have that wonderful book deal to write about Raychel, I expect you'll make a nice pile of money to lie on. Then both you and David will prove to be more successful without Raychel in your lives. Each of you wasted a person who was infinitely more talented than you, and for what? Money? Personal safety? I hope you know because I can't figure it out.

I lost a great deal over the course of my time with Raychel. I lost Terror Trax. I lost on personal investments. Finally, I lost Raychel. And I still consider myself fortunate to have known her. Do you know why? Because I didn't think of myself first. Perhaps you both will learn that lesson in the future. In the meantime, I hate you both.