

SOULSHADOWS II PRESENTS: CAINE

By

GABRIEL MORONTA

TANIS BY ROBERT NEWCOMER

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FADE IN:

INT. THE ALCOVE

As we enter -- POP -- Tanis pulls the cork from a dusty bottle of wine.

She pours herself a glass. Tanis drinks red.

TANIS
Tanis be likin' wine, 'cause
every bottle be holdin' its
own secrets...

She takes a sip, and smiles, satisfied.

TANIS
...and Tanis, she also be
likin' secrets...

She carries her wine to the display cabinet, and with her free hand she swings open one of its groaning doors.

TANIS
...and she be havin' so many.

Another sip of wine as she ponders what to pluck from her collection tonight.

TANIS
Wine, it be makin' Tanis feel
romantic...and of all the things
a man can be givin' a woman...
(she reaches into the cabinet)
...ain't nothin' more romantic

And she pulls out a ring -- a beautifully-crafted piece of jewelry -- centered by a magnificent black diamond.

Tanis holds out the ring for our inspection.

ON THE RING

The golden band glimmers, and like onyx, the black diamond sparkles with a dark malevolence.

TANIS (O.S.)
A ring be a circle...a symbol
of infinity...but infinite joy,
or infinite torment?

Moving towards the diamond, its blackness is intoxicating, almost hypnotic.

(CONTINUED)

TANIS (O.S.)

That depend on who you ask...but
this ring...she be carryin' nothin'
but despair...and this tale be
called..."Caine."

SUPER: CAINE

And moving ever deeper into the diamond we are enveloped;
there is nothing to see -- nothing to see but black...

DISSOVLE TO:

INT. APARTMENT - DARK BEDROOM - NIGHT

12 GUNSHOTS.

A OLDER MAN, dressed in business attire, stands at the foot
of a bed. He points a gun to a NAKED PAIR found on the bed,
shot and bleeding.

The older man turns to us. There's a SCRATCH on his left
cheek.

He looks at us inquisitively. Slowly, comprehension dawns on
him.

OLDER MAN

Caine, right?

Glancing at the dead pair informs him of a certain fact.

OLDER MAN

We better go.

Throwing the gun aside, he exits.

HALLWAY

Walks to the main door.

OLDER MAN

A tale for a different time.

He hums a TUNE now. Exits.

EXT. APARTMENT - BUILDING HALLWAY - NIGHT

Some tenants are exiting their apartments.

The older man makes his way to the stairway.

OLDER MAN

Garage.

Enters. The stairway door closes on us.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - GARAGE

The older man exits. He jogs pass us. We follow behind.

OLDER MAN

Gotta move a bit quicker.

Passing several cars, he halts at a sleek convertible and enters. We enter through the passenger side.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Very nice interior.

OLDER MAN

Courtesy of Mr. Parks.

Starting the car, he reverses and drives to the opening.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING

Exiting, he drives off.

Ambulance and police SIRENS sound in the faint distance.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

He grins.

OLDER MAN

I just got away with double murder.
And this guy...

(points to himself)

is going to get blamed. He knew of
course this would happen. They
always know but still. I know why I
won't get caught.

(CONTINUED)

Driving through a shadow, he becomes obscured. Once in the clear, a new MAN drives now.

CHRISTIAN (30, blondish hair) still wears the business suit and bears the scratch on his left cheek.

CHRISTIAN

But what about the others who do the same or far worse and get away scot-free. What are there excuse. You can only give too much credit on talent or knowledge. I propose that no one gives a shit.

He stops at a intersection. Something catches his eye.

A HOMELESS TEENAGER crosses the street.

CHRISTIAN

Poverty, Crime, Abuse, Disease. You complain about not wanting them, yet you live with these negatives as they're part of normal life, claiming that these negatives are what creates a person's strong character.

He drives.

CHRISTIAN

That's bullshit and you know it. The truth: you don't care unless it's happening to you.

A flash as he drives through a red light.

