

FADE IN.

EXT. STREET - DAY

It's the year 2000 in New York City. TIO, late twenties, and RAFAEL, Tio's 11-year-old nephew, are parked across the street from a maximum security prison under construction.

RAFAEL

What are we doing here, Tio? I thought you were dropping me off at school?

TIO

Yeah, I'm taking you to school. Don't worry, Rafael, I'll get you there in time.

RAFAEL

Well, what are we doing parked across the street from a construction site?

TIO

Do you know what they're building over there?

RAFAEL

No, what?

TIO

A Juvenile Detention Center.

RAFAEL

What's the matter? Are you tired of being an Corrections Officer at Rikers? Are you gonna to try to get a job at this place when it's up and running?

TIO

I haven't thought about it, but that's not a bad idea. I might look into it.

RAFAEL

Well, I'm behind you no matter what you decide to do, you know that, Tio.

(CONTINUED)

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TIO

That's good to know, Nephew.

(beat)

Now, what's this I hear about you skipping school?

RAFAEL

How did you about that?

TIO

How do you think?

(beat)

Is that Barnaby kid still giving you crap about your pigeon-toes?

RAFAEL

Yeah.

TIO

I don't get it. You're still taking Judo lessons, aren't you?

RAFAEL

Yeah, but my judo instructor tells his students to refrain from using our skills on those who are not as well versed in the arts.

TIO

The hell with that! You can't go through elementary school avoiding this kid. You're going to have to confront him at some point. It wouldn't necessarily make you a bad person if you were to stand up for yourself and things got physical.

RAFAEL

Yeah, I know.

TIO

Well, don't you worry about a thing, Rafael. Consider yourself lucky. As a correctional officer, I have to put up with hundreds of assholes like Barnaby getting in my face day in and day out. Do me a favor, look in the glove compartment.

Rafael opens the glove compartment and takes out a MAKESHIFT WEAPON that Tio confiscated from an inmate.

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RAFAEL

What is this?

Rafael examines the shank closely.

TIO

It's a jailhouse weapon. It's what inmates use to resolve their disagreements. If you don't ever want to know how it would be to live like that everyday, don't ever end up in prison, Rafael, you'll hate it. So, no more cutting classes. Keep cutting classes, and that's exactly where you're going to end up. You're way too smart for prison, prison will only drive you up the walls.

Rafael puts the shank back in the glove compartment and closes it.

RAFAEL

Come on, Tio. Okay, I'll stop cutting classes, but you don't have to worry about me living a life of crime. I could never get away with anything. Picture me trying to run from the cops with my flat-feet and pigeon-toes. I would stick out like a sore thumb. Law enforcement would have my Puerto Rican ass picked up in fifteen minutes.

Rafael ensures his uncle that his worrying about him is all for not.

TIO

Yeah, you're right. What am I worried about? You've got a good head on your shoulders.

RAFAEL

Can we go now?

TIO

Yeah, we can go now. Good talk, nephew.

RAFAEL

Good talk, Tio.

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Tio starts up his jeep and waits for a good time to pull away from the curb.

TIO

Switching gears now, how are the shawties treating you, Player? You got your eye on any honeys?

RAFAEL

Not really, no.

TIO

Well, take it from your uncle never ask a girl that you're into for a date, or try to get her phone number when she's got her friends with her; for some reason, girls always have to look to their friends for their approval before they could decide on anything. So always wait until the girl is by herself before making a move.

RAFAEL

That's good know, Tio. I'll try to remember that.

INT. THE HALLS OF BEACH CHANNEL JUNIOR HIGH - DAY

School kids and the hustle and bustle of trying to make it to their next class on time. SILVIA, a precocious little sixth grader, is standing by her locker putting her books away; unbeknownst to her, Rafael is leering at her from a distance, waiting for her TWO GIRLFRIENDS to walk away from her so he can make his move.

RAFAEL

(mumbling)

Come on, man! Take your asses to class! It's like they're tied at the hip or some shit. What the hell?!

Rafael finally sees one of Silvia's friends drag the other off to class, leaving Silvia alone by her locker.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

It's about fucking time!

(beat)

Okay, here I go.

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Rafael takes a deep breath and comes out from around the corner to approach Silvia.

Just as Rafael is about to reach Silvia, Barnaby stands in between them to make his own move on Silvia.

BARNABY

Where you been, Silvia? I've been looking for you everywhere.

SILVIA

I don't know why. I already you that I wasn't interested. What else is there for us to talk about?

Rafael hears all that he needed to hear from Silvia and intervenes.

RAFAEL

(to back of Barnaby's head)

I think she's made herself quite clear, Barnaby! Why don't you leave her alone now, okay?

Barnaby turns around to face Rafael.

BARNABY

Who the hell asked you anything?! You better mind your business before you get swoled up in here, Pigeon-toes!

Barnaby turns his back to Rafael once again and keeps talking to Silvia.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Come on, Silvia, if you would just come out to the bleachers with me, I'll tell what else there is for us to discuss.

Rafael clasps both hands around Barnaby's waist from behind and slides down his back, intertwining his leg with Barnaby's and taking him down with him.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing?! Are you crazy?!

Rafael gets a hold of Barnaby's foot. Barnaby pleads with him not to twist his ankle.

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BARNABY (CONT'D)

Don't do it, Rafael! Let go!

With Silvia watching, Rafael turns his body just enough to cause Barnaby real pain and make him yell out!

Rafael lets go of Barnaby's leg and leaves him on the floor holding his ankle while he gets back up to his feet.

SILVIA

(impressed)

Shit, yeah, Rafael! That was bad ass.

RAFAEL

(smiles)

Yeah?

Silvia watches as a SECURITY GUARD grabs Rafael by the collar of his shirt and escorts him to the PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.

INT. RAFAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

RAFAEL'S MOTHER disconnects a TV to be moved out of his room. Rafael is in the room as it unfolds.

RAFAEL

How long am I going to be grounded for?

RAFAEL'S MOTHER

(frustrated)

I haven't decided yet.

RAFAEL

What about Cousin Pito, and Tia Delia? They're still visiting from Puerto Rico, aren't they?

RAFAEL'S MOTHER

Yeah, they're still coming. They'll be here Friday.

RAFAEL

Well, whose Pito going to have to show him around the neighborhood, if I'm grounded?

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RAFAEL'S MOTHER

Don't worry. You'll still be able to hang out with your cousin, but don't think that you'll be seeing the inside of a Dojo any time soon.

RAFAEL

You know, I thought the whole point of being grounded was to learn some kind of lesson. Exactly what kind of a lesson am I supposed to be learning here? That Barnaby kid is an asshole. I'm not sorry for what I did. I'd do it again, if I had to! It doesn't make me a bad person!

RAFAEL'S MOTHER

I know it doesn't, I know you're not a bad person.

Rafael's mother looks around the room for anything she may have missed.

RAFAEL'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Now, do I have all of your games? I'm not forgetting anything, am I?

RAFAEL

Yes, you have all of my games.

Rafael's mother exits the room with the TV under her arm. Rafael closes the door behind her.

INT. NYCHA APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Barnaby rides the elevator to the eighth floor. The elevator doors open, and Barnaby steps out. With his ankle still wrapped in bandages, Barnaby hobbles his way to Rafael's apartment.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Rafael's aunt, TIA DELIA, is washing dishes with his mother beside her.

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TIA DELIA

(in Spanish)

Where do these gringos here in the States get off telling people from other countries that they need to assimilate when they come here? I don't see these gringos assimilating when they travel abroad to other countries. Instead, what do they do? They speak through translators, or they look for other English-only speaking vacationers like themselves to spend their time with, but the last thing they want to do is assimilate. I mean, can you believe the nerve of these arrogant gringo fucks?!

Tia Delia washes, Rafael's mother dries.

RAFAEL'S MOTHER

No, you're right! You make a valid point. As a matter of fact, I was saying the same thing to my co-worker just the other day.

There's a knock on the door to the apartment. Rafael's mother cries for Rafael's dad to answer the door.

RAFAEL'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

Door!

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

RAFAEL'S FATHER is already at the door by the time he hears her.

RAFAEL'S FATHER

(to Rafael's mother)

I got it!

Rafael's father looks through the peep hole and opens the door.

RAFAEL'S FATHER (CONT'D)

(to Barnaby)

Yes?

BARNABY

Hi, does Rafael live here?

INT. RAFAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rafael, and his cousin, PITO, are down on the matt together. Rafael has Pito in a arm triangle, and tries to find the right angle to cut off his circulation and render him unconscious.

PITO
I'm feeling nothing.

RAFAEL
Nothing? Okay, hold on.

Rafael adjusts his position and gets off his one knee.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)
How's that?

PITO
Still nothing.

RAFAEL
Damn it. What haven't I tried?
Oh, I know.

Rafael goes for the arm triangle again with his hip up instead of flat on the floor.

PITO
Okay, there it is now. There's that pressure.

RAFAEL
You feel it now?

PITO
Oh yeah, you got it now. Let me go before I pass out.

Rafael releases the hold on Pito, letting him up.

RAFAEL
How did it feel?

PITO
I was feeling light headed... A few more seconds, and it would've been lights out for sure.

RAFAEL
I think I've got it figured out now...

(MORE)

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RAFAEL (CONT'D)

your hips have to be up instead of flat on the floor to make for a tighter arm triangle.

Rafael's father enters the room.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Hey Dad.

RAFAEL'S FATHER

What are you two doing in here?

RAFAEL

Just going over a few things.

RAFAEL'S FATHER

There's a kid in the hallway asking for you.

RAFAEL

A kid?

INT. OUTSIDE RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Barnaby paces back and forth until Rafael finally steps out.

BARNABY

What's up, Rafael?

Barnaby greets Rafael with a smile.

RAFAEL

How did you know where I live, Barnaby?

Rafael doesn't look too happy to see Barnaby.

BARNABY

How do you think? I asked around.

RAFAEL

Well, if you're here for an apology, you wasted a trip. I don't owe you shit!

BARNABY

No, I know. I'm not here for an apology. I know I was asking for it. What I can't figure out is why didn't you beat my ass a long time ago.

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RAFAEL

How's your foot?

BARNABY

Still healing. The doctor said I won't be a hundred percent for another week, or so. I'm not even supposed to be out of bed, yet, but I haven't been able to get the way you handled yourself out of my head. So, I just had to come over here to find out how you did it. So, would you show me?

Rafael gives Barnaby the benefit of the doubt.

RAFAEL

Yeah, why not? My cousin and I were just in the middle of going over a few things, anyway. So, come on in.

BARNABY

Cool.

Barnaby follows Rafael into the apartment.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. FERGUSON, MO - BODEGA - DAY

It's 15 years later. DEVANTE HILL, 17, lays a couple of items on the counter for the bodega worker, MR. RUIZ, to ring up, while his friend waits for him by the exit door.

MR. RUIZ

\$4.75.

DEVANTE HILL

\$4.75?! Why is that? How much for the soda?

MR. RUIZ

Three dollars.

