

Still Standing

By

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Principal characters:

William Johnson - Denzel Washington - quiet, stern, strong

Martin Johnson - John David Washington - easy going, outspoken, positive.

Shawn Harris - Imposing, strong, mean.

Detective Nelson - Charles S. Dutton, strong, determined.

Paul Giovanni - Zach Grenier or Chazz Palminteri type. Strong presence but quiet.

FADE IN:

EXT. SHORELINE LAKE MICHIGAN - DAY

WILLIAM JOHNSON is walking along the water as the sun comes up. He's wearing a hoody with the hood pulled over his head. William stops and stares out onto the lake for a moment with a solemn look on his face.

INT. TRAIN CAR - DAY

William is sitting in a seat with the hood still pulled over his head, same solemn look as the train moves through outer city area. Only one or two others on a train. You hear the train as it moves along.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

The sun is up but it's early morning. William walks up to a tombstone and stands there for a moment. William pulls his hood off then reaches out and places his hand on the tombstone.

William looks down and sees a small bouquet of flowers sitting at the base of the tombstone and William smiles.

WILLIAM

I see your son has been hear. It's still very hard to come here. I thought it would get easier over time,

but time has not been friendly in that way.

William looks around the cemetery.

William pulls the hood back over his head as a tear rolls down his face.

William pats the tombstone then turns and walks away.

INT. BABAER SHOP - DAY

It's an old feeling barbershop with old porcelain barber chairs, a large mirror on the wall behind the chairs and over the mirror is a sign that reads "You hang around the barbershop long enough, sooner or later, you are going to get a haircut" MARTIN is setting things up at his station as William walks in.

WILLIAM

Morning.

MARTIN

Morning.

William takes his hoody off and hangs it on a coat rack then steps into a side room.

William pulls a pistol from the small of his back and places it underneath a stack of towels on a tray. William takes a barber shirt from the shelf and puts it on.

William walks out of the side room carrying the tray of towels and places the tray on the shelf between the barber chairs, then starts buttoning up his barber shirt.

WILLIAM

I see you visited your mother.

MARTIN

I did, Yesterday after work. I knew it was going to be busy today.

A customer walks in. He's an older gentleman with graying hair.

CUSTOMER
Morning.

WILLIAM
Morning.

MARTIN
Morning.

The customer walks over and climbs into William's chair.

William pulls a barber cape from the shelf and drapes it around the customer's neck then begins to fasten it.

A while later William chats with a customer as he pays William. Martin is finishing up with a customer.

Four generations of Taylors walk in lead by the youngest, MIKE who is four years old.

MIKE
Hello.

MARTIN
Hello.

Martin nods as the others enter and take seats.

William's customer walks out. William stops and looks at Mike.

WILLIAM
Good morning young man. What's your name?

MIKE
Mike.

WILLIAM
It's nice to meet you Mike. Are you here for a hair cut?

Mike looks at his father standing behind him and his father nods yes. Mike addresses William.

MIKE

Yes, I am.

William chuckles. William pulls a booster seat from behind his chair and places it on his barber chair then slaps the seat.

WILLIAM

Well Mike, you climb up here and we'll see what we can do.

Mike climbs up into the booster seat and sits down as if he owns the place. Martin's customer leaves and Mike's Father climbs into Martin's chair.

William drapes the cap around Mike's neck and fastens it. William addresses Mike.

WILLIAM

So, what will it be today.

Mike looks at his father and his father holds his hand up and gestures about an inch.

Mike turns to William and gestures about an inch.

WILLIAM

Okay.

William and Martin begin cutting hair.

William points to the oldest Taylor.

WILLIAM

Who's this man sitting there?

MIKE

That's GG Pop.

The man smiles.

WILLIAM

Do you know that he was one of my first customers when I started cutting hair.

Mike shakes his head no. William points to the second man.

WILLIAM

And who is that man?

MIKE

G Pop.

WILLIAM

I started cutting his hear when he was your age.

Mike point to his father.

MIKE

What about my dad?

WILLIAM

Not only did I start cutting his hair when he was your age, but he would not sit still and I cut off a part of his ear.

Mike stiffens up and gets a little scared look on his face as everyone laughs.

MIKE'S FATHER

That's not true, but you hold still while Mr. Johnson cuts your hair and he'll do a fine job.

Martin is cutting Mike's father's hair.

MARTIN

I heard you had a run in with SHAWN HARRIS?

MIKE'S FATHER

Didn't you go to school with him?

MARTIN

I did, and he was nothing but a punk.

MIKE'S FATHER

Well he's moved up to drug dealer and had one of his crew trying to sell on the corner right outside our building. I chased the guy off and he came back with Shawn. We had some words and I told him we would not have anyone selling drugs in this neighborhood. It got loud and a few people pulled out their phones and started recording what was going on. Shawn got the message and they walked away.

MARTIN

I hope they don't come back.

A while later William holds the door open as all four Taylors file out. Mike being carried by his father on his shoulders. William smiles and holds his fist up as Mike passes and Mike fist bumps William's fist.

WILLIAM

You take care Mike.

MIKE

Yes sir.

William lets the door close after the last one exits.

William walks over towards his chair as Martin is sweeping up.

WILLIAM

What do you say we go get some lunch?

MARTIN

Sounds good to me.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

William and Martin are eating lunch in a booth when they hear a rapid series of pops in the distance and both stop eating.

WILLIAM
What was that?

MARTIN
Sounds like fire crackers.

WILLIAM
Kids.

William and Martin go back to eating.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

William and Martin exit the restaurant as a ambulance passes by with its lights and siren going.

William looks down the block as it passes.

WILLIAM
I don't think that was fire crackers.

William and Martin walk in the direction of the ambulance.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

William and Martin walk up to a chaotic scene on the sidewalk where the paramedics and police are moving around.

William pushes into the crowd.

On the sidewalk, laying under blood soaked sheets are the four Taylors. Four legs are coming out from under one sheet, one man laying on top of the other. William looks and sees two small bloody sneakers sticking out from under the sheet also.

William talks to a man in the crowd.

WILLIAM
What happened, a drive by?

MAN

No, they we're executed. Four men
jumped out of a car and started
shooting.

WILLIAM

Shooting at who?

MAN

The four Taylors.

WILLIAM

No, I just saw them.

MAN

The father fell on the little boy and
then one of the others jumped on top of
him, but that didn't stop them from
killing the little boy too.

William pushes his way back and out of the crowd.

William turns around and Martin is standing there. William
has a shocked look on his face.

MARTIN

What happened?

WILLIAM

They're dead.

MARTIN

Who?

WILLIAM

The Taylors.

MARTIN

What?

WILLIAM

Someone gunned them down, all four.

MARTIN

Jesus Christ.

William pushes Martin to turn and cross the street as they walk away.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

William is sitting in a barber chair when Martin comes walking in. William is somber and quite.

WILLIAM
What did you find out?

MARTIN
Four guys jumped out of a car wearing hoods and masks and began shooting.

WILLIAM
At who?

MARTIN
One guy who saw it happen said the Taylors. He said there was no one else there. He said one minute they we're laughing and the next they were laying on the sidewalk dead. He said that one of the shooters stepped onto the sidewalk to make sure they were dead. Then they jumped back into the car and took off.

WILLIAM
I was watching the news and they found the car down by some warehouses.

Martin sits down in a barber chair and looks at the open sign facing in on the door.

MARTIN
Do you think we should open the shop?

William looks at his watch then waves at the sign.

WILLIAM
It's late, leave the closed sign up.

MARTIN

You know, while you were cutting little Mike's hair, his father said he had to chase a drug dealer off the corner next to their building. He said it was one of Shawn Harris's crew and that Shawn Harris returned with the guy and they had words before they both walked away.