CHRISTIAN

You all are selfish people yet you project a selfless character.

EXT. CLEAR STREET - NIGHT

Driving.

CHRISTIAN (V.O.)

Don't cheat, don't steal...all bullshit.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

CHRISTIAN

The world is cruel and the only way to survive is being cruel. No if's or but's about that. Everyone's an enemy or a potential ally to your goal.

He double parks the car and exits.

CHRISTIAN

Thank you Mr. Parks. That's what's it all about...

INT. BUILDING - FOYER - NIGHT

Walks.

CHRISTIAN

Completing the goal. Doesn't matter how you do it as long as you fucking do it. But don't get caught because these selfless people like yourself sure enjoy blaming people.

Makes it to the elevator and stairs area.

CHRISTIAN

5th Floor.

Goes up the stairs.

5TH FLOOR

Makes it.

CHRISTIAN

Caine realized that.

Walking to an apartment door, he takes out a set of keys.

CHRISTIAN

He was close to attaining his goal.

Unlocks the door...

CHRISTIAN

Unfortunately, he hit a snag.

And opens it.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

On the hallway table, Gabriel's cellphone RINGS.

CAINE (mid-20s, full head of hair) is sitting down on a chair. He focuses on a black diamond ring clasped between his fingers.

In the b.g., GABRIEL's body is on the floor. His face is turned away from us. Blood covers the back of his bald head and spreads across the floor.

A dog statute is discovered a few feet away from Caine's left shoe. Blood covers the bottom portion of the statue.

A high PITCH sounds and then SILENCE. Caine's focus does not falter.

A muffled, MELODY now sounds; it's much closer.

Reaching into his pocket, Caine takes out his cellphone. Seeing the caller, he composes himself, even answering his cell with a fake smile.

CAINE

Hey Grace. Everything's fine.

Caine's fake smile fades.

CAINE

No, he's not here. I changed my mind to go with him. If he comes back, I'll let him know you called. No problem. Bye.

Caine, with malice, hangs up his cell.

He turns his focus to Gabriel now, whose blood slowly spreads wider across the floor.

The blood touches someone's BOOT. Pulling back, we see the boot belongs to Christian, now wearing all black.

CHRISTIAN

Not much of a snag but still it's going to take time to resolve.

Caine passes by and enters the

KITCHEN

where he acquires several dish towels, several garbage bags, a roll of tape, a mop, and knives. He returns back to the

HALLWAY

where Gabriel's blood continues to slowly spread wider.

Gabriel's cellphone RINGS.

Seeing the caller, he leaves it alone.

One missed call shows. The time reads 8:19.

LATER

"John" pops up on the cellphone screen. It rings only for a few seconds before it gets onto the missing call list, which has grown. The time reads 2:10.

CHRISTIAN (O.S.)
8 missing calls.

Christian stands in the empty hallway.

CHRISTIAN
Missing people will always attract attention. The amount of attention depends on many circumstances such as popularity. But that doesn't mean popular people can't go missing. It simply means that you need to better cover your ass so that people don't suspect you as the murderer.

He enters into the kitchen.

Gabriel exits the bathroom, putting on a t-shirt. He heads the opposite direction.

As we follow, we notice on the floor a darkish brown stain on the beige color floor.

GABRIEL'S BEDROOM

With a huge duffel bag on the floor, Caine packs the bag with some of Gabriel's clothes and shoes.

O.S., Gabriel's cell phone RINGS. Furious, Caine continues packing. The PITCH and then SILENCE.

Caine zips the bag up and leaves with it.

HALLWAY

Dropping the bag, he pauses, thinking.

Snapping his fingers, he goes back into

GABRIEL'S BEDROOM

and after ransacking the place, he picks up a set of keys off the bed. He leaves.

INT. BUILDING - DESERTED HALLWAY

He takes the stairs. Five floors down.

EXT. STREET

Stops at a decent looking car, enters, drives back to...