DEVANTE HILL

Three dollars?! I was in here two weeks ago. The soda was two dollars back then.

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DEVANTE HILL (CONT'D)

How you gonna jack the price up a whole dollar in two weeks? That's price gauging, right there!

MR. RUIZ

Well, I don't know what to tell you. You want the stuff, or not?

DEVANTE HILL

Look, all I got is \$3.75, but you know me, though. I come in here all the time. Why don't you let me have the stuff now, and I'll pay you what I owe the next time I come in here?

MR. RUIZ

No, I can't do that. You either have the money to pay for the stuff, or you don't.

DEVANTE HILL

Yo, why you acting like that? You being an asshole right now.

MR. RUIZ

That's it. I want you out of my store!

A tug of war between Devante Hill and Mr. Ruiz ensues over the items on the counter.

DEVANTE HILL

Fuck you! I'm taking this shit!

MR. RUIZ

Get out of my store now, or I call the police!

Devante Hill strong arms Mr. Ruiz and tries to wrestle the items away from him.

INT. FERGUSON, MO - COURT ROOM - DAY

Packed with family and friends seeking justice for the death of Devante Hill on one side of the room, and supporters of the defendant, OFFICER JASON KAMINSKI, who is accused of gunning down Devante Hill, on the other side of the room.

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DEFENSE LAWYER, representing officer Jason Kaminski, pauses the tape from the Bodega surveillance camera and has the bodega worker, testifying on the officer's behalf, explain the video in his own words to the Jury.

DEFENSE LAWYER

Okay, I'm going to pause the tape here. Mr. Ruiz, you say that Devante Hill was not new to your store, is that right?

MR. RUIZ

Yes, he was not new. He would come into my store like maybe twice a week.

DEFENSE LAWYER

And has he ever been a problem for you before?

MR. RUIZ

No, never a problem.

Officer Jason Kaminski, dressed in a suit and tie, is taking notes from behind the defense table.

DEFENSE LAWYER

So, Mr. Ruiz, would you please tell the court what is happening in the surveillance video. Describe the verbal exchanges.

MR. RUIZ

This is the part in the video where I tell Devante how much he owed me for the items, he then tells me that he doesn't have enough money and starts accusing me of price gauging.

DEFENSE LAWYER

He tried to accuse you of price gauging?

MR. RUIZ

He did. I deny it, of course, then he tries to be slick by telling me that if I let him pay for the items with the money that he had on him, that he would pay me the rest the next time he came in.

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DEFENSE LAWYER

And what did you say to that?

MR. RUIZ

I told him that I couldn't do that, and that's when he started cursing at me.

The JUDGE presiding the case is having trouble hearing the witness and instructs him to speak louder.

JUDGE

Please speak louder, Mr. Ruiz, so that the jury can hear you.

Mr. Ruiz apologizes to the judge and repeats himself for the court.

MR. RUIZ

Sorry, your honor. I told him that he had to pay the full amount for the items, and that's when he started cursing me.

DEFENSE LAWYER

What did he say exactly?

MR. RUIZ

He told me that I was being a real asshole, to go fuck myself, and that he was going to take the items anyway.

DEFENSE LAWYER

Then what did you do?

MR. RUIZ

I tried to stop him from taking the items off the counter, so he started throwing punches at me, and then I told him that if he didn't leave my store, I would call the police.

DEFENSE LAWYER

And did you call the police?

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MR. RUIZ

I did call the police. I wouldn't have involved the police over this one incident, if there hadn't been other reports of theft made by store owners in the area, so I just thought that the deceased might have been someone the police were interested in talking to.

DEFENSE LAWYER

Understood. We'll come back to that point later. At this time, I'm going to resume the tape.

Defense lawyer resumes the surveillance video for the court.

INT. PITO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pito is all grown up and following the televised trial on his Sony 65' inch smart TV.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

DARNELL, one of seven punks hiding from the hot sun under the scaffolding, picks a fight with Rafael for accidentally bumping into him while making his way into the building.

DARNELL

Oh, so you're just going to bump right into me and not say anything, is that how it is?

Rafael stops in his tracks to face Darnell and responds.

RAFAEL

It won't be the last time either.

DARNELL

What?!

RAFAEL

If you're so worried about people bumping into you when they come in or out of this building, then maybe you should find a more sensible hangout spot than under the scaffold.

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DARNELL

Man, fuck you! I don't give a fuck. I'll hangout wherever the fuck I feel like hanging out!

RAFAEL

Alright, then don't be surprised if you get bumped into every now and then.

One of DARNELL'S FRIENDS encourages him to put Rafael in his place.

DARNELL'S FRIEND

Yo, fuck that, Darnell! Smack the shit out that nigga, son!

Darnell grows tired of arguing with Rafael and takes a few steps forward to confront him. Rafael is prepared to stand his ground, but four uniformed police officers with a man in custody exit the building and de-escalate everything. Rafael seizes the chance to walk away from the petty argument and enters the building.

INT. PITO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

There's a knock on the door. Pito gets off the couch and puts his pet ball python back in its terrarium before answering the door. Pito comes to the door and looks through the peephole before letting Rafael in.

PITO

What up, Cuz?

Rafael sees that Pito has yet to take down the Halloween decor.

RAFAEL

What up? I see you still haven't taken down your Halloween decorations.

PITO

No, not yet. I'll get to it. How you been? You doing good?

RAFAEL

You know, I just had words with some knucklehead coming into your building.

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RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I don't know why these ghetto fucks can't find someplace better than under the scaffolds to hangout! Why are they so drawn to the scaffolding that's popping up all over the city?

Pito makes his way over to his living room window.

PITO

Who are you talking about? Point him out to me.

Pito's view is blocked by the scaffolding.

PITO (CONT'D)

I keep forgetting I used to have a clear view of everyone who comes in and out of this building, but now I can't see shit with that damn scaffolding in the way.

RAFAEL

That's alright. It was no big deal. Besides, it's just New York City going to hell in a handbasket, that's all that is.

Rafael notices that Pito has been following the trial on TV.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Where's your girl at?

Pito pulls himself away from the window and sits down on the couch.

PITO

She's here. She's just getting ready. She's got an appointment with a manicurist.

RAFAEL

What are you watching? Have you been following the trial happening in Ferguson?

PITO

Yeah.

RAFAEL

Free officer Kaminski!
(MORE)

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RAFAEL (CONT'D)

It's a damn shame what they're doing to that officer. How is he the criminal in all of this? Not only should that cop get off, but the thief's legal guardian should be brought up on charges for letting him leave the house without the proper home-training.

PITO

True that.

RAFAEL

Anyway, what is it that you wanted to show me?

PITO

Oh yeah, I almost forgot.

Pito gets off the couch and leaves the room.

PITO (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

Rafael checks out the ball python in the terrarium while he waits for Pito to return.

RAFAEL

What you been feeding your snake, guinea pigs?

Rafael asks Pito as he reenters the living room.

PITO

No, just plain old white lab rats.

RAFAEL

I think he's big enough to swallow guinea pigs.

PITO

Check it out. You're going to be an uncle, Rafael.

Pito shows Rafael the sonogram pictures he has in his hands.

RAFAEL

Get the fuck outta here!
Lisette's pregnant?

PITO

Yeah, man. Four months.

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Rafael takes the pictures from Pito's hands to get a closer look.

RAFAEL

Four months? Well, I'll be damned.
Congratulations, Pito.

PITO

Thanks Cuz.

LISSETTE, Pito's pregnant girlfriend, walks in on Rafael and Pito dressed to go out.

LISSETTE

Oh hi, Rafael. I didn't know you
were here. You just getting in
now?

RAFAEL

Yeah, about ten minutes ago.

Lisette walks over to give Rafael a kiss hello.

LISSETTE

How are you doing?

RAFAEL

How am I doing? How are you doing?

LISSETTE

What do you mean?

RAFAEL

Your man here just gave me the
good news. Congratulations.

LISSETTE

Thanks Sweetie.

RAFAEL

Do you know what you're having,
yet?

LISSETTE

No, not yet. Hey, how are your
folks finding Puerto Rico?

RAFAEL

Oh, they love living out there.

LISSETTE

That's good to hear. Well, tell
them hello for me, okay?

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RAFAEL

Okay.

LISSETTE

I got to go. I don't want to be late. We'll talk more later.

RAFAEL

Wait a minute, Pito? Are you really going to let your pregnant girlfriend go out on her own in her condition?

PITO

What the fuck you talking about?

LISSETTE

That's alright, Rafael. He doesn't have to come with me. I'm still able to manage on my own.

PITO

Yeah, what are you starting shit for, Rafael?

LISSETTE

If he's not lifting a finger to help me around here when I'm further along in my pregnancy, then you can have my back.

RAFAEL

You can count on it.

Lisette kisses Pito goodbye and heads for the door.

LISSETTE

Bye guys.

RAFAEL

Okay, Lisette, be safe.

PITO

Have a good one, Mommy.

Lisette unlocks the door and steps out of the apartment.

PITO (CONT'D)

Okay, Rafael, out with it.

RAFAEL

Out with what? What are you talking about?

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PITO

That look on your face --- I know what it means. It means that there's something you really want to get off your chest.

RAFAEL

I do have something I want to get off my chest.

PITO

Well, whatever it is, please get it off your chest without air-quotes. I'm sick of seeing them --- they irk me.

RAFAEL

When have you ever known me to get stuff off my chest with air-quotes?

PITO

Fair enough... okay, go ahead.

Rafael is still holding on to the sonogram pictures and finally gives them back to Pito.

RAFAEL

I just thought you and Lisette would have more sense to wait until y'all were out the projects, before bringing a baby into the mix, that's all.

Pito places the sonogram pictures on the dinner table.

PITO

Well, there's nothing I can do about it now. The baby's on the way.

RAFAEL

Just tell me that you'll at least look for a better place to raise your kid, okay? Because, let's face it, New York City is no place to raise a kid.

PITO

You're talking about the crime spike, right? Yeah, it is getting out of hand.

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PITO (CONT'D)

But if the Mayor-Elect keeps his promise to crack down on crime, things might get better around here.

Rafael can't keep quite about how Pito just left his sonogram pictures on the table any longer.

RAFAEL

Hey, don't leave your sonogram pictures on the table like that. Don't you have some place better to keep them in?

PITO

We just keep them in a folder.

RAFAEL

No, that won't do. Leave it to me. I have just the thing to put them in.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - DAY

It's pay day. Rafael walks into his place of employment to pick up his check.

RAFAEL

Morning, Mike.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - MIKE'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

MIKE, Active Temp Agency dispatcher, deals with hundreds of temp workers each day and still needs Rafael's identification to find his check.

MIKE

Morning. ID.

Rafael takes his identification out of his pocket and gives it to Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Mr. Morales.

Mike pulls Rafael's check out of a stack of envelopes and gives it to him along with his identification.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Here you go.

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RAFAEL

Thanks.

Mike is not quite done with Rafael and keeps him from walking away from his desk.