WILLIAM

Shawn Harris? You mean the kid I kicked out of the shop several years ago for harassing one of our customers?

MARTIN

Ya, he's now dealing drugs and has a crew working for him.

WILLIAM

And he's come home to the place he knows.

Martin does not respond.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

William is walking down the sidewalk as a police car passes by, William notices.

A few moments later a second police car comes pulling up and stops. William steps off the curb.

WILLIAM

OFFICER GOMEZ, what's going on?

OFFICER GOMEZ

Mr. Johnson.

WILLIAM

Seems to be a greater number of police cars in our neighborhood.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Yes sir. They stepped up patrols since the shooting.

WILLIAM

What can you tell me about that?

OFFICER GOMEZ

We really don't have much. It happened in a matter of seconds. The witnesses did not recognize any of the shooters. The car was stolen that morning and then set on fire down by the empty warehouses on the lake.

William looks around.

WILLIAM

No one mentioned the name Shawn Harris?

OFFICER GOMEZ

Several have, but when they questioned him he had several people say he was down town eating lunch. They pulled the video from the restaurant and that's where he was.

WILLIAM

Of course he was.

OFFICER GOMEZ

I can tell you that they are looking hard at this. We haven't had a shooting in this area in, well, since the shooting at the market several years ago. If you hear anything let us know.

WILLIAM

I will.

William watches as officer Gomez drives away.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

A large crowd is waiting outside the funeral home as William and Martin walk up. Several police cars are parked up and down the street.

William sees Shawn Harris sitting across the street with a couple men at an outside table in front of a coffee shop. Two police officers standing near by.

William sees officer Gomez standing by a car and walks over to him.

WILLIAM
Officer Gomez.

OFFICER GOMEZ
Mr. Johnson.

William looks in Shawn Harris's direction.

WILLIAM
What's he doing here?

Officer Gomez looks around.

OFFICER GOMEZ
Making his presence known.

WILLIAM
Can't you asking him to leave?

OFFICER GOMEZ
We have, a few times, and he refuses.

WILLIAM
So, he's trying to send a message that even the police cannot tell him what to do. Where's his car?

OFFICER GOMEZ
Parked a few blocks down because we cleared the street for the funeral.

WILLIAM
The police can't do anything, but I sure can.

William leans toward walking across the street and officer Gomez grabs his arm.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Don't go over there, we don't need any trouble.

WILLIAM

Don't worry, I'm not going cause any trouble, I'm not even going to talk to them.

Officer Gomez watches as William walks across the street. William walks into the coffee shop.

A few moments later William comes walking out of the coffee shop and back across the street to where officer Gomez is standing.

WILLIAM

See, no trouble.

William turns around and looks across the street.

The open sign in the coffee shop changes from Open to Closed and two coffee shop employees come walking out of the shop. They walk up to Shawn and his men. After talking to a Shawn, Shawn and his men get up and the coffee shop employees pick up the table and chairs then carry them into the coffee shop.

Shawn looks across the street in Williams direction then him and his men walk down the street past the two police officers. The two police officers turn and follow them at a distance.

OFFICER GOMEZ

What did you do?

WILLIAM

I know the owner and suggested it would be respectful if he closed. He was happy to.

William walks away from Officer Gomez.

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAY

There is a long line of mourners. William steps up to an elderly woman with graying hair who holds out her hand. William takes her hand.

WILLIAM

I'm so sorry for you loss. We've never met...

The woman interrupts.

MSS. TAYLOR

I know who you are Mr. Johnson. Most everyone in the neighbor knew your father and knows you. The boys were all talking about how brave Mike was when you cut his hair that morning.

William smiles a slight smile.

WILLIAM

He was.

MSS. TAYLOR

Thank you for coming.

Mss. Taylor lets William's hand go. William reluctantly lowers his hand and steps to the side as Martin steps in front of Mss. Taylor and offers his condolences.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

William and Martin walk quietly down the sidewalk side by side.

William looks up at a faded sign over an empty store. The sign reads "Giovanni's Market". William looks in the empty store as they walk by. Martin notices.

MARTIN

It's been a little over a year since Mss. Giovanni passed and they had her funeral.

WILLIAM

Yes, the streets were just as full of people paying their respects.

MARTIN

You always said this was a strong neighborhood.

WILLIAM

Yes it was. You know, some times we only see what we want to see.

William points towards another closed store as they pass.

WILLIAM

This neighborhood is not as strong as it once was. Walking to the shop the past couple of days and walking home, I saw people standing on street corners doing nothing.

MARTIN

They weren't doing nothing Pop.

WILLIAM

Drug dealers?

MARTIN

Probably.

WILLIAM

Maybe I just didn't want to see what was going on. What's happening to the neighborhood I grew up in.

William and Martin pass another empty store front.

William and Martin begin crossing a side street. William casually looks down the side street and sees a drug deal going down in plain sight.

After crossing the side street William stops and stands there. Martin notices and also stops.

MARTIN

What is it Pop?

WILLIAM

I think I just saw a drug deal
happening on that side street.

MARTIN

They don't seem to care who's watching
anymore.

WILLIAM

But where are the police? Don't they
see this going on?

MARTIN

The minute a police car comes down the
street, they step into a doorway, or
down an alley. The police need to be
out here stalking these drug dealers.

WILLIAM

Do you know how to record things on
your phone?

MARTIN

Yes.

WILLIAM

Video?

MARTIN

No problem. What are you thinking?

WILLIAM

You go around block and come up the
alley behind the drug dealer. Wait
into someone walks up to buy drugs and
take video of him selling. I'm going
to go across the street and up that
alley so he cannot see me. If
something happens, I can be on him in
seconds. Once you're done, meet me
back here.

William and Martin go in different direction.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Martin is making his way down the alley and stops behind a dumpster feet away from the drug dealer.

William is in an alley watching. William is nervous and breathing heavy.

Martin watches and takes video of the drug dealer selling drugs. Then Martin slowly makes his way back down the alley.

William is nervously watching then sees Martin come walking up the street. William walks out of the alley and crosses the street.

William walks up to where Martin is standing.

WILLIAM

Did you get it?

MARTIN

As if I was standing right behind him.
Now what do we do with it?

WILLIAM

We give it to the police.

MARTIN

They can't do anything with it. They
need to catch them making the deal with
the drugs.

WILLIAM

You're right. Let's head back to the
barber shop.

William and Martin walk down the street.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

William and Martin are both sitting in barber chairs, both somber and quietly thinking.

WILLIAM

You know how they talk about people canceling things. They post video of someone doing or saying the wrong think

MARTIN

Ya.

WILLIAM

Why can't we do the same thing. If we posted enough of these videos on the Internet, wouldn't the police have to take notice.

MARTIN

It couldn't hurt to try.

WILLIAM

Then that's what we'll do.

MARTIN

It's funny how black people give up their freedom and allow others to control them.

WILLIAM (A LITTLE ANGRY)

What's funny about it? It's not funny, it's tragic.

MARTIN

I was just saying.

William interrupts Martin.

WILLIAM (A LITTLE ANGRY)

That's not who we are.

MARTIN

I was not talking about us.

WILLIAM (A LITTLE ANGRY)

No? Since when did we become the other black folk. Besides, this neighborhood has whites, Hispanics, Asians. Hell,

there are people living in this neighborhood that are from all over the world and we're all letting these drug dealers move in.

William punches his finger into the arm of the barber chair.

WILLIAM (MORE ANGRY)

We let them move in.

MARTIN

What are we suppose to do?

WILLIAM

First, we organize. Tomorrow, we get that video on the Internet. We organize others to do the same think, upload videos like the one you took. We fight against this. And second, you're going to register.