EXT. BUILDING

where he double parks, and exits.

INT. BUILDING - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY

Unlocking the apartment door, Caine presses the elevator call button. He then enters the apartment.

The elevator arrives quickly and empty.

Carrying the duffel bag on his shoulder and dragging a huge garbage bag, Caine enters the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR

It runs smoothly until it stops on the third floor, where a YOUNG COUPLE enters, smooching.

Spotting Caine, they stop, but flirt.

Through his stern demeanor, one can sense Caine's hatred.

INT. BUILDING - FOYER

The young couple exit first. The young man holds the door open for Caine

CAINE

Thanks.

Once Caine is fully out, the couple leave Caine alone.

EXT. BUILDING

Caine makes it the car, opens the back door and places the duffel bag inside.

He goes to the trunk, opens it, and to his dismay finds it cluttered with stuff.

He angrily looks at the garbage bag and works on cleaning the clutter.

He moves the clutter to the back seat very quickly and very carelessly.

He plants Gabriel's body in the trunk and shuts it.

He enters the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Christian seats on the passenger side.

CHRISTIAN

He's going to bury the body. Many choose to bury the body for the obvious reason that it's simple and quick. There are other methods of disposing a body but they attract too much attention. The less attention you bring to yourself the better.

Caine drives off.

INT. DEEP HOLE - NIGHT

Caine digs. From above, THUNDER roars.

Caine looks up to the sky. TICK TICK TICK...raindrops fall.

Tossing the shovel up, Caine gets out.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

Taking a breather, he gazes out.

The vast dark forest. The only audible SOUNDS are the raindrops hitting the leaves, the branches, and the ground.

From above, THUNDER sounds again.

Caine walks.

EXT. SIDE ROAD

Reaching the car, Caine pops the hood open, heaves Gabriel's body out and drags it into the forest.

EXT. HOLE

Caine drops the body into the hole and quickly turns around to find...

No one.

Caine leaves quicker.

EXT. SIDE ROAD

Opening the back seat, Caine pulls out the duffel bag. Dragging it across the wet ground, he leaves.

REACHING THE HOLE

He dumps the duffel bag in and shovels dirt inside.

Christian stands near the side edge of the hole; he is completely wet.

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN

Like I said, not much of a snag.
The real snag is coming now.

THUNDER.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - CLEAR DAY

Looking around, Caine finds himself back in the forest.

Perplexed, Caine moves forward, warily.

A few feet away through some branches, he sees CHRISTIAN.

Clad in black, Christian stands over Gabriel's burial site, a higher, uneven mound. His hands are behind his back, his wavy blonde hair flows naturally with the wind, and his dark eyes stare directly at Caine.

CHRISTIAN

Come out Caine!

Caine stands still.

CHRISTIAN

Come now! Stop wasting my time!

Caine doesn't move.

CHRISTIAN

Have it you're way!

Christian reveals two empty hands. Slapping them together, he rubs his hands till smoke comes out.

Stops. Opening his hands, the black ring rests in the center.

Picking the ring with one hand, he tosses the ring to his other hand, rolls the ring across his fingers, makes the ring disappear and appear back.

Tossing it up in the air, he catches it in his mouth. Swiftly, he sits, Indian style, on the ground.

(CONTINUED)

Grabbing a handful of dirt, he stuffs it into his mouth.

He chews. Starting roughly at first, his chewing gradually turns normal. It slowly speeds up till he finally abruptly stops.

Reclining back, he kicks-up spitting out the contents in the form of a small black dust cloud.

He stands, arms outstretched and legs apart. Behind, the dust cloud slowly descends and touches the ground.

Between Christian's opened legs, a hand breaks through the ground.

Caine's mouth drops as he sees who it is.

Gabriel breaks through the ground, slowly.

He gets his upper body out before Christian offers his hand. Gabriel accepts it and gets out faster.

Christian helps Gabriel stand. He cradles Gabriel's head in his hands. Gently raising Gabriel's head, Christian makes eyecontact with Gabriel.

