

MASS MURDERER SHOOTS SELF FIRST

A Sketch by Tom Attea

Mall. Mass murderer with assault weapon. People cowering.

MASS MURDERER

I came here to kill! Kill as many of you as possible! And then kill myself!

FIRST PERSON

But why us?

SECOND PERSON

What did we ever do to you?

THIRD PERSON

We don't even know you.

FIRST PERSON

We're innocent bystanders.

MASS MURDERER

I know all that. That's why I'm here. It makes my crime more awful. So I'll be more famous!

Cops rush in.

FIRST COP

(aims pistol)

Drop it!

SECOND COP

(points pistol)

Or we'll shoot.

MASS MURDERER

No need for that.

FIRST PERSON

Shoot him, shoot him! Before he shoots us!

SECOND PERSON

He came here to kill us and then kill himself.

FIRST COP

Is what they say true?

MASS MURDERER

Yes, I admit it! But my plan is different – different than any of you suspect. And nobody can

stop me!

SECOND COP

Why not?

MASS MURDERER

Because I'm going to shoot myself first.

SECOND COP

Did you say, you're going to shoot yourself first?

MASS MURDERER

That's right!

FIRST COP

Then how can you kill anyone else?

(to other cop)

Is this guy a loon or what? Better call for reinforcements.

SECOND COP

You got it.

(reaches for phone)

Let's just keep him talking till they get here.

SECOND PERSON

He's crazy.

THIRD PERSON

Protect us, please.

FIRST COP

Can you explain that a little more clearly?

(motions for second cop to hold call)

MASS MURDERER

All right! All right! Here's the plan. And I want it reported just like I say it, OK?

FIRST COP

We have no control over the press. But we'll tell it like it is.

MASS MURDERER

Thanks! I can't ask for more.

SECOND COP

So exactly what is on your mind?

MASS MURDERER

Well, I thought about my intentions and said to myself, if I'm gonna come here and kill a lot of people and then kill myself, I might as well start with myself.

FIRST COP

Did you hear this nut?

SECOND COP

Yeah, we hear ya. You say you're gonna kill yourself first.

MASS MURDERER

You got it! I mean, if you think about it, it's just common sense. I'll be dead either way. But this way, nobody else has to die. It seems like the thoughtful thing to do.

FIRST COP

But why kill yourself at all?

MASS MURDERER

Because I'm a mass murderer! Only I've got common sense.

(points rifle at self)

Get ready to die! Die! Die!

(shoots self)

Cops and other people look at one another in disbelief and slowly emerge from hiding.

FIRST COP

It's all right, folks. He shot himself first.

FIRST PERSON

My hero. Think of the lives he saved!

SECOND PERSON

Sets a good example for other folks like him, don't it?

SECOND COP

I don't know what the world is comin' to. A mass murderer who makes a hero of himself.

FIRST COP

Wait till the media get hold of this one. Before they're done, he'll not only be a nobody who became famous. He'll be considered a saint!

BLACKOUT