MIKE

So, Mr. Morales, do you feel like working today, or did you just come in to pick up your check and go home?

RAFAEL

No, I'll work. I'll stick around.

MIKE

Well, leave your identification here on my desk so I'll know to call you when a job comes up.

RAFAEL

Okay, I'll be right over here.

Rafael pockets his check and walks away from Mike's desk.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - WAITING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Rafael takes a seat where he can watch TV while he waits to be called. He then puts in ear buds to listen to music on his phone. Rafael can see the newswoman's mouth moving on TV, so he takes the ear buds out to hear what she's saying.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR #1 is reporting the news from behind the news desk.

NEWS ANCHOR #1

Although the Mayor-Elect Max Stafford doesn't officially take over the reigns from the current administration until January 1st, The Republican and his aides wasted no time touring inner city neighborhoods today, and here is just some of what he had to say about his day as he took questions from reporters.

EXT. STREET - DAY

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD is taking questions from field reporters.

FIELD REPORTER

Can you just clarify once and for all what you meant when you said that your first order of business as Mayor would be to remove the benches from all of the inner city neighborhoods?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Well, if there is one thing I've learned while touring these inner city neighborhoods is that if you spend enough time hanging out on a bench in the housing projects, you're either going to get shot or beat down over some ghetto stuff, and those aren't my words, those are the words that some of the residents I spoke with used to describe the things that go on around here. So, what better way to put a stop to the nonsense than to remove the benches from the housing projects all together?

FIELD REPORTER

Just one more question, before I let you go: What do you have to say to those who are worried that you're going to bring back Stop and Frisk?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Ah, the infamous Stop and Frisk policy put in place by my predecessor, yes. About Stop and Frisk, it was a policy that many in the Brown and Black communities deemed racist and unconstitutional, so they fought to have it abolished, and they won, they got what they wanted, Stop and Frisk went away.

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CONTINUED:

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

And if there was ever a time for the brown and black community to prove to us politicians and law makers that a Stop and Frisk policy was not necessary to keep them in check, that was the time. But, instead, they did the opposite, and now I believe shootings in this city are up 17% or something like that. Well, to the Brown and Black community, I just want you to know that I hear you loud and clear, and if you want the Stop and Frisk policy back so badly, I'll bring it back.
Message received.

Mayor Max Stafford ends his talk with that reporter and keeps walking, not taking anymore questions from reporters.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - MIKE'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Mike finds the perfect job for Rafael and calls for him.

MIKE

Mr. Morales, I got work for you.

RAFAEL

Coming.

Rafael gets out of his seat to make his way to Mike's desk.

INT. FERGUSON, MO - COURTROOM - DAY

The air is thick. No one breathes. THE JURY FILES IN, stone faced, unreadable. Devante Hills family clutches each other on one side; on the other, supporters of officer Jason Kaminski sit upright, hopeful, tense.

Officer Jason Kaminski sits at the defense table, hands folded, eyes locked forward. His attorney leans in, whispering something meant to steady him.

The JUDGE, stern and composed, looks to the JURY FOREPERSON.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUDGE

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,
have you reached a unanimous
verdict?

The foreperson rises.

FOREPERSON

We have, you honor.

A ripple of dread moves through Devante's side of the gallery.

The judge turns to the defendant.

JUDGE

Officer Kaminski... Please rise.

Kaminski stands. The room tightens around him.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Madam Foreperson, you may read the
verdict.

The foreperson unfolds the paper with steady hands.

FOREPERSON

In the matter of The State of
Missouri versus Jason Kaminski, on
the charge of Murder in the first
degree... we find the defendant...
Not Guilty.

Gasps. A muffled sob. Devante's mother collapses into her sister's arms.

Kaminski's supporters exhale in relief.

FOREPERSON (CONT'D)

On the charge of Aggravated
Assault... we find the
defendant... Not Guilty.

A shout erupts from the back --- anger, disbelief ---
quickly hushed by a bailiff.

FOREPERSON (CONT'D)

On the charge of Reckless
Endangerment... we find the
defendant... Not Guilty.

The Judge nods solemnly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JUDGE

The court accepts the jury's verdict. Officer Kaminski, you are free to go.

Kaminski closes his eyes --- not in relief, but in something colder, unreadable. His attorney clasps his shoulder.

The gallery fractures into chaos.

Bailiffs move quickly, forming a human barrier between the two sides. Devante's family is still reeling --- grief, disbelief, fury --- meanwhile Kaminski's supporters begin to surge forward to congratulate him.

DEFENSE LAWYER

(Quiet, to Kaminski)

We're going out the side door.
Keep your head down.

Kaminski nods. He doesn't smile. He doesn't celebrate. He just absorbs the moment like a man bracing for impact.

A BAILIFF gestures.

BAILIFF

This way, Officer.

Kaminski steps away from the defense table and is ushered out.

The courtroom noise swells --- shouts, sobs, arguments breaking out in pockets.

INT. COURTHOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The hallway is lined with deputies. The muffled roar from inside the courtroom leaks through the walls.

Kaminski walks fast, flanked by his attorney and two deputies. REPORTERS shout questions from behind a rope line.

REPORTER #1

Officer Kaminski, do you have anything to say to the Hill family?

REPORTER #2

Do you feel vindicated?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REPORTER #3

Do you think you'll stay on the
job?

DEFENSE LAWYER

No comment. Please step back.

A deputy opens a secured exit door for him and his
client.

Kaminski hesitates for a half a second --- the weight of
the verdict, the weight of the world --- then steps
through.

Flashbulbs explode as he disappears into the corridor
beyond.

INT. OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM - CONTINUOUS

The COURTROOM CORRESPONDENT, mid-40s, professional,
stands in the hallway, now broadcasting live. Behind her,
deputies struggle to maintain order as people spill out
of the courtroom --- some crying, some shouting, some
filming on their phones.

She speaks with the tone of someone trying to stay
composed while history fractures around her.

COURTROOM CORRESPONDENT

We've just witnessed Officer Jason
Kaminski exit the courtroom with
his attorney moments after being
acquitted on all charges. He left
through a secured hallway,
escorted by deputies, and did not
respond to questions from the
press.

Behind her, Devante's mother is being supported by
relatives as she cries out "They killed my baby and got
away with it."

The Correspondent lowers her voice, the gravity
unmistakable.

COURTROOM CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

The emotional fallout is
immediate. Devante Hill's family
is devastated, calling the verdict
a miscarriage of justice.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COURTROOM CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

Meanwhile, supporters of Officer Kaminski are celebrating the decision, saying the jury made the right call.

A protest chant begins to rise from the far end of the hallway --- faint but growing.

PROTESTERS (O.S.)

No justice, no peace! No justice,
No peace!

The courtroom correspondent glances toward the sound, then back to camera.

COURTROOM CORRESPONDENT

This verdict is not just a legal outcome --- it's a flashpoint. One that will shape the conversation about policing, accountability, and race in this community for along time to come.

Behind her, the hallway erupts again as more people pour out of the courtroom.

COURTROOM CORRESPONDENT (CONT'D)

We'll continue to follow developments as they unfold.

EXT. STREET - OUTSIDE OF MACY'S - NIGHT

Midtown Manhattan is charged with thousands of angry protesters taking advantage of the media coverage to let the world know how upset they are about Officer Jason Kaminski's acquittal. Rafael makes his way through the crowd of protesters and news crews to get to Macy's department store, only to be met by a line of Black Lives Matter protesters with their arms linked together allowing patrons to exit the store but prohibiting patrons from entering the store.

BLM PROTESTER

(to fellow
protesters)

Let them out! Don't let them in!

The protesters break the human chain for the patrons leaving the store, and then they link arms again.

BLM PROTESTER (CONT'D)

Let them out! Don't let them in!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rafael reaches his destination but is denied entry.

RAFAEL

What is this? Why are you people blocking the entrance to this store?!

BLM PROTESTER

What's wrong, Brother? Haven't you been keeping up with current events? For weeks, The founder of the Black Lives Matter movement has been telling the media and anyone who would listen what to expect this holiday season if we didn't get a just and fair verdict in the Officer Kaminski trial.

RAFAEL

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I caught all that... I just didn't think that you guys would be foolish enough to follow through with your threats because it was so ridiculous.

BLM PROTESTER

Nothing ridiculous about it, brother. Police are shooting down Black brothers and sisters like dogs! They're trying to make us an endangered species, brother, and it's got to stop!

Rafael looks for a way around the protesters.

RAFAEL

So, this is your solution, to stand in front of department stores and keep people from shopping?! Come on, man!

BLM PROTESTER

What's the matter with you, my brother?! Don't you care about what's going on in your own community?! We're not just doing this for the black community. We're doing it for all people of color. Brown people are getting shot by police as well as blacks. Department stores like this are for White folks anyway!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BLM PROTESTER (CONT'D)

You should be supporting Brown and Black owned businesses! Instead of fighting against us, You should be standing out here with us.

RAFAEL

I am standing out here with you, but what I really want is to get inside the store behind you.

Rafael can't help but notice the annoyed looks on other shopper's faces as they are denied entry.

BLM PROTESTER

If you really gave a damn, you would be standing right here with your arms linked around ours.

Rafael hates himself for letting this protester sucker him into a shouting match.

RAFAEL

If you think that it's worth it to cry your eyes out and protest the police over some thieving asshole who could care less about obeying the laws in this country, like Davante Hill, that's your business, but leave me the fuck out of it. As long as the stores are open for business, my business is with them.

Hearing police sirens in the background, Rafael hopes that the police are coming in a show of force to clear the protesters who are blocking the entrance.

BLM PROTESTER

(shaking his head)
That's cold, my brother.

RAFAEL

It ain't cold! You're just not being honest about what we all saw in that bodega store surveillance video. And before you say anything else, I would be feeling the same way if the knucklehead in the surveillance video had been Latino, White, Asian, or Arab!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

But since we're talking about Devante Hill here, you should know that Devante had 5 prior arrests before his run-in with Officer Kaminski. So, you're gonna have to excuse me if I don't sympathize with the loss of Devante Hill.

The protester is stumped.

BLM PROTESTER

And you're gonna have to find another store to shop in.

RAFAEL

No, I don't have to go to another store because I know that what I'm shopping for is in that Macy's right behind you.

BLM PROTESTER

Well, I don't know what to tell you. You're gonna have to come back tomorrow when we're not here, I guess.

Rafael scoffs at the protester.

RAFAEL

I will not come back tomorrow. I'm here now! I'm not coming back tomorrow! Macy's is open for business now, and I'm going to do business in there. Who the hell are you to keep people from shopping?! Get the fuck outta here with that bullshit!

Pedestrians overhearing the shouting match between Rafael and the protester can sense that an all-out brawl is brewing and distance themselves before it's too late.

BLM PROTESTER

Yo, enough, enough! I'm done having this conversation! If you're unwilling to listen and open your eyes to what's really going on in your community, I can't do anything for you. You're not getting in this store, and that's all there is to it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAFAEL

Oh, I'm getting in that store, all right! You better believe that shit!