MARTIN

Register for what?

WILLIAM

To run for alderman of the ward.

MARTIN

I'm what?

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

William walks in and looks around. In the back of the restaurant there is a group of men sitting at a large table.

William walks towards the group.

William walks up to the group and stands there.

MAN 1

William, how are you?

WILLIAM

I'm fine. I was told this is where the liars club meets.

All the men laugh.

MAN 1

Have a seat.

WILLIAM

Thank you.

William pulls a chair from a table and sits down.

MAN 2

What's going on?

WILLIAM

I look around this group and it looks to me like it could be a meeting of the VFW.

MAN 1

You're right, most of us served. Some that served from this neighborhood, never returned.

WILLIAM

I know that all too well.

MAN 2

What can we do for you?

WILLIAM

You've heard that I've been organizing against the drug dealers trying to move into our neighborhood. Well, I'm here to ask for your help. To server some more.

INT. BEAUTY SALON - DAY

The beauty salon is full of customers with a lot of activity going on. It's bright, colorful, and music is playing in the background.

William walks in, stops and looks around then smiles a big smile. One of the women see him.

WOMAN 1

Mr. Johnson, what can we do for you?

Most of the women look in his direction.

WILLIAM

I see your shop is doing a lot better than mine and the clients are much prettier.

A lot of the women begin laughing.

WOMAN 2

We know why you're hear. Just tell us how we can help.

WILLIAM

Music to my ears.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

There are a few men sitting in chairs. William is sitting in a barber chair.

MAN 1

We need the police to see what we see and take notice.

MAN 2

That's right. These drug dealers are using their cellphones to communicate. They let each other know where the police are and what they're doing. They're always a step or two ahead of the police.

WILLIAM

That's where we come in. We all have cellphones and we fill the neighborhood unlike the drug dealers.

MAN 1

But how do we get the police to take notice?

WILLIAM

We show the police what's going on. We provide them with the evidence they cannot collect.

William points to a man.

WILLIAM

Dwayne has setup a YouTube crime channel for the neighborhood.

MAN 2

What's that?

WILLIAM

I don't know. Dwayne, explain it.

DWAYNE

Most of you know how to get on the Internet. This is a place that lets you store videos from your cellphones.

MAN 1

If you do this, won't they come after you?

DWAYNE

They can try, but I don't control it. I friend that I will not name set everything up. And they can't even trace it back to this person. Like Martin did, you take video with your phone, upload it and moments later it appears on the Internet for the world to see. Here.

Dwayne passes out a card to each of the men.

DWAYNE

This has instruction on how to upload video and pictures.

WILLIAM

Here's what we want. Drug deals going down. The vehicles they use with tag numbers. Places they are dealing in. The dealers themselves and their customers.

MAN 2

Isn't it against the law to video tape someone on the street?

DWAYNE

Not if it's in public. As long as you can see it being done, and done in public, you can take video of anything.

MAN 1

And how do we get the police to use the video?

WILLIAM

Martin and I are meeting with the police Tomorrow.

MAN 1

Where is Martin?

WILLIAM

He's running for alderman, so he's out going door to door talking to people and handing out flyers.

MAN 2

Martin is running for alderman?

WILLIAM

All of this has happened under alderman Sanchez's watch. How long has he been alderman?

MAN 1

Going on ten years.

WILLIAM

And what has he done for us? When was the last time you even saw him?

MAN 2

Only when he's running for re-election.

WILLIAM

That's right. He doesn't even live in this ward. You want someone who cares about us? Cares about this neighborhood and the others in this ward? You vote for my son. Martin has lived here his whole life and cares.

MAN 2

Sounds like you're his campaign manger.

Everyone laughs and William smiles.

WILLIAM

Maybe I should be.

INT. BARBER STOP - DAY

William is sitting in a barber chair reading the paper and Martin is sweeping up. Alderman Sanchez walks in.

William stops reading.

WILLIAM

Alderman.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

Mr. Johnson.

WILLIAM

Martin, would you go and get me a cup of coffee.

Martin stands the broom in the corner and leaves, flipping the closes sign on the door as he does.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

He changed the open sign to closed.

WILLIAM

He knew we needed to talk in private.

COUNSELMAN SANCHEZ

Word is, you are organizing against the drug dealers, getting videos uploaded of what they are doing.

WILLIAM

And?

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

And I was just wondering why you did not come to me? I represent your ward.

WILLIAM

And yet these drug dealers continue to expand their territories.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

What are you saying?

WILLIAM

I was just pointing out that if the programs you and the other aldermen supported worked, we would not have a problem.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

And you think you have a better way?

WILLIAM

We do. First we're going to start getting the drug dealers off the streets, then come election day, we're going to replace you.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

I heard your son is running. There's no way he's going to beat me.

WILLIAM

We'll see about that. I know that in this country, you have a right to protect yourself, your family and your community. And we're going to exercise those rights.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

I heard that you have a meeting with the local police department tomorrow. Do you think they are going to look the other way.

WILLIAM

Not at all. Since most live in this ward and other wards that are being infested with drugs, I think they are going to work with us. Their people that have sworn an oath to protect. And if they don't, it will not stop us.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

I don't want to see this get out of control.

William laughs.

WILLIAM

Out of control. A lot of the wards in this city are flooded with drugs and guns. Why do you think that is?

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

National, state and local programs have not worked to curb the flow of drugs and guns into our city.

WILLIAM

You keep telling yourself that. The real reason is money. As long as drugs keep coming in, the federal dollars keep flowing. That's why nothing is ever done. The two most powerful groups in this city need to be paid. The drug dealers and the politicians.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ (ANGRY)

I take that as an insult. I grew up on these streets. I grew up in "O Block". I've lost family to drugs and gun violence.

WILLIAM

Then don't take it as an insult. Take it as an acknowledgement of the work that you've done since being elected. It's time for a change.

Alderman Sanchez storms out and passes Martin as he returns.

ALTERMANE (SARCASTICLY)

Good luck.

The door closes behind the alderman. Martin walks up to William and hands him a cup of coffee then sits in a chair.

MARTIN

He doesn't look happy.

WILLIAM

He's not and I don't care.

MARTIN

He could cause trouble.

WILLIAM

Like what, more drug dealers, more guns? No, he wants that status quo to stay the same.

William takes a drink.

WILLIAM

He knows we're meeting with the police.

MARTIN

Is that a problem?

WILLIAM

I don't know. We need them to remove the drug dealers. If they don't want to help, we'll have a war on our hands.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

William and Martin are walking down the street and enter the police station.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

DETECTIVE NELSON leads William and Martin into the police captain's office. The police captain gets up and greets them.

CAPTAIN

Gentlemen, please come in and have a seat.

They all shake hands and sit down.

There is a knock at the door and everyone looks to see alderman Sanchez enter then closes the door behind him.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

Sorry I'm late.

William looks at the captain sitting behind his desk.

WILLIAM

I thought this was going to be a private meeting?

CAPTAIN

It is.

WILLIAM

Well then he'll have to leave.

The captain gets an uncomfortable look on his face and looks at alderman Sanchez who is taken by surprise.

The alderman gets a little angry and leaves the room.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

A while later William, Martin and Detective Nelson come out of the Captain's office. Alderman Sanchez is sitting in a chair outside the Captain's office.

DETECTIVE NELSON
I'll walk you out.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

William, Martin and Detective Nelson are walking through the police station as some of the officers watch.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

William and Martin come walking out and walk down the sidewalk.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

William and Martin enter the restaurant and stop. Detective Nelson enters and brushes by them.

DETECTIVE NELSON
Excuse me.

Detective Nelson motions with his head for Martin to follow him while William is talking to someone.

