<u>LABOR</u>

Written by

JERMAINE COLLINS

500 RIVERPLACE DR. APT 5143 DETROIT, MI, 48207 313-333-7434 jcwisernow@gmail.com INT. VINTUS GLOBAL RESEARCH AND STORAGE FACILITY - 1:38am

Flashlights illuminate from the sixth floor of a abandoned parking structure.

Two armed VINTUS GLOBAL GUARDS are standing over a MASKED WOMAN, out of breathe and bleeding from the mouth. Her hands are zip tied behind her back as she wobbles to her feet and backs in a corner.

> UGLY GUARD Just calm down ok..she had it coming anyway.

BIG GUARD We can't bring her in like this. I'm cutting her loose.

UGLY GUARD There's another option...you wanna make some money?

BIG GUARD No...I'm not doin that shit again.

UGLY GUARD We can get five grand from RJ for a bitch this thick and you know it.

BIG GUARD

Too dangerous and those boys don't fuck around...Count me out.

UGLY GUARD C'mon man! You know this job ain't paying shit. I need that money and you do too!

The big guard reluctantly shakes his head in agreement.

UGLY GUARD (CONT'D) Help me get her pants off, I need a little taste first.

The guards advance forward. The masked woman spits blood in their direction.

UGLY GUARD (CONT'D) (grinning) I like this one. The ugly guard unbuckles his pants. A voice from his radio interrupts them.

WALKIE TALKIE Why's your GPS off!?....report your location.

The big guard puts the woman in a headlock and covers her mouth.

UGLY GUARD Must be a poor signal where I'm at sir, but we're on our way back now PETE...thought we saw something.

WALKIE TALKIE

And?

UGLY GUARD False alarm.

WALKIE TALKIE Stop fucking around...get back in position..now!

UGLY GUARD

Yes sir.

UGLY GUARD (CONT'D) (to big guard) We gotta make this quick. Grab her ankles.

They struggle to get her pants off. The zip tie binding her comes loose freeing her hands.

ZACH(19), black mask and Vintus Global jumpsuit, comes running full speed, tackling the ugly guard to the ground. Zach hits him in the head with a brick, knocking him unconscious. The big guard pulls out his pistol. Zach knocks it out of his hand.

They exchange several blows, the big guard getting the better of Zach. Zach takes a clean punch to the jaw and hits the ground hard.

The masked woman jumps on the big guards back and bites a chunk of his ear off. The big guard throws her to the ground and makes a run for his pistol.

HUGO(20's), black mask and Vintus Global jumpsuit, walks up and points his pistol at the big guards head. Zach stands in front of Hugo's gun. ZACH We can't kill him!

> HUGO (to zach)

Move!

Zach slaps Hugo's forearm, sending a bullet thru the big guards hand instead of his head. The big guard rolls on the ground clutching his fingers together.

> HUGO (CONT'D) (to zach) I knew you wasn't ready...Imma handle you later.

The masked woman is GRACE(20's), athletic build. She touches her bruised chocolate face in pain, wipes blood from her mouth and puts her black ski mask back on.

GRACE

It's not here.

The trio run down six flights of stairs and into the courtyard.

EXT. VINTUS GLOBAL R&S FACILITY MAIN COURTYARD - NIGHT

Loud sirens ring out and flashing lights rotate in the sky.

EXT. VINTUS GLOBAL R&S FACILITY MAIN COURTYARD - NIGHT

ZACH, GRACE, AND HUGO are running full speed through a maze of shipping containers and pallets.

MONTAGE OF SHOTS

- A dozen armed VINTUS GLOBAL GUARDS running toward the abandoned parking structure.

- Search dogs being rounded up and unchained.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL R&S FACILITY GUARD TOWER - NIGHT

FAT PETE(30's), short and skinny, walks away from two of his co-workers to a stairwell. He answers HUGO's Facetime.

FAT PETE (whispering) You're a fucking maniac....We said no guns....just calm down, I might know another way out.

EXT. VINTUS GLOBAL R&S FACILITY MAIN COURTYARD - NIGHT Hugo hangs up his cell phone.

> HUGO Ok Pete said it's a cut fence about 40 or 50 yards by the tall grass over there.

GRACE You're fucking up. If we get caught-

HUGO We're not...just follow me!

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL R&S FACILITY SERVICE GATE - NIGHT

HUGO and GRACE squeeze through a cut fence and sprint across a intersection, barely escaping.

GRACE I don't see Zach.

HUGO He's right behind me.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL R&S FACILITY MAIN COURTYARD - NIGHT

Zach is running toward the cut fence, but sees several Vintus Global Guards get there first. He runs toward the first door he sees. Locked. He tries another one.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL WASTE DISPOSAL CENTER - NIGHT

ZACH cuts on his flashlight and looks around. Barrels on top of barrels are stacked to the ceiling with the tiny word "DAMASCUS" on them.

"FAT PETE" silently flashes across Zach's phone. He answers in a panic.

> ZACH (whispering) I'm trapped. They left me.

FAT PETE (V.O) Calm down...where are you?

ZACH (whispering) The door said waste disposal.

FAT PETE (V.O) Just stay there. When shit dies down, I'll try to get you out.

ZACH (whispering) What do you mean try!?....hello!....Pete!

The phone hangs up. Zach notices a crack in the wall, he pushes on it and discovers a entrance to a hidden room.

INT. HIDDEN ROOM - NIGHT

Zach crawls towards voices heard through a vent beneath him. A middle aged WOMAN in a black dress is doing the talking. Two MEN dressed in expensive suits are listening.

> ZACH (whispering to self) DEBORAH?

Zach pulls out his cell phone and video records.

INT. BOILER ROOM - NIGHT

OLD EXEXTUTIVE DEBORAH's right. This ship is sinking and we need to get off now.

YOUNG EXECUTIVE The COMMITTEE won't let us off the hook, we're as dirty as NORMAN.

OLD EXECUTIVE He's unable to hear reason anymore. If we all go to the COMMITTEE together they may show leniency.

DR. NORMAN PRESCOTT(40'S), Senior Vice President-Vintus Global Midwest Hub, fitted blue suit, all business, walks in the room. MADISON FIELDS(30's), The new Chief of Security-Vintus Global Midwest Hub, casually dressed, intimidating, walks in behind him.