BLM PROTESTER

I'd really like to see that shit, Motherfucker!

RAFAEL

You wanna see how?! I'll show you how.

BLM PROTESTER

Yeah, show me, Motherfucker!

Rafael takes a step forward and snaps the Protester's head back with a jumping knee to the face...

...The Protester, with a bloody nose and forty pounds over Rafael, breaks away from the human chain and charges at Rafael...

...Rafael spins his body around halfway and drops to the ground on both hands to mule kick his attacker in the groins...

...Rafael's attacker keels over from the pain and falls to ground holding himself...

...Another Black Lives Matter protester comes from behind and wraps his arms around Rafael's waist to power slam him to the ground...

...Rafael can feel himself being lifted up off the sidewalk and hooks his leg around the leg of his 2nd attacker to keep from being slammed on the concrete...

...Rafael manages to break the grip of the 2nd attacker and force him down to the ground with a Kimura armlock.

BLM PROTESTER #2

Fuck you, motherfucker! Let go of my arm!

Rafael threatens to break his attacker's arm if the other black lives matter protesters come any closer.

RAFAEL

If you don't want your arm broken, you better tell your people not to come any closer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Black Lives Matter Protester #2 swallows his pride and instructs the other protesters to stand down.

BLM PROTESTER #2
 (to his people)
 Yo, stand down. Let him in the
 store. Only him, no one else.

Rafael let's his attacker have his arm back when he sees the other protesters complying, and is allowed to go inside the department store without further incident.

INT. MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - GROUND FLOOR - NIGHT

Rafael pushes his way through the revolving doors and makes his way to the elevators.

EXT. MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

STACY, a field reporter for a conservative news channel, describes what the energy is like in lower Manhattan on the air.

STACY
 Activists from Minnesota to
 California and beyond have poured
 into the streets on this Black
 Friday, of all days, to protest
 police violence and raise
 awareness. Here in our area,
 Protesters are asking people not
 to shop at all on this Black
 Friday, or if they did want to
 shop, to shop at and support black-
 owned businesses.

Rafael interrupts the newswoman and gets in front of the cameras to get something off his chest.

RAFAEL
 That's right! I got what I came
 for! Ain't nobody gonna tell me I
 can't shop today!

Rafael holds up his shopping bag to the cameras and then walks away, letting the newswoman get back to reporting the news.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STACY

Okay, well, apparently that was one shopper who was happy to get into the stores and buy.

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS

JAMES, host of a popular conservative cable news show, interrupts Stacy, the newswoman, and asks her to get Rafael back in front of the cameras.

JAMES

Not so fast, Stacy.

Stacy hears James in her ear.

STACY

Yeah, go ahead, James.

JAMES

Don't let that man walk off just yet. Try to get him back on and ask him if he had any trouble getting into the stores? I want the viewers who are thinking about shopping today to know what they might be in for.

STACY

Okay, I'll see if I could get him to come back.

Stacy tries to get Rafael's attention and calls out to him.

STACY (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Sir!

Rafael is still within earshot of the newswoman calling out to him. Rafael stops in his tracks, only to turn around and see the newswoman waving for him to come back over to her.

STACY (CONT'D)

Would you mind talking to us some more?

Rafael walks back over to the newswoman and gets back in front of the cameras.

RAFAEL

No, I don't mind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STACY

No swear words, okay?

RAFAEL

No swear words, right.

STACY

Okay, what is your name, Sir?

Stacy sticks the microphone in Rafael's face for him to speak into it.

RAFAEL

Sure, I'll tell you my name. I ain't scared. My name is Rafael Morales.

STACY

Okay, Rafael, and are you just coming out of Macy's?

RAFAEL

Yup, Macy's.

Rafael holds up his Macy's shopping bag to the cameras.

STACY

Were you in there shopping for yourself, or were you shopping for family?

RAFAEL

I was in there shopping for family. Normally, I wouldn't come out to shop on Black Friday. I've seen how crazy shoppers can get on black Friday, so I usually wait it out.

STACY

So, what made you decide to brave the heavy traffic this time around? Why this Black Friday?

Rafael is more than happy to share.

RAFAEL

Well, this time is kind of special. My cousin, who's more like a brother to me, and is live-in girlfriend are expecting their first child together.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

They showed me the sonogram pictures, but you should see what they're keeping them in. Right now they're keeping the sonogram pictures in a plastic slip cover, and that's not gonna fly, so I figured I'd come down here and get them one of those frames to keep sonogram pictures in.

STACY

I hope you didn't spoil the surprise for your cousin and his girlfriend.

RAFAEL

No, that's okay. It wasn't meant to be a surprise, so it's not like I'm letting the cat out of the bag or anything.

STACY

On a more serious note, what do you make of the protesters trying to keep people from going inside the stores to shop? Were you aware ahead of time that Protesters, like Black Lives Matter and other black power organizations, would be out in the streets in full force to boycott this day?

RAFAEL

Yeah, I might have heard a few things about it here and there, but I never actually thought that they would go through with it.

STACY

And why not?

Rafael speaks directly to Stacy and forgets that the cameras are there.

RAFAEL

I mean, what do they expect to accomplish by keeping shoppers from going into big name stores, like Macy's, on a day like today?!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

If only these Black Lives Matter protesters would spend more time denouncing criminal behavior, and less time defending criminal behavior, then maybe we wouldn't be where we are today. Unless these Activists are ready to step up and do that, they will never be worthy of any real credibility in my eyes. But boycotting Black Friday is no way to get police reform.

Rafael faces the cameras.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I'm no preacher, but to all of the brown and black knuckleheads living criminal lives, I say this: Everyone knows there are good cops and bad cops, and there's no way of knowing which one is going to show up to haul your sorry butt off to jail for breaking the law, so, to play it safe, why not live your life the right way? Otherwise, don't expect me to march up and down the street with a picket sign to try to get justice for your sorry butt if you do end up getting shot by the police...

Rafael takes a deep breath.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

It's okay if I say butt, right?
Is butt okay?

STACY

Butt's fine. You can say butt, that's okay. Thank you so much for speaking with us, Rafael. Enjoy the rest of your holiday, and be safe out there.

RAFAEL

Okay.

Rafael walks away from Stacy and her news crew.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

STACY

Well, there you have it. Back to you, James.

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS

James takes over and gets back to hosting his show.

JAMES

I don't know how popular this is going to make Rafael amongst his peers, but I for one would like to buy that man a beer for saying what I've only been saying on this show since the trial began. Somebody ought to get that Rafael guy his own podcast, or something. If people won't hear it from a White guy, like me, maybe they'll listen to him, who knows?

INT. THE ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - MIKE'S DESK - DAY

There is a long line of temps at Mike's desk waiting to sign in and leave their Identification with him. Rafael is next in line to sign in.

RAFAEL

Morning Mike.

Mike places his hand over the cup temps are required to leave their identification in to keep Rafael from leaving his identification.

MIKE

What do you want, Morales?

RAFAEL

Your hand is in the way.

MIKE

I know it is.

Rafael believes Mike is playing some kind of game with him.

RAFAEL

Well, I can't leave my identification in the cup with your hand in the way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE

You've got some nerve showing your face around here. I don't know if you know this, but around here we support the black lives matter movement, which means this is no place for stuck on stupid Fox News watching motherfuckers, like yourself.

RAFAEL

Oh, you must have seen me on TV.

MIKE

Thank you, Rafael, for not trying to worm your way out of this by denying it was you on TV talking crap about the black lives matter movement to that newswoman.

RAFAEL

No, that was me all right, but I think you have the wrong idea about me, friend.

MIKE

Oh, you think so, huh?

RAFAEL

Yeah, I do. I'm no stuck on stupid Fox News watching motherfucker. How was I supposed to know that newswoman was reporting for Fox News? I'm just sick of all the dumb shit going on in the streets, aren't you?! Come on, man... criminals are committing the same crimes over and over again and getting arrested just to be released on their own recognizance without any bail whatsoever! You might be okay with that shit, but I'm not!

The other temps in the room are getting a kick out of the back and forth between Mike at Rafael.

MIKE

Just save it, Rafael! Save it for someone who gives a fuck! You're gonna have to find work elsewhere. As a matter of fact, I have your last check for you right here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Mike pulls Rafael's check out of a stack of white envelopes and places it on his desk.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You gotta sign for it. And I would appreciate it if you never set foot in this office again.

RAFAEL

So what, if I'm not down with the dumb shit coming out of the far left? That doesn't mean I'm down with the bullshit rhetoric coming from those right-wing excrements on the far right.

MIKE

You're still here?

RAFAEL

You can try to cancel me all you want. It's not like I believed Freedom of Speech ever existed in this country, anyway. Nothing you do is gonna make me change my mind. I said what I said, and I stand by what I said.

Mike abruptly jumps out of his seat.

MIKE

I'm telling you for the last time, Rafael. Get out of here!

RAFAEL

I'm leaving! I shouldn't have been wasting my creative talents in this poor excuse for an employment agency to begin with.

Mike comes out from behind his desk.

MIKE

See, now I know you done lost your ever loving mind!

Rafael sees Mike rushing straight at him with anger in his eyes but doesn't panic...

...Rafael grabs hold of Mike's sleeve and piece of his lapel and lands on his back with a sacrifice throw to the floor...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

...Rafael swings his leg around Mike's head and traps Mike's arm between his knees...

...Rafael raises his hips and hyperextends Mike's elbow with an armbar...

...Mike let's out a loud cry from the pain, and Rafael releases his arm.

RAFAEL

Fuck Active Temp Agency!

Rafael gets back to his feet and picks up his check off of Mike's desk before making his way towards the exit door. Some of the other temps stand in Rafael's way to keep him from leaving.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you guys saw me on TV, too.

(beat)

Well, if we're gonna do this, can we at least do this one at a time?

The first temp to attack Rafael gets kicked half way across the room with a double teep push kick to the belly and chest...

...the next temp to attack Rafael gets taken down by a tiger-tail leg sweep...

...Rafael gets back to his feet right away and strikes a third temp in the face with an elbow that causes a deep gash just above the eye...

...Rafael then changes levels and goes for a single leg on a fourth temp. Rafael then puts his back into lifting the temp over his shoulder and slamming him to the floor...

...Rafael then gets on top of the temp and starts pummeling his face with hammer fists...

...a fifth temp comes to the aide of the fourth temp and puts Rafael in a rear naked choke hold...

...Rafael gets off the fourth temp to go for a double leg on the fifth temp...

...Rafael gets his arms around both legs and lifts the fifth temp off his feet and over his shoulder, slamming him to the floor...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

...Rafael gets back to his feet expecting the temps that are still standing to come for him, but they have seen enough and allow him to leave the premises.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

It's been nice knowing you guys.

Rafael opens the exit door and leaves the office.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Darnell is in the passenger seat being driven around his neighborhood in a green Nissan Maxima.