Caine watches Christian say something to Gabriel but, unfortunately, he can't hear it. Christian raises his right hand. With a flick of his finger, the black ring appears as if it never was destroyed.

He hands the ring over to Gabriel.

Gabriel leaves Christian, walking in Caine's direction.

Guessing what's coming, Caine flees.

He doesn't pass more than a couple of trees before his swooped up and hanging upside down.

Looking up, Caine sees he's snagged by a rope trap.

Swinging around, Caine catches glimpses of Gabriel coming.

CAINE

Bro! I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

Gabriel passes him by and continues walking.

A loud CRUNCH sounds from the side.

CHRISTIAN (O.S.)
He won't hurt you.

Caine turns, finding Christian leaning against a tree, eating a apple.

CHRISTIAN
That's my job.

He moves close, taking a bite from his apple.

CAINE
Who are you?

CHRISTIAN
Didn't I already answer that question? But...

Moves closer.

CHRISTIAN
what I think you're asking for is my identity which I can't disclose. Not now anyway.

Moves closer.

CHRISTIAN
What I can tell you...

Takes a bite from his apple.

CHRISTIAN
is that you're in deep shit now.

He leans forward. His face is an inch away from Caine's face.

CHRISTIAN
Because of what you did, and because you're part of my plan.

Leans back.

CAINE
Listen, it's not what you think!

CHRISTIAN
Did you understand...

CAINE
I was defending myself! He wanted to kill me!

Christian hits him in the Adam's Apple.

CHRISTIAN
Now, did you understand what
happened back there with your
brother? Nod if you understand.
Nod.

Caine shakes his head "no".

CHRISTIAN
I resurrected him.

Christian steps back...

CHRISTIAN
He's going to propose to Grace...

Further...

CHRISTIAN
and when he does...

Further...

CHRISTIAN
you will die.

Stops. A yard away.

CHRISTIAN
That means you have to stop him.
You're game starts now.

Christian comes running and kicks him in the face.

BLACK

INT. GABRIEL'S HOME - GABRIEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Caine awakes with a jolt.

Looking around the room, he grows calm and reclines back.

As Caine relaxes, Christian plops onto bed landing to
Caine's side.

CHRISTIAN
A dream. How can you tell? When
you're dreaming it feels real,
doesn't it? But you're dreaming. I
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN (cont'd)
suppose there are ways of finding
out.

The main door CLOSES.

MALE'S VOICE (O.S.)
Hey sweetie.

Hearing this, Caine goes to investigate.

HALLWAY

The JINGLING of keys.

MALE'S VOICE (O.S.)
Everything's fine. I don't know
where I was.

Caine's mouth drops as he sees whose talking.

GABRIEL (30s, bald, has a scratch on his left cheek) is on
his cellphone.

GABRIEL
I don't remember.

Caine's shock. Christian comes out of the bedroom.

CHRISTIAN
But...wasn't he...? How can he...?
Has Caine lost his mind or...?

Gabriel's on his cellphone.

GABRIEL
I am serious.
(to Caine)
You alright?

Caine doesn't respond.

GABRIEL
Sure, come over, bye.

Hanging up the cellphone, he walks over to Caine.

GABRIEL
Caine? Caine!?

CAINE
I ain't deaf.

GABRIEL
Respond then. What's wrong?

CAINE
A nightmare, I had a few minutes ago.

GABRIEL
What was it about?

EXT. FOREST - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Christian kicks up and spits the contents out in a small black dust cloud.

Gabriel's hand breaks through the ground.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY (PRESENT DAY)

GABRIEL
Caine? Tell me what's wrong?

Caine hugs Gabriel, touching Gabriel's head specifically where the wound was. It's clean.

GABRIEL
Hey, it's alright.

Christian appears behind Gabriel. He points to the spot Caine's touching.

CHRISTIAN
Gabriel doesn't have a mark on his head. I guess it was a dream. If this was real, he would have a mark. Won't he?

