

Echoes of Honor

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

Corn as far as the eye can see is all over.

An older Dodge Challenger parks.

Homicide Detective ETHAN RAINES (35) exits the car and looks around. The rugged authority of an old-school lawman tempered by lethal intensity radiates off him. He sends a text message to someone marked as *Snitch 1334A* - "We need to meet."

There are a dozen unanswered messages to Snitch 1334A.

RAILS (O.S.)

Is there something I can help you
with, son?

Ethan looks up to see retired Homicide Detective (and current farmer) EDWIN "RAILS" RAILSTON (70) emerge from the house. He's got thinning hair and a shotgun in his hands.

ETHAN

Captain Parsons sends his regards.

Ethan shows him his badge.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Fifteen years ago Cinderella Jones
was murdered. You caught it.

Rails puts the shotgun down.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Her legal name was Iris Raines.

Rails looks him over. A glint of recognition comes over him.

RAILS

Your sister's death started cold
and got frozen real quick.

ETHAN

Do you still have your notes?

Rails shakes his head.

RAILS

We had a barn fire last summer. I
lost a lot of old stuff in there.

ETHAN

Do you have anything that can help me out?

RAILS

I can give you some advice. You look like you need some.

ETHAN

I want to find the prick who killed her and get Iris justice.

RAILS

A bullet won't bring her back.

ETHAN

I want to put the bracelets on him and listen to him say he did it in front of a judge.

RAILS

Sometimes red ink is always going to be red ink. You can't change it, you just have to accept it.

ETHAN

And Iris stays as red ink because you didn't care.

RAILS

She chose that life. It comes with a certain level of danger.

ETHAN

And this job is finding killers.

RAILS

Part of that job is accepting that sometimes... you don't get to win.

ETHAN

I can't accept that.

Rails looks at his watch.

RAILS

That's all I have to say about this or any other case.

Ethan walks back to his Challenger.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - DAY

Ethan pulls up a notepad on his phone. A note marked "Iris" is at the top. He pulls it up.

Dozens of witnesses and former police officers are listed.

He writes in "Rails - Nothing."

Homicide Captain Alan Parsons calls him.

ALAN (V.O.)
Where are you?

ETHAN
Personal matter.

ALAN (V.O.)
The blood work came back. Slater's
DNA is all over that scene.

ETHAN
I'll bring him in.

ALAN (V.O.)
Happy hunting.

Ethan hangs up. He starts the engine. ***It roars to life!***

EXT. CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - NIGHT

Establishing.

EXT. ADULT SEX SHOP - NIGHT

A sign indicates 20% off all DVDs through Friday.

Ethan's Challenger parks up front. He exits and walks inside.

INT. ADULT SEX SHOP - NIGHT

Ethan walks in and looks around. He walks up to the counter. His hand places a photo of Eighty-Eight Street Gang Second in Command and Ethan's Confidential Informant KARELIN (30, aka Snitch 1334A, covered in tattoos) on the table.

The SEX CLERK motions to the rear.

Ethan walks back.

NUDE ARCADE BOOTH

A DANCER is behind a Plexiglas window, performing a show.

KARELIN is transfixed by her.

A door slams shut in front of the Dancer.

He grabs some cash out of his wallet.

ETHAN (O.S.)

No self-respecting gangster should
be in a place like this.

Karelin spots Ethan and jumps to his feet. He takes out a
pistol and aims it at Ethan.

Ethan pulls it away and elbows Karelin in the face. He knees
Karelin in the ribs, dropping him back into the chair.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Especially on a Tuesday.

Ethan tosses the gun away.

Karelin struggles to breathe.

KARELIN

Force of habit.

ETHAN

You're lucky I didn't shoot you.

Karelin takes a deep, painful breath. He clutches his ribs.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Being left on read makes me feel a
certain way.

KARELIN

I don't know where he is.

ETHAN

You knew who to call both times
you've been picked up this month.

KARELIN

He's my fucking boss.

ETHAN

And quid pro quo doesn't work if
you aren't quidding.

KARELIN

What do you want from me?

ETHAN

Do you want to see what he did to
that girl?

(beat)

She was fifteen.

Karelin looks around.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Loyalty shouldn't go this far.

KARELIN

I'll put out some feelers, OK?

ETHAN

(motions to the gun)

An ex-con with a gun is five to ten
years I can't get you out of.

(beat)

I'm the first, last, and only
person you call if you find out
where that prick is hiding.

Ethan leaves.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Ethan pulls over in front of a coffee shop. He exits and goes
inside. Through the windshield we see him buy six coffees and
a box of mixed donuts.

We see Ethan exit and approach some SEX WORKERS working a
nearby street corner.

EXT. STREET CORNER IN FRONT OF COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Ethan hands out coffee and donuts to the women.

ETHAN

It's going to be cold tonight.

FRANCINE (O.S.)

You are shameless, Raines.

FRANCINE (sex worker, 40s) approaches him. She's heroin-chic
thin and chain-smoking cheap cigarettes.

ETHAN

I'm looking for Tony Slater.

He hands her a cup of coffee with her name on it.

FRANCINE
He's a little high-brow for us.

ETHAN
He beat one of Liston's girls to death. The young-looking one.

Francine looks around and then at the other women.

FRANCINE
I'll keep an eye out.

Ethan walks to his Challenger. His phone buzzes with a call from his old partner, Narcotics Detective Ike Willingham.

ETHAN
Raines.

IKE (V.O.)
Your Golden Snitch wants to walk and I can't let her.

ETHAN
What'd she do this time?

EXT. REAR OF POLICE STATION - NIGHT

IKE WILLINGHAM (35) leans against a wall, smoking a cigarette. He's tall with long hair and a thick beard.

Ethan walks up to him.

IKE
It's a gram above A-level weight and my boss won't budge.

ETHAN
That's within the threshold.

IKE
I need more than your card.

ETHAN
Let me see what she's got.

Ethan goes inside.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

Exotic dancer YASMIN FOX (25) lies on a cot. She's a curvy redhead with lots of tattoos and track marks (injection scars) up her left arm.

ETHAN (O.S.)

I told you it's B and below.

Yasmin sits up and spots Ethan. She half smiles.

YASMIN

They pressed down too hard.

ETHAN

They're not going to let you walk.
Not without someone bigger.

Yasmin takes a deep breath and sighs.

YASMIN

Baxter Holloway made it rain.

ETHAN

Small fish.

YASMIN

My boss isn't paying taxes on what
I make at the club.

ETHAN

That's a fine, not jail time.

YASMIN

That's all I have.

ETHAN

Then you'll have to do some time.

Yasmin curses under her breath.

YASMIN

What about Tony Slater?

Ethan smiles.

YASMIN (CONT'D)

He's been at the club every night
this week. He's got a major thing
for Candy.

ETHAN

Which one is she?

YASMIN

Blonde, big tits. You can't miss her.

(beat)

His wallet comes out if she even breathes in his direction.

Pre-Lap: Something loud and pulsating, like "I Don't Dance" by DMX, so loud you can't think.

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

EXOTIC DANCERS and DEGENERATES are all over.

Ethan walks in and over to the bar.

BAR

Ethan looks around.

High-end Drug Dealer and head of the Eighty-Eight Street Gang TONY SLATER (30, thin with a beard, coked out of his mind) and three GUARDS are in a VIP BOOTH with a pair of Dancers.

Ethan's hand touches an arrest warrant in his back pocket. He takes a deep breath. His eyes focus on the Guards.

All of them have concealed pistols.

Ethan turns to the bar. A DRUNK is passed out on it. An expensive glass of Scotch is in front of him.

Exotic Dancer CANDY (25, featured dancer) walks past everyone and up to Tony. She's an All-American Blonde.

Tony hands her a large wad of cash.

She grabs his hand and takes him to the Champagne Room.

Tony's Guards watch. One goes after them but stops to gawk at a Dancer walking past him. He follows her away.

Ethan takes a deep breath. After a moment he follows Tony and Candy to the Champagne Room.

CHAMPAGNE ROOM

Candy performs a lap dance on Tony. She looks up to see Ethan walk in. Her eyes spot his badge and open wide.

He motions for her to leave.

Candy grabs her clothes and sprints out.

TONY
 What the--
 (spots Ethan)
 --fuck me.

Tony looks at Ethan and curses under his breath.

Ethan takes out the arrest warrant and shows it to him.

ETHAN
 They found all sorts of DNA at the
 scene and some of it was yours.

TONY
 What do you say about a million
 dollars in cash?

Ethan tosses a pair of handcuffs to Tony.

ETHAN
 I assume you know your rights.

Tony slaps the cuffs on one wrist. He stands up.

Ethan puts Tony's hands behind him and cuffs him.

STRIP CLUB HALLWAY

Ethan and Tony walk up to an Emergency Exit.

TONY
 As soon as that alarm goes off my
 guys will come looking for me.

They reach the door.

ETHAN
 If they want to play a stupid game,
 their stupid prize is legal.

Ethan pushes on the door. **Nothing.** He kicks it firmly.
Nothing. Ethan's foot hits it as hard as it can. **Nothing!**

TONY
 Five hundred grand.

ETHAN
 I thought it was a million.

TONY

The closer we get the lower my offer goes.

ETHAN

You know what? Let's go find out what zero looks like.

They walk towards the main room.

MAIN ROOM

Ethan and Tony walk towards the front door.

The Guards jump to their feet and sprint over to him.

Ethan points to his badge.

The Middle Guard shakes his head.

ETHAN

There's an easy way and a hard way.
Easy means I walk out of here. Hard means you don't.

MIDDLE GUARD

Are you sure about that?

The Middle Guard cracks his neck.

Ethan shoves Tony into a chair. He places his badge and pistol on a table.

The Guards size him up and smile.

ETHAN

I don't have all day.

The Middle Guard charges him, throwing wild punches.

Ethan casually ducks them and kicks the Guard in his knee, bending it sideways. His hands grab a Muay Thai plumb and land a knee to his ribs, cracking them. Ethan's eyes line up an elbow and smashes it across his face.

The Middle Guard hits the ground, out cold.

The Second Guard approaches him.

Ethan kicks him square in the nuts.

The Second Guard howls in pain. He aims his gun at Ethan.

Ethan sidesteps him and grabs it! His fingers press the magazine release. His hand pulls the slide back, ejecting a round. He catches the round with his free hand. The hand with the gun yanks it out of the Guard's hand.

The Second Guard watches as Ethan pistol whips him, knocking him out cold.

The Third Guard reaches for his pistol.

Ethan drops the bullet into the gun and pulls the slide lever back, racking the round. He points the gun at him.

The Third Guard raises his hands and kneels.

Ethan ejects the round and tosses the gun into the distance. He grabs his badge and pistol.

Tony stands up.

Both men exit.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - NIGHT

A bulletin board with every single case for every homicide detective is on the wall.

Open cases are in red ink. Closed ones in black.

Ethan's has almost **exclusively black ink**.

He erases an entry and rewrites it in black.

A large whiteboard with "Michelle Gallagher Murder" written on top is next to Ethan's desk. Crime scene photos, photos of evidence, and the Drug Dealer's mugshot are taped to it.

Ethan walks over and takes the photos off. He places them into a cardboard box and seals it.

A framed photo of a younger ETHAN and his SISTER in happier times is on his desk.

DOUG (O.S.)

I got a call about you, Raines.

Head of Internal Affairs DOUG ROILAND (45) approaches him. He's tall with thin gray hair and a pencil mustache.

ETHAN

Captain Roiland.

DOUG
A Fire Marshall got a call about an
exit door and--

ETHAN
Who filed the complaint?

Doug takes a deep breath.

DOUG
There were three of them.

ETHAN
Did they tell you they were armed?

DOUG
There is going to be a point where
your ability to get black ink can't
save your ass, either.

ETHAN
Then let me know when I get there.