DARNELL

Man, listen, I don't know what the supreme court is going to do, but gay marriage will never be a real thing. And I think it's a travesty for straight kids to be adopted by gay couples.

DARNELL'S DRIVER keeps his eye on the road.

DARNELL'S DRIVER

That's what I'm saying. I feel you, Son.

Darnell looks out through the passenger side window and sees the RAT he's been looking for walking down the block as if all is right with the world.

DARNELL

Oh shit, I've been looking for this motherfucker!

DARNELL'S DRIVER

What motherfucker, who?

DARNELL

That dude in the grey hoodie. That's the motherfucker who ratted out Xavier. Xavier got seven years because of this fuck. Let me out here!

DARNELL'S DRIVER

What are you, strapped?

DARNELL

Yeah, I'm strapped.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DARNELL'S DRIVER

I didn't know that.

DARNELL

Come on, hurry up! I don't wanna lose him.

DARNELL'S DRIVER

Alright, hold on. I'm pulling over.

The car pulls up to the curb. Darnell reaches into his fanny pack for a gun and jumps out.

INT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

With one eye on the automatic teller machine, and the other eye on the homeless man sleeping on the floor about a foot away from where she's standing, Lissette inserts her debit card into the Automatic Teller Machine and types in her pin number to make a cash withdrawal. Lissette steps away from the automatic teller machine and pockets her cash and debit card before opening the exit door.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lissette is struck by two bullets as soon as she steps out of the bank and hits the pavement hard. The rat is surprised by the two shots he heard go off behind him and turns around to find Lissette's lifeless body on the sidewalk. Darnell is disappointed for having missed his target, and takes it out on Lissette.

DARNELL

Damn, Bitch! Get the fuck out the way!

The rat sees Darnell coming with the gun and realizes that those two shots were really meant for him, so he takes off running down the street.

DARNELL (CONT'D)

You're dead, you rat fuck!

Darnell chases the rat down the street opening fire. The rat manages to make him miss shot after shot after shot by zigzagging his way down the block. Pedestrians duck for cover behind parked cars to avoid getting struck by stray bullets. The rat accelerates speed and leaves Darnell in the dust, forcing him to give up the chase.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DARNELL (CONT'D)

This shit ain't over,
motherfucker! I'ma catch your ass
sooner or later!

Darnell can hear the police sirens and puts his gun back
in his fanny pack as he flees the scene.

EXT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

One good samaritan gets down on his knees to tend to
Lisette and asks the other Good samaritan with a phone
in his hand to call 911.

GOOD SAMARITAN #1

Someone call 911!

GOOD SAMARITAN #2

I did! They'll be here soon.
Can't you hear the sirens?

Good samaritan #1 can see Lisette struggling to form
words and instructs her not to speak.

GOOD SAMARITAN #1

Try not to talk, okay, Lady? Save
your energy. The ambulance will be
here soon, just hang on.

Good samaritan #2 looks down on Lisette from where he is
standing and doesn't like her chances.

GOOD SAMARITAN #2

Oh, man, she's not looking too
good.

GOOD SAMARITAN #1

Shut up! Don't say that! She's
gonna make it.

Good samaritan #2 sees the ambulance coming and hurries
over to the curb to flag them down.

GOOD SAMARITAN #2

Come on! We're losing her! Get
your asses over here!

GOOD SAMARITAN #1

You're going to make it, Lady.
You gotta fight! Lady, are you
still with me? Stay with me,
Lady... Lady?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the ambulance pulls up to the scene, Good samaritan #1 sees the life go out of Lissette's eyes.

INT. GORDY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

GORDY, a long-time friend of Darnell's, comes to his door half dressed and looks through the peep hole to see who is knocking like a crazy person.

GORDY

Yeah, yeah, yeah, hold the fuck on!

Gordy unlocks his door to greet Darnell.

DARNELL

Gordy, thank goodness you're home!

Gordy is not ready to let Darnell in and keeps him standing at his doorway.

GORDY

What the fuck, Darnell?! You knocking on my door like you're the police and shit!

DARNELL

Sorry about that, my dude, but I got nowhere else to go. I can't go home. The cops are probably there now looking for my ass.

Gordy finally steps aside and lets Darnell into his house.

GORDY

The cops are looking for you? What kind of shit did you get your ass into now?!

Gordy locks up behind him. Darnell paces back and forth across the living room floor, talking a mile a minute.

DARNELL

I really fucking did it this time! I just shot this lady. I didn't stick around to check if she was dead or alive, so I don't know.

Gordy doesn't believe a word of what Darnell is telling him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GORDY

Yeah right.

DARNELL

I'm telling you I shot some lady, but it wasn't my fault, though! I was really going after the asshole who ratted on Xavier, but the bitch just had to step out of the bank and take the bullet that was meant for that motherfucker.

GORDY

You being straight with me, man?

DARNELL

Why don't you take a walk to Broadway and see for yourself, if you don't believe me? The cops probably got the block sealed off by now.

GORDY

So where's the gun? What did you do with the gun?

Darnell stops pacing for a second to answer Gordy, then resumes.

DARNELL

I don't have it with me. I tossed it on my way over here. Yo, I gotta get the fuck outta New York. Fuck New York. I know people in North Carolina, but I need money for a bus ticket to get out there.

GORDY

And I guess that's where I come in, right?

DARNELL

Yeah, man, I'd do it for you if the roles were reversed.

GORDY

I was just fucking with you, Darnell, you know I got you.

INT. GORDY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LAQUITA, Gordy's girlfriend, is half naked in bed flipping through channels with the remote. Gordy enters and makes his way over to the dresser where he keeps his money.

LAQUITA

Who was at the door?

Gordy opens the top drawer and takes out a stash of money.

GORDY

Darnell. He's in some trouble, and needs money for a bus ticket outta town.

LAQUITA

And like an asshole you gotta be the one who gives it to him, right?

GORDY

Laquita, don't start with me! It's my money, and I'll do what I want with it, alright?!

Laquita bites her tongue and gets back to channel surfing. Gordy takes a couple of dollars out of the stash and puts the rest of the money back in the drawer before leaving the room.

INT. PITO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

On the coffee table there's a sonogram picture in the frame that Rafael bought for Pito and Lisette. Rafael is looking over the engagement ring Pito plans on giving Lisette.

PITO

So, do you think she'll like it?

RAFAEL

Yeah, she's going to like it, but what the hell do I know about jewelry? I'm not an appraiser. When do you plan on laying it on her?

PITO

Later tonight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL

Are you nervous?

Rafael gives the ring back to Pito.

PITO

Why would I be nervous? I know she's going to say Yes; We've been living together for this long, she's carrying my baby and shit. My only regret is that I didn't ask her sooner.

Pito pockets the ring.

RAFAEL

Hey, now don't go beating yourself up over that. This is marriage we're talking. Even I know that isn't something you should rush into. You don't want to end up being the guy that everyone laughs at because he's been married four or five times, right? As a matter of fact, if the right woman for me ever comes along, I'll probably wait just as long before I pop the question.

Pito and Rafael are interrupted by a loud knock on the door.

INT. PITO'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Barnaby, dressed in NYPD uniform, waits for someone to answer the door. Finally, the door cracks open, and Pito pops his head out.

BARNABY

I'm sorry to bother you, but are you Pito Santiago?

PITO

Yes, I am. What can I do for you, Officer?

BARNABY

And do you know a Lissette Rivera?

PITO

Yeah, what about her?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Barnaby looks Pito in the eyes.

BARNABY

I'm sorry to be the one to have to tell you this, but Lissette Rivera is dead.

PITO

She's what?

BARNABY

She's dead. Yeah, shot and killed by some scumbag about a block away from here. The first responders tried their best to save her, but she couldn't be saved. I'm sorry for your loss.

Rafael comes to the door to see if he could be of any help.

RAFAEL

Is everything alright here?

Rafael sees Barnaby but doesn't recognize him in his police uniform. Pito breaks down and wraps his arms around Rafael.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

What's wrong, Pito?!

Rafael consoles Pito at the door.

INT. HOSPITAL MORTUARY - ICU - MOMENTS LATER

Mortuary Attendants work to make Lissette's body presentable before showing it to family members.

INT. MORTUARY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MORTUARY ATTENDANTS wheel Lissette's body in through one door. Another set of doors slide open for Pito and Rafael to come in and identify the body.

RAFAEL

You go in, Pito. I'll wait out here.

Rafael pats Pito on the back. Pito steps inside to identify Lissette's body, and the doors slide shut behind him. Pito makes his way over to Lissette's body.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MORTUARY ATTENDANT

Thank you for coming in, Mr. Santiago. It's unfortunate that it has to be under these circumstances, but it has to be done.

(beat)

Whenever you're ready.

Pito nods his head and gives the Mortuary Attendant the okay to pull away the sheet covering Lissette's face. The mortuary attendant removes the sheet for Pito to make a clear ID.

PITO

It's her. That's Lissette Rivera.

Pito fights back tears and keeps his composure.

MORTUARY ATTENDANT

I'm sorry for your loss, Mr. Santiago. You can sign here whenever you're ready.

PITO

Can I just have a moment alone with her?

MORTUARY ATTENDANT

Of course, take all the time you need. I'll be right outside.

PITO

Thank you.

The mortuary attendant steps outside and lets Pito have the room.

PITO (CONT'D)

I can't believe this is happening, Lissette. You did not deserve this. You deserve better than this, we deserve better than this. And as God is my witness, I will not rest until the Low-life who took you from me is brought to justice, baby... I promise.

Pito kisses Lissette on the forehead.

INT. OUTSIDE THE MORTUARY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Barnaby limps over to Rafael to keep him company while he waits on Pito.

BARNABY

Hey, you wanna smoke?

Barnaby offers Rafael a cigarette.

RAFAEL

No, I don't smoke.

BARNABY

Yeah, I know what you mean. I shouldn't be smoking in a place like this, but notifying family members about their deceased loved ones is like the worst part of my job, very stressful, so damn depressing.

RAFAEL

I get it.

Barnaby sticks a cigarette in his mouth and lights up.

BARNABY

Let me tell you something, the asshole we're looking for is probably shooting his mouth off to all of his asshole friends and posting all about what he did on social media right now. That's how stupid these street fucks are. They just can't help themselves. It's only a matter of time before we catch up to him.

RAFAEL

You're so right.

BARNABY

Hey, you don't remember me, do you?

Rafael takes a long look at Barnaby.

RAFAEL

No, should I?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNABY

I'm Barnaby. We went to Junior high school together.

RAFAEL

Barnaby, oh yeah. I do remember you. I didn't at first because of your police uniform.

BARNABY

Yeah, I figured that much.

RAFAEL

I mean, the way I remember it, you were well on your way to ending up on the wrong side of the law. It's good to know that man-bun of yours was just a phase you were going through. Why anyone would want to walk around in public with a damn man-bun on his head is beyond me.

Barnaby cracks up.

BARNABY

Yeah, I was kind of a dick, wasn't I?

RAFAEL

I see you walk with a limp now. Did you get shot on the job, or something?