Caine is still hugging Gabriel. Caine catches sight of something far away.

On the table, the dog statute is missing.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The dog statute lies on the floor. It's lower portion covered in blood.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

CHRISTIAN
Elementary dear Watson.

Caine breaks the hug.

GABRIEL
Feeling better?

He nods.

GABRIEL
Let me get you some water.

Gabriel leaves.

Caine walks over to the table, where the statute is missing. Christian follows.

Caine looks to the floor and spots nothing wrong.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY (FLASHBACK)

Caine paints over the darkish brown stain with beige paint.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY (PRESENT DAY)

Caine's brain is working overdrive. He walks to the

BEDROOM

where he opens the closet. To his astonishment, some clothes and shoes are missing.

Christian stands behind Caine.

CHRISTIAN
Very conflicting isn't it?

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Gabriel opens the fridge and, bending down, takes out a gallon of water.

He stands up, closing the fridge. He's startled by seeing Caine at the doorway.

GABRIEL

One of these days, man.

He punches his palm. Caine smiles.

Smiling as well, Gabriel takes two glass from the upper cabinet.

CAINE

Where were you bro?

GABRIEL

I was about to ask you that. I spoke to Grace and she said I was out. But I can't remember anything about last night.

CAINE

You were out but you didn't tell me where. You did come from somewhere...

He gestures to the main door.

CAINE

And you have a scratch on your cheek.

Gabriel touches his right cheek.

CAINE

Your left.

Redirecting his hand, Gabriel feels the scratch.

GABRIEL

I can't remember. All I can say is...I was outside the door and I came in.

CAINE

Outside the door?

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL

Yeah.

CAINE

Outside the door?

GABRIEL

I can't remember anything else. I thought you could help refresh my memory about last night. The last thing I remember is showing you the ring.

Gabriel checks his pockets. With a sigh of relief, he takes it out.

Complete horror shows on Caine's face.

GABRIEL

I'm going to propose today.

EXT. FOREST - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Caine's hanging upside down looking at Christian.

CHRISTIAN

He's going to propose to Grace and when he does you will die. That means you have to stop him.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY (PRESENT DAY)

Caine looks at Gabriel.

Christian puts an arm over Caine's shoulder.

CHRISTIAN

How will you resolve this? If you talk, he's going to blow you off. Talk is cheap. Actions are what matters. So, how do make a person not do something? There's not that many options.

Still looking at Gabriel, Caine comes to a realization.

CAINE

I think I have an idea of where you were.

He's peaked Gabriel's interest.

(CONTINUED)

CAINE
Let me show you.

GABRIEL
Tell me.

CAINE
I'm not telling you. I want to show
you.

GABRIEL
Just tell me.

CAINE
Then forget it.

Caine walks away but is grabbed on the shoulder by Gabriel.

GABRIEL
Oh no. You tell me or don't sleep
tonight.

CAINE
Either I show you or not.

Gabriel lets go.

GABRIEL
Alright. Don't sleep.

CAINE
Suit yourself.

Caine walks to the main door.

GABRIEL
This is your last chance.

CAINE
I'm going.

Opens the door.

CAINE
Lock the door.

Exits.

INT. BUILDING - HALLWAY

Pressing the elevator button, Caine waits.

During the wait, he doesn't look back.

The elevator arrives. Gabriel exits from his apartment.

A victory grin comes from Caine.

Opening the door, Caine allows Gabriel to enter.

GABRIEL

This better be good.

CAINE

It is.

EXT. STREET - DAY

They're near Gabriel's car, the decent looking car from before.

Gabriel heads to the driver side.

CAINE

I'll drive.

Caine jingles Gabriel's keys. Gabriel re-directs and heads to the passenger side.

Both enter.

Christian sits in the backseat.

CHRISTIAN

There are stupid people. And yes,
there are some extremely stupid
people. That's how people learn and
gain wisdom. It's sad but true.