Ethan leaves.

EXT. POLICE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ethan walks towards the Challenger. He gets a text from
Vickie: "You free?"

He takes a deep breath and responds: "Sure."

Vickie responds: "Your place."

Ethan walks to the Challenger.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - NIGHT

Ethan gets inside.

Yasmin texts Ethan: "Thanks for getting me out."

He responds: "We got him."

Yasmin texts him back: "Usual spot."

Ethan starts the engine.

EXT. BODEGA - NIGHT

Francine walks out and takes out a cigarette. She sees the Challenger park.

Ethan exits and tosses her a lighter.

FRANCINE
(lights her cigarette)
How do you always know?

ETHAN
People are predictable, even you.

FRANCINE
Two of the girls you gave coffee to
tonight are gone.

ETHAN
Get me names and I'll make sure the
detectives on it do their job.

FRANCINE
It makes me wonder why I'm so
lucky, you know?

ETHAN
You don't have to have this life.

FRANCINE
It's the only one I have.

ETHAN
There's always time to get out of
here and do something else.

FRANCINE
That was the plan when I got here
and look at me now.

Ethan walks inside.

INT. BODEGA - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

A BODEGA CLERK is half asleep behind the counter.

Ethan walks in and looks around. His eyes spot Yasmin by the rear exit. He walks over to her.

She walks outside. He follows her.

EXT. REAR OF BODEGA - NIGHT

Ethan hands her an envelope full of cash.

ETHAN

Thanks for the tip on Candy.

Yasmin looks inside the envelope.

YASMIN

We never talked about last week.

ETHAN

We need to keep this professional.

She pockets the cash.

YASMIN

It didn't feel professional.

ETHAN

It can't happen again.

YASMIN

I can't do this anymore. I want a fresh start in somewhere warm.

ETHAN

Then I need someone above Tony Slater in order to call the Feds and get you into WIT SEC.

YASMIN

I think... I think I've got that person already.

ETHAN

Give me a name and--

YASMIN

They're untouchable.

ETHAN

Nobody's untouchable.

YASMIN

I'll... I'll think about it.

ETHAN

Stay safe.

He walks away.

Yasmin watches Ethan go inside. She takes her phone out and texts a number marked "Asshole." Yasmin texts him: "We need to meet up."

"Asshole" texts her back: "Your place. Tonight."

EXT. RANCH HOME - NIGHT

Ethan's ex-girlfriend VICKIE BRYANT (35) waits on the steps. She's a tall, thin brunette with sharp glasses.

The Challenger pulls up. Ethan exits.

They lightly embrace and go inside.

INT. RANCH HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

On the walls are framed photos from Ethan's time in the Army. Next to them are pictures of him fighting in professional Muay Thai in Thailand.

A well-stocked mini bar is in the corner.

Vickie and Ethan walk inside.

Yasmin texts Ethan three photos:

--Blurry shot of a man with a large nose

--Ice machine at a gas station with a Bee sticker

--Popcorn ceiling with stains

Ethan texts her back: "Everything ok?" His eyes focus on it for a long moment. Nothing. He puts the phone down.

Their hands touch.

They passionately make out.

Clothes fall off as they walk towards his bedroom.

EXT. STASH HOUSE - DAWN

A GANGSTER stands guard by the front door, barely awake.

A HOMELESS MAN is across the street, watching next to a beaten-up dumpster.

A black van pulls up in front of the house.

Four MASKED MEN with machine guns emerge, opening fire.

The Gangster dies.

The Homeless Man dives behind the dumpster.

Several GANGSTERS emerge from the house. One aims his pistol at the men, firing.

The bullet misses them and hits the panel of the cargo hold.

The Gangsters are cut down in a wave of bullets.

The Masked Men move with military precision into the house, emerging with Duffel Bags full of cash and drugs.

One of them looks around and grabs the spent bullet casings.

The other three load the drugs and cash into the van. The one with the bullet shells gets in, slamming the cargo door shut behind him.

The van roars to life and drives away.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Small, cramped, with a twin bed shoved into a corner.

The sounds of a shower are faintly heard.

Ethan is under the covers. He wakes up and looks around. His eyes spot Vickie's clothes on the ground. He yawns.

Vickie walks into the room, freshly showered and in a towel.

ETHAN

I'm not going to complain but--

She gets dressed.

VICKIE

This was a one-time thing.

ETHAN

Eight-time thing, if we're being--

Vickie glares at him.

VICKIE

You live in a world of hookers and killers. I don't fit in there.

ETHAN

This is the job.

VICKIE

You say that every single time--

His phone rings with a call from Dispatch. He answers it.

ETHAN

Raines.

DISPATCH (V.O.)

We've got a 187. Tyler is sick and
Captain said to call you.

ETHAN

Ten-four.

Ethan hangs up.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I've got a case.

VICKIE

We're not done.

ETHAN

This was a one-time thing, right?

She storms out.

EXT. STASH HOUSE - DAY

CRIME SCENE PERSONNEL are all over.

The Challenger parks in the distance. Ethan exits and walks
up to the crime scene. An energy drink is in one hand.

A PATROLMAN walks up to him.

Ethan flashes his badge and looks around. His eyes focus on
the bodies for a moment.

ETHAN

Please tell me this isn't the giant
cluster fuck it looks like.

PATROLMAN

We've got a witness.

(points to the Homeless
guy across the street

A Homeless guy saw a van pull up
and dove behind a dumpster. After
that, it was just machine guns and
dead criminals.

(beat)

They policed their brass.

Ethan and the Patrolman walk up to the stash house.

INT. STASH HOUSE - DAY

A CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHER takes photos.

Ethan looks around. His eyes spot some loose cash and an unstamped brick of Heroin on the ground. He texts Karelin:
"Any idea who hit your stash house?"

KARELIN (PRE-LAP)
No fucking clue.

Ethan motions to the Photographer to take a photo of the brick of heroin.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - DAY

Karelin lights a cigarette.

Ethan looks around.

ETHAN
If this is a turf thing--

KARELIN
We're not the first crew that's gotten hit by these guys.

ETHAN
Who else?

KARELIN
The Demons on Cicero and the Slags on State. Same story, too. Badass guys in all black with military gear shredding them to pieces.

ETHAN
Keep an ear open, please.

Karelin nods.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Four new names in red ink are under Ethan's name.

Ethan tapes a photo of the stash house on the whiteboard. He writes "Stash House Murders" on top. He tapes photos of the crime scene on it.

Alan walks over.

ALAN

I don't see any suspects.

ETHAN

After knocking on every door in a quarter-mile radius, we got--
 (from memory)
 --I didn't see shit, fuck you pig, and then three doors slammed in the face of either myself or one of the patrolmen who showed up.

ALAN

Fuck you pig could be credible.

Ethan turns to him.

ETHAN

My best snitches don't have a clue.

ALAN

Keep me updated.

Alan walks away.

Zack Tyler from Homicide calls Ethan on his desk phone.

Ethan's eyes turn to the bulletin board. Zack has nothing but red under his name. Ethan answers.

ZACK (V.O.)

I found your card on a dead woman.

EXT. NO TELL MOTEL - DAY

The marquee advertises rates by the hour.

CRIME SCENE PERSONNEL are all around Room 115.

Francine watches them from across the street.

Homicide Detective ZACK TYLER (50) is by the door. He's short and overly muscular. His eyes spot Ethan's Challenger park in a visitor spot. He walks over to it.

EXT. DODGE CHALLENGER - DAY

Ethan exits. He spots Zack walk over. They shake hands.

ZACK

This one is the first easy one I've had in months.

Zack takes out an evidence bag with a bloodied business card from Ethan. He shows it to Ethan.

ZACK (CONT'D)
Victim's a working girl, I think,
but I didn't find an ID.

INT. ROOM 115 - DAY

Hasn't been in fashion since 1975... or maintained.

Zack and Ethan walk to the doorway.

Ethan looks around the room. His eyes spot Yasmin's body on the bed. A pool of blood starts from her right arm and is all over the bed.

ETHAN
Yasmin Fox.

Zack thinks for a moment.

ZACK
That name sounds familiar.

ETHAN
Ike called her the Golden Snitch.
Anytime I was stuck on something
she somehow got me a name.

EXT. NO TELL MOTEL - DAY

Ethan takes his phone out and pulls up Yasmin's texts.

ETHAN
This might be related.

Ethan shows the photos to Zack.

Zack looks at the first.

ZACK
No clue.

Ethan swipes. The gas station comes up.

ETHAN
No clue.

Zack shrugs,

Ethan swipes again.

Zack looks at it and then inside the room.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I didn't see a needle in her arm.

ZACK

Wasn't one on the scene.

ETHAN

Her purse is gone, too. She never went anywhere without it.

ZACK

When was the last time you spoke with the departed?

ETHAN

Last night at her work. She danced.
(looks around)
We need to knock on doors and see who was with her.

Zack's phone buzzes with a text. He looks at it and sighs.

ZACK

I've got court.

ETHAN

I'll handle the morgue for you.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Yasmin's body is on an examining table, covered by a blanket.

A CORONER looks her over. A clipboard is in his hand. He writes in "Accidental Overdose" under cause of death.

Ethan pulls the blanket up over her right arm. He looks at the needle mark. His hand pulls up the left side. His eyes look at the track marks closely. He spots a box with Yasmin's possessions from the crime scene.

ETHAN

I'll make sure it gets to next of kin for Detective Tyler.

The Coroner nods.

Ethan grabs the box and leaves.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan dumps Yasmin's possessions onto his desk. He grabs a cheap smartphone and turns it on.

It's been recently reset to factory settings.

Homicide Captain ALAN PARSON (50) walks over. He's tall and large with an epic mustache. He looks at the bulletin board and then back to Ethan.

ALAN

What case is that for?

ETHAN

One of my snitches just overdosed.

ALAN

Zack called me to change it black so he doesn't have to.

ETHAN

One thing's bugging me.

Alan points to the bulletin board.

Ethan looks at it and spots Zack's name.

Yasmin is the sole bit of black ink in an ocean of red ink under it.

ALAN

Please don't fuck this up.

ETHAN

She always shot up on one side and the coup de grace is on the other. Plus her phone was reset to factory and her purse was gone. That screams cover-up, at least, and I'd go as far as murder three.

ALAN

And you've got open cases.

Ethan points to an older case in red ink under his name.

ETHAN

The lab is having issues with the blood work on it.

Alan points to a case near it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Waiting on ballistics.

ALAN
What about the Stash House? Sellers
from Major Crimes saw it on the
news and he wants it. Badly.

ETHAN
I'll reach out.

ALAN
And focus on your cases, please.

Alan walks away.

Ethan logs onto his laptop and pulls up Yasmin's confidential informant file. He switches her status to "deceased." His eyes look at her phone for a moment. His fingers pull up an internet browser. He types in "Prepaid phone 3 photos."

An article comes online titled "SOS New Feature on Prepaid Smash Galaxy Phones."

Ethan clicks on it.

Ike texts him: "I need a drink. You busy?."

Ethan texts Ike: "I need help on a case."

Ike texts back: "I'm assuming you still love the wings at that dump on Tenth Street."

Ethan responds: "I'll see you there. 8ish."

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

A sign indicates Schlitz is on tap.

Ethan eats spicy chicken wings. A mostly empty beer is next to them.

IKE (O.S.)
Finn's is so much more fun than
this dump, E-money.

Ethan turns to see Ike sit down next to him.

ETHAN
It's full of badge bunnies.

IKE
You say that like it's a bad thing.

Ethan takes a drink.

ETHAN

Yasmin overdosed and the scene doesn't make sense. Tyler caught it, too, so nothing will happen because it's the first black ink he's got in a long time.

IKE

Or you're overthinking it.

Ethan places his phone on the table. He pulls up the three photos from Yasmin.