BARNABY

No, this is from an old childhood injury. But I'll bet you anything that if you thought about it real hard, you could probably tell it a lot better than I could.

Barnaby's got Rafael thinking.

RAFAEL

Is that from the heel hook I slapped on your ass? No way.

Barnaby's got Rafael smiling from ear to ear.

BARNABY

Yeah, my ankle never did heal properly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL

Wow.

BARNABY

That's okay. I know I had it coming. I never should have tried to embarrass you in front of that Silvia chick.

RAFAEL

Let that be a lesson to you.

BARNABY

Of course, had I known that you were taking classes in martial arts at the time, I never would've fucked with you to begin with.

RAFAEL

Well, that's no reason to give someone a hard time.

BARNABY

So, have you kept up with your training over the years?

RAFAEL

What do you think?

Pito finally emerges from the mortuary room and joins Rafael and Barnaby.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Hey Cuz.

BARNABY

Pito, I just want you to know that if you ever need anything to help you get through this trying time, don't hesitate to reach out to the NYPD.

Barnaby gives Pito his card.

PITO

All I want to know is who did this. What kind of leads do you have?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BARNABY

No, no real leads as of yet. We're still in the process of gathering information, but, as I was just telling Rafael, these street fucks are not the sharpest tools in the shed. Sooner or later, this asshole is going to slip, and when he does, we're going to be there to bag his ass.

PITO

Whoever did this needs to be feeling the walls closing in on him like yesterday, whoever did this needs to be feeling the noose tightening around his neck like yesterday.

Pito gestures with his hands to impersonate someone being hung.

BARNABY

And I get all that...

Pito cuts Barnaby off.

PITO

Listen, I'm offering a five thousand dollar reward to anyone who could provide information that leads us to the piece of crud who murdered Lissette, alright?

Barnaby likes the idea.

BARNABY

Yeah, that's not a problem. I can get started on those flyers and have them posted all over the neighborhood.

Rafael places his hand on Pito's shoulder.

RAFAEL

It's not right for you to front that much money yourself, Pito. You can count on me contributing all that I can.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

PITO

I'm sure that if Lissette's mother spoke to the people at her church, she'd be able to raise some more money.

RAFAEL

Well, what the fuck are we still standing around here for? We've got work to do.

Pito, Rafael, and Barnaby make their way towards the elevators.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Darnell is in the back seat of a NYC yellow cab watching the TV screen without sound. News breaks of a press conference. The headline on the bottom of screen reads Pregnant woman fatally shot in broad daylight on the Upper Westside. Darnell loses his cool when he can't get the sound to come on.

DARNELL

Yo, Cabbie! How do I get the sound on back here?

CABBIE sees Darnell from his rear view mirror.

CABBIE

Oh Sorry. You can't get sound back there. It doesn't work, but we're almost at your destination.

Rafael and Pito are present at the press conference. Pito can be seen stepping up to the podium to speak to the media.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PORT AUTHORITY - CONTINUOUS

Cabbie pulls over to the curb and brings the cab to a complete stop.

CABBIE

Okay, here we are --- Port authority.

DARNELL

How much do I owe you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CABBIE

That will be fifteen dollars.

Darnell pays the cab driver and gets out of the cab.

INT. PORT AUTHORITY - BUS DEPOT - CONTINUOUS

Darnell steps up to the window to purchase a bus ticket from the TICKET AGENT.

TICKET AGENT

Hello Sir, and where are we heading today?

DARNELL

How much is a one way ticket to Raleigh, North Carolina?

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Mayor Max Stafford stops by to see his secretary at her desk and asks about getting in touch with Lissette's family members.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Morning Barbra.

BARBRA, the Mayor's secretary, puts down her phone.

BARBRA

Good morning, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Any messages?

BARBRA

Uh, yes, but we don't have to get to them right now. It's still so early in morning.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Come on, Barbra. I'm a big boy. I can take it. What are my messages?

Barbra sighs before answering.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBRA

Well, Sir, you're still getting a lot of push back from Brown and Black mothers hoping that you won't follow through with your plan to reinstate Stop and Frisk. They're afraid that you're going to reinstate the policy.

Mayor Max Stafford throws his head back out of frustration.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

For God's sake, what is the matter with these people?! If a pregnant woman coming out of a bank and getting shot in broad daylight isn't enough of an indicator that the city needs Stop and Frisk now more than ever, I don't know what it's going to take.

(beat)

What was that woman's name again?

BARBRA

The woman who was shot?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Yeah, the pregnant woman --- what was her name?

BARBRA

Lisette Rivera, I believe.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Right, Lisette Rivera. You know that gives me an idea, Barbra.

BARBRA

What idea, Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

I still have to reach out to the family of Lisette Rivera, and offer them my condolences for their loss. So, I'm going to do that now. And when I do, I'm going to invite them to show up at that thing next week.

BARBRA

What thing is that, Sir?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
What thing?! The State of The City
Address, Barbra.

BARBRA
Oh, of course, yes.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Yeah that... I'll invite them to
attend, have them join me on the
stage, and maybe even get them to
help me sell the idea of
reinstating Stop and Frisk to the
Brown and Black community.

BARBRA
It's worth a try.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Do you think so? You don't think
that's asking too much?

BARBRA
No.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Okay, then let's make it happen.
Try getting Lissette's family on
the phone for me.

BARBRA
I'll get right on that, Sir.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Thank you, Barbra. I'll be in my
office.

Barbra gets on her computer. Mayor Max Stafford adjourns
to his office and leaves Barbra to her work.

INT. RIVERA RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Friends and family attend Lissette's wake. MARIBEL,
Lissette's mother, sees Pito sitting alone on the couch
and joins him.

MARIBEL
Mind if I join you, Pito?

PITO
Please do, Maribel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Maribel sits down next to Pito.

MARIBEL

So, Pito, how are you holding up?

PITO

I was going to propose to her that very day, the day she was taken from us. I had the ring and everything. I even brought it with me. Would you like to see it?

MARIBEL

You have it with you? Yeah, I'd like to see it.

Pito takes the ring out of his pocket and takes it out of the box.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

It's beautiful, Pito. You would've made her so happy. I know you would have. I always liked you, Pito. It was so refreshing to know that she had you in her life.

PITO

That means a lot to me, Maribel. Thank you for telling me.

MARIBEL

And you know, just because Lissette is gone that doesn't mean we can't talk anymore. So, if you ever feel like you need to talk about anything, just know that you can always talk to me.

Maribel reaches for Pito's hand and holds it.

PITO

I'll be okay, but, more importantly, how are you holding up, Maribel?

MARIBEL

I'd be feeling a lot better if I knew that the animal who did this was in a prison cell where he belongs. It's crazy for me to think that he's still out there in the world when my baby daughter is in ashes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Pito fights back his tears.

PITO

We'll find him soon, Maribel.
Trust me when I tell you that it
doesn't matter if it's out of the
goodness of their heart, or if
it's just to collect the reward
money we managed to raise
together, someone with information
will come forward.

Rafael is standing next to a land-line phone when it rings. Rafael tries to get Maribel to come to the phone. Maribel is busy being consoled by Pito. Rafael takes the call for Maribel.

RAFAEL

Rivera residence. Who's calling,
please?

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mayor Max Stafford is sitting behind his desk speaking to Rafael on the phone.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Yes, Hello, This is Max Stafford,
the Mayor of New York. With whom
am I speaking?

INT. RIVERA RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Pito and Maribel are still in conversation.

PITO

Lisette and I were thinking about
naming her Patricia.

MARIBEL

Patricia.

Rafael joins Pito and Maribel on the couch and interrupts their conversation.

RAFAEL

Hey, you two, I don't mean to
interrupt, but, just so you know,
Maribel, there was a phone call
for you... The Mayor-Elect.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIBEL

Are you serious?

PITO

Why didn't you say something,
Rafael?!

RAFAEL

I tried to get your attention, but
you both seemed so preoccupied.
Anyway, I took the call for you,
and apparently there's this big
event taking place next week that
he wants us to attend. I don't
know how you feel about it, but I
told him that we would be there.

Maribel shrugs her shoulders.

MARIBEL

That's okay. What is this event?

RAFAEL

It's the State of the city
Address.

MARIBEL

Well, that's okay.

RAFAEL

The thing is I only accepted
because I thought that's what you
would've wanted me to say, but I
don't think it's such a good idea.

MARIBEL

Why not?

RAFAEL

I don't know about this Max
Stafford. Have you ever heard him
speak?

MARIBEL

No, I don't follow politics all
that much.

RAFAEL

Neither do I, but I've heard him
speak to the media once before,
and he's got a lot of questionable
ideas for the Brown and Black
community.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Even the decent, law-abiding
brown and black folks are subhuman
to him.

INT. POLICE PRECEINT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

FRANK, a homeless man, sits alone behind a desk and waits to be interrogated by police. Barnaby enters the room in plain clothes and takes a seat on the opposite side of the desk.

BARNABY

Good news, Frank, your boneless
honey glazed barbecue wings and
large soda are on the way. In the
meantime, what do you say we get
started?

FRANK

Fine by me. Hey, Officer, do you
mind if I ask you something?

BARNABY

Yeah, ask me anything?

FRANK

Did you get shot in the leg, or
something?

BARNABY

No, Why?

FRANK

I see you hobbling around. I
figured you might have been shot
on the job, or something.

Feeling self-conscious about his limp, Barnaby looks at Frank and smiles.

BARNABY

No, I've never been shot, knock on
wood. It's just an old childhood
injury.

FRANK

Oh, I see.

BARNABY

So, how long have you been living
on the streets, Frank? Do you
prefer Franklin or Frank?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

You could call me Frank.

BARNABY

Frank it is. How long have you been living on the streets, Frank?

FRANK

I've been living on the streets for about three years now.

Frank answers honestly.

BARNABY

And how often do you pitch your tent inside of the Bank of America?

FRANK

Every now and then.

BARNABY

Well, no matter how today goes, whether we arrest the suspect we're looking for based on your information or not, we're going to take care of you, okay, Frank? We're not just going to let you walk out of here to fend for yourself. The NYPD has plenty of programs to help guys like you get back on their feet. Does that sound like something you would be interested in?

FRANK

It sounds good to me. I appreciate it.

Frank scratches himself profusely.

BARNABY

So, tell me about the day Lissette Rivera went in and withdrew money from the ATM... Did you two say anything to each other?

Frank remembers the details quite clearly.

FRANK

No, we did not speak. She just withdrew cash and walked out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARNABY

So, she leaves the bank, and then what?

FRANK

I hear two shots as soon as she exits the bank. She goes down, and then I could hear the shooter say something through the glass.

BARNABY

What did you hear him say?

INT. BANK OF AMERICA - ATM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Frank gets a good look at Darnell shooting Lissette and stepping over her lifeless body from where he is seated.

FRANK (V.O.)

He said Stupid Bitch, get out my way, or Stupid Bitch you got in my way, something along those lines. All I know is that the guy saw the woman go down and he couldn't have cared less.