WILLIAM
Let's sit down.

Martin motions with his head to the back of the restaurant and walks to the back with William following him.

In the back of the restaurant, detective Nelson is sitting in a booth. Martin slides in across from him and William follows.

MARTIN
What's going on?

Detective Nelson looks around to see who is close.

DETECTIVE NELSON

I could not talk in the police station. I just wanted to let you know that the moment you left, alderman Sanchez when in to talk to the captain.

WILLIAM

And what did the captain say?

DETECTIVE NELSON

I don't know, but I'm betting he told him everything that was discussed.

MARTIN

Are you saying we can't trust the captain?

DETECTIVE NELSON

No, this thing you are doing, uploading all these videos. It has traction and has too many eyes on it.

MARTIN

Then what?

Detective Nelson looks around again.

DETECTIVE NELSON

You can't trust the alderman.

MARTIN

With me running against him, we knew that.

DETECTIVE NELSON

No, seriously, you cannot trust the alderman.

Detective Nelson gets up and leaves. William gets up and sits down across from Martin.

MARTIN

What was that about?

William looks around.

WILLIAM

I'm not sure, but since you started running against him, I've been hearing some things about the alderman. We need to keep an eye on him.

A waitress walks up.

INT. BARBER SHOP - NIGHT

The barber shop is empty. Martin is sweeping up. Shaw Harris walks in.

SHAWN

Martin.

Martin turns around holding the broom. Shaw is holding a gun on Martin and Martin sees the gun.

MARTIN

Shawn.

SHAWN

So, you've got the people organizing against us. Using their phones to record us, track us, and uploading videos for the police to use against us. That won't do.

MARTIN

Shawn, you don't want to do this.

Martin looks at the shelf between the barber chairs and the tray of towels is not there.

SHAWN

There's no other way. You saw to that by stepping in the middle of things.

Shawn raises his gun and from behind William appears. William places the barrel of a gun against Shawn's head and chocks the hammer. William is wearing black cleaning gloves.

WILLIAM

Son, didn't I kick you out of this barber shop several years ago. What makes you think you have the right to come back in here?

SHAWN

Look here old man, you know how this is going to end.

WILLIAM

Yes, I do. But right now you have a choice. You can pull the trigger and I will BLOW YOUR BRAINS OUT all over the walls of this shop or, you can walk out of here.

After a long pause Shawn lowers his gun. William reaches down and yanks the gun from Shawn's hand.

WILLIAM

Now, you're going to turn around and walk out.

MARTIN

Pop, if he walks out of here.

William interrupts Martin.

WILLIAM

I know.

Shawn turns to look at William. Shawn walks towards the door with William following holding his gun on Shawn the whole way.

EXT. BARBER SHOP - NIGHT

Shawn comes walking out of the barber shop with William and Martin following. Shawn stops and straightens his jacket.

William moves to Shawn's side still holding the gun on him. Shawn is smiling.

SHAWN

You know old man, this is not over.

William lowers the gun and raises his other hand with Shawn's gun.

WILLIAM

For you it is.

William pulls the trigger and shoots Shawn in the head. Shawn drops dead on the sidewalk.

William kneels down next to Shawn's body, blood pooling under Shawn's head. William lays the gun next to Shawn's body and stands back up.

Martin is standing there with a surprised look on his face as William walks past him and into the barber shop. Martin follows William into the barber shop.

MARTIN

Pop what did you do?

WILLIAM

I cut the head off the snake. Call the police. Tell them someone committed suicide outside our barber shop.

INT. BARBER SHOP - NIGHT

William and Martin are sitting in barber chairs. Detective Nelson is standing in the barber shop with several officers milling around outside the shop door.

DETECTIVE NELSON

So, what can you tell me about what happened here.

WILLIAM

My son was in back. I was sweeping up when I saw someone walk up outside, put a gun to their head and pull the trigger.

DETECTIVE NELSON
That someone was Shawn Harris.

WILLIAM
Huh.

DETECTIVE NELSON
Was he by himself, no one else with
him?

WILLIAM
None that I could see.

Detective Nelson looks at Martin.

DETECTIVE NELSON
What did you see?

MARTIN
I was in back. I didn't see anything

Detective Nelson looks back at William.

WILLIAM
Son, why don't you head home. I'll see
you in the morning.

William slowly gets out of the chair, takes his coat off
the rack and leaves.

DETECTIVE NELSON
Mister Johnson, I hope you can see
where I'm coming from. You're
organizing against the drug dealers and
one of them commits suicide outside
your shop. Something doesn't seem
right.

William does not respond.

DETECTIVE NELSON
Shawn Harris is never alone unless he
intends to kill someone. That way,
none of his associates can turn on him
if they get arrested. If they think

you had anything to do with this, there could be repercussions.

William does not respond. Detective Nelson takes a business card from his pocket and hands it to William.

DETECTIVE NELSON

If there is anything else you can think of, or you want to talk, you give me a call.

William sits there as Detective Nelson leaves.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

William and Martin are sitting in a booth eating breakfast. William is eating and Martin is picking at his food.

MARTIN

Are we going to talk about this.

William looks around.

WILLIAM

There is nothing to talk about. You did nothing wrong.

MARTIN

Me? You always told me, violence is a weak man's response.

William stops eating, leans back, and looks out the window.

WILLIAM

I would hope you could see there was no other way. If it had gone the other way, I would have lost you, and that I could not have. So yes, I was weak, I could not think of another way to handle the situation.

William looks at Martin

MARTIN

Is that your way of telling me what happened last night was okay?

WILLIAM

No, I'm just telling you what was going through my head.

MARTIN

Are you sure this whole thing doesn't have something to do with Mom?

William takes a deep breath and exhales.

WILLIAM

Yes, your mother was killed when a bunch of drug dealers decided to shoot up the street. Does this have anything to do with what happened to her, it probably does.

William looks at Martin.

WILLIAM

What I will say is, the blood on my hands will never wash off. That's why you're hands have to remain clean.

MARTIN

So what do we do now?

WILLIAM

We keep up the pressure.

William smiles.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Someone is watching as William locks the barbershop and walks away. They follow William, getting closer as William walks.

William steps to the curb at a corner and this person steps up next to William.

William looks at the person and recognized Detective Nelson.

DETECTIVE NELSON

Don't say a word, look forward.

William looks forward.

DETECTIVE

Go into the diner at the end of the block. Sit down in the back and order coffee. Someone wants to talk to you.

Detective Nelson steps off the curb and crosses the street leaving William standing there for a moment. William pats the small of his back then crosses the street also.

INT. DINER - NIGHT

William enters the diner. There are only a few people in the diner. William makes his way to the back and sits down in a booth. A waitress approaches William.

WAITRESS

What can I get you?

WILLIAM

Just coffee please.

The waitress walks away. William looks around the diner.

The waitress brings William a cup of coffee and sets it down on the table.

WILLIAM

Thank you.

The waitress walks away. A woman sitting at the far end of the counter gets up, picks up her cup of coffee and make her way back to where William is sitting then sits down in the booth opposite of William.

WOMAN

Mr. Johnson.

WILLIAM

And you are?

WOMAN

Someone who wants to talk to you.

WILLIAM

About what?

WOMAN

The night Shawn Harris died outside
"your" business.

WILLIAM

I already told the other detective
everything I know.

WOMAN

That's fine, but I'm not with the
police department.

WILLIAM

Then enlighten me, tell me who you are?

WOMAN

I can't do that.

WILLIAM

Then why are we talking?

WOMAN

How much do you know about Shawn Harris
and what he did?

WILLIAM

He was a punk that grew up in the
neighborhood. After being away for a
few years, he returned as a drug dealer
trying to make our neighborhood his
own.