Ike grabs it and takes a look.

ETHAN

I read online that it's supposed to be an SOS in some prepaid phones.

IKE

You're making it personal.

ETHAN

No one claimed her body.

Ike thinks for a moment.

IKE

Just tell me it isn't because you fucked her.

Ethan takes a long drink.

IKE (CONT'D)

Jesus! There are lines you aren't supposed to cross and--

ETHAN

It was a mistake and I learned my lesson, OK?

IKE

Heck of a way to do that.

(beat)

What was she like in bed?

ETHAN

She literally just died, man.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Graves marked by numbers are all over.

Ethan tosses some flowers onto one.

REALTOR (O.S.)
I can't believe the city uses prime
turf for junkies when they should
just toss them into the landfill.

Ethan spots a pair of REALTOR TYPES walking around. His hand turns into a fist. He takes a deep breath. His hand relaxes.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan types on his laptop.

Zack walks in and sits at his desk.

Alan walks over to Zack.

ZACK
George wants to do a boy's trip to
Vegas. You in?

ALAN
And watch him blow ten grand on the
craps table again? Pass.

Ethan's eyes turn to the bulletin board. They focus on Yasmin's name in black. He pulls up Yasmin's file in the system. His eyes focus on her address.

EXT. SMALL HOME - NIGHT

The lights are on inside.

The Challenger parks in the distance.

Ethan exits and slowly walks up to the front door. His hand moves toward his pistol. He knocks on the front door.

ETHAN
This is the police!

The click of a safety going off is faintly heard inside.

Ethan looks around. He takes a deep breath.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
This is--

Bullets fly through the door.

Ethan jumps to the side.

Silence.

Ethan pushes the door open and empties his magazine inside.

Footsteps scurry through the rear.

Ethan stands up and charges in.

INT. SMALL HOME - NIGHT

Ransacked.

A small framed photo of Yasmin in high school is on the ground, smashed to pieces.

Ethan runs in and spots a DARK FIGURE sprinting outside.

ETHAN

Police!

Ethan chases after them. He gets to the door.

The sound of a machine pistol slide being pulled back pierces the air.

Ethan jumps to the side.

Bullets hit all over.

Ethan reloads his pistol. He takes a deep breath. His eyes look up. **A bullet hole is millimeters from his head.**

The gunfire stops.

Ethan peeks outside.

There's no sign of the Dark Figure.

Ethan looks around. He spots the photo of Yasmin. His hand reaches for it but stops.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

This is a crime scene.

KNOCK KNOCK!

Ethan takes his gun out and turns to the door.

Yasmin's LANDLORD is in the doorway, hands raised.

Ethan shows the man his badge.

LANDLORD
What the hell happened?

ETHAN
I came over and someone broke in.

LANDLORD
It was probably the pervert.

ETHAN
She never mentioned him.

LANDLORD
He showed up asking if I could get
a pair of her panties for \$500. I
didn't want to know his name.

Ethan takes his phone out and pulls up Dispatch.

ETHAN
I have to report the shootout.

LANDLORD
I'd prefer it if you didn't.

The Landlord groans.

Ethan steps to his right. **A floorboard slightly pops up.**

Both men look at it.

ETHAN
Do you know what's in there?

LANDLORD
Whatever it is, it's mine.

Ethan spots something. He reaches inside and pulls out a
brick of heroin and a small key ring with two keys on it.

The Landlord looks at it and gulps loudly.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
I've never seen that before.

Ethan takes out an evidence bag and places the brick of
heroin inside. He drops the keys inside it.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
I'll have a long chat with Yasmin
about that.

ETHAN
She's dead.

The Landlord gulps and nods.

Ethan calls Dispatch.

DISPATCH (V.O.)
Dispatch.

ETHAN
This is Detective Raines. I need
CSI on my location. Shots fired.

DISPATCH (V.O.)
10-4.

Ethan hangs up.

ETHAN
Tell me about Yasmin.

LANDLORD
She always paid on time. The only
change was from a check to cash two
months ago.

Ethan motions to the brick.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
I never asked.

Police sirens pierce the air.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - NIGHT (LATER)

First Responders are all over the house.

Ethan gets inside. He places the brick on the passenger seat.
His hand takes his phone out and takes a picture of it. He
sends it to Ike with the message "Any reason Yasmin would
have this? Besides the obvious."

Ike responds: "Give me some time."

Ethan starts the engine.

The Challenger roars to life.

INT. EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Metal shelves overflowing with evidence from various crime scenes are behind a large desk.

An EVIDENCE CLERK sits behind it, twiddling his thumbs. The bagged brick of heroin lands in front of him. The Clerk looks up to see Ethan staring back. He hands Ethan a clipboard.

GEORGE (O.S.)
Where'd you find that?

Ethan turns to see Narcotics Detective GEORGE HILLARY (50, bald and very large) walking up with a large bag full of similar heroin bricks. An expensive watch is on his wrist.

ETHAN
Under someone's floorboards.

George looks at Ethan's brick and then his.

GEORGE
That's off the boat, like direct from a cartel. The more it gets cut the more it gets stamped. It's a quick way of spitballing how much something's been stepped on without having to do all of the tests.

George places one of the bricks on the counter.

Ethan's eyes focus on them.

George's bricks have multiple stamps on them.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - NIGHT

Zack walks in and over to his desk.

ZACK'S DESK

Zack spots a folder marked "Blood work" from the crime lab. He opens it up and looks at a report for a toxicology report on Yasmin. His eyes spot Ethan as the officer requesting it. He stands up and walks over to the Captain's office.

INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mementos from 30 years of law enforcement are all over.

A photo of Alan, George, Zack, and Major Crimes Detective Sergeant BRADLEY SELLERS (50, dad bod) graduating from the Police Academy is on the wall.

Bradley sits across from Alan.

BRADLEY

That case should've been mine the moment the kid was called there.

ALAN

There's a process we have to follow about cold cases, Brad.

ZACK (O.S.)

Raines is fucking with my case.

Bradley and Alan turn to see Zack at the door.

BRADLEY

Is he threatening to shrink your Chinese Army?

ZACK

(to Alan)

He won't let the stripper case go.

Zack tosses the folder onto his desk.

George knocks on the door.

GEORGE

Since when is Raines chasing down bricks of heroin?

Alan takes a deep breath.

EXT. POLICE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ethan walks to the Challenger. He stops in front of his car and takes a deep breath.

EXT. ROOM 115 - NIGHT

Ethan walks up to Room 115.

A Do Not Disturb sign is on it.

He knocks on it. Nothing.

ETHAN

Room Service!

Silence.

Ethan takes a deep breath. He puts on a pair of latex gloves and turns the handle.

Its opens.

Ethan's hand moves to his gun.

INT. ROOM 115 - NIGHT

Ethan looks around. His hand moves away from the gun.

The room hasn't been cleaned since Yasmin's death.

His eyes look over, landing on a rear exit door.

EXT. REAR OF MOTEL - NIGHT

Rats scurry about a dumpster.

Ethan walks outside and looks around. He spots the dumpster and walks over to it. His eyes look inside and spot a used injection needle. He places it into an evidence bag.

EXT. NO TELL MOTEL - NIGHT

Ethan places the needle into the Challenger's trunk.

Shouting from the front office pierces the air.

FRANCINE (O.S.)
That's fucking illegal and you know
it, asshole!

INT. FRONT OFFICE - NIGHT

A BORED CLERK yawns.

Francine stands in front of him.

HOTEL CLERK
This is the cost of doing business.

FRANCINE
The key isn't working!

HOTEL CLERK
Or you want another one so you can
use it without paying.

FRANCINE
Either way, I need to get inside.

The Clerk points to his crotch.

HOTEL CLERK
That's the fee.

Ethan walks in.

FRANCINE
I'm not sucking your dick.

ETHAN
You shouldn't have to.

Francine and the Clerk turn to Ethan.

Ethan flashes his badge.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Unless you want to, then I can give
you a couple of minutes.

FRANCINE
He wouldn't last ten seconds.

HOTEL CLERK
She wants a key and--

ETHAN
It sounds like extortion to me.

HOTEL CLERK
Bullshit.

ETHAN
(to Francine)
If you want to file a complaint--

The Clerk reaches into a desk and hands Francine a key.

Francine flips the Clerk off and leaves.

Ethan places his badge on the counter.

The Hotel Clerk places a sign-in book next to it.

HOTEL CLERK
There are no cameras and we do not
ask for ID, officer.

Ethan goes through the book and finds the day Yasmin was
killed. *No one signed in to her room.*

Ethan shows him a photo of Yasmin.

The Clerk looks at it and shrugs.

Ethan tosses his card on the counter and grabs his badge.

ETHAN

In case your memory gets better.

EXT. NO TELL MOTEL - NIGHT

Francine opens her room door.

ETHAN (O.S.)

Francine!

She turns to see Ethan walking towards her.

FRANCINE

Nobody calls me that.

EXT. ROOM 120 - NIGHT

Francine turns to Ethan.

He shows her a photo of Yasmin.

FRANCINE

I knew her.

ETHAN

(motions to room 115)

Is that her regular room?

FRANCINE

Yasmin had an agreement with the owner to use it off the books.

ETHAN

Did you see her the day she died?

FRANCINE

The only thing I saw was the maid knocking on the door.

ETHAN

Was anyone there with her before?

FRANCINE

I don't know and I've got a friend stopping by soon. So, you know.

Ethan nods and walks away.

Francine goes inside her room and closes the door.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan goes through several reports on his desk.

One is a cancellation of Ethan's court appearance in Tony Slater's deposition.

Ethan pulls up Tony Slater's booking report.

Tony was murdered in prison three nights ago.

A report lands on Ethan's desk.

He looks up to see Alan glaring at him.

ALAN

I'm assuming you're waiting on that one, Ethan.

Ethan grabs it and opens it up. Blood work and fingerprint analysis from the needle are inside.

ALAN (CONT'D)

This feels like the continuation of a conversation I thought was fairly conclusive the other day.

ETHAN

Nice alliteration.

ALAN

Please give me a good reason we have to have a second chat.

ETHAN

The needle that was in her arm was tossed into a dumpster.

ALAN

I got a request for prints on it that I'm denying.

ETHAN

Why?

ALAN

It's not your case and--

ETHAN

The pieces don't fit.

ALAN

Maybe he was married.

Ethan thinks for a moment.

ETHAN

Her landlord said there was a guy who tried to purchase her underwear off of him. Maybe he got her high and it went too far?

ALAN

I don't like where this is going.

ETHAN

Someone's already tried to shoot me over this, sir. That's usually a sign I'm on the right track.

ALAN

Did you read the ballistics report about the incident?

Ethan shakes his head no.

ALAN (CONT'D)

They matched the bullets to a gun stolen during a B and E two years ago. Odds are they didn't know it was you, just someone yelling.

ETHAN

I identified myself.

ALAN

A criminal can yell police too. We don't own the monopoly on that.

ETHAN

How often are my instincts wrong?

ALAN

This isn't the time, either.

ETHAN

I'll find this guy and if it's some guy with a marriage he doesn't want to fuck up, I'll back off.

ALAN
 You better.
 (beat)
 Consider this an unofficial
 warning, Ethan.

Alan walks away.

INT. CSI OFFICE - DAY

A CSI CLERK stares at the needle.

CSI CLERK
 Captain Parsons--

ETHAN
 Doesn't need to know.

CSI CLERK
 It's a closed case.

ETHAN
 Run it off the books, then.

CSI CLERK
 I could lose my job over it.

ETHAN
 This is every favor you owe me.

The Clerk looks around and nods.

CSI CLERK
 I'll call you if I get a hit.

INT. STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Ethan looks around. He walks up to the bar.

BAR

The same Drunk from last time is passed out.

Ethan spots his drink. He grabs it and sniffs it. His eyes spot a BARTENDER walking over. His hand places the drink down on the counter.

ETHAN
 Does he always waste good Scotch?

CANDY (O.S.)
Hey handsome.

Ethan turns to see Candy walk up to him.

There's an immediate, chemical attraction between them.

ETHAN
Sorry about last time.

CANDY
I don't think you're the most
popular person here.

Ethan looks around.

A dozen CRIMINALS give him dirty stares.

She leans into him, her mouth going to his ear.

CANDY (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Champagne room.

Ethan hands her some cash.

She grabs his hand and leads him to the champagne room.

All eyes in the room watch them.

CHAMPAGNE ROOM

Ethan and Candy walk in.

He leans against a wall. She sits down in a chair.

ETHAN
I'm on duty.

CANDY
And I was hoping you'd tell me who
killed my friend.

ETHAN
Did she have any regulars that
creeped you out?

CANDY
Frank.
(beat)
She looked at him like an ATM
whenever he came in but... there
was something wrong with him.
(MORE)

CANDY (CONT'D)

(beat)

He gave me \$300 for my underwear
once because I needed the money.

ETHAN

He offered the landlord \$500 for a
pair of Yasmin's.

CANDY

I should've held out.

(beat)

Yasmin thought he was harmless but
I made sure the bouncers walked me
to my car when he showed up.

ETHAN

Anything else?

CANDY

He used a credit card all the time.

ETHAN

Usually that requires a warrant.

CANDY

Maybe you can ask nicely.

Ethan takes out his card and hands it to her.

ETHAN

In case you remember anything else.

CANDY

No problem--

(looks at card)

--Ethan.

She grabs the card. Their hands touch for a moment.

ETHAN

It's good for up to be a B felony.

CANDY

That's good to know.

(beat)

It's my time to go on stage.

She leaves.

MAIN ROOM

Ethan walks in. He spots a hallway leading to an office.

The music stops.

DJ

And now, welcome to the stage, the
beautiful and amazing Candy Cane.

All eyes turn to the stage.

Candy goes on stage, dancing.

Dollars are thrown at her feet.

Ethan looks around.

The Bouncers and Workers stare at Candy.

Nobody is watching the hallway or the office!

OFFICE

Framed movie posters of older adult videos are on the walls.

An older window leads to outside.

Ethan walks in and locks the door behind him. His eyes look around, landing on a file cabinet marked "Credit Card Shit." He opens it up and goes through it. His eyes land on a folder from last month. He takes out a folder and opens it up.

Receipts for an entire month are in there, complete with transactional reports from Stripe.

Ethan goes through them. His fingers land on one from Francis Share. His eyes turn to a laptop. He touches it. An ID logging system comes up.

Scanned driver's licenses from today are on it.

Ethan looks at the receipt. His eyes land on the date. He pulls that date up on the laptop. His fingers click through IDs until they land on FRANK SHARE (30).

Frank has dead eyes and is listed at 6'5, 350 pounds. He's certified to drive a truck.

Ethan takes his phone out and snaps a photo of the license.

The door handle turns. Someone knocks on it.

Ethan curses under his breath.

Someone kicks the door, hard.

He spots the window and goes to open it. After a moment it stops. He pushes it harder. Nothing.

Someone kicks the door even harder!

Ethan takes a deep breath and pushes on the window. It opens all the way. He takes a deep breath and pulls himself out.

The door opens up, revealing several BOUNCERS. One sprints up to the window and looks outside.

EXT. REAR OF STRIP CLUB - NIGHT

Ethan sprints to the parking lot.

A Bouncer jumps out the window and chases after him.

EXT. STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ethan ducks down behind an SUV.

The Bouncer walks around, pistol drawn.

BOUNCER 1 (O.S.)
If it's just money, you can toss it
down and we won't say shit.

EXT. SUV - NIGHT

Ethan looks underneath. He sees the legs of a Bouncer nearby. His hand reaches back to his pistol. He takes a deep breath.

The Bouncer is on the other side of the SUV.

The sound of the safety of his pistol being clicked off pierces the air.

Ethan watches him walk towards the rear. His hand grips his pistol tightly. He slowly cocks the hammer back.

The Bouncer reaches the rear.

Ethan's body tenses up. His breathing becomes short and intense. His eyes intensely focus on the Bouncer.

A whistle pierces the air.

BOUNCER 2 (O.S.)
Another fight broke out!

The Bouncer sprints away.

Ethan looks under the SUV and sees the Bouncer sprint towards the Club. He sprints to the Challenger.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - NIGHT

Ethan gets inside. He takes his phone out and pulls up Frank's ID. His fingers pull up a GPS.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Ethan walks up to the phone bank. His eyes spot "F Share" listed. He presses it. Nothing. He walks up to the door and pulls the handle. It opens. Ethan walks inside.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ethan takes his phone out and pulls up Frank's ID.

Frank lives in Apartment 8.

Ethan walks down the hallway, his eyes scanning each number. He finds 8 and knocks on the door. It opens slightly. Ethan takes a deep breath. He takes his pistol out.

ETHAN

Frank, are you in there?

Silence.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

One wall has a shrine of photos featuring Yasmin in her day-to-day life. High-end camera equipment is in one corner. A broken laptop is next to it.

The rest of the apartment has been ransacked. Frank's corpse sits on a couch. A bullet hole is through his head. Dried blood is all over.

The door opens. Ethan walks in and looks around. He spots Frank's body. His eyes look all around. He takes a step back into the hallway.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ethan takes his phone out and calls Dispatch.

DISPATCH (V.O.)

Dispatch.

ETHAN

This is Detective Raines. I need a
Detective and CSI on my location.

He hangs up.

A door opens down the hallway.

A SCUMBAG (on enough drugs to kill a small family) walks up
to Ethan and then looks inside Frank's apartment. His eyes
light up. He turns to Ethan.

SCUMBAG

That kid owes me money.

A SECOND SCUMBAG (just as high as the first one) appears
behind the first, next to a door.

ETHAN

I assume you can find the executor
of his estate and handle it.

SCUMBAG

I don't believe in lawyers.

ETHAN

How about this?

Ethan motions to his badge.

SECOND SCUMBAG

How about math?

SCUMBAG

(motions to other Scumbag)
That badge doesn't beat math.

The Scumbag takes out a switchblade.

SECOND SCUMBAG

Or that.

Ethan motions to his pistol.

SCUMBAG

I bet I'm faster.

ETHAN

When you're dead, you don't know
you're dead. The same thing happens
when you're stupid.

The Scumbag takes a step towards Ethan.

Ethan reaches for his pistol.

The Scumbag tackles Ethan to the ground.

Ethan's pistol flies out of the holster and away from him.

The Scumbag presses the button on the switchblade. A razor-sharp blade emerges. He tries to stab Ethan.

Ethan's hand grabs the Scumbag's hand, stopping it.

The Scumbag pushes it down as hard as he.

The blade gets millimeters away from Ethan.

Ethan rolls the Scumbag away and grabs the knife from him.

The Second Scumbag starts to move towards him.

Ethan throws the knife at the Second Scumbag. It hits the door inches from his face.

The Second Scumbag raises his hands.

Ethan turns to the Scumbag and sees the man's fist collide with his jaw. He falls off.

The first Scumbag stands up and kicks Ethan in the stomach.

Ethan groans in pain.

SECOND SCUMBAG

You got him, man!

The first Scumbag smiles and kicks Ethan again. *And then again!* His eyes measure Ethan for another. His foot swings.

Ethan catches it! He stands up.

The second Scumbag runs at Ethan.

SCUMBAG

I'm sorry, man!

Ethan's foot firmly collides with the Scumbag's knee, dislocating the kneecap and tearing everything inside.

The first Scumbag falls, screaming in pain.

The Second Scumbag stops in his tracks. He looks down to see Ethan's gun next to his feet. His foot lightly kicks it over to Ethan. His hands raise.

Ethan picks his pistol up.

ETHAN

I hope you're the smart one.

The Second Scumbag nods.

Ethan holsters his pistol.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You can stay and be arrested or
leave and get his knee fixed.

SCUMBAG

This is bullshit!

SECOND SCUMBAG

(to Scumbag)

Shut up, Jimmy.

(to Ethan)

Thank you, officer.

ETHAN

Get out before I change my mind.

Ethan nods.

The Second Scumbag helps his friend up. They walk outside.

Ethan takes his phone out and calls 911.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - NIGHT

Through the windshield, we see Patrol Cars and First Response Vehicles all over. We see Zack walk inside the building.

Ethan gets inside.

Francine texts him: "Your offer still good?"

He texts her back: "Depends on what you got."

She responds: "Train station."

Ethan starts the car.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Empty except for Francine sitting on a bench.

The Challenger parks. Ethan exits.

She walks over to him.

ETHAN
I figured you'd be working.

FRANCINE
Same.

ETHAN
Is everything OK?

Francine lifts the bottom of her shirt to reveal a cut from a knife on her side.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Let's get you to a hospital.

FRANCINE
I'll be fine.

Ethan walks over to the Challenger and opens the trunk. He takes out a first aid kit and a bottle of Whiskey.

ETHAN
Who did this?

She grabs the bottle and takes a swig.

FRANCINE
This dealer on Fifth and Main.

He hands her the first aid kit.

She takes out two bandages and some medical tape.

ETHAN
I thought you had someone to handle these things.

FRANCINE
Vice arrested him last week.

Francine pours whiskey on one bandage and wipes the wound. She grits her teeth in pain.

ETHAN
Unless he's got the knife on him, it's going to be a tough case to make just on your testimony.

She places the second bandage on the wound.

Ethan tapes it to her body.

FRANCINE

He bragged about stabbing a couple of girls to death when he cut me.

ETHAN

I'm not hearing a name.

FRANCINE

I didn't get one. Tall with red hair and dark eyes. I didn't spot an affiliation but if you're on a corner, you know?

(beat)

He tried to take me back to his place. We were parked by Monroe and Fifth when he pulled the knife.

ETHAN

There are a lot of buildings in that general direction.

FRANCINE

He said his place is under the best Chinese restaurant in the city.

Ethan takes his phone out and pulls up a map. His fingers pull up Monroe and Fifth. One Chinese restaurant is there.

ETHAN

If it pans out, I'll find you.

She takes a swig of the bottle and hands it back.

He motions no.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I think you need it more than me.

Ethan walks back to the Challenger and gets inside. It roars to life.

INT. GROCERY STORE - NIGHT

Ethan walks through the aisle with a mostly full cart. His eyes turn to see some Pasta.

Everything inside his cart is the grocery store knockoff version of brand-name products.

CANDY (O.S.)

It sounds like there is a good story behind your cart.

Ethan looks up to see Candy pushing her cart towards him. She's in sweatpants and an oversized sweatshirt.

ETHAN

I grew up poor, so I learned to love the taste of the knockoffs.

CANDY

That's the first thing I stopped doing once I got my place. The taste of real Spaghetti-O's is so much better than circle pasta.

ETHAN

It's all the same to me.

They look at each other for a long moment.

CANDY

I'll see you around, detective.

ETHAN

You too, Candy.

Candy pushes the cart away.

Ethan looks at her for a long moment.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan sits at his desk.

A sheet of paper with a crudely drawn timeline has "Francine's stabber guy" written on top. Underneath it is a criminal arrest record and the address of a CONVICT.

A whistle pierces the air.

Ethan looks to see Alan by his office, motioning to him. Ethan walks over.

INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ethan sits down across from Alan.

Alan takes a deep breath.

ALAN

I had to talk Zack out of filing a formal complaint against you.

ETHAN
He should be doing his job.

ALAN
This is the job.

ETHAN
She had an uncut brick and--

ALAN
I can't this time.

ETHAN
He's a shitty detective and you're letting him skate.

ALAN
We went to the Academy together.

ETHAN
Then send him to Pawn Shop with the rest of the humps.

ALAN
I hope someone doesn't talk about you like that when you're his age.

ETHAN
I'd appreciate the honesty.

ALAN
I'll call everything off the record until now. Right now it's official that you need to walk away.

Ethan nods.

ALAN (CONT'D)
I need you to say it.

ETHAN
I'm walking away, sir.

ALAN
Thank you.
(beat)
Solve the stash house case or kick it to Major Crimes, please.

Ethan leaves, closing the door behind him.

Alan watches Ethan walk to his desk.

ALAN (CONT'D)
 Why does he care about a stripper
 this much?

Alan pulls up Yasmin's confidential informant file on his laptop. His cursor clicks on her arrest history.

"Informant was crucial to securing a conviction."

He clicks on another.

"Informant was crucial to securing a conviction."

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan sits down.

An unknown number texts Yasmin's home: "Where you at?"

He responds: "Been out."

The unknown number responds: "We're in trouble and need to meet up."

Ethan responds: "My place. Midnight."

Beat.

The unknown number responds: "See you there."

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Ike looks both ways and shows a photo of Yasmin's brick to a low-level DRUG DEALER.

LOW-LEVEL DRUG DEALER
 That's right off the boat.

IKE
 If I wanted one like this--

LOW-LEVEL DRUG DEALER
 You need the right connection at
 the right price or it's going to be
 stepped on.

Ike nods and walks away.

EXT. NEARBY STREET - DAY

Ike walks down the street.

A Dark Figure in the distance aims a machine pistol at Ike.

Ike spots it and ducks into the alley. Bullet casings scatter all over the ground.

After a moment Ike emerges, gun drawn. He looks around. The Dark Figure is gone.

EXT. POLICE PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ethan walks to his Challenger. A manila folder filled with information on a homicide is in one hand. He spots a brand new, fully tricked-out Dodge Hellcat next to it.

ZACK (O.S.)

Please don't fuck up my car like you're trying to fuck my case.

Ethan turns to see Zack walk to the Hellcat.

ETHAN

I was looking for you.

ZACK

It's black ink and--

ETHAN

Do you want more of it?

Zack looks at Ethan oddly.

Ethan hands him the folder.

Zack opens it up and looks inside.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

One of my snitches got attacked by this prick. I did some digging and he's good for two of your reds. I've got a couple of statements and a bunch of other shit that'll be helpful. If you sweat him hard enough I bet he'll give you enough bodies to make the Captain happy.

Zack looks at Ethan oddly.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry and this is the best way I know how to make amends, OK?

Zack nods.

ZACK

Thank you.

ETHAN

(looks at the Hellcat)
I looked at one of those when I was picking up some parts for mine. The sticker price just floored me.

ZACK

Sellers has a guy who hooked me up. He got both of his from him.

ETHAN

I'll have to ask him about it.

ZACK

If the Captain asks--

ETHAN

This is good old-fashioned police work and I assisted you with some computer bullshit. You did all of the work yourself.

ZACK

What if--

ETHAN

Just take the fucking collar.

Zack nods.

INT. DIVE BAR - NIGHT

Ethan sits at the bar. A basket of chicken wing bones and a pair of empty beers are in front of him.

CANDY (O.S.)

How spicy are those?

Candy sits down next to him. She's freshly showered.

ETHAN

They say spicy but it's more white girl spicy. Just enough to have a kick but not enough that a Roman Candle goes off later.

She motions to the Bartender for a beer.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What's a girl like you doing in a dump like this?

CANDY

I was supposed to be on a date here tomorrow but... that ended before it began. Figured I should at least see if the wings were worth it.

ETHAN

Tinder date couldn't handle dating someone in your profession?

CANDY

I wish. He was at the club for his bachelor party two hours ago.

Ethan laughs.

ETHAN

If it were anyone else, you'd be laughing too.

CANDY

I suppose so.

The Bartender hands Candy a glass of beer.

CANDY (CONT'D)

You aren't the usual sorts of cops I meet.

ETHAN

Vice Cops are absolute degenerates.

CANDY

Most of the ones I meet, I see why they do the job. I'm still trying to figure out why you're a cop.

ETHAN

Most days... so am I.

She chuckles.

CANDY

Where are you from, originally?

ETHAN

Small town in Ohio about an hour south of Columbus. You?

CANDY

Kenosha.

(beat)

Other side of the border.

ETHAN

That's a big deal in this state.

She takes a drink.

EXT. DIVE BAR PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Ethan and Candy walk towards an SUV in the distance.

ETHAN

If I didn't know any better I'd say
you're stalking me.

CANDY

I've been through that before.

ETHAN

How bad did it get?

CANDY

He joined my gym.

Ethan laughs.

ETHAN

That had to be a trip.

They reach the SUV.

CANDY

The night before I danced on his
table and the next morning he's
staring at me while I'm in the
squat rack.

ETHAN

I'm shocked he didn't try to talk
to you.

CANDY

What do you think he'd say?

Ethan gives her a cheesy thumbs up.

ETHAN

Big fan of your work!

She laughs.

They lightly hug.

Ethan looks at her for a long moment. His eyes turn to his watch. It's 11pm.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I've got a thing.

Ethan walks to the Challenger.

EXT. SMALL HOME - NIGHT

The Challenger is parked in the distance.

Ethan stares at the home.

NEON (25, junkie) walks up to the front door. He's tall, thin, and covered in tattoos of punk bands. Neon knocks on the door. Nothing. He turns and sprints to an SUV in the distance.

The SUV roars to life and drives away.

The Challenger follows.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - NIGHT (DRIVING)

Ethan follows the SUV from four car lengths away.

There's a red car in his rearview mirror. He doesn't see it.

EXT. CAR WASH - NIGHT

Empty.

The SUV parks. Neon exits and walks behind the wash.

EXT. REAR OF CAR WASH - NIGHT

Neon stands by a rusted out dumpster.

Footsteps are heard in the distance.

He takes his pistol out and aims it in that direction.

Ethan emerges. He spots Neon's gun and raises his hands.

Neon spots Ethan's badge.

NEON
How can I help you, officer?

ETHAN
Was I that obvious?

NEON
My guy spotted you.

Ethan feels a pistol's business end pushed against his back.

It's in the hand of a large hulking man. This is Neon's associate GLOW (20, silent).

NEON (CONT'D)
You did the standard four lengths
behind cop bullshit tail.

ETHAN
Then you know what happens when you
pull that trigger.

NEON
Give me a reason not to.

ETHAN
I'm just looking for information on
Yasmin Fox.

NEON
Don't know her.

ETHAN
Redhead, danced a bit.

NEON
Doesn't ring a bell.

ETHAN
You were at her house, genius. If
you didn't know her, why were you
at her place?

NEON
I didn't do shit, fuck you, and I
want a lawyer. In that order.

ETHAN
We can make a deal.

NEON
Like I rat some people out sort of
deal or something?

ETHAN

I'm just asking for some guidance
on a case.

NEON

And what do I get out of it?

ETHAN

If either of you get jammed up my
card gets you out of a B felony or
below. No questions asked.

NEON

Yasmin owes us a brick.

ETHAN

She's dead and that brick is in an
evidence locker.

Neon lowers his pistol.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I'm surprised you didn't find it
when you broke in and shot at me.

NEON

I'm not that type.

Ethan's hand moves to his pistol.

Glow doesn't notice.

NEON (CONT'D)

How'd she die?

ETHAN

Someone shot her up with stuff that
wasn't stepped on. It looks like an
overdose but somebody fucked up the
details.

NEON

Me and the chuckle fuck were in
county all last week over a simple
misunderstanding over a dime bag.

Ethan looks around. His eyes measure the distance between him
and Neon.

ETHAN

Help me find her killer and I can
talk to the District Attorney who
caught the case.

VICKIE (O.S.)
Hands where I can see them.

Neon looks to see Vickie walk behind Glow and put her pistol to the back of head.

Glow drops his pistol and raises his hands. Neon drops his pistol and does the same.

Vickie looks around.

VICKIE (CONT'D)
Please reconsider the choices
you've made in your life.

Glow and Neon sprint into the darkness.

VICKIE (CONT'D)
That goes for you, too.

ETHAN
I had it handled.

VICKIE
Clearly.

ETHAN
He was about to do what I said
before you went all cowboy on me.

VICKIE
Why do you do this yourself in the
first place?

ETHAN
It's the job.
(beat)
Why the cloak and dagger?

Ethan and Vickie walk towards the front.

EXT. CAR WASH - NIGHT

Ethan and Vickie walk towards his Challenger.

Her sedan is parked next to it.

VICKIE
I called you.

Ethan takes his phone out. He has several missed calls from Vickie. Her phone number has been muted.

She looks at it and groans.

ETHAN

I was going to block you but I figured you might want to talk to me about work shit.

VICKIE

I saw Zack Tyler in my boss's office for an hour today.

ETHAN

And you just assumed it was something I did.

VICKIE

Doug uses your name like a four-letter word, usually.

(beat)

You still share your location with me, genius.

ETHAN

I thought you'd have turned it off after everything.

VICKIE

I'm still an Internal Affairs officer, genius.

Ethan shakes his head.

ETHAN

This is about one of my snitches. It's a murder and he doesn't care.

VICKIE

Keep this up and you'll be in pawn shop with the rest of the humps.

ETHAN

I'll see you around.

Vickie walks to her car.

Ike texts Ethan: "I got some info on your brick."

Ethan takes a deep breath. He responds: "Captain is already pissed off at me. Vickie, too."

Ike responds: "It's big. I'm under, so you'll need to arrest me. I'm Jacobs. Despero's Italian, noon tomorrow."

EXT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

A sign from the 1970s indicates the World's Best Meatballs.

The Challenger is parked in the distance. Ethan is inside, his eyes on the entrance.

Ike and a CRIMINAL walk in.

Ethan exits and walks to the entrance.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Ethan walks in and looks around. He spots Ike and the Criminal by the takeout counter.

Ike spots Ethan. He slightly motions to the Kitchen.

ETHAN

Jacobs, I've got a warrant for you!

Ike sprints into the kitchen.

Ethan chases after Ike. The Criminal runs out front.

KITCHEN

A skillet with an exotic chicken dish is on a counter.

KITCHEN WORKERS are all over, cooking.

Ike runs in and right into a Kitchen Worker.

A pistol bounces off the floor.

Ethan sprints in. He spots the pistol and then the skillet. His hand grabs it and smashes Ike across the face.

Ike is out cold, covered in the chicken dish and with fresh bruising on his face.

Ethan sniffs. He turns to a Kitchen Worker.

ETHAN

What's that?

KITCHEN WORKER

The Chicken Salvatore Del Guerra.

Ethan handcuffs Ike and picks him up.

Ike wakes up, cursing under his breath.

ETHAN
You're under arrest, *Jacobs*.

IKE
Fuck you, Raines!

Ethan reads him his rights and walks him out.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - DAY

Ethan shoves Ike into the backseat. He gets into the driver's side and starts the engine. After a moment he drives away.

Ike looks around.

The other Criminal disappears into the distance.

Ike takes a deep breath.

ETHAN
You smell amazing, for the record.

IKE
You didn't have to hit me that hard, for the record.

ETHAN
I saw a gun and there were people around. It was theater.

Ike sighs.

IKE
I asked around about the brick. It pissed someone off because they tried to take a run at me.

ETHAN
You're posing as a drug dealer.

IKE
Those guys print money. Disputes are settled with gold, not lead.

ETHAN
Is there anything special about that brick?

IKE
A bunch of pros hit a stash house for the Eighty-Eights--

ETHAN

Two weeks ago.

IKE

The rumor is they weren't happy about the amount they paid to get their shit back.

ETHAN

Do you have any clue on the guys who pulled off the raid?

IKE

No one is saying anything because they don't want to admit they got their shit stolen. Someone took a run at me over it.

ETHAN

The brick I found was under a floorboard at Yasmin's place. Some scumbag club owner told me she was supplying them.

IKE

It feels like she was a mule who went into business for herself.

Ethan pulls over. He takes out a pair of handcuff keys.

Ike motions no.

IKE (CONT'D)

I'll blow my cover if you don't.

Ethan drives.

INT. BOOKING STATION - DAY

CRIMINALS waiting to be processed are all over.

POLICE OFFICERS observe them.

Ethan walks in, one arm on Ike. He motions to one of the Officers and then to Ike.

IKE

Fuck you, pig, I can sweat out years in here!

The Officer grabs Ike's arm.

ETHAN
Forty-eight hour hold.

IKE
Fuck you!

Ethan waves goodbye to Ike.

Ike spits at Ethan.

The Officer walks Ike inside.

BRADLEY (O.S.)
Detective Raines.

Ethan turns to see Bradley approach him.

ETHAN
You got him.

BRADLEY
Bradley Sellers from Major Crimes.

ETHAN
Captain said you were interested in
a case of mine.

BRADLEY
I'm about to hit lunch. Can I pick
your brain over it? My treat.

ETHAN
Sounds lovely.

Both mean exit.

EXT. HOT DOG STAND - DAY

Chicago-style hot dogs, fries, and drinks are in front of
Bradley and Ethan.

BRADLEY
Alan let me look at your case file.

ETHAN
There isn't much to it.

BRADLEY
The common theme is four guys with
operator expertise.

ETHAN
I think I might have a connection.

Bradley takes a bite of the hot dog.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

A brick from my robbery wound up in the floorboards of a dead snitch.

Bradley perks up.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I found the needle in the trash outside. Her blood was in it, lots of pure heroin... but no prints.

BRADLEY

That's... interesting.

ETHAN

I had a lead on who could've done it but he died of lead poisoning.

Bradley takes a sip of his drink.

BRADLEY

So you're back at square one.

Ethan takes out Yasmin's keys and puts them on the table.

Bradley looks them over.

ETHAN

These were next to them. I've got zero clue where they go.

Bradley taps one of the keys.

BRADLEY

That's a bus station key.

ETHAN

Don't they all have keypads now?

BRADLEY

Not the one uptown.

ETHAN

I'm curious what she kept there.

BRADLEY

If it's the same brick, I can take this off your hands and you can forget all about it.

Ethan puts the keys away.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

Alan needs to get rid of some red ink, too, so it makes sense.

ETHAN

I'm going to check it out. If it's anything big, I'll pass it along.

BRADLEY

Listen, kid--

ETHAN

I don't want to waste your time if it's just some luggage.

Bradley grits his teeth.

Ethan takes a bite of his hot dog.

BRADLEY

I need to hit the head.

Bradley walks inside.

Ethan takes a sip of his drink. He gets a text from Candy. "They were going to toss her things out. If you want them, you can have them."

His fingers text her back: "When can we meet?"

She sends him a location.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE ROOF - DAY

Candy stands by an SUV. A cardboard box full of Yasmin's things is at her feet.

The Challenger parks nearby.

Ethan exits. He spots the box.

She hands it to him.

He looks inside. His hand reaches in and pulls out a sparkly red thong.

ETHAN

Where do you gals find these?

CANDY

There's a website that caters to dancers and bodybuilders.

Ethan drops the thong inside. He looks inside and spots a small notebook.

CANDY (CONT'D)
I saw the perv died.

Ethan looks up to Candy.

ETHAN
He had a wall of photos of her.

CANDY
Somehow I'm not surprised.

He takes out the notebook and holds it up.

CANDY (CONT'D)
I'm assuming policemen eat dinner.
(beat)
My mother always said you let the man do it but I hate ambiguity.

ETHAN
I'm historically bad at this shit.
(beat)
I know a good Italian joint. I'll text you.

She smiles and walks back to her car.

He walks back to the Challenger.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - DAY

Ethan gets inside. He opens up Yasmin's notebook.
A series of locations and dates are written down.
He reaches into his glove box and takes out a pen.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Ethan watches from a distance. Candy's notebook is in his hand. His eyes look all over. They land on a bench.

A JUNKIE drops off a bag by it and walks away.

Moments later a DRUG DEALER picks it up and walks away.

Ethan's eyes turn back to the notebook.

Eight entries have check marks next to them.

He takes the pen out and checks off another.

EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

Ethan spots a series of older lockers. His eyes look around.

A DARK FIGURE hides behind a wall.

Ethan walks up to the lockers, his eyes scanning the numbers. He takes the key out and looks at it.

Locker 405.

Ethan spots Locker 405 and walks up to it. His eyes turn to the side.

The Dark Figure hides behind another wall.

Ethan takes a deep breath. His hand moves towards his pistol.

The Dark Figure walks away.

Ethan follows him.

INT. BUS STATION - DAY

A crowd of BUS GOERS wait in line.

The Dark Figure sprints through them.

Ethan chases after.

The Dark Figure exits a rear door.

Ethan sprints up and kicks it open.

EXT. REAR OF BUS STATION - DAY

Ethan exits out the rear door and looks around.

Nothing.

EXT. BUS STATION - DAY

Ethan walks back.

He walks up to Locker 405 and opens it up.

A Duffel Bag full of drugs and cash is inside.

INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ethan looks around sheepishly.

Alan glares at him.

ALAN

You've got a dozen excuses ready
and I don't want to hear them.

Ethan goes to say something.

Alan holds up his finger.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Give me one good reason I shouldn't
send you to Pawn Shop right now.

ETHAN

I took fifty keys off the street.

ALAN

This isn't Narcotics.

ETHAN

I was saving Major Crimes a couple
of hours of bullshit.

ALAN

And now it looks like we're fucking
up an easy overdose because you can
not admit some stripper died an
otherwise forgettable death.

ETHAN

A needle with no prints and a phone
that was reset after she died says
it wasn't an easy overdose.

ALAN

I'm going to need you to give all
of what you've gathered to George
Hillary in Narcotics and then grab
your cold cases. You're on desk
duty until I say otherwise.

Ethan leaves.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan sits down at his desk.

A pair of reports are on it.

He grabs the top and opens it up.

His phone buzzes with a text from Francine. "I saw something. You got a moment?"

Ethan looks around and texts back. "Sure."

A pin comes up with a location.

EXT. LONG STREET - DAY

Several FIRST RESPONDERS are outside a Diner.

Ethan walks up to it.

EXT. DINER - DAY

Ethan spots a PATROL OFFICER standing by a window. His hand flashes his badge.

PATROL OFFICER
Did you catch it?

ETHAN
Just in the area.

The Officer motions inside.

PATROL OFFICER
Robbery went bad.

Ethan looks inside. His eyes spot the body of a SHORT ORDER COOK on the floor and then Francine's corpse in a booth.

Both have been shot to death.

His eyes look at Francine's body.

ETHAN
Where's her purse?

The Officer looks at her body.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
No woman in that field goes out without her purse.

The Officer shrugs.

PATROL OFFICER
It was a robbery.

ETHAN

Tell one of the lab dorks to meet
in me back.

Ethan walks to the rear of the diner.

EXT. REAR OF DINER - DAY

Rats scurry around a rusted-out dumpster.

Ethan looks around. His eyes spot Francine's purse on the ground. Her phone has been smashed. His eyes look at the wreckage. Her SIM card is gone.

A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE walks in.

Ethan flashes his badge and points to the ground.

ETHAN

I just passed by.

The Detective looks at Ethan. *My scene, buddy.*

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Good luck.

Ethan walks away.

EXT. ROOM 120 - DAY

Ethan walks up to the door and knocks. Nothing. He takes out a pair of latex gloves, puts them on, and tries to open the door. Nothing. He looks around.

Nobody is outside.

Ethan takes out a credit card and inserts it between the lock and the door frame. He presses it in and turns the handle, eventually opening the door.

INT. ROOM 120 - DAY

Ethan walks in and looks around. He puts his credit card back in his wallet and closes the door. His eyes look around.

A recently used crack pipe is on a small end table.

Ethan opens up the table and looks inside.

A small, thin rubber hose and a dimed-out portion of heroin are inside. An older wallet is inside.

Ethan takes the hose out and twists it into a circle. He compares it to his arm (too small to fit around). His eyes spot the wallet. He grabs it and opens it up.

Yasmin's ID is inside.

His phone buzzes with a call from Ike.

Ethan places the hose back into the end table. He takes his phone out and answers.

ETHAN

Tell me you've got something.

INT. SMALL STASH HOUSE LIVING ROOM - DAY

Neon is on a couch, shot dead.

Glow is in the distance behind him, also shot dead.

Several bricks of heroin are piled on a table. They look identical to the one Yasmin had.

NARCOTICS OFFICERS in full raid gear are everywhere.

Ike looks at the bricks.

INTERCUT BETWEEN IKE AND ETHAN

IKE

Shot in the dark but have you ever met a kid named Leon Frank Tower the Third? Street name Neon.

ETHAN

Once.

IKE

Well, you're never going to meet him again. He had three bricks that were exactly the same as yours.

(beat)

George Hillary got an anonymous tip and Neon decided he was going to be Butch Cassidy. His buddy played The Sundance Kid, too.

Ethan looks around.

ETHAN

I know how Yasmin died.

IKE
Is it a conspiracy?

ETHAN
I found her gear in the room of a
dead woman. Francine covered it up
the only way she knew how.

IKE
What about this Francine?

ETHAN
Robbery that went bad. We were
going to meet up and just bad luck.

IKE
It's closure, at least.

ETHAN
She could've said something.

IKE
What's she supposed to say?

ETHAN
It doesn't matter anymore.

IKE
Take it easy, buddy.

Both men hang up.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan sits down at his desk with a bag of fast food. He takes
out a notepad and writes down "Yasmin's Death."

His hand draws two columns and writes "What it looks like"
and "What it really is" on opposite sides of the header.

Under "What it looks like" he writes down:

- Died of an accidental overdose
- Potential junkie/john friend panicking
- Inexperienced with the opposite hand

Under "What it really is" he writes down:

- Intentional overdose from junkie/john friend
- Cover up
- Set up by someone to make it look like an overdose

Ethan looks at both sides for a long moment. He circles "Died
of an overdose" and writes "Francine helped."

Candy texts him: "So I'm free tonight, if you are?"

Ethan responds: "There's an Italian joint I wanted to check out. 8ish?"

Candy responds: "Sure."

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Mostly full.

Ethan and Candy are in a booth near the back.

REAR BOOTH

A plate with the Chicken Salvatore Del Guerra is in the middle of the booth.

Glasses of wine are across from each of them.

Candy is in a nice dress.

CANDY

Where did you find this place?

ETHAN

I arrested someone here and the Chicken dish smelled amazing.

She laughs.

He doesn't.

CANDY

You're serious.

ETHAN

A drug dealer ran and I hit him with a skillet. It made the arrest smell delicious.

CANDY

Your work stories are much more interesting than mine.

ETHAN

It's like anything, I suppose. My life is boring to me because it's my nine-to-five.

CANDY

That's one way to put it.

ETHAN

Why'd you start dancing?

CANDY

The money was too good and I needed to pay for tuition.

(beat)

Why did you become a cop?

ETHAN

Do you know what a numbered grave is?

She shakes her head.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

If a corpse doesn't get claimed the medical examiner buries them in a field of them. They're given numbers so if you do figure it out, you can track it down. My sister's in one of them.

CANDY

I'm sorry.

ETHAN

She was an addict who wound up on a corner. Prick who did it was never found, too. Visiting her grave made me think of all the people who are there because someone didn't give a shit and after the Army I wanted to do something that mattered.

She takes a sip of the wine.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I enlisted right out of high school and she got in with a bad crowd. I came back and no one knew where she was or what she was doing.