INT. POLICE PRECEINT - INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT

Barnaby takes notes.

BARNABY

Okay, what else?

FRANK

And then he fired like five or six more shots at the guy he chased down the street.

(beat)

I just want to wish you the best of luck solving this case, Officer.

Frank and Barnaby are interrupted by a knock at the door.

BARNABY

Just one second, Frank. You're doing good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Barnaby gets up to answer the door. He cracks open the door, and a fellow officer hands him a bag of food from McDonald's. Barnaby returns to the desk and sets the bag down in front of Frank.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Here you go, Frank.

FRANK

Alright.

Frank wastes no time removing the content from the bag.

BARNABY

Take your time, enjoy that, and, once you're done, I'm going to get you together with our sketch artist, okay?

FRANK

Sure thing, Officer. It's your show.

Frank takes a sip of his soda and goes to town on his wings.

INT. NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Hundreds are in attendance, formally dressed, for the State of the City Address. Mayor-Elect Max Stafford is center stage, addressing the crowd from behind a podium.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

My fellow New Yorkers, it is great to be in the Bronx. This is the birth place of Legends. Legends like Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and the workplace of legends like Marina Rivera. And it is also the home of future superstars, like the Siera Cruz high school Latin band, and The P.S. 32 chorus. Weren't they fantastic?

The P.S. 32 Chorus take a bow.

INT. RIKERS ISLAND - COMMISSARY - NIGHT

A room full of INMATES tuning to the state of the city address. INMATE #1 is a former Siera Cruz High School student.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INMATE #1

Siera Cruz High school! That's my Alma Mater, Ya'll! My history teacher, Ms. Abrams, was a predator, who wanted me to fuck her whenever we were alone in the detention room.

INMATE #2 starts joshing inmate #1.

INMATE #2

Yeah right, motherfucker!

INMATE #1

I'm serious, Bro! We used to do it on her desk all the time. She was a hot White chick, too. I'll never forget her. She had it all, she was in her late twenties, with huge tits, nice thick legs...

Fellow inmates crack up laughing.

INT. NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

This is the city of innovation, and this one borough has given us some of the best authors, scientists, doctors, and athletes. The Bronx has been the borough of innovators, and you can see most recently from our students here at the academy for collaborative studies who built this award winning robot.

A robot holds up a picket sign that reads Boogie Down.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

How about the robot club, huh? I think they deserve a round of applause.

Members of the Robot club take a bow.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

But what kind of Mayor would I be if I didn't give it to you straight about the direction I feel this City is going.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

This is the State of the City Address after all, and while it is true this is a city of innovators and future stars, this is also a city marred with senseless acts of violence. Bad apples with no regards for human life are robbing us of our future stars with senseless acts of violence. You've all heard the stories. Just two weeks ago, Lisette Rivera, a twenty-three year old woman pregnant with her first child, was gun down in broad daylight coming out of a Bank of America on the upper westside. She was just an innocent bystander doing everyday things. It's an epidemic that's been going on in big cities like ours for far too long and it's been tearing families apart. Families like the Rivera family.

Mayor Max Stafford turns to the Rivera family who happen to be sitting in the front row.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

I've reached out to the Rivera family personally with a promise to do everything in my power to make sure that no other family suffers what they are going through right now. If it takes bringing back Stop and Frisk, or constructing more prisons to house these criminals once they are caught, so be it. I've invited the Rivera family here in the hopes that they would join me and my administration in the fight ahead. Ladies and gentlemen please join me in welcoming the Rivera Family to the stage.

The crowd applauds. Rafael, Pito, Tio, and the Rivera family come to the stage. Rafael shakes the Mayor's hand, steps up to the podium, and acts as the spoke person for the Rivera family.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for allowing us the opportunity to say to your face that we know what you're trying to do by inviting us here tonight. It's not to pay tribute to Lissette Rivera but to use us as props to help you push your alt-right agenda on the people of New York.

Mayor Max Stafford interrupts Rafael.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Okay, let me stop you right there. I haven't the slightest idea where this is coming from... I'm confused.

Mayor Max Stafford stops his security team from ushering Rafael, and his family off the stage.

RAFAEL

You know, you may be the Mayor of New York. There's nothing that could be done about that, but whatever you and your right-wing friends have planned for the Brown and Black community, you're gonna have to leave us out of it because we've still got some grieving to do. We're leaving now, excuse us.

Mayor Max Stafford keeps Rafael and the Rivera family on stage a while longer.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Now, wait a minute. I don't know where you got your information, but you've got me all wrong. I can understand that you and your family are going through a lot right now, so let's just say that it's the grief talking, and we'll leave it at that, okay?

RAFAEL

So, you think I've got you figured all wrong, huh?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

I'm afraid so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Mayor Max Stafford tries to laugh off the awkwardness.

RAFAEL

Alright, then let's clear it up
once and for all.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

I'd be glad to. What do you have
in mind? What else would you like
me to say?

Rafael looks to the audience then back to the Mayor.

RAFAEL

It's real simple. This is your
moment. All you have to do is
denounce White supremacy, and your
alt-right donors in front of
everybody here, and to the people
watching at home... Do that, and
I'll admit to everyone that I'm
just some rambling idiot who
doesn't know what he's talking
about.

Mayor Max Stafford agrees to Rafael's terms with a forced
smile on his face.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Certainly, anything to put an end
to this awkward moment.

RAFAEL

Good. Let's hear it.

INT. RIKERS ISLAND - COMMISSARY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

TWO WHITE NATIONALIST INMATES see a familiar face sharing
the stage with Rafael.

WHITE NATIONALIST INMATE #1

Do you believe this guy trying to
get Mayor Stafford to denounce us
on national television?

WHITE NATIONALIST INMATE #2

Yeah, who the hell does this guy
think he is? And look who's on the
stage with him.

White nationalist inmate #1 recognizes Rafael's Uncle on
his left.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WHITE NATIONALIST INMATE #1
Is that one of our CO's?

WHITE NATIONALIST INMATE #2
Hell yeah, that's one of our CO's.

WHITE NATIONALIST INMATE #1
Well, well, well, this is
interesting. I've just remembered,
I've got some people to call.

White nationalist inmate #1 gets out of his seat, leaving
his buddy alone.

INT. NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Mayor Max Stafford is reluctant to denounce White
Supremacy.

RAFAEL
You can't do it, can you?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Why do you think I'm a White
Supremacist? I don't get it, not
that I think this is the time or
place to get into it, but what Alt-
Right agenda are you speaking of?

RAFAEL
(to the Rivera
family)
Let's go.

Rafael steps away from the podium, and the rest of the
Rivera family follow him off the stage, leaving Mayor Max
Stafford standing there with his mouth open.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

With no one around to assist him, Rafael gets down on a
foam mat in the middle of the floor and improvises with a
chair to keep the details to doing a leg lock fresh in
his head. The phone rings, interrupting his Kata form.

RAFAEL
I can't stand people with bad
timing.

Rafael steps out of the bedroom.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Rafael exits the bedroom and heads for the ringing phone.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rafael enters and answers the phone.

RAFAEL

Hello?

Rafael can hear someone breathing on the other end of the line but gets no response.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Hello?

The anonymous caller on the other end finally responds.

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Is this Morales?

RAFAEL

Yes, this is Morales. Who is this?

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Is this Rafael Morales?

RAFAEL

Yeah, this is Rafael Morales...
who is this?!

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

That was a messed up thing you did
to the Mayor-Elect.

RAFAEL

Are you going to tell me who this
is?!

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Take back what you said about the
Mayor-Elect, and you'll be left
alone.

RAFAEL

What?!

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Take back what you said about the
Mayor-Elect, or there will be hell
to pay...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Don't call here
again, you fuck!

Rafael hangs up on the anonymous caller, makes his way
back to the bedroom, and closes the door behind him.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Knocks on the door. Rafael raises the cover to the
peephole and sees his cousin Pito on the other side of
the door and lets him in.

PITO

Did they call back?

Pito and Rafael embrace each other.

RAFAEL

No, not yet.

Rafael locks the door behind Pito.

PITO

So, what are we going to do about
this? Should we call the police?

RAFAEL

No, we can't call the police.
That asshole who left the message
on the machine was adamant when he
said not to involve the police.

PITO

Let me hear the message for
myself.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pito removes his coat and sits on the couch, as Rafael
plays the voice mail that was left on his phone by GANG
RING LEADER.

GANG RING LEADER (V.O.)

Let me be clear, Morales. We don't
want your uncle, we want you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GANG RING LEADER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

You were the one who humiliated the Mayor Elect with that stupid ass stunt of yours, so you're the one who has to answer for it. And if you don't want your uncle to take what was meant for you, you better be here at his place before today is over.

Tio can be heard in the background of the message pleading with Rafael not to do as he is told.

TIO (V.O.)

Rafael, don't listen to him! I'll be alright!

Tio can also be heard getting roughed up for doing so.

GANG RING LEADER (V.O.)

Oh, and I don't think you need me to tell you what happens to your uncle if, in your infinite wisdom, you decide to involve the law.

End of message.

PITO

Fuck that! We gotta call the cops. We've got to at least talk to Barnaby.

RAFAEL

Absolutely not. We don't have enough time for that. If we tell Barnaby about this, then he's got to go through the proper chain of command, then they've got to put a whole plan into place. By the time we get to Tio, it might be too late.

PITO

Then what do you intend to do?

RAFAEL

All I know is that I've got to move now.

PITO

Well, if you're going, I'm going.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL

No, I don't think that's such a good idea, Pito.

PITO

Why not? You taught me everything you know about self defense. You can use me.

RAFAEL

I don't have time to argue about this. We'll talk about this some more on the way to Tio's.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tio is seated in an office chair, his face stained with dried blood. Gang ring leader sits in an office chair beside Tio to keep him company along with six members of his crew.

GANG RING LEADER

So, tell me something, Uncle. Did you know what your nephew was planning to do once he got on stage to join Mayor Stafford? Why the hell didn't you try to talk some sense into him? I guess you didn't think that the inmates at your workplace would've be interested enough to tune in and hear Mayor Stafford's new plan for jail reform, huh? Well, you were wrong?

(beat)

It was one of the inmates from your jail who contacted us and told us all about you. He was the one who suggested that we use you to get to your nephew.

Tio shakes his head and laughs at his captor.

GANG RING LEADER (CONT'D)

Are you laughing at me? Why are you laughing?

TIO

Yeah, I'm laughing at you. What the fuck do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GANG RING LEADER

You wanna let me and my guys in on
the joke?

Gang ring leader looks at his guys to see if any of them
are smiling.

TIO

All I ever hear from you right-
wing nut jobs is how woke and
dysfunctional the liberals are.
Okay, yeah, as a liberal myself,
there are some things us liberals
can ease up on...

(beat)

But then assholes like you do shit
like this and think that it makes
your side look sane... That's what
I find so funny. No wonder people
are jumping ship from both parties
in record numbers.