WOMAN

Until you and your son organized
against him. He didn't like that did
he?

William does not respond.

WOMAN

Mr. Johnson, Shawn Harris had a reputation of acting alone when he was out to kill someone.

WILLIAM

So, I've been told. That way none of his crew could snitch on him if they got arrested.

WOMAN

I suppose that is true. But Shawn Harris was part of an organization and had to account for the money he took it. Shawn found a way to make money that was not accounted for. Shawn Harris would kill people for money. I have information that the night he died outside your business, he was there to kill your son.

William does not respond or react.

WOMAN

Is there anything you want to tell me Mr. Johnson?

William pauses for a moment.

WILLIAM

Who paid him to kill my son?

WOMAN

That, I don't know yet. I was hoping you could tell me.

WILLIAM

I don't know of anyone who would want my son dead, other than Shawn Harris for what we're doing.

The woman gets up.

WILLIAM

Wait, who are you?

WOMAN

If you can think of anything, let
Detective Nelson know.

The woman walks away leaving William sitting there.

EXT. DINER - NIGHT

William comes walking out and stops. William looks both
ways up and down the street then walks away.

William is walking down the street in thought. William
pulls he phone from his pocket and calls.

WILLIAM

Where are you? Are you alone? Good,
stay there, lock the door and don't
answer it, I'm coming over.

William ends the call and puts the phone in his pocket then
looks behind himself as he walks.

INT. MARTIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

There is a knock at the door and Martin walks to the door.
From the other side of the door.

WILLIAM

It's me.

Martin opens the door. William walks in and Martin closes
the door behind him.

WILLIAM

Lock it.

INT. MARTIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

William walks in followed by Martin. William sits down and
so does Martin.

MARTIN

What's going on?

WILLIAM

That detective, Nelson, he walked up next to me on the street and told me to go to a diner, that someone wanted to talk to me.

MARTIN

Who?

WILLIAM

I don't know. Some woman sat down in the booth with me. She told me that Shawn Harris came to the barber shop to kill you that night.

MARTIN

I think I got that impression.

WILLIAM

No, she said he was hired to kill you. That Shawn was making money on the side as a hired killer.

MARTIN

Who would want me dead, other than him?

Martin cocks his head and looks off into the distance.

WILLIAM

What is it?

MARTIN

There's a statement I never thought I would say. Who would want me dead?

WILLIAM

I don't know, do you?

Martin thinks.

MARTIN

I don't know.

WILLIAM

Look, you have to be careful. Shawn did not do the job, so, whoever hired him may have hired someone else. Don't come to the shop tomorrow.

MARTIN

I can't stay here, I have a press conference at the firehouse tomorrow.

WILLIAM

Okay, stay here until it's time to leave and I'll come and get you.

MARTIN

What do I do after that?

WILLIAM

We'll think of something.

INT. FIREHOUSE - DAY

The fire house doors are open to provide more room. The vehicles have been removed and chairs put in their place. A small raised area with a podium is at one end and the place is full of people.

Martin walks onto the raised area and up to the podium. He seems composed with a few pages in his hand.

Speech:

MARTIN

I would like to say thank you for coming. I guess we can get stared. We need to work together to solve our problems. We need to work with the police.

The crowd grumbles a little.

MARTIN

I know that's not a popular statement, but we need them to remove the drug

dealers and guns from our streets.
That's what they're paid to do and
that's what we can expect them to do.

A few people clap.

MARTIN

Growing up, my father taught me good
from bad and right from wrong.
He did not talk about good Black people
versus bad White people. Or right
Hispanics versus wrong Asian's. But
now you hear politicians talking about
these things in terms of one group
versus another.

A few people clap.

MARTIN

It's funny. Growing up I learned about
history and thought how hard it had to
be during the Civil war. One part of
the country fighting against the other.
Control and Division. Then during the
civil rights movement, how hard that
had to be with one group fight for
segregation and the other fighting for
unification. Control and division.
For a kid in school, it appeared as
thou the worst was behind us, but hear
we are, again, with people trying to
Control and Divide us. The difference
is this time, we, as a community know
who is right and who is wrong.

Most of the crowd clap and cheer.

MARTIN

We're are a community made up of people
from many different backgrounds. If we
let them divide us, there will be no
community left. So, what do we do? We
stand together, shoulder to shoulder,
as a community and we effect the
changes that will make us so strong

that the people who want to control us,
who want to divide us, know better than
to come here. I'm running for alderman
to represent you, to represent this
ward. I hope you'll vote for me.

All of the crowd clap and cheer.

MARTIN

Any questions?

Several of the reporters raise their hands. Martin points
to one.

REPORTER 1

I read that you do not have a college
degree and no political experience.

MARTIN

I went to college for a little over a
year and have never held office. So,
no, I don't. I'm running to simply
represent the people of this ward.

Several reporters raise their hands and Martin points to
one.

Alderman Sanchez is standing in the back watching as
William walks up.

WILLIAM

Alderman, I didn't expect to see you
hear.

ALDERMAN SANCHEZ

I need to know who I'm running against.

Alderman Sanchez walks away.

REPORTER 2

Your opponent has raised several
million for his campaign. How much
have you raised for your campaign?

Martin smiles.

MARTIN

Nothing. I paid for the flyers you'll see in store windows out of my own pocket. Like the other reporter mentioned, I really don't have any experience.

The whole crowd laughs. Several reporters raise their hands and Martin points to one.

REPORTER 3

I could not find your Twitter account?

MARTIN

I don't have one. No one wants to hear what I think at any given moment. At least I hope not.

Several in the crowd laugh.

MARTIN

I'm out there going door to door. I am talking to people, finding out what they think, what's important to them. I can't represent them if I don't know what they need.

Several in the crowd clap. Several reporters raise their hands and Martin points to one.

REPORTER 4

Do you consider yourself a democrat or republican?

MARTIN

Neither. I'm registered as independent, always have been. This ward is made up of a diverse group of people and I need to represent them all. It also allows me to complain about both parties equally.

The whole crowd laughs.

MARTIN

It also allows me to work with both parties without a commitment to one or the other.

REPORTER 5

This ward has been represented by a democratic alderman for a long time. What makes you think you can win?

MARTIN

It's very simple, change. We've seen a lot of it in this ward over the past several years. In my opinion, most of it has been for the worse. So, if the people in this ward want it to stay the same, then don't vote for me. It's that simple.

Many in the crowd cheer.

MARTIN

Thank you for coming.

Martin walks away from the podium and several people step forward to shake his hand and talk to him.

EXT. MARTIN'S HOUSE - DAY

It's evening. William is sitting on the steps outside Martin's house waiting for him as Martin walks up and stops.

WILLIAM

How'd things go?

MARTIN

Okay I guess. I must have talked to a hundred people before getting out of that firehouse.

WILLIAM

That's good.

MARTIN

You think?

WILLIAM

They could have just walked away.

William and Martin smile.

MARTIN

Yes, they could have.

Martin sits down on the step with William.

A man walks by and points at Martin.

MAN

Alderman.

MARTIN

We'll see.

William looks around.

WILLIAM

I can remember when your grandfather moved us into this house. We were the only black family in the neighborhood. This was an Italian community and they were starting to move to the suburbs.

MARTIN

How was that?

Martin smiles.

WILLIAM

A challenge.

MARTIN

Is that when he bought the barber shop?

WILLIAM

Did I ever tell you how your grandfather came to own the barber shop?

MARTIN

No.

WILLIAM

The original owner took a liking to your grandfather when he was just a kid. He was an old Italian man who came over from Italy and had no family. He taught your grandfather how to cut hair. When he died, he left the shop to your grandfather and that caused quite a stir. Your grandfather, being black, the family did not like it.