CANDY

That's got to be the worst way to find out, I think.

ETHAN

It gave me a purpose, at least.

CANDY

We all have our paths, right?

ETHAN

Do what I've done and you stop judging people for their choices.

She spots his Delta Force tattoo.

CANDY

What else do you have?

He rolls up his sleeve to reveal Thai writing on his bicep.

ETHAN

I needed to find myself after the Army. In my first fight I fought a guy who needed to win to eat.

CANDY

Oh wow.

ETHAN

I've got a video of it, actually.

He takes his phone out.

She sits down next to him.

He pulls it up. Audio of a kickboxing fight is heard.

They look at each other for a long moment. They lightly kiss.

CANDY

I think I'm ready to go.

He smiles.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (3 HOURS LATER)

A trail of clothes leads to the bed.

Six condom wrappers are all over the floor.

Candy and Ethan are in bed, curled up.

CANDY

Normally this is where I'm supposed to say I'm not this kind of girl.

ETHAN

I'm not going to judge you.

CANDY

What'll your friends say when they
find out what I do?

ETHAN

My ex was in internal affairs so
they'll see you as an improvement.

She shakes her head.

CANDY

I doubt that.

Ethan reaches over and grabs his phone. He pulls up his photo
albums.

Yasmin spots Yasmin's three photos.

CANDY (CONT'D)

Who sent you pictures of a gas
station?

ETHAN

It was the last thing Yasmin sent
before she passed.

CANDY

I wonder why.

ETHAN

It's the first thing I'll ask her
when I see her on the other side.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - DAY (DRIVING)

Ethan yawns. His eyes turn to his cup holder.

It's empty.

He looks over to spot a gas station. His eyes focus on it for
a moment. His hand takes out his phone and pulls up Yasmin's
photos. He pulls up the gas station photo and compares it.

ETHAN

What are the odds?

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The Challenger pulls in and parks.

Ethan exits and looks around.

The no-tell motel is across the street.

He goes inside.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

A CLERK is behind the counter.

Ethan walks up, badge in hand.

GAS STATION CLERK
Can I help you?

Ethan pulls up a crime scene photo of Yasmin and shows it to him.

GAS STATION CLERK (CONT'D)
Never seen her in my life.

ETHAN
What about a black van?

GAS STATION CLERK
Seen plenty.

ETHAN
Do any stand out?

The Clerk thinks.

GAS STATION CLERK
There's one with a bunch of your
friends that fills up here every
now and again.

ETHAN
How can you tell it's one of my
friends?

GAS STATION CLERK
It's the license plates.

Ethan motions for him to continue.

GAS STATION CLERK (CONT'D)
Regular plates have a darker tint
to them than ones for state and
city vehicles.

ETHAN
When was the last time they were
here?

The Clerk thinks.

GAS STATION CLERK
A couple of weeks ago, maybe?

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan sits down at his desk. He pulls up the motor vehicle registry on his laptop. His fingers pull up every black van in the area. He picks up his phone and calls the motor pool.

MOTOR POOL CLERK (V.O.)
Motor pool.

ETHAN
I'm looking for a black van. Plate number TRG dash 765.

EXT. MOTOR POOL - DAY

Ethan and a MOTOR POOL CLERK stare at an empty space.

The Clerk has a tablet computer in his hand.

MOTOR POOL CLERK
It's supposed to be here.

ETHAN
When was the last time it was checked out?

The Clerk types on his tablet.

MOTOR POOL CLERK
Six months ago.

ETHAN
By whom?

MOTOR POOL CLERK
Major Crimes.

ETHAN
And they returned it, correct?

The Clerk looks at the tablet.

MOTOR POOL CLERK
It's supposed to be right there!

ETHAN
Did anyone steal it?

MOTOR POOL CLERK
You need a special key to start it.

ETHAN
Do you guys have a GPS on it?

EXT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY

Ethan looks around. His eyes spot a burned-out van. He walks over and looks it over.

A bullet hole is in it.

Ethan takes his phone out and calls Dispatch.

DISPATCH (V.O.)
Dispatch.

ETHAN
This is Detective Raines. I need a
tow truck on my location.

DISPATCH (V.O.)
Over.

ETHAN
Send a CSI Unit and a tow truck.

Ethan hangs up. He spots the pieces of a smashed GPS unit on the ground. His body gingerly leans down and picks it up. His fingers go through it. He pulls out a memory card.

INT. INTERNET CAFE - DAY

Ethan sits down in front of a computer terminal. He places the memory card into it.

A series of folders comes up.

Ethan clicks on it. A series of dated files comes up.

His eyes scan it, landing on the date of the Stash House Murders. He clicks on it.

A map comes up with locations. His curses and scrolls down.

The Stash House comes up. It ends in the industrial park.

Ethan takes a deep breath. He calls Karelin.

RANDOM GANG BANGER (V.O.)
This is Karelin's phone.

ETHAN

Put him on. It's Raines.

RANDOM GANG BANGER (V.O.)

Homeboy got picked up last night.

INT. PRISON CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Karelin sits behind a table in an orange jumpsuit.

A PRISON GUARD escorts Ethan into the room.

Ethan has a folder in his hand.

Karelin stares Ethan down.

ETHAN

We'll be all right.

The Prison Guard nods and exits.

KARELIN

So Sellers is using you as his errand boy, huh?

ETHAN

That's not the answer I expected.

Karelin curses under his breath.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Now I've got some questions.

Karelin curses under his breath.

KARELIN

I called the feds because I need some of that WIT SEC. You'd think they'd call me back.

ETHAN

I'm lost here.

KARELIN

If I tell you anything then that'll fuck up any deal with the Feds that I can get.

ETHAN

Sergeant Brad Sellers isn't bent.

KARELIN

Sure fooled me. Prick steals our
shit and then sells it back to us.

ETHAN

Are you willing to go on the--

KARELIN

GUARD!

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - DAY

Ethan gets in. He takes his phone out and pulls up Alan's phone number. His finger hovers over dial. He takes a deep breath and pulls up a social media application. Ethan searches for "Bradley Sellers."

Bradley's profile comes up.

Ethan clicks on it. He scrolls through and finds a photo of Bradley and his WIFE in front of a large home.

The caption reads "Just closed!"

Ethan clicks on the photo.

Bradley's REALTOR liked it.

Ethan pulls up the Realtor's website. A photo of Bradley's home with the address is on it. He types the address into a search browser. A dozen listings on real estate websites come up. He clicks on one.

The sale price is listed at \$1,250,000.

He texts Vickie: "In your experience, how does a cop afford to live in a million dollar home?"

Vickie texts back: "99 times out of 100 it's not in a way that's legal. Please tell me this is a hypothetical."

Ethan texts her: "I really hope I'm wrong on this."

EXT. LARGE HOME - DAY

A pair of brand new, fully loaded Dodge Hellcats with personalized license plates are parked in front.

The Challenger parks in the distance.

Ethan walks up and knocks.

Silence.

He spots a bay window and looks inside.

A brand new 80-inch TV and expensive leather furniture are visible through it.

Ethan looks around.

A NEIGHBOR mows their lawn in the distance.

Ethan sprints to the side of the house.

EXT. SIDE OF LARGE HOME - DAY

Ethan puts on a pair of latex gloves. He spots a window and pushes on it. It opens up. He pushes it all the way up and climbs inside.

INT. LARGE HOME - DAY

Ethan looks around.

An expensive oil painting is on a wall.

A pair of Gucci Bags are on the floor.

He looks out a back window and spots a shed in the distance.

A large, high-end lock is on it.

EXT. BACKYARD OF LARGE HOME - DAY

Ethan walks up to the lock. He takes his phone out and pulls up "lock-picking" on a streaming website.

Thousands of videos come up.

Ethan scrolls through and finds the same lock as the one on Bradley's shed. He clicks on it.

A hammer hits the lock in the upper right corner, opening it right up.

Ethan takes his pistol out and grabs it by the barrel. He smacks the lock in the same place.

It opens up and falls off.

He opens up the shed.

Two Duffel Bags full of cash are inside. Ethan spots a brick of heroin identical to the one at Yasmin's place. He takes his phone out and photographs all of it.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan walks in. He pulls up Yasmin's photos. His fingers pull up the silhouette of the man. They land on his eyes.

Alan spots him.

Their eyes connect.

Alan motions for him to come into his office.

Ethan walks over.

INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Alan points to a chair.

Ethan sits down. His eyes land on the photo of Alan and the other three. The focus on George.

The eyes of the man in the photo belong to him!

INT. NARCOTICS BULLPEN - NIGHT (FANTASY)

George searches on his laptop for known stash houses. He writes the addresses down.

ALAN (V.O.)
All the black ink in the world will
not save you, Ethan.

INT. CARGO VAN - NIGHT

The van drives away from the stash house.

The driver takes his mask off. It's Zack.

ALAN (V.O.)
And I don't want to hear whatever
excuse you have for violating a
direct order.

EXT. STRIP CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Bradley gives Yasmin a Duffel bag full of bricks of heroin and keys to the bus station locker.

ALAN (V.O.)
 What part of desk duty don't you
 fucking understand?

EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

Yasmin places a Duffel Bag inside the locker. She reaches in and steals three bricks of heroin.

ETHAN (V.O.)
 Most of it, I guess.

Tony and Karelin watch her closer the locker and walk away. They walk up to it and take the Duffel Bags out. Tony places a large Duffel Bag full of cash inside.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - NIGHT

Bradley walks out with a dozen folders.

ALAN (V.O.)
 You should call your union rep and
 walk them through the shit show.

A thump shakes everything.

INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan snaps out of it. He spots a folder in front of him and opens it up. He's been suspended... **indefinitely.**

ALAN
 It's still Ike, right?

Ethan places his badge and gun on the desk.

ETHAN
 I've got some lab work to run. Can
 I email them that I'll be out?

Alan points to the door.

Ethan turns to see Bradley walk in. He nods and walks out.

Bradley closes the door behind him.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan looks at his white board. There are four masked men. He looks at Alan's office for a moment and then sprints out.

INT. CSI OFFICE - DAY

Ethan walks in and looks around.

ETHAN
We need to talk.

The CSI Clerk walks up to him. He motions to a hallway.

INT. CSI HALLWAY - DAY

Ethan looks both ways.

CSI CLERK
What the fuck did you give me?

ETHAN
It was found at a crime scene.

CSI CLERK
It wasn't in the criminal database
so on a lark I ran it through our
elimination print system.

INT. ROOM 120 - NIGHT (FANTASY)

Yasmin is out cold on the bed.

Alan injects her with a lethal dose of heroin.

CSI CLERK (V.O.)
It's Captain Parsons.

INT. CSI HALLWAY - DAY (REALITY)

Ethan looks around.

ETHAN
This doesn't leave us until I tell
you otherwise. OK?

The Clerk nods.

Ethan walks away.

INT. POLICE BULLPEN - DAY

Ethan sits behind his desk. He logs into his laptop and pulls up Bradley Sellers' personnel file.

Bradley spent four years in the Air Force. A note indicates he was in Homicide. His partner is listed as Zack Tyler.

Ethan pulls up Zack's history.

10 years in the Army Rangers.

He logs out and pulls up Yasmin's arrest history. A note indicates she was a confidential informant. Dozens of arrests for solicitation and possession are on her record but all of them were dropped.

Ethan pulls up the arresting officer. It's George Hillary.

Ethan pulls up George's record. His history indicates a four stint in the Marine Corps before joining the Police. He pulls up Bradley's police record.

Ethan takes a deep breath. He counts to three on one hand. He quickly pulls up Alan's record.

Alan was Bradley's training officer in homicide. He spent five years in the Navy.

Ethan takes a deep breath.

DOUG (O.S.)

Hands where I can see them!