One of the CREW MEMBERS looks out the window a sees a car
pulling up in front of the house.

CREW MEMBER #1

There's a car pulling up.

GANG RING LEADER

(stays seated)

Is it our guy? Is it Rafael?

CREW MEMBER #1

Don't know. He ain't get out the
car, yet.

GANG RING LEADER

Well, what kind of car is it?

CREW MEMBER #1

Sedan, it looks like.

GANG RING LEADER

(to Tio)

Your nephew drive a sedan?

TIO

Not that I know of.

GANG RING LEADER

He could've rented one, huh?

EXT. OUTSIDE OF TIO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rafael gets out of the car and makes his way to the house.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Crew member #1 makes a positive ID as Rafael walks towards the house.

CREW MEMBER #1

Yeah, it's our guy. It's Rafael.
He just got out of the car, and
he's coming this way.

Gang ring leader gets out his seat.

GANG RING LEADER

(to Tio)

Well, your nephew didn't leave you
hanging after all. It's close to
midnight. I didn't think he was
going to show.

Gang ring leader goes to the door to greet Rafael.

EXT. TIO'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Rafael goes up the steps to the house and is met at the door by gang ring leader.

GANG RING LEADER

Good of you to come, Rafael. Your
uncle and I are starting to run
out of things to talk about.

Gang ring leader steps aside to let Rafael get past the doorway. He then sticks his head out the door to make sure Rafael wasn't followed.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rafael sets foot inside and sees his Tio in the chair.

RAFAEL

You alright, Tio?

Gang ring leader locks the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GANG RING LEADER

Before we get into all of that, do you mind if one of my guys pat you down first?

CREW MEMBER #2 steps up to pat Rafael down.

CREW MEMBER #2

Open your coat.

Rafael pulls his coat zipper down and lets Crew Member #2 pat him down.

CREW MEMBER #2 (CONT'D)

He's clean.

RAFAEL

(to gang ring leader)

I recognize your voice. You were the one who left that stupid ass message threatening to kill my uncle if I didn't show up, right?

GANG RING LEADER

That's very good. You've got a good ear.

RAFAEL

That must make you the ring leader of this operation.

GANG RING LEADER

And proud of it.

RAFAEL

So, all of this is just to get me to answer for what I said to that Mayor of yours? If it is, you've got another thing coming because I stand by what I did. So, now that you've got me right where you want me why don't you just let my uncle go like you said you would?

GANG RING LEADER

Oh, you didn't really come here thinking that we were going to stay true to our word, did you? Oh, please tell me you're not that stupid.

Rafael looks over at his Tio.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GANG RING LEADER (CONT'D)

Oh, Rafael, Rafael, Rafael...

(beat)

No, we're not going to let your uncle go. But we are going to take you and your uncle for a ride, a ride to a deserted little farm house in upstate New York.

INT. POLICE PRECEINT - NIGHT

Darnell walks right up to a COLLEAGUE OF BARNABY'S to turn himself in.

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

What can I do for you?

DARNELL

I'm Darnell Grant. You guys been looking for me. I'm turning myself in.

Without saying a word, Barnaby's colleague remains in his seat and takes a long look at Darnell.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Barnaby is in uniform making his way to his prescient with a box of donuts.

INT. POLICE PRESCIENT - NIGHT

Barnaby makes it to his desk and sets the donuts down. He turns to his colleague next to him to inquire about the commotion throughout the office.

BARNABY

What the hell's going on around here?

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Hey, where have you been? You're missing all the action. We've just closed the Lissette Rivera case.

BARNABY

Closed it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Yeah, man, the Scumbag, Darnell Grant, just walked up and turned himself in.

BARNABY

Get the fuck outta here! Are you sure it's him?

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

It's him. It is definitely him. He said that being on the run sucks, and that he just couldn't take it anymore. He waved his rights to an attorney. We've even got a unit checking out the sewer drain where he said he dumped the murder weapon, as we speak.

Barnaby picks up the box of donuts from his desk and places it on his colleague's desk.

BARNABY

Here... help yourself to some donuts.

Barnaby steps away from his desk.

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Where are you going?

BARNABY

I'm going to tell the Rivera family the good news.

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Why don't you just get them on the phone?

BARNABY

Nah, I owe it to them to deliver this news in person. I won't be long.

Barnaby leaves the office.

EXT. TIO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Pito is lying in wait by the side of the house with a gun in his hand...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He takes a peek around the corner of the house and watches as the occupants inside the house start to file out one by one...

He waits until everyone is out of the house and down the steps to the front porch before coming out of hiding...

He sneaks up behind the last of the gang members to come down the front porch and grabs him to negotiate Rafael and their Tio's release.

PITO

Alright, Punetas! I got your man.
Let my family go now or I drop
your man right here.

Pito puts a gun to the back of the gang member's head to show that he's serious.

GANG RING LEADER

Where the hell did you come from?

PITO

Hey, asshole, did you hear what I
said?! Let them go now or your man
here is dead!

Gang ring leader nods, permitting Crew Member #1 and Crew Member #2 to release Rafael and Tio.

PITO (CONT'D)

Rafael, Tio move it! Back to the
house!

Pito holds on to the gang member while Rafael and Tio make their way back up the front porch and into the house.

RAFAEL

(from the house)
Come on, Pito!

PITO

(to the gang)
Don't do anything stupid!

Pito holds on to his human shield while he makes his way back to the house backwards. Pito sees gang ring leader lifting his jacket to reach for something.

PITO (CONT'D)

Don't do it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GANG RING LEADER

You're dead, you motherfucker!

Gang ring leader pulls out his gun and shoots his own crew member to get to Pito.

GANG RING LEADER (CONT'D)

Get that Spic motherfucker!

Pito returns fire and has the gang members running for cover behind Rafael's sedan.

RAFAEL

Get your ass in here, Pito!

Pito continues to fire his weapon at the car while he runs up the steps to the front porch.

GANG RING LEADER

Let's get 'em!

Gang ring leader and the rest of his gang come out from behind the sedan and try to get back in the house.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rafael and Tio pull Pito into the house with them.

RAFAEL

Get your ass in here, Pito!

Pito runs into the house and slams the door shut behind him.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Are you alright? Were you hit?

Rafael checks Pito over for any sign of gun shot wounds.

PITO

I don't know. I don't think so.

Rafael finds no sign of gun shot wounds and stops looking.

RAFAEL

You're alright.

TIO

They're going to be coming. We need to be ready.

EXT. TIO'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Gang ring leader reaches the front door and kicks it open. He cautiously sets foot inside with his gun drawn and gang behind him.

GANG RING LEADER

Spread out. They're in here
somewhere.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The gang members split up and search every inch of the house for Rafael, Pito, and Rafael.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Crew member #1 and #2 walk past the island where Pito is hiding under and get shot in the back...

They drop to the floor, and Pito comes out of hiding to finish them off by shooting them both in the head...

CREW MEMBER #4 arrives and takes several shots at Pito...

Pito takes cover behind the island. Rafael springs out of the broom closet and swings a broom stick knocking the gun out of the hands of Crew Member #4...

Rafael swings the stick again but crew member #4 grabs it this time and wrestles it out of Rafael's hands...

Crew Member #4 tries to strike Rafael...

Rafael parries his hand away and takes him down to the floor with a tani otoshi valley drop, where they scramble to get dominate position over the other...

CREW MEMBER #5 comes to the rescue, and Rafael uses crew member #4 to shield himself from gun fire...

Pito aims his gun and crew member #5 and blows his brains out...

Rafael then arms himself with the weapon Crew Member #5 was holding.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CREW MEMBER #6 joins Gang ring leader in heading to the kitchen.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tio sees gang ring leader and crew member #6 with guns drawn heading to the kitchen where he knows his nephews are and gets their attention.

TIO
Hey Crackers!

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gang ring leader stops short of entering the kitchen and trains his weapon in Tio's direction...

Tio ducks for cover in the next room...

With Crew Member #6 and gang ring leader taking shots at Tio, Rafael comes out of the kitchen and guns down crew member #6 while he is distracted...

Gang ring leader forgets about Tio and focuses his attention on Rafael...

Rafael takes cover behind the couch and draws gun fire...

With his back turned to him, Tio sneaks up on gang ring leader and gets shot in the stomach for his troubles but still manages to tackle him to the floor...

With Tio on top of gang ring leader, he uses his elbow to ground and pound his face open and doesn't stop until there is no sign of life left...

Now that the danger has passed, Rafael and Pito rush to Tio's aide to examine the severity of his injury.

RAFAEL
Tio, how bad is it?

TIO
Not too bad, I don't think.

Rafael lifts Tio's shirt and worries about all the blood.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PITO

We better get him to a hospital quick.

RAFAEL

Help me get him up.

PITO

Just hang in there, Tio.

Rafael and Pito help Tio to his feet, then they each take an arm and help him walk out the front door of the house.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

It's six months later, sentencing day for Darnell Grant...

The room is packed with the Rivera family sitting on one side of the room, and members of the Grant family on the other...

From where he sits, Rafael can see Darnell Grant at the defense table in a green jail suit, being very disrespectful and rolling his eyes at everything Maribel is saying about him in her victim's impact statement.

MARIBEL

Your Honor, Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, all I want is justice for my daughter, Lissette. So, may Darnell Grant's punishment fit the crime. Darnell Grant, I have nothing but contempt for you. And even though I know that not even the harshest sentence can bring my daughter back, I pray and ask the court that Darnell Grant be sentenced to the full extent of the law. Putting Darnell Grant behind bars where he belongs might not end crime as we know it, but it would certainly send a strong message.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

Darnell Grant, I hope you never
get a moments rest in prison.

Rafael overhears a DARNELL GRANT SUPPORTER sitting behind him make a comment about Maribel to the Darnell Grant supporter sitting next to him.

SUPPORTER OF DARNELL GRANT

(snickering)

Alright, that's it! I'm knocking
this bitch out right now. That's
my cousin she's talking about.

The Darnell Grant supporter gets out of his seat and makes his way towards Maribel...

Rafael waits for the Darnell Grant supporter to walk past him...

Rafael grabs the Darnell supporter by the back of his shirt, pivots, and drops to one knee, tossing him over his shoulder with a rotating motion...

There's a loud thud as the Darnell supporter hits the floor...

A huge brawl breaks out between the two families. Darnell is removed from the courtroom by the bailiffs, and THE JUDGE presiding the case tries to regain order in his courtroom.

JUDGE

(slamming his gavel)

Bailiffs, remove the defendant!
Order in the court! Order in the
court!

Rafael, with a BAILIFF on each arm, is being dragged out of the court room along with Pito, Tio, and several members of the Grant family.

RAFAEL

Easy, Bailiffs, I'm not resisting.
You see, I'm complying.

BAILIFF

Yeah, I see. You're doing a real
good job. Keep it that way.

RAFAEL

Yes, Ma'am, you won't get any
trouble out of me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I was just trying to help you guys
out, that's all.

The Bailiffs clear Rafael from the court room.

FADE OUT.

THE END