MARTIN

The family?

WILLIAM

The group of Italian men who controlled things in the area, if you know what I mean.

William looks at Martin and places his finger against his nose.

MARTIN (SURPRISED)

Really?

WILLIAM

One of the old timers needed a place to meet his mistress and it was decided that your grandfather would rent the apartment above the shop to this man, and because of that, it was okay.

MARTIN

So Grand Pop was a friend of the mafia.

WILLIAM

Until the old timer had a heart attack and passed ways in bed with his mistress.

MARTIN (SURPRISED)

What?

WILLIAM

Your grandfather called one of the man's sons and they got him out of there so his wife would not find out. After that, they left your grandfather alone. I guess they did not want anyone to find out. That and by then a lot of the family members had moved away. The only hold out was Mss. Giovanni.

MARTIN

The woman who owned the grocery store?

WILLIAM

She did not want to give up the business her husband had left her. Her husband was the man who had the heart attack.

MARTIN

The things your parents never tell you.

William and Martin both smile.

WILLIAM

Ya, well, keep that under you hat. Look, the reason I stopped by was to give you something.

William reaches behind himself and pulls an envelope out of his pocket then hands it to Martin.

MARTIN

What's this?

Martin opens the envelope and pulls out a deed.

MARTIN

What's this for?

WILLIAM

I figure you're going to inherit everything anyway, so, if you're going to be an alderman you should own a house.

MARTIN

I don't understand, it's your house. I'm just a renter.

WILLIAM

Consider all those rent payments as mortgage payments.

Martin puts his arm around William.

MARTIN

Thanks Pop.

WILLIAM

It would make your mother happy. Besides, you may not want to thank me just yet. You're now responsible to keep the place from falling down.

William and Martin both laugh. Martin puts the envelope into his pocket.

WILLIAM

Look, there's something else.

MARTIN

What?

WILLIAM

I think you should find someone to go with you to these events. I'm worried about what could happen.

MARTIN

If today is any indication, I should be fine.

WILLIAM

I'm not so sure. The Police picked up two drug dealers off the information we helped provide.

MARTIN

That's good.

WILLIAM

Yes, but sooner or later someone is going to make it there business to stop what we started.

MARTIN

I'll be careful. Now, why don't you come in my house and I'll cook us some dinner.

Martin and William stand up.

WILLIAM

Do you have any food in the refrigerator?

MARTIN

Actually, no. Maybe we ought to go down the street to the diner. I'm buying.

WILLIAM

Damn straight you're buying.

Both William and Martin laugh as they walk away.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

William and Martin are eating. William pulls a card from his pocket and hands it to William.

WILLIAM

What's this?

MARTIN

This man stopped me at the firehouse. He said he was with the democratic

party of Chicago and would like to have a meeting. Couldn't hurt to talk, right?

WILLIAM

I don't see why not. Keep in mind that Sanchez is a democrat.

MARTIN

I know. I figure I would let them do the talking and just listen.

WILLIAM

Sounds smart. One of customers today said that Sanchez has been asking a lot of questions about you.

MARTIN

Like what?

WILLIAM

What kind of trouble you've been in. Who you have been seeing. Do you owe anyone money.

MARTIN

What do you think he wants?

WILLIAM

I don't know. If I was to guess, I would say things he can talk about. Things he can use against you.

MARTIN

I guess not having a political background is a good thing.

WILLIAM

I don't know.

MARTIN

Well, he won't find anything.

WILLIAM

That's what I'm worried about. If he doesn't, I'm afraid he'll make things up. That's something to think about. I would still feel better with what's going on if you had someone going around with you.

MARTIN

Who would you suggest? Who would you trust?

WILLIAM

Do you remember Nate Williams?

MARTIN

The guy I use to play basketball with? He when into the army.

WILLIAM

He just got out of the army. He stopped by the shop to say hello and that his mother told him about us organizing against the drug dealers. He was surprised that the drug dealers had moved in to the area. You two were pretty close weren't you?

MARTIN

We were.

WILLIAM

He's staying with his mother. Give him a call.

MARTIN

I'll stop by and say hello.

WILLIAM

Even better.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

William and Martin are cutting hair when Nate walks in and sits down.

WILLIAM
Nate, how are you.

NATE
Fine Mr. Johnson.

MARTIN
Pop, after this customer I've got an appointment with the guy we talked about at dinner. Nate's going to go with me.

WILLIAM
No problem.

Later, Martin and Nate walk out the door as an older man walks in, sits down and begins reading a paper.

William finished up with a customer and the customer leaves.

WILLIAM
You're next.

MAN
Do you remember me Mr. Johnson?

WILLIAM
I do Mr. Giovanni. It's been a long time.

MR. GIOVANNI
It has, but I have not forgotten how your father looked after my father.

Mr. Giovanni points up towards the apartment above the shop.

MR. GIOVANNI
Also, what happened with your wife and my mother.

WILLIAM
Again, that was a long time ago.

MR. GIOVANNI

I still have a cousin who lives in the area. He told me about what you have been doing to take care of the old neighborhood and what happened outside your shop. He also told me that your son is running for alderman.

WILLIAM

The neighborhood has gone downhill since a lot of the Italian families moved away.

MR. GIOVANNI

I know. It's a shame. Your current alderman is not making an effort to help. And when I say that, I mean he's lining his pockets at this neighborhood and others expense.

Mr. Giovanni stands up and pulls an envelope from his pocket.

MR. GIOVANNI

You're son, he's not a politician.

WILLIAM

No, he's not, but he's learning.

Mr. Giovanni hands the envelope to William.

WILLIAM

What's this?

MR. GIOVANNI

Consider it a campaign contribution for your son.

WILLIAM

Mr. Giovanni, we can't except this.

MR. GIOVANNI

Look, I moved away because I didn't want anything to do with my father's other family and I've been successful.

WILLIAM

Mr. Giovanni, my son is not looking for campaign contributions.

Mr. Giovanni smiles.

MR. GIOVANNI

Your son is going to need all the help he can get. You tell your son, he should never let the other side know what he has, and because of that, I suggest he not claim all of that.

Mr. Giovanni hands William a business card.

MR. GIOVANNI

You tell your son, if he needs more to give me a call.

William shakes Mr. Giovanni's hand and Mr. Giovanni leaves.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

It's evening. William is sitting in a chair reading the paper when Martin comes in. Martin waves to Nate who is out side walking by the barber shop. William puts the paper down.

WILLIAM

How did it go?

MARTIN

Nate and I both think that they were just trying to find out what I have planned.

WILLIAM

He didn't try to discourage you or intimidate you?

MARTIN

No.

William points to the envelope sitting on the counter.

WILLIAM

That's for you?

Martin walks over and opens the envelope full of money.

MARTIN

What's this?

WILLIAM

I had a visitor. Paul Giovanni.

Martin shrugs.

WILLIAM

Paul's father is the one who rented the apartment above the shop from your grandfather.

William points to the apartment about the shop.

WILLIAM

His mother owned Giovanni's Market down the block. He left that for you as a campaign contribution.

Martin puts his finger next to his nose.

MARTIN

You mean? I can't accept this.

WILLIAM

No, he's not. He was never involved with their family. He's a legitimate business man. Look him up on the Internet.

MARTIN

Still, I don't know how to claim this.

WILLIAM

You better find out. He said you're going to need a lot of help and offered more.

MARTIN

I don't know.

WILLIAM

I got the feeling the man understood a lot more about politics than we do, but it's up to you. His business card is in the envelope. If you decides to keep it, I would suggest you call him and thank him.

MARTIN

I have to think about this.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

There is a large group of church goers leaving a church. Martin is in the crowd talking to people as they mingle with Nate close by.