Ethan turns to see Doug and Vickie pointing their guns at him. He raises his hands.

ETHAN

What the shit?

VICKIE

Back away from your desk, now.

Ethan slowly moves away.

Doug opens the bottom drawer of Ethan's desk.

The brick from Yasmin's house is in it.

ETHAN

I logged that into evidence.

DOUG

Detective Raines, you're under arrest for possession with the intent to distribute.

ETHAN

This is bullshit and you know it.

DOUG

Do I need to read your Miranda Rights or do you know them?

Vickie handcuffs Ethan's hands in front of him.

They walk out.

INT. POLICE HALLWAY - DAY

Vickie walks behind Ethan.

Doug is beside him.

ETHAN

This is a hell of a setup.

VICKIE

I'll have to testify to anything that you tell me, Ethan, so please use your right to silence.

ETHAN

Alan and three other detectives are bent. You're going to let them walk chasing me.

DOUG

Captain Parsons has a spotless record, Ethan.

ETHAN

Alan, George Hillary, Zack Tyler, and Bradley Sellers are the Stash House crew. There's cash and drugs in a shed behind his house. Just don't ask me how I know.

Vickie curses under her breath.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Their mule logged every single time they did a deal. You can catch them in the act today!

VICKIE

Where is the ledger, then?

ETHAN

It's in my car.

(beat)

I can tell you exactly what he'll do, too, if you want to listen.

DOUG

Do we need to get you drug tested?

ETHAN

Excuse me?

DOUG

You get caught with a brick and well... usually it's because you are also an addict.

ETHAN

I offer up bent cops leaving a trail of bodies and you're worried if I have an addiction issue.

DOUG

This is standing operating procedure when an officer--

ETHAN

Can you get your head out of your ass for once and just listen?

DOUG

Accusing cops after being caught with that amount of weight is not a good look for you.

ETHAN

It's going to look worse.

Doug turns to see Ethan's head fly at his jaw, connecting flush. His eyes see an ax handle style double punch land right after. He falls, out cold.

Vickie pulls her gun and aims it at Ethan.

Ethan raises his cuffed hands.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You got an anonymous tip about the brick, right?

VICKIE

We get anonymous tips all the time.

ETHAN

I turned that brick in and George Hillary was there. We talked.

VICKIE

There's nothing in the ledger and no paperwork about it.

ETHAN

George is one of them.

(beat)

When have I ever lied to you?

VICKIE

You don't want to go there.

ETHAN

About the job, not us.

(beat)

If you ever trusted me with a badge, this is the time.

Vickie takes a deep breath. She hands Ethan her weapon and uncuffs him.

VICKIE

If anyone asks, you took it from me and escaped.

(hands her car keys to
Ethan)

You've got three hours of me doing paperwork and bullshit before I'll notice that it's stolen.

(beat)

I've got my spare piece in the trunk and a burner phone in the glove box.

ETHAN

Do I have to hit you or--

VICKIE

I can handle that.

Vickie throws herself into the wall. She hits the ground with a thump.

Ethan sprints away.

Doug stirs.

EXT. POLICE PARKING LOT - DAY

Ethan sprints around, pressing on Vickie's key fob.

An older SUV beeps.

He gets inside.

INT. OLDER SUV - DAY

Ethan looks around. He spots Bradley getting inside his car and drive away.

After a moment he starts the engine and follows him.

EXT. LARGE HOME - DAY

Bradley's car parks. He sprints into the backyard. After a moment he comes up with several Duffel Bags full of drugs. He loads them into the car and drives away.

Ethan's SUV follows him.

INT. DODGE CHALLENGER - DAY

Vickie gets inside. Her eyes spot Yasmin's notebook. She opens it up and goes through it. Her fingers turn to the page with the dead drop locations. Her eyes focus on them. She takes her phone out and pulls up a calendar.

INT./EXT. OLDER SUV - DAY (DRIVING)

Ethan expertly follows Bradley through the city. He opens the glove box and takes out a burner phone. He calls Vickie.

VICKIE (V.O.)
Tell me you've got something.

INTERCUT BETWEEN ETHAN AND VICKIE

Ethan focuses on Bradley's SUV.

ETHAN
He's en route to a deal.

She takes her phone out and pulls up a tracking app. Her eyes focus on a red beep.

VICKIE

I see you.

ETHAN

Of course you have a tracker on your car.

VICKIE

It's the only reason I let you go.

ETHAN

My spare key is in the glove box. I'll wait for you.

Both hang up.

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

Bradley's SUV and three other cars are parked up front.

Ethan's SUV parks in the distance.

Ethan exits and walks to the trunk. He opens it up, revealing a small arsenal inside. His hand grabs a pistol and three full magazines.

The Challenger parks next to him. Vickie exits.

Ethan hands Vickie her pistol.

VICKIE

You broke Roiland's jaw.

ETHAN

Bradley's inside. Assuming the others are with him.

VICKIE

Any sign of a buyer?

Ethan shakes his head.

VICKIE (CONT'D)

We should wait and--

ETHAN

As soon as backup arrives I've got bracelets on me.

VICKIE

If they're selling it to bad people it could go bad, too.

ETHAN
Just stay behind me.

VICKIE
I've been on a raid before.

ETHAN
Did they shoot back?

She sighs.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
If it gets bad, get out. You just
surveilled me here.

Ethan sprints inside. She follows him.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

Several Duffel Bags full of heroin are on the ground.

Behind them are Zack, Alan, George, and Bradley.

All four men are openly displaying their weapons.

ZACK
This is the last one and I'm out.

ALAN
No chance.

ZACK
This isn't what we signed up for.

GEORGE
The money--

ZACK
I haven't slept without a Xanax in
six months.

BRADLEY
Focus, gentlemen.

ETHAN (O.S.)
I would prefer if you didn't.

Ethan emerges, gun drawn.

Vickie is behind him, gun drawn and her badge up.

BRADLEY

This isn't what it looks like,
Detective Raines.

VICKIE

Then we can call in a SWAT team and
you guys can explain it away.

ALAN

Raines, this is an order for you--

ETHAN

I don't take orders from bent cops.

ALAN

You don't know what you're talking
about. At all.

ETHAN

It's simple.

(motions to George)

He used Yasmin as a mule. She took
the drugs from a locker to a dead
drop that changed up.

(points to Alan)

You tried to make it look like an
overdose. Her last text to me has
your face all over it.

(motions to Zack)

And you covered up every murder
they committed.

ALAN

I told you that you should've just
shot her, like the other one.

ETHAN

He followed her too closely, right?

BRADLEY

He saw everything and wanted gold.
We paid him in lead.

ETHAN

And Alan made sure you were the one
chasing this perfect crew.

Zack drops his gun and raises his hands.

ZACK

Fuck this.

ALAN
You didn't have a problem when it
was one of them.

ZACK
And I should've.
(beat)
This was a mistake.

Bradley aims his gun at Zack.

ALAN
Looks like we have three dead
bodies to deal with now.

George aims his gun at Bradley.

GEORGE
I can't let you do that.

ALAN
Are you serious?

BRADLEY
Gentlemen, it's time to focus.

ZACK
I'm not killing a cop.

BRADLEY
You know what happens to guys like
us in prison, right?

ZACK
We're all going to hell for what
we've done.

Alan takes several steps back.

ALAN
Or we can repent after we kill this
prick and make a lot of money.

GEORGE
Aim that thing away from Zack.

BRADLEY
I'm not going to jail for you guys.

Zack steps away from his gun.

DRUG DEALER (O.S.)
What the fuck, Brad?

Several well-armed DRUG DEALERS walk in.

One of them spots Ethan's badge.

For The Next Three Minutes, This is Hell on EARTH!

Bullets fly by. Bodies fall.

Ethan ducks behind a beam. He looks over to see Bradley and Zack's bodies on the ground.

He spots a Drug Dealer aiming his pistol at Vickie.

Ethan empties his magazine into him.

Several others turn to her.

Ethan charges Vickie and tackles her to the ground. His hands grab her and pull her behind a beam.

Bullets fly over them.

Vickie spots Alan running to a stairwell.

Alan runs inside and up the stairs.

Ethan reloads his pistol. His eyes follow her.

ETHAN

Give me cover and then get the hell
out of here!

VICKIE

I got you.

Ethan sprints to the stairwell.

Vickie lays down cover fire. She spots George aiming his gun at Ethan.

BANG!

George is shot by a dealer, his gun flying away.

Ethan runs inside the stairwell and up the stairs.

Vickie drops the Dealer with two rounds. She spots George struggling to his feet.

George aims his weapon at Vickie.

BANG!

Vickie puts a round in his head.

EXT. ROOF OF ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY

Alan sprints to the edge and looks down.

ETHAN (O.S.)

Alan Parsons, you're under arrest
for the murder of Yasmin Fox!

Alan turns to see Ethan staring him down, his pistol aimed right at his face. He steps onto the edge.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Yasmin wanted out. You could've
just bought her a bus ticket to the
middle of nowhere and leave her be.

ALAN

Blackmail doesn't tend to stop
unless you drop a body or two.

Ethan's eyes focus on Alan.

Alan's hand slowly moves to his pistol.

ALAN (CONT'D)

She was ripping me off.

ETHAN

And that's why you killed her.

Alan nods.

ALAN

You couldn't let it go.

ETHAN

I need you to say it.

Alan glares at Ethan.

ALAN

I injected her with enough heroin
to get an African village high
after I choked her out cold. I
staged the scene, too.

(beat)

The four of us robbed drug dealers
for years, too, and sold their
product back to them.

(beat)

Are you happy now?

ETHAN

Only when you tell that to a judge.

Alan aims his pistol at Ethan.

Ethan shoots him several times.

Alan falls, bleeding profusely. His hands touch the wounds. He groans in pain. His eyes spot his pistol.

It's close by.

ALAN

You can't even kill a man right.

Alan reaches for his gun. Ethan pulls the trigger.

INT. RANCH HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (THREE MONTHS LATER)

Vickie sits on the steps.

The Challenger parks.

Ethan exits. He hasn't shaved in some time.

VICKIE

Doug sends his regards.

Ethan sits down next to her.

ETHAN

Thanks for having my back.

VICKIE

You got me a promotion and a two-week suspension.

(beat)

You're going to Pawn Shop.

ETHAN

Is it purgatory or permanent?

VICKIE

Alan had a lot of friends.

ETHAN

I never thought I'd end my career as a hump, either.

VICKIE

They only win if you let them. If you're the same cop I know, you'll find a way to do your job.

Vickie stands up and leaves. Ethan goes inside.

INT. PAWN SHOP BULLPEN - DAY**Super: Six Months Later**

Small, cramped, and full of DETECTIVES sent there to serve out the rest of their careers in quiet exile.

Ethan sits at a desk, filling out paperwork.

A framed photo of him and Candy is next to his laptop.

Ethan spots a box labeled "New Evidence" on his desk. He opens it up and looks inside. His eyes focus on a watch. He grabs it and turns it around.

"To Tony, From Ginny."

Ethan types on his computer. A file comes up on his computer indicating the watch (and other jewelry) was stolen during a violent home invasion. He looks around.

A PAWN SHOP DETECTIVE plays a game on his phone. A similar box full of evidence is in front of him.

Ethan looks at the screen and spots the name of the detective on the case. His eyes look at the screen.

A button to log new evidence is on it.

A post-it note on his laptop indicates the new evidence button has a two-week delay.

His eyes linger on his screen for a long moment.

Ethan calls the homicide detective on his desk phone.

HOMICIDE DETECTIVE (V.O.)
This is Perkins.

ETHAN
This is Raines from Pawn Shop. I've got something on one of your cases.

HOMICIDE DETECTIVE (V.O.)
I'll come down for it.

The Detective hangs up.

Ethan smiles.

He may be surrounded by humps, but he's not one of them.

FADE OUT.