INT. CAR - DAY

Gabriel looks out the passenger window.

GABRIEL

I was here?

CAINE

I think so.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL

What do you mean think?

CAINE

Your cell phone call.

GABRIEL

I called you?

CAINE

Yeah, I forgot about it. You told me that you were coming here.

GABRIEL

Why?

CAINE

You didn't get that far. You hang upped. But you told me you were here.

GABRIEL

Did you check on me?

CAINE

Yeah.

GABRIEL

And?

CAINE

We're here.

EXT. SIDE ROAD

Caine parks the car and exits with the car keys.

GABRIEL

I'm getting sick and tired of this shit...

CAINE

Stop complaining and see for yourself.

GABRIEL

See what?

CAINE

You were upset and drunk. I came and saw a woman who was beaten and unconscious laying on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL

What!?

CAINE

I had to cover for you.

Nodding forward, Gabriel walks in the direction. Caine follows behind.

EXT. FOREST

They walk, Caine behind Gabriel. They reach where Gabriel was buried.

CAINE

Stop.

GABRIEL

What did you do...

As he turns around, he's punched in the face.

Caine pummels Gabriel with punches. Then, grabbing a rock, he bludgeons Gabriel.

EXT. FOREST - DAY (LATER)

Caine digs. He finds the duffel bag and empty garbage bag.

RING; it comes from his cell.

He takes out his cell and looks whose calling him.

The screen shows: Gabriel.

On tip toes, Caine looks back and sees Gabriel's dead body.

Curious, Caine answers.

CAINE

Hello.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Hey there motherfucker!

CAINE

Excuse me?

GABRIEL (V.O.)

You're fucked, stupid ass motherfucker!

(CONTINUED)

CAINE

Fuck you!

Hangs up.

He looks back and gets hit in the fact with dirt.

Blinded, Caine falls backwards onto the duffel bag.

Dirt caves in.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Gabriel (scratch-less) grins, imagining what's happening to Caine.

GRACE (25) hugs Gabriel from behind.

GRACE

How did he take the proposal?

GABRIEL

He seemed happy.

GRACE

Is he coming over?

GABRIEL

Not now.

Gabriel kisses her.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Black.

GABRIEL'S VOICE (O.S.)

Here. You can open them now.

Gabriel with the scratch towers over him.

Caine's head sticks out from the partially filled hole. Piles of dirt rest on all sides.

GABRIEL

You were just talking to me but yet I'm in front of you, alive. How can this be?

(CONTINUED)

CAINE
(to himself)
I've gone nuts.

GABRIEL
D answer. You can do better than
that.

CAINE
(to himself)
This is not real.

GABRIEL
F. You didn't have a problem
thinking this was real when you
were beating the shit out of me.

CAINE
Ahhhhhhhhh!

Before Caine's eyes, Gabriel transforms into Christian.

CAINE
Help! Someone! Help! Help!

CHRISTIAN
Do you hear that?

CAINE
Help! Help! Help! Help! Help! Help!
Hel..

CHRISTIAN
It's silence. You got screwed,
Caine. Simple.

CAINE
Fuck you.

Christian points at Caine.

CHRISTIAN
Right back at ya.

Some of the dirt from the right side tumbles down.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Gabriel's on top of Grace, kissing. They remove each other's
clothes off.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dirt from the left side tumbles down.

CAINE

Please! I'll do anything!

Christian rolls his eyes back. A grin spreads across his face.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

In bed, Grace MOANS to each thrust given by Gabriel. Her moans build up to a...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

SCREAM as Caine's face, the only thing visible now, is covered by dirt.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Everything's calm. Gabriel and Grace are sleeping.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY

Christian walks backwards to the main exit.

CHRISTIAN

The end. Gabriel gets the girl and
Caine rots.

(CHUCKLES)

As if!

Christian opens the door and exits. Leaving it open, Caine enters, HUMMING a tune.

There's a scratch on his left cheek. He bobs to the hummed tune.