William is on the outside of the crowd waiting for Martin when he notices a man moving through the crowd not talking to anyone with his hands in his pockets. William watches the man as he moves around in the crowd.

William has moved closer to Nate and is waiting when he spots the same man moving in the crowd.

WILLIAM

Nate, you see that man over there?

Nate looks around the shrugs.

WILLIAM

The man with a brown coat, walking around.

Nate looks around again.

NATE

I don't see anyone.

William watches as the man begins to move closer to Martin.
The crowd is beginning to thin.

William watches the man get closer and becomes anxious.

WILLIAM (LOUDLY)

Nate.

Nate looks at William as William points.

WILLIAM (LOUDLY)

That man there.

Nate looks around the crowd.

The man is moving closer to Martin and he takes his hand out of his pocket. William, with a scared look on his face begins to push past the people in the crowd. William sees the man wave to Martin and Martin nods to the man. The man turns and begins moving away.

William comes walking up to Martin and Nate.

WILLIAM (ANXIOUS)

Didn't you see that man making his way towards Martin with his hands in his pocket?

NATE

No.

WILLIAM (ANXIOUS)

The man waived at you and you nodded to him.

Martin smiles.

MARTIN

You mean the man with the single ear bud?

WILLIAM (ANXIOUS)
What's an ear bud?

MARTIN
The thing all the kids are running
around with sticking out of their ears?

WILLIAM (ANXIOUS)
Ya, he had those.

NATE
Actually, he only had one.

WILLIAM
What does that mean?

MARTIN
The man who came to see you the other
day.

WILLIAM
Ya.

MARTIN
I called him as you asked and he
suggested I have someone in the crowd
to keep an eye on things. He gave me a
number to call for security any time
I'm out is public. You'll be able to
tell who they are because they'll be
wearing one ear bud in their left ear.
It's their way of identifying
themselves to us.

WILLIAM
Well that's good.

MARTIN
You want some lunch?

WILLIAM
I think I need a drink.

All three smile.

MARTIN

Let's get some lunch.

INT. REC CENTER HALL - NIGHT

William is standing with Nate in a rec center hall full of people.

WILLIAM

What are we doing here?

NATE

We were told that if Martin wanted to win votes, he had to show up and meet people in this area of the ward.

WILLIAM

I'm not comfortable talking to people I don't know.

NATE

We'll, if you ask me, after watching Martin over the past few months, he seems to be.

Nate see Martin walking towards them.

NATE

And here he comes.

William looks in Martin's direction and Martin is walking with a woman holding his arm.

MARTIN

Pop, I want you to meet Charlotte.
Charlotte this is my father.

William holds out his hand and Charlotte shakes it.

WILLIAM

So, this is the one. No wonder you've been hiding her, she's beautiful.

CHARLOTTE

It's a pleasure to meet you Mr. Johnson.

WILLIAM

Call me William.

CHARLOTTE

Martin has told me a lot about you.

WILLIAM

Now I'm worried.

Everyone laughs.

WILLIAM

My son said you recently moved back into the area to take care of your mother?

CHARLOTTE

Yes, I took a leave of absence from the law firm I work at.

WILLIAM

He said you were on track to become partner?

CHARLOTTE

I was, but family comes first.

WILLIAM

That's what my son says, but for some reason, he's taken his time to introduce us.

Charlotte looks at Martin.

CHARLOTTE

I've been wondering that same thing.

MARTIN

We need to mingle.

WILLIAM

Is that what it's called. Mingling.

William smiles as Martin and Charlotte walk away.

WILLIAM

I guess that's how it works, run for office, get a girl.

NATE

No, she caught his eye when we were back in grade school. She went to a different high school, then off to college. To tell you the truth, back in school he was too scared to talk to her. When we ran into her at a coffee shop a few blocks from here, he got so nervous I thought he was going to pass out.

WILLIAM

Well, he seems to have overcome his shyness.

NATE

He told me, when you told him he should run for office, it was like a door opened. He said the idea that you thought he could do something like that give him the confidence to do it.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Martin is walking down the sidewalk when he pulls out his phone and dials.

MARTIN

This is Martin Johnson. I think we should meet.

Pause

MARTIN

You tell me where and when.

Pause

MARTIN

I'll be there in thirty minutes.

INT. BAR - DAY

Martin enters and looks around. Martin moves towards the back of the bar and sits down in a booth with Paul Giovanni.

MARTIN

Thank you for meeting me.

MR. GIOVANNI

No problem.

MARTIN

I'm starting to feel like I owe you.
Why are you helping me?

MR. GIOVANNI

Your father didn't tell you?

MARTIN

I have found that most people do not
help without wanting something.

MR. GIOVANNI (A LITTLE LOUD)

I get the feeling I should be insulted.

A man sitting a few booths away stands up. Mr. Giovanni hold his hand up and the man sits back down.

MARTIN

No disrespect, I just want to know what
I'm getting into.

MR. GIOVANNI

Fare enough. What do you know about
my family?

MARTIN

My father told me about your father renting the apartment above the barber shop. He said you didn't want anything to do with your father's business and you moved away. But that does not tell me why you are helping me now.

MR. GIOVANNI

A little regret, mixed with a little guilt.

MARTIN

About what?

MR. GIOVANNI

When I told my father I wanted to go to college and become an accountant, he excluded me from the family business. He wanted me to be able to lead a life that didn't include elements of his world. I regret that, because I was never as close to my father as my brother was.

MARTIN

And the guilt?

MR. GIOVANNI

Do you know how your mother died?

MARTIN

She was caught in the cross fire between some street gangs.

MR. GIOVANNI

Sort of. The drug dealers were moving in to the area and my mother stood up to them. So, one afternoon they pulled up in front of the store and began shooting. Your mother was in front when it happened. She saw them coming and yelled to my mother to "get down". My mother dropped to the floor as bullets came flying through the store

windows. She was not hurt but your mother, well.

MARTIN

So it wasn't street gangs?

MR. GIOVANNI

It wasn't gang violence. A few days later my brother and several associates returned to the old neighborhood and the drug dealers left.

MARTIN

Left?

MR. GIOVANNI

Let's just say they were no longer there and the word was put out to stay away, which they did. Until a few years ago after my mother passed away.

MARTIN

That's not your fought.

MR. GIOVANNI

I still feel a little guilty that your mother died because my mother was too stubborn to move away. An a little regret that I was not with my brother after the attack happened. This was my neighborhood before you were even born. I have a lot of memories of the old neighborhood and I hate to see what's happening here. So you see, I only want to help, no strings attached.

MARTIN

No strings, I have your word?

MR. GIOVANNI

You do. On another note. I never knew alderman Sanchez very well, so I did some digging and you should know, he can be dangerous. I cannot prove it,

but I think he has ties to some of the people bringing drugs into the city.

MARTIN

So that's why you suggested I have some security when I'm out in public?

MR. GIOVANNI

No, I made that suggestion because of what you and your father have done to organized people in your community. With what I have found out about the alderman, I suggest you watch your back when you are not out in public.

Martin thinks for a moment then holds out his hand and Mr. Giovanni shakes it.

MARTIN

Thank you for your support and for taking the time to meet with me.

MR. GIOVANNI

You're welcome.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Martin and Nate are having lunch in a booth when a woman approaches the booth.

Martin and Nate look up.

NATE

Can I help you?

WOMAN

Yes you can. Would you mind leaving us alone for a few minutes.

Nate looks at Martin.

MARTIN

It's okay, give us a few minutes.

Nate gets up and walks away. The woman sits down in Nates spot.

MARTIN

You're the woman that talked to my father a few months ago.

WOMAN

I am.