DR. PRESCOTT Listen up, the COMMITTEE will be here any minute...let's get all our facts straight now.

DEBORAH

Well the new numbers are in.

DR. PRESCOTT

And?

DEBORAH

52 dead..148 sick. Up 32% from last month. It's worst than we thought.

OLD EXECUTIVE

This is out of control. We have to alter course before we all go to prison.

DR. PRESCOTT

There is no other way!..We're fucking behind on all the poles. We need angry voters..the votes in two days...this is how we win!

YOUNG EXECUTIVE

Agreed, it's only in a couple zip codes right? Majority of the residents are poor anyway. We can massage the numbers and add the deaths in with some drug overdoses or suicides. Nobody will ever know.

Madison drifts off into a corner and answers her cellphone.

MADISON

The meeting's cancelled sir! There's a security breach upstairs. We have to leave right now.

INT. HIDDEN ROOM - NIGHT

ZACH's cell phone dies. A hand grabs Zach's mouth with one hand and points a gun at his head with the other.

END OF TEASER

ACT I

INT. GOOD TIME CONEY ISLAND RESTAURANT - NIGHT

All the tables are filled, mostly with Vintus Global employees, dressed in either black or khaki jumpsuits. Hugo and Grace are in a booth by the window. Grace's phone has her full attention. Hugo is periodically glancing at a white utility van in the parking lot.

> HUGO A patrol unit is coming thru that door any minute. You coming or not?

Grace calls Zach's cell phone. Straight to voice mail.

GRACE We can't leave him.

HUGO He's already gone.

Hugo looks at his watch then right back to the utility van. A WAITRESS drops off a cup of coffee in front of Grace.

WAITRESS Yall need anything else?

Hugo shakes his head no and fans her off.

GRACE (to waitress) No we're fine, thank you.

HUGO

(to grace)
What if he got
caught?...huh?...what if he's
giving up our location right now?

GRACE He's your cousin Hugo.

HUGO I don't give a fuck if it was my mama. I'm not gonna be a sitting duck for anybody.

Grace tries Zach's cell phone again. Straight to voice mail.

HUGO (CONT'D) What were you doing on the sixth floor anyway? The job was on the second.

GRACE

The blueprints showed another terminal. I thought it could give us access to the files.

HUGO

We never discussed checking another terminal.

GRACE You wanna search me again?

HUGO Naw you clean.

GRACE

Well why are we still talking about it?

HUGO

No files means no payment...I don't like my money being fucked with.

GRACE

Do me and you have a problem?

HUGO

Oh you better hope not.

GRACE

That terminal didn't have access, you saw it for yourself. Get better intel next time kingpin.

HUGO

My intel was solid and I only saw what you showed me, then you disappeared upstairs.

GRACE

Look the job is over..it was a complete fuck up and your cowboy shit got us on the run from Vintus Global...no guns means no guns.

HUGO

You got alot of nerve...you still breathing because of me and my gun...don't forget that.

INT. WHITE UTILITY VAN - NIGHT

HUGO changes out of his Vintus Global jumpsuit and into some sweats and sneakers.

He watches Grace thru the side mirror giving him the finger as he slowly pulls out of the parking lot.

INT. LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER GYM - NIGHT

PASTOR CHARLES COLEMAN III(40'S), bald, well-groomed, is giving bottled water and nursing several SICKLY PEOPLE at once.

The community center's gymnasium has turned into a make shift triage. Dozens of people are scattered around in sleeping bags and mattresses on the floor. Volunteers are nursing and giving bottled water to the SICKLY.

PASTOR COLEMAN Sit-up...drink some more.

SICKLY PERSON #1 I need more meds Pastor. You promised they would be here by now.

PASTOR COLEMAN Patience...it's coming.

The pastor nudges at three neighboring sleeping bags.

PASTOR COLEMAN (CONT'D) VICKI wake up....you and the kids take a few bottles of water.

The pastor shakes the sleeping bags again. No movement. He unzips them.

EXT. LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER - NIGHT

Vicki and her two children's bodies are put in black bags and placed in the coroner's van.

CORONOR Sorry for your loss Pastor.

PASTOR COLEMAN Thank you MR. SWITZER...drive safe. INT. GOOD TIME CONEY ISLAND RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A half dozen armed VINTUS GLOBAL GUARDS are searching the customers and staff.

GUARD #1 Ladies and gentlemen empty all pockets, purses and bags. Place all electronics on the table please. Hands high up in the air.

Two uniformed Detroit POLICE OFFICERS stay seated and continue eating.

GUARD #2 Aye!..dumb and dumber get up now you know the rules.

POLICE OFFICER #1 Fuck off we're eating.

GUARD #1 (whispering) No exceptions BOB. Stand!...now!

BOB Not this time. I'm tired of this shit!

Bob stands up tall in the face of Guard #1

BOB (CONT'D) I've been serving this community for over 15yrs...you people don't know-

Guard #2 hits Bob in the nose with the butt of his rifle.

The LEADER(40's) of the Vintus Global Guard, a bearded white man with a buzz cut helps Bob to his feet.

LEADER

(to Bob) Stand up like a man and adhere to the rules like everyone else...Got it!?

Bob slowly nods his head in agreement as he empties his pockets and puts his cell phone on the table. The Leader sits in the booth with Grace and extends out his hand.

> LEADER (CONT'D) (to grace) I'm BEN FIELDS.

GRACE Kimberly Clover.

Grace barely shakes his hand. BEN stares at her bruised face, then glances at her Vintus Global jumpsuit.

BEN Those bruises look pretty bad.

GRACE Yea a hi-lo dropped a box of my head yesterday.

BEN Wow that sucks.

Awkward silence.

BEN (CONT'D) I've never seen you around before, what center are you at?

GRACE

I'm in LABOR division....East Production Center.

BEN That's a real shit hole. You give me your number and we can talk about getting you somewhere safer like LOGISTICS.

Grace gets up, puts a \$20 bill under a salt shaker and grabs her cell phone off the table.

GRACE I'm in a relationship and thanks for the career advise, but I really gotta go.

Ben signals for Grace to sit down.

BEN Two of ours were injured pretty bad at R&S downtown.

GRACE That's terrible.

BEN Two men and a woman impersonating as the Vintus Global Guard is all we know at the moment. (MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

One guard found unconscious, I doubt if he can even remember his name. The other guy is in emergency surgery to save his hand.

GRACE

I'm really sorry to hear that, but someone is expecting me, I'm already late.

Grace gets up to leave. Ben grabs her by the wrist.

BEN I do need to verify your work badge and employee code with command center before you leave...sorry protocol.

INT. SQUEAKY CLEAN 24HR LAUNDROMAT - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Detroit Police DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER(40's), dressed in plain clothes, is standing next to Hugo. Two plain clothes Detroit Police OFFICERS stand at the front and back entrances monitoring traffic.

> DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER So why leave witnesses.

HUGO Trust me, it wasn't by choice.

DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER I can't protect you Hugo. You

shouldn't even be here right now.

HUGO I had to take the chance...listen,

I wanna make this right between us.

DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER

You really fucked this one up. I vouched for you. You know second chances don't exist in our world.

HUGO

Look I take full responsibilty...but I need the money you promised. Just tell me what you need done and I'm on it. A OFFICER whispers in Shoemaker's ear, then points his pistol at Hugo's head. Hugo puts his hands up in the air.

HUGO What the fuck is this!

DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER There's an illegal download being reported by Vintus Global.

HUGO That can't be right. We didn't get shit.

DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER Oh it's right...you working for them?...are you playing me?

HUGO

Wait, don't do this!....I still have a man missing, maybe he found a terminal that could download the files!

The armed Officer steps closer to Hugo.

DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER (to officer) Wait...let em talk.

HUGO

Give me some time to circle the wagons, see what really happened. You said this is bigger than me right?...there's still a chance what you need is out there...let me go get it.

The armed officer presses his pistol against Hugo's forehead.

DETECTIVE SHOEMAKER Let him go....You have until noon then all bets are off. Get him outta here! INT. GOOD TIME CONEY ISLAND RESTURANT-NIGHT

Grace is sitting across from Ben starring at the clock behind him on the wall.

BEN Kimberly Clover. Sorry to hold you up...can never be too certain.

Grace cracks a wry smile. Ben makes a fist and taps his chest twice.

BEN (CONT'D) Vintus Global is life.

Grace makes a fist and taps her chest twice.

GRACE Life is Vintus Global.

BEN Be careful out there Kim.

Grace leaves out the diner.

INT. LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER-PASTORS OFFICE

RJ(20's), tall, well dressed, walks in without knocking.

RJ Let's make this quick old man.

PASTOR COLEMAN I can't keep doing this it's wrong...people Are getting hooked on this stuff man.

RJ We told you it would help. Never said it was a cure. Half these people won't make it past next week anyway.

PASTOR COLEMAN MONSTER assured me this was just as good as the real medicine.

RJ It's better than nothing, and it's better than suffering. PASTOR COLEMAN Well after today consider us done. I don't want anymore of your poison.

RJ You're done when we say you're done old man...now I told you to make this quick, where's my muthafuckin money?!

The Pastor slides a plastic bag of cash over to RJ.

RJ (CONT'D) This ain't enough.

PASTOR COLEMAN That's all the money I have. This is your community too man. Have a heart...they need it!

RJ stands up in the Pastor's face.

RJ

We're not in church Charles, don't forget who you the fuck you talking to. Have the rest of my money by Friday.

EXT. SEWAGE DRAIN - WOODWARD AVE. - NIGHT

Zach is puking his guts out and hyper-ventalating at the same time. Pete hands him a hand written map.

FAT PETE You gotta go right now ...get yourself together and c'mon the clock is ticking.

ZACH Just give me a minute OK!

FAT PETE

What was your mom and Prescott talking about in that boiler room anyway?

ZACH I don't know, I couldn't hear. FAT PETE

This doesn't feel right, first the job goes bad, now Deborah Shaw and Prescott are having secret meetings.

Fat Pete starts pacing back and forth.

ZACH

I don't fuck wit her, she's just deborah to me and besides suits have meetings all the time...just relax Pete.

Fat Pete's walkie talkie chirps on.

WALKIE TALKIE

Pete where are you? Command center can't get a GPS on you.

PETE

Down by the docks sir...I chased one of the intruders, but he sucker punched me...my badge must of got damaged in the struggle...long story short he got away.

WALKIE TALKIE

Backup is on the way, just hang tight.

PETE

No don't bother, he's long gone. I'm headed back now.

WALKIE TALKIE Why didn't you call it in?

PETE

It's a little embarrassing sir.

WALKIE TALKIE

I don't have time for fucking games...the new chief of security is up my ass. Just answer the damn question!

PETE

He knocked me out sir...I'm just now getting my bearings...bastard hit me square on the nose..never saw it coming.

WALKIE TALKIE

Well we can't win em all now can we...did you get a description at least?

PETE

Negative sir. Never got eyes on the perpetratior...had on a mask and gloves...Tall, stocky white male is all I could gather..

WALKIE TALKIE Fair enough...you'll be debriefed in detail when you get back. See you soon buddy.

Pete paces faster.

PETE You gotta punch me in the nose. They need to see blood..a bruise or-

Zach punches Pete in the nose.

PETE (CONT'D) Good one...maybe it's hope for you yet.

I/E. GRACE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The spacious two story home, sitting at the end of a quiet cul de sac opens it's garage doors as GRACE walks inside.

INT. GRACE'S HOUSE - BASEMENT

GRACE reaches inside her panties and pulls out of her vagina a small flash drive wrapped in plastic. She's interrupted by the sound of the basement door opening slowly.

> FEMALE VOICE Baby you aright down there?

GRACE Yea go back to bed...I'll be up in a few.

The basement door closes. Grace plugs a laptop to the television, inserts the flash drive and hits play on a file labeled Vintus Global-PFILE5690D.

A GREY HAIRED MAN's sweaty face pops on the screen in a dimly lit stairwell.

GREY HAIRED MAN

It's October 16th 2019, I'm DR. WINSTON THOMAS a Junior Behavioral Engineer for Vintus Global...Dr. Prescott is becoming increasingly radical with the DAMASCUS project. I suspect it's just a matter of time before I'm replaced or terminated.

Dr. Thomas puts the phone in his shirt's front pocket. The screen goes dark. A door opening can be heard. Then a man grunting, followed by a door slamming shut moments later. Dr. Thomas' face pops back on the screen, now in a rest room stall. He now has a bruise on his left cheek and small cut above his left eye.

> DR. THOMAS I don't have alot of time....listen we've kept records...stashed in dummy personnel files....temporary employee profiles created by me and my team.

Loud scrambled voices echo thru the door behind him.

DR.THOMAS If something happens to me...look whoever you are that gets this...I have a daughter..her name is Grace Thomas...get this to her or at least tell her I'm sorry I failed her as a father and to get out of the city immediately....I Love you Grace.

Grace wipes tears streaming down her face. She gets up and grabs a box of Kleenex. Grace sits back down on her basement floor, wraps up tight in a blanket and restarts the video.

EXT. GOOD TIME CONEY ISLAND RESTURANT-NIGHT

Zach peeks inside and sees no familiar faces. A white utility van rides up on him from the alley across the street. The door opens up. Zach hops in and plugs his phone up to a charger.

> HUGO Did you get the files!?

ZACH I almost lost my life tonight and that's the first thing you ask me?

HUGO Cut the soft shit ok...did you find it or not!?

ZACH I didn't find shit...where's Grace?

HUGO She left...I told her to wait a little longer, but she wasn't having it.

Zach's facial expression shows his frustration.

INT. WHITE UTILITY VAN - NIGHT

Hugo is visibly irritated periodically glancing over at Zach. Zach is silently watching his footage from the boiler room.

> HUGO That bitch lied right to my face.

> ZACH I don't think Grace would lie. It has to be a misunderstanding.

> > HUGO

Ain't no misunderstanding, she played us plain and simple.

ZACH

It's alot of moving parts still in play, maybe we shouldn't jump to conclusions just yet.

HUGO You know something I don't?

Hugo stares in Zach's eyes.

ZACH I don't know shit, I'm just saying I would hate for someone to be accusing me without all the facts. What the fuck are you talking about...She's a fucking crook, just like me and you. That's the facts nigga!

ZACH Yea I hear you.

HUGO

No you don't.

ZACH

Look it's been a long night, I just wanna take a shower forget tonight ever happened.

HUGO

The loft is off limits until this situation dies down...Imma stay at MORGAN'S crib. You'll need to crash somewhere else for a few days too.

ZACH

Great...well drop me off at the Love Center then, I can help volunteer and try to do some good for a change.

HUGO

I'll take you, but don't be talking to that Pastor about our business.

ZACH

I'm not stupid.

EXT. LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER - NIGHT

Hugo pulls up a block short of the entrance behind a grey SUV and turns off his headlights.

HUGO That's RJ's truck, Hold up a second.

ZACH Let's just come back later then.

HUGO Naw he not gone do nothing here.

ZACH But what if MONSTER's here too. HUGO MONSTER wouldn't step foot in

there, that's why he sends RJ to do all his dirty work...get out here and be at the spot on time...10am. We gone find out who's lying.

Zach gets out and walks toward the Love Community Center entrance. Hugo puts a revolver on his lap. RJ walks toward the utility van. Two men get out of the grey SUV and survey the area. RJ yells from a distance.

> RJ (smiling) What you doing on my side of town boy!?

Hugo pulls the hammer back on his revolver.

RJ approaches the driver side of the van. Hugo puts the gun down and out of sight.

HUGO

(to R.J.)

What up.

RJ You coming to pay your debts early?

HUGO

I never understood why you get so exciting about getting money for another nigga.

RJ Well at least I'm getting it, and not borrowing it like you.

They both stare each other down.

RJ (CONT'D) Have it Friday....no later Hugo.

HUGO Are we done here?

RJ Yea you can get the fuck on. Vintus Global is cracking heads tonight anyway, better get back to your side of town tough guy. Hugo starts his engine and pulls off. RJ stares at him all the way down the street and out of sight. RJ makes a call on his cell phone.

RJ (CONT'D) Just seen Hugo dropping off his weak ass cousin....you sure, I can still catch up with him.... The pastor was short again too....Yea I told him by friday...just say the

word boss and I'll burn this bitch down to the ground.

INT. LITTLE CESAR'S ARENA MAIN STAGE - DAY - 9:38am

Dr. Norman Prescott is professionally dressed sitting across from Local NBC 4 anchor MAXINE ROTH, a three time award winning reporter. The audience is crowded and buzzing with anticipation.

MAXINE

The vote is in two days Dr. Prescott. Why should we choose Vintus Global opposed to keeping the current local government in power?

DR. PRESCOTT

This proposal can significantly improve life for thousands of people in the city and-

MAXINE

That's your version, but many argue that you have never managed city ran services like water, school, and police...If I'm a voter out there, why would I turn over control of these services to a corporation.

DR. PRESCOTT

People are dying as we speak Mrs. Roth. The city council has proven that it can no longer handle the load. Where is the state and federal government? Look....Vintus Global has and always will fight for those who can't fight for themselves.

MAXINE

Dr. Prescott let's be honest...Vintus Global is an import/export conglomerate. You have no experience and no track record in this field.

DR. PRESCOTT

The numbers prove different. Every since we took priority over policing duties from the local Detroit police in the cities high crime areas, neighborhoods are safer and violence has decreased.

MAXINE

Why do you personally feel like now is he right time to control more?

DR. PRESCOTT

I love the city of Detroit. I may not have been born here, or went to school here, but the past eight years have been the best of my life. The people here deserve better, and I mean all people, not just the rich or well-off. This vote can help. Vintus Global can help. Vintus Global will help! Vintus Global is Life!

A thunderous applause fills the arena. A standing ovation follows. The crowd chants in unison

CROWD LIFE IS VINTUS GLOBAL!!

-BACK STAGE

Ben and Madison Fields are huddled together.

BEN You can't just not come home Madison!

Madison looks at her phone and shakes her head.

MADISON I'm working Ben. Now is not the time. BEN

Are you fucking him? Is that what's going on here?!

Madison slaps Ben in the face.

MADISON

Don't disrespect me...It's a shit storm going on and you know it. You get the security reports.

BEN

Yea I got it right here.

Ben reads off a folded up paper in his pocket.

BEN (CONT'D)

"Temporary personal files, no major damage/no breach verifiable" is what it says.

MADISON

That's not the point, I just got this promotion and this happens on my watch. I need this job. I like what I do. I have to stay on point.

BEN All I know is my wife didn't come home last night.

MADISON I was chasing down leads. I text you didn't I?

BEN You said "don't wait up, working". I'm not about to be a fool while you slut your way to the top!

MADISON

Dr. Prescott is my boss and mentor, nothing else dummy.

BEN

I don't know if I even trust you anymore.

MADISON We're done here. Get the fuck out.

Ben knocks over a tray of fruit and cookies on his way thru the back exit.

Hugo is seated at the bar drinking a smoothie. The WAITER drops off a plate of pancakes in front of him. Hugo's cell phone rings.

HUGO (into phone) Calm down..calm down, what do you mean missing?

Hugo gets up, tosses a \$50 bill on the table and walks outside.

HUGO (CONT'D) (into phone) Don't call the cops and don't call vintus global. Let me go over there first.

LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER - LOCKER ROOM - MORNING

ZACH towels off, puts on a T-shirt, jeans and sneakers. He pulls out his phone and replays the recording from the boiler room. The letter H flashes across his screen.

HUGO When I call you, answer nigga.

ZACH I'll be on my way in a minute.

HUGO Change of plans.

ZACH I'm listening.

HUGO Pete's baby mama called me hysterical.

ZACH What she calling you for?

HUGO

Pete takes his daughter to school every morning. Today he was a no show. He's not picking up his cell either. ZACH

So what now?

HUGO

I'm on my way to his crib. Grace is going to meet me there. You just stay put, I'll be by to scoop you in a couple hours...Oh yea and toss this burner phone after we hang up, we'll grab another one later.

Zach hangs up the phone, powers it off.

INT. SHOWER ROOM - DAY

Zach makes sure he's alone before moving a water fountain to the side. Zach removes three loose bricks behind the fountain revealing a hole with stacks of cash and a pistol under the floor. Zach throws the phone in the hole, covers it with the bricks, puts the fountain back and leaves out.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Zach bumps right into Pastor Coleman.

PASTOR COLEMAN Everything OK? You look pretty banged up.

ZACH

I'm fine Pastor, it's nothing...thanks for letting me use a spare bed.

PASTOR COLEMAN Your volunteer work more than makes up for it. You ever need to talk my door is always open.

ZACH I'll be ok, just got alot on my mind.

PASTOR COLEMAN Whatever's going on, God has the answer, don't be afraid to seek him.

ZACH Wise words as always pastor.

EXT. MARTIN LUTHER KING PROJECTS - DAY

Dozens of armed Vintus Global Guards are on foot patrolling the area. Hugo and Grace stand outside Fat Pete's dingy apartment door knocking and ringing the bell. No answer. Hugo picks the lock.

INT. FAT PETE'S APARTMENT - DAY

The small apartment is filled with cheap furniture and a sink full of dishes.

HUGO Pete you here!

GRACE

No sign of struggle.

HUGO This doesn't feel right.

GRACE Maybe he got spooked and skipped town.

HUGO Pete wouldn't leave his daughter.

GRACE You'll be surprised what people will do.

HUGO Yea you right.

Hugo pulls out a gun on Grace.

HUGO (CONT'D) You lied to me and I wanna know why. You downloaded those files didn't you?

Grace quickly disarms Hugo and reverses the gun towards is head.

Hugo raises his hands in the air. Grace takes out the gun's clip and removes the bullet from the chamber.

GRACE (CONT'D) It wasn't me...maybe you need to ask your boy Pete what happened, seeing he's the only one missing!

Hugo stares in Grace's eyes for several seconds.

HUGO Ok...maybe you're right...I'm sorry.

GRACE Just don't pull a gun on me again.

HUGO Don't give me a reason to.

Grace takes a deep breathe. Hugo's cell phone rings.

HUGO (CONT'D) (into phone) It's not noon yet, I'm still trying to figu-

> OFFICER SHOEMAKER (V.O.)

Vintus Global is coming for your cousin Zachary. You caused a shit storm and someone has to go down for it before the whole city gets turned upside down. I'm sorry, but it had to be this way.

HUGO Wait!?...Hello!!

INT. LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER - KITCHEN - DAY

A handful of volunteers are hard at work prepping food for lunch time. Zach is near the back door stirring a big pot of stew. Pastor Coleman ducks his head in the kitchen.

> PASTOR COLEMAN It's a bad smell in here. Zach can you run those bags to the dumpster.

Zach wipes his hands on his apron and grabs three large garbage bags by the back door.

ZACH

No problem.

EXT. LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER - ALLEY - DAY

Zach is met by two Vintus Global Guards. A black mask goes over Zach's head and he's pushed into a black van.

INT. LOVE COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH CENTER - PASTOR OFFICE - DAY

Pastor Coleman is pacing back and forth peeking outside the window. Ben Fields walks thru the door and throws a paper bag full of cash on the Pastor's desk.

PASTOR COLEMAN You're not going to get too physical with him are you?

BEN

Trespassing and attempted murder on Vintus Global property. There is nothing easy coming his way, I can assure you of that.

PASTOR COLEMAN

Now wait a minute, that wasn't the deal. I was promised he wouldn't be harmed if I turned him in.

BEN You reached out to the police and the police reached out to us. To my understanding no provisions were promised.

PASTOR COLEMAN He's a good kid. Go easy on him.

BEN

We don't need your advice. Thanks for your cooperation Pastor. You did the right thing.

Ben leaves out the office. Pastor counts the cash and makes call on his cell phone.

PASTOR COLEMAN Yea it's me...Tell Monster I have his money. You can come get it.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL SHIPPING AND PRODUCTION EAST CENTER-NIGHT

A small crowd is forming inside a empty shipping container in a secluded area on the production floor. Inside Zach is taking some serious body blows from AARON(20's), the ugly guard that Zach hit in the head with a brick.

AARON

No friends to save you now!

Zach covers up in a ball anticipating more punches. Aaron takes off his shirt and flexes for his co-workers, who are cheering at this point.

AARON (CONT'D) Get up bitch!!

Zach charges at Aaron, but looses his balance and hits the ground scaring his forehead. RADIO (50's), an older man with black glasses and a face full of hair stands off to the side next to Ben Fields.

RADIO So your going to let them beat the shit outta that kid?

BEN He's a criminal.

RADIO He's a baby.

Ben gets nose to nose with Radio.

BEN

I know your like everyone's favorite grandpa in here, but don't forget you're a janitor,...beat it ...go mop some floors or something.

Radio glances at Zach getting kicked in the stomach.

RADIO Just looks weak. Ganging up on a guy like that.

BEN Aaron's just letting off some steam. It's good for morale. RADIO

Do me a favor, I'll do you one better.

BEN I don't need any favors from you.

RADIO

Madison and Prescott have been pretty close since her promotion.

BEN

You wanna be next in line for a beating?

RADIO I'm just reading the tea leaves, don't kill the messenger.

BEN Get to the point.

RADIO I can get you inside her office. Maybe even her terminal.

BEN

Bullshit, you need at least Gamma level clearance to even get up to that floor.

RADIO

I might know a guy that know's a guy. Give me to tomorrow. I'll call you with a meet up spot.

BEN This is too dangerous. Why should I trust you?

RADIO

I was married for eight years, I know what jealousy can do to a man. Stop this beating and I'll get you closer to the answers you're looking for.

Ben reluctantly shakes Radio's hand.

INT. BLACK SUV - NIGHT

Radio handcuffs Zach's hands and feet, helps him in the backseat.

ZACH Where we going?

Radio hands Zach a bottled water. Zach takes a big gulp, winces in pain.

ZACH (CONT'D) I gotta make a phone call.

RADIO

Sit back kid...I'd drink that water if I was you, where you're going you won't get anymore for at least another 24hrs.

ZACH You have to let me go...say I escaped...I can pay you.

RADIO Interrogations and Control

ZACH

What?

RADIO Interrogations and Control...that's where we're going.

RADIO (CONT'D) My names Radio by the way...your Zachary right?

ZACH

Yea

Radio pulls up to a checkpoint in front of a small building with all tinted windows. The TALL guard asked for Radio's badge.

RADIO

Just let me in.

TALL SECURITY GUARD No badge no entry, you know the rules.

RADIO

Fine...you explain to Madison why he wasn't delivered to her and Dr. Prescott on time.

Radio puts the SUV in reverse.

The TALL guard waves Radio through the checkpoint. Radio stops the car at the main entrance.

RADIO

This is where we part ways kid. Word of advice..your're still alive so they have to think you're still valuable, don't lose leverage by talking too much...win today, then worry about tomorrow.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL INTERROGATION AND CONTROL - NIGHT

Madison and Zach sit across each other in a room with white padded walls and two metallic chairs nailed to the ground. Zach's face is bruised and blood is dripping from his nostrils.

> MADISON You are in some serious shit.

ZACH I want a lawyer.

MADISON

No lawyers, no courtroom. The State of Michigan gave Vintus Global full authority to handle crimes committed on our sovereign property two years ago.

Madison holds up her tablet and shows a short video of Fat Pete being interrogated then shot in the head. The video cuts off.

> MADISON (CONT'D) Wanna talk now?

ZACH I have no clue what you're talking about, or who that is.

MADISON You're not smart enough to plan this, give me one name and the pain ends.

The door opens and in walks DEBORAH SHAW (40's), Senior Operational Manager - Midwest Hub at Vintus Global.

DEBORAH

This is signed by Dr. Prescott and Judge William Reynolds of the 8th circuit court.

Madison thumbs through a stack of papers handed to her.

MADISON A servitude contract?!..This exonerates him?!

Deborah kneels down and wipes some blood still coming down Zach's nose.

MADISON (CONT'D) This is bullshit and you know it!

DEBORAH Madison can you please look over that paperwork outside. I need to speak with my son privately.

Madison storms out the room and slams the door shut.

DEBORAH (CONT'D) You look a mess.

ZACH Get the hell off of me!

DEBORAH

Look at you...beaten and bruised. It's so embarrassing.

ZACH No you're embarrassing.

DEBORAH

Don't let your hatred for me make you lose focus on what's going on here Zachary. It's a good deal, take it.

ZACH I don't trust any of you.

DEBORAH You'll work eight years for Vintus Global, under what's called a indentured contract.

ZACH I know what it is, half of the city is on one.

DEBORAH

Well then as you know, your earnings will be withheld to pay toward your fines and restitution fees. You will however earn a wage no less than 1/2 of minimum wage.

ZACH

So I work for basically free over the next eight years? No thanks I'll take my chances.

DEBORAH

If I walk outta here and Madison has her way, you will be locked up for a attempted murder and armed robbery charges..that's a capital crime now, they want to hang you son...I'm your only way out...So what's it going to be?

INT. COBO HALL EVENT CENTER - NIGHT

Men and Women are dressed in tuxedo's and elegant dresses as a live jazz band echoes through the main floor. A huge banner that reads "LOVE COMMUNITY CHARITY BALL" hangs over the entrance. The cities elite, both politically and financially are in attendance. Pastor Charles Coleman goes on stage, grabs the microphone and speaks to the crowd.

> PASTOR COLEMAN Even in the midst of tragedy, I'm thankful to see we can still have a good time for a great cause..

The crowd claps and cheers.

PASTOR COLEMAN (CONT'D) This event is dear to me...we need donations to help get more pallets of clean bottled water and medicine to our residence in need.

The crowd claps and cheers.

PASTOR COLEMAN (CONT'D) The city officials downtown have forgotten about us..they've let this go on too long.! The crowd cheers and claps louder. Grace is dressed in a stunning red dress and heels sitting in the corner people watching. MONSTER (40's) tall and ugly, black tuxedo, approaches Grace.

MONSTER

How do I look?

Grace walks off. Monster grabs her by the arm.

MONSTER (CONT'D) We need to talk. I hear you been running with the roaches. Family comes first...remember that.

GRACE I'm not in the mood, now let me go before someone gets hurt.

Monster smiles and let's her go. Grace storms off in the opposite direction and bumps into-

GRACE (CONT'D)

ZACH?

Zach is dressed in a black tuxedo with his mother Deborah Shaw on his arm.

GRACE (CONT'D) Mrs. Shaw.

DEBORAH You look familiar.

GRACE We meet several years back when I was little... you knew my father Dr. Winston Thomas. I'm Grace Thomas.

DEBORAH God I miss your father, a brilliant man. Vintus Global lost a true pioneer of science.

GRACE Thank you...It'll be two years this Friday.

Zach whispers in Grace's ear.

INT. BLACK SUV - COBO HALL VIP PARKING - NIGHT

Madison, Dr. Prescott and the young executive from the boiler room are watching people enter the building thru their tinted windows.

> MADISON The perimeter is secure sir, we can go in.

DR. PRESCOTT Me and ETHAN need to talk, go ahead, we're right behind you.

Madison exits the SUV and disappears in the crowd of people walking into the entrance.

ETHAN I don't trust her

DR. PRESCOTT Madison is loyal ETHAN...she's the least of our concerns.

ETHAN

The COMMITTEE re-scheduled the meeting.

DR. PRESCOTT

When?

ETHAN Take a wild guess

DR. PRESCOTT Saturday?

ETHAN Yep...day after the vote.

DR. PRESCOTT That's smart...if we lose the vote, they'll bury us on the spot.

ETHAN But if we winINT. COBO HALL EVENT CENTER - NIGHT

Pastor Coleman is still on stage thanking important people in the front tables. A woman comes and whispers in his ear.

PASTOR COLEMAN Ladies and gentleman.

The crowd settles down. Dr. Norman Prescott walks on the stage to a thunderous applause.

PASTOR COLEMAN (CONT'D) This man needs no introduction. Eight years ago he came to our great city with a plan to turn things around and provide good paying jobs to our residence. Now he is prepared to help us even more Detroit..The one and only Dr. Norman Prescott.

The crowd erupts and gives a standing ovation.

DR. PRESCOTT The City has let one of our prized resources be contaminated. Our water system.

The crowd hisses and boos.

DR. PRESCOTT (CONT'D) I know how you feel about the CITY COUNCIL and the MAYOR, but let me be the first to tell you that Vintus Global has Detroit's back!

The crowd erupts and cheers even louder.

DR. PRESCOTT (CONT'D) Vote yes on proposal 17. If the city won't keep you safe. Vintus Global will. Vintus Global is life!

CROWD Life is Vintus Global! EXT. COBO HALL EVENT CENTER - NIGHT

Grace and Zach are out back by the dumpsters. Zach is pacing in circles.

GRACE If they killed Pete and let you live, then they can't know much

ZACH You're right, but I still don't trust her though.

GRACE

They wanna keep a close eye on you. Make sure you don't do anything stupid.

ZACH

I know.

GRACE You talk to HUGO?

ZACH

No...I haven't been able to take a piss without someone standing over me, watching me.

GRACE

I'm just glad your still alive.

ZACH

It's something else I need to tell you. The night of the job I saw something while I was waiting for Pete to rescue me.

GRACE

What do you mean?

ZACH

A bunch of executives were having a meeting, Prescott, my mom, and some more suits.... I think Vintus Global caused this water shit.

GRACE

The city controls the utilities for now, how is that even possible?

ZACH

I don't know...but something is going on I hid the footage at-

A Vintus Global Guard peeps his head out a door.

GUARD Your mother is looking for you.

ZACH I'm having a conversation, she can wait.

GUARD I'm not going to ask twice.

INT. TASTES GENTLEMEN'S CLUB - NIGHT

Radio sits and the end of the bar finishing off a cold beer and a shot of whiskey to chase it down. He whispers in the ear of THIGHS(30's), a veteran exotic dancer and hands her a \$100 bill.

THIGHS

Is that him?

Radio points at Ben Fields sitting in a booth drinking a glass of water.

THIGHS (CONT'D) He don't look like much.

INT. TASTES GENTLEMEN'S CLUB VIP ROOM - NIGHT

THIGHS playfully dances for Ben as he gazes into her eyes. In walks RADIO and out walks THIGHS.

RADIO

Mr. Fields.

BEN Is this where you conduct all your business?

RADIO pulls out a Vintus Global access badge and a flash drive.

RADIO What time you got?

BEN A quarter after eleven.

RADIO

My guy says you got 24hr access to her office and passcodes with this badge. This flash drive is encrypted and won't leave a download trace.

BEN You are a man of your word.

RADIO

You only get one shot at this, once you log in, you won't be able to gain access a second time.

Radio gets up and walks out. THIGHS comes back in and finishes Ben's dance.

INT. DEBORAH SHAW'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - DAY 7:48am

Zach stares in the mirror at his Vintus Global jumpsuit. He puts on his boots and buries his head in his hands, trying to mentally lock in. A knock at the door interrupts him.

> ZACH Be down in a sec!

MARIAH SHAW(13) walks thru the door and bear hugs Zach.

MARIAH When did you get here.

ZACH Late last night after the fundraiser.

MARIAH You're moving in?

ZACH Just temporarily until they find me housing.

Zach hugs his sister and kisses her on the cheek.

MARIAH I missed you.

ZACH You've grown since I've seen you.

MARIAH Just a little. Still the same mariah though.

A male voice calls Mariah's name.

ZACH

Who's that!?!

Mariah looks herself once over in the mirror as she stands by the door.

MARIAH Vintus Global Guard. One drops me off to school. Another one picks me up. Moms says it for my protection. MARIAH Tell me about it. We'll catch up later.

Mariah grabs her bookbag and exits Zach's room.

Zach peaks out the window at three Vintus Global Guards standing by a SUV monitoring the perimeter. Mariah hops in the backseat and they pull off.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL EAST PRODUCTION CENTER - DAY

ZACH is sitting in the main lobby watching the other employees go though multiple security check points. A MAN tries to cut the line and casually walks to the front.

> VG GUARD Sir please get to the back of the line.

MAN I can't be late again!

VG GUARD This is not a request.

The guard puts one round in the gun's chamber.

MAN

You're not hearing me! I can't lose any more points this month or they are going to demote me.

The guard hits the MAN in the stomach with his rifle an spits in his face. The line keeps moving along as if nothing happened.

RADIO

You're with me today...Keep your head up high in here, they like to see confidence. Just don't do what that asshole over there did.

ZACH And what exactly do you do?

Radio reaches in his pocket and pulls out a work badge with Zach's face on it.

RADIO

Here...and keep it on at all times.

Zach reads the front of his badge.

ZACH

Zachary Shaw-Janitorial Engineer?

RADIO

You're in LABOR division so pay attention, shit moves fast in here. We're the workers. The glue that keeps the bullshit together. We're the line workers, the drivers, the janitors, and the caterers. All over worked and grossly under paid. Most under a servitude contract like yours.

ZACH

Who works in LOGISTICS then?

RADIO

A bunch of mid-level managers responsible for keeping the company running efficiently, all be it with personnel, transport, or social image...kinda like air traffic control at the airport.

ZACH

And LEADERSHIP?

RADIO

Dr. Prescott, Deborah, the old man, and the new young guy Ethan make all the real decisions now in LEADERSHIP...the other people are just props for the cameras.

Radio fist bumps a couple workers walking by. High fives another.

ZACH So we clean up shit and piss all day...great.

RADIO

That's one way of looking at it...but we also get access to all the other Vintus Global facilities in the city. Access is just as good as power sometimes. INT. VINTUS GLOBAL EAST PRODUCTION CENTER - MAIN FLOOR

Radio is still walking fast as he salutes a few workers loading trucks with pallets of boxed up food and water.

RADIO

(to Zach)

Keep up.

Zach and Radio pass by multiple assembly lines and conveyor belts.

ZACH So how long have you been working here?

RADIO

Too long.

ZACH How long is that?

RADIO

Seven years here, but ten total

ZACH (laughing) You've been a janitor for seven years?

Radio walks to a part of the building that says closed for construction. He lifts and walks thru yellow caution tape and plastic. Zach is following close behind him.

ZACH (CONT'D) What's back here?

Two men grab Zach, press him against the wall and cover his mouth. Radio pulls out a metal detector and scans Zach.

RADIO You think I don't know your mommy sent you!

The men uncover Zach's mouth.

ZACH You're wrong! I swear!

The men carry Zach over to a empty elevator shaft. Zach struggles to get free with no avail.

RADIO Last chance kid, Give me some names.

The men hold Zach closer over the dark hole.

ZACH I'm working off my probation here that's it!

RADIO He's lying, drop him.

INT. BEN AND MADISON FIELDS HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-DAY

BEN folds up a blanket and sits down on the couch in his underwear. Madison, fully dressed, sits next to him and hands him a cup of coffee.

> MADISON Really?...the couch?

BEN You coming in at two and three a.m. was breaking my sleep.

MADISON

Real funny. Lets not start this today.

BEN

Every night for the past week Madison. That doesn't seem odd to you? A married woman creeping in the house at that hour.

MADISON

You still on that? Dammit. It's so weak and I'm tired of hearing it.

BEN

Don't disrespect me!

MADISON

You're disrespecting yourself.

BEN You've changed. MADISON

Look...It's alot going on at work Ben. I'm sorry I don't have time to stroke your fucking ego anymore.

BEN I just want to be able to talk to my wife, watch a movie, do normal things sometimes!

Madison walks in the kitchen. Ben follows her.

- KITCHEN

BEN (CONT'D) I need my wife back.

MADISON This conversation is getting old.

BEN You know what...Fuck it and fuck you!

Ben storms up the stairs and slams the bedroom door. Madison wipes a tear from her eye, fixes her skirt, then walks out the front door.

INT. BEN AND MADISON FIELDS HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

BEN pulls out his pocket the key card Radio gave him last night.

BEN Time to tell the truth and shame the Devil.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL SECURITY CENTER - ELEVATOR - DAY

Ben gets on the elevator and inserts a key card. Floors Alpha, Beta and Gamma illuminate. Ben pushes Beta.

INT. VINTUS GLOBAL SECURITY CENTER - BETA FLOOR - DAY

The floor is silent, LOGISTIC DIVISION is proudly displayed over a huge nova board in front of Ben. No one seems to notice Ben as he grabs a stack of papers off a nearby desk and pretends to look busy. He walks to Madison's office, uses his key car again. The light clicks from red to green on the door. DR. PRESCOTT Ben Fields...good to see you.

BEN Dr. Prescott.

DR. PRESCOTT Looking for Madi?

BEN Madison? My wife...Yes I am actually.

DR. PRESCOTT She's on a special assignment in the field.

BEN We we're supposed to go to lunch. Must of got our signals crossed. Good seeing you Norman.

DR. PRESCOTT How did you get on this floor Ben?

BEN Excuse me?

DR. PRESCOTT You don't have clearance for this floor. How did you get up here?

BEN I'll just leave, tell Madison I came by if you talk to her before me.

Dr. Prescott signals a guard to come over.

DR. PRESCOTT Answer my question Ben.

BEN

Come on... is this really necessary.

Dr. Prescott nods at the guard. The guard restrains Ben to the floor.

BEN (CONT'D) Ok...I slipped in with someone coming up. I wanted to surprise Madison. DR. PRESCOTT Stand him up...search his pockets.

The guard pulls out the key card.

DR. PRESCOTT (CONT'D) This is a serious offense Benjamin...take him downtown to Interrogations and Control.

Ben is restrained and dragged into a stairwell. Dr. Prescott makes a call on his cell phone.

DR. PRESCOTT (CONT'D) You were right...we just caught him with it.

RADIO (V.O) Told you so....so we're even now right?

DR. PRESCOTT Yea we're even.

FADE TO BLACK.