Making it to the bedroom door, he KNOCKS.

CAINE

Gabe!

KNOCKS again.

(CONTINUED)

CAINE

Gabe!

Gabriel opens the door.

GABRIEL

Caine?

CAINE

We gotta go. A guy is waiting for us, downstairs.

GRACE

Tell him his busy.

CAINE

Can't. It's urgent.

GABRIEL

I'm coming.

Gabriel quickly puts on his pants.

GRACE

What's the rush?

CAINE

I'm just a messenger.

GRACE

(to Gabriel)

When you coming back?

GABRIEL

Not sure. I'll give you a call.

Gabriel, putting on his shirt, exits.

HALLWAY

Caine throws a arm around him.

CAINE

Let's go.

Caine leads Gabriel out.

INT. BUILDING - HALLWAY

Pressing the elevator button, Caine, nonchantantly, waits while Gabriel stares at him.

CAINE

How was the fuck? Good huh?
Pleasure is not the way it use to
be for me before.

The elevator arrives. Caine holds the door open.

CAINE

Mind getting in?

Seeing that Gabriel is entering slowly, he shoves Gabriel in.

INT. ELEVATOR

Gabriel glances at Caine, trying not to stare. Apparently sensing this...

CAINE

He's dead as requested. That was
part of the agreement. Took his
appearance to come and get you, the
other part of the agreement.

Gabriel's let down by this information.

Caine goes back to humming his tune and bobbing to the hummed tune.

INT/EXT. ELEVATOR

Caine exits and holds the door open.

Gabriel doesn't move.

Caine gestures for Gabriel to exit.

CAINE

Let's go.

GABRIEL

Is there a way that...

CAINE

No.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL
But he deserved it.

CAINE
I don't care. You made the deal.

GABRIEL
No one has to know.

CAINE
I'll know. Stop wasting my time and
get out.

Gabriel hesitates in moving.

CAINE
You got the count to 3.
(fast)
1,2,...

Gabriel exits.

CAINE
Move.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Grace is putting her jeans on.

From outside, a loud CRASH!

Grace heads to the window.

She sees a lot of people crowding around the lower half of
the street.

A car with its windshield cracked is a few feet ahead.

Behind, Gabriel lies on the street, dead. Blood spews out of
him.

Christian looks down at Gabriel.

CHRISTIAN
You can't back out of a deal.
That's how people die. Granted I
could've let him go, but that would
have led to a bullshit ending.

Christian shakes his finger side to side. He walks to the
side. The b.g. changes from the STREET to a...

INT. LAVISH ROOM - DAY

where the wall behind Christian is covered with pictures (of a FEMALE TEENAGER), news clippings, and white papers with writings on them.

CHRISTIAN

Rarely are there happy endings like that. He got his vengeance and I got to accomplish part of my plan.

Christian snaps his fingers.

CHRISTIAN

That's as close to a happy ending you're going to get.

The ring appears in his palm.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE RING

Now in Tanis' palm.

TANIS (O.S.)

There is a book be sayin' to love thy brother...

WIDER

Tanis drinks some more wine -- drains her glass.

TANIS

Only that don't always be workin' out so well...not even in that most optimistic of books.

She refills the glass from the bottle.

TANIS

Family be a blessin' or a curse, but either way, you be immersed...

She plops the ring into the glass.

TANIS

...and some, they drown.

As the ring sinks, the wine clears.

(CONTINUED)

Tanis observes this with curiosity. She takes another sip from the glass -- and frowns.

TANIS

Wine into water...the opposite of a miracle. Now what you be makin' of that?

She sets the glass on the table.

ON THE GLASS

TANIS (O.S.)

The way Tanis be seein' it, when she be lookin' at the world, either everything a miracle...

The glass shatters --

TANIS (O.S)

...or ain't nothin' a miracle.

-- and Tanis laughs -- as the black diamond glistens wet in its golden band atop a mound of crystal shards.

FADE OUT.