MARTIN

Who are you and what do you want?

WOMAN

I'm with the DEA. The police brought us in to help investigate when you and your father started organizing against the drug dealers.

MARTIN

So, what can I do for you?

WOMAN

An envelope was delivered to the police a few days ago. It contained some information that could be damaging for alderman Sanchez.

MARTIN

And?

WOMAN

This close to the election, we thought it might be a political ploy to smear alderman Sanchez.

MARTIN

And you think I had something to do with it?

WOMAN

At first. But then we began checking and we've been able to verify several of the claims made in the documents. That and the local police captain seems

adamant about keeping the information from getting out.

MARTIN

I can imagine.

WOMAN

Using what we can verify and if the rest checks out, alderman Sanchez, if re-elected, will not be holding office very long.

MARTIN

You know the local police captain works closely with alderman Sanchez?

WOMAN

So we've been told. The alderman has been moving erratically through the city the past few days. We have a picture of him meeting with a person suspected of being a member of a Mexican cartel. We think the alderman has a copy of what was in the folder.

MARTIN

If he does, people are going to get hurt.

WOMAN

You should be very careful between now and the election. You're probably going to be contacted by the FBI.

MARTIN

Thanks for the warning.

WOMAN

Good luck.

The woman gets up and leaves. Nate returns.

MATE

What was that?

Martin looks around to see who is close.

MARTIN

She's with the DEA. The local police received an envelope with accusations against Sanchez and apparently he's now under investigation.

NATE

Who sent it?

MARTIN

I have an idea.

INT. BARBER SHOP - NIGHT

William is sweeping up when Martin walks in.

WILLIAM

What's going on?

MARTIN

That woman you talked to several months ago. She came to see me. She's with the DEA. Someone sent them a folder of information on Sanchez that they have started to check out.

WILLIAM

We didn't send it, did we?

MARTIN

No. But it doesn't look good for Sanchez and she said we should be careful. I need to go meet some people tonight.

WILLIAM

Don't go without Nate.

MARTIN

I'm not worried about me, I'm worried about you.

WILLIAM

Don't worry about me, I can take care
of myself.

William pats the pile of towels on the tray.

WILLIAM

Call me when you get home.

MARTIN

I will.

Martin leaves. William stands there holding the broom
thinking.

EXT. SIDE WALK - NIGHT

Martin and Nate are walking down the street together.

A man walks by.

MAN

Good luck.

MARTIN

Thank you.

NATE

You seemed worried.

MARTIN

I am. If Sanchez met with a cartel
member, who knows how deep this could
go.

Martin pulls out his phone and dials.

MARTIN

Hey, it's me. (pause) There are some
things that have come up. (pause) I'm
heading to a meeting right now. Why
don't you plan on coming to the fire
house Tuesday evening. (pause) I'll see
you then. Bye.

Martin puts the phone away.

NATE
Charlotte?

MARTIN
Yes, if something is going to happen I
don't want her around.

NATE
Smart.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

The sun is going down. William is standing with his hand
on a grave stone.

WILLIAM
It's been an interesting year. I won't
bore you with the details but it looks
like your son is going to be the next
alderman of our ward. I just wished
you were here to see it.

William looks out across the cemetery. A shot rings out.

You see William slumped over the grave stone with a stream
of blood running down the front of the grave stone.

INT. FIRE HOUSE - NIGHT

A lot of people are gathered in the fire house where Martin
announced he was running. Martin is standing with Nate,
Charlotte and a few people.

WOMAN
Someone said that alderman Sanchez has
not been seen since Yesterday morning.

NATE
I heard the same thing.

MAN
Maybe he saw the poles, you're up by
twenty two points as of Yesterday.

MARTIN

I heard. We should know in a couple of hours.

Detective Nelson walks up.

DETECTIVE NELSON

Mr. Johnson, can I talk to you?

MARTIN

What can I do for you?

DETECTIVE NELSON

Can we talk in private?

MARTIN

Sure.

Martin leads Detective Nelson to a quiet area in the rear of the firehouse.

MARTIN

What is it.

DETECTIVE NELSON

I wanted to tell you before you heard it from someone else or saw it on the Internet. Your father.

Martin looks around.

MARTIN

I don't think he's here yet.

DETECTIVE NELSON

Your father was found earlier this evening in a cemetery. He had been shot in the back. It looks like he died quickly.

MARTIN

That can't be. I expect him any minutes.

DETECTIVE NELSON

I'm sorry.

Martin wipes a tear from his face. Martin looks over towards Charlotte and Nate.

MARTIN

Do they know who did it?

DETECTIVE NELSON

We don't have anything at this time.

Martin looks around at the people in the room.

DETECTIVE NELSON

I'm sorry for your loss. Your father,
he made a difference.

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Martin, Nate and Charlotte are standing near a parked limo. A man approaches in a dark jacket.

MAN

Alderman, do you have a minute?

The man looks away. Martin looks in the same direction and seems Mr. Giovanni. Martin looks at Charlotte and Nate.

MARTIN

Give me a minute.

Martin walks away.

CHARLOTTE

Who's that?

NATE

I don't know.

Martin walks up to Mr. Giovanni.

MARTIN

Mr. Giovanni, thank you for coming.

MR. GIOVANNI
I'm sorry for your loss.

MARTIN
Thank you.

MR. GIOVANNI
We should talk.

MARTIN
Not hear.

MR. GIOVANNI
I agree.

MARTIN
If you could come by the barber shop
tomorrow?

MR. GIOVANNI
I will.

Martin walks away.

Martin walks up to Nate and Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE
Who was that?

MARTIN
He knew my father.

Martin gestures towards the open door of the limo.
Charlotte gets in followed by Martin and Nate.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Martin is sitting in his father's chair. Mr. Giovanni is
sitting in a customer chair.

MARTIN
The police said they had an anonymous
tip that alderman Sanchez had something
to do with my father's murder. They

said that alderman Sanchez cannot be located and he's on the run.

Mr. Giovanni takes a deep breath.

MR. GIOVANNI

A gun, with alderman Sanchez's finger prints on it is being delivered to the FBI. The ballistics will tie it to your father's murder.

MARTIN

The FBI is looking for him. There are rumors that he fled to Mexico.

MR. GIOVANNI

My father saw justice differently than most. I told you that I regretted not being with my brother when he helped clean up the neighborhood several years ago. I don't think Sanchez will bother you anymore.

MARTIN

Do you think he'll stay in Mexico?

Mr. Giovanni smiles a slight smile.

MR. GIOVANNI

I can assure you, Sanchez will not be bothering anyone ever again.

MARTIN

You mean?

Mr. Giovanni stands up and steps towards Martin.

MR. GIOVANNI

If there is anything I can do, let me know.

Mr. Giovanni holds out his hand and Martin shakes it.

MR. GIOVANNI
I'm sorry for your loss. I think
you're going to make a good alderman.
Good luck.

Mr. Giovanni leaves.

EXT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Charlotte and Nate pull up in a car, get out, and enter the barber shop.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Charlotte and Nate enter.

NATE
Well alderman, what's your first piece
of business.

Martin gets out of his father's chair and looks at the chair.

MARTIN
You know, I don't know.

Martin turns towards Charlotte and Nate.

CHARLOTTE
I think we should get you sworn in
first.

Charlotte holds out the keys to the car.

CHARLOTTE
You can drive.

Nate laughs.

NATE
First he needs to learn how to drive.

Martin smiles. Charlotte pulls the keys back.

CHARLOTTE

You don't know how to drive.

MARTIN

My father never taught me. Besides, I
never needed to until now.

CHARLOTTE

Well, you're not driving my car.

All three start laughing as they walk out of the barber
shop.

FADE OUT: