

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
than one of these.

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?

(CONTINUED)

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

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...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARK ROOM

Nothing's visible.

MAN

Hello...let me guess, you're here
for...Caine, right? He's moved on.
But ain't it convenient that his
story still resides here...with me.

A CHUCKLE.

MAN

Hmmmm...

(snaps fingers)

Life's a playful bitch. This is a
fact. Look at the shitty world you
live in. She doesn't control or
persuade people to make choices.
She creates the obstacles that lead
you to make your choices and forces
you to make those choices in a
stressful environment. All of this,
you take as wisdom, lessons that
you learned the hard way which made
you a stronger person. Bullshit.
Who the fuck said you had to learn
it the hard way? People, who went
down that same hard path and
survived, will claim fairness. They
went down that path why not you.
I'll show you'll fairness.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

RING. A black diamond ring is clasped between a person's fingers.

RING. 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.

RING. A dog statute is discovered a few feet away from him. Blood covers the bottom portion of the statue.

RING. CAINE (mid 20s, full head of hair) holds the ring and stares at the ring with malice.

RING. Caine's focus remains on the ring in his hand.

A high PITCH sounds and then SILENCE.

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.

INT. DARK ROOM

MAN

What many people consider has the end is simply the beginning. There's no true end. Something always has to come up. Why? Because it's everlasting fun for the bitch we refer to as life.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Caine's looking at Gabriel.

He stands up, walks to Gabriel, and drops the ring on his back.

Walking over the body, he enters the

KITCHEN

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

LIVING ROOM

where the blood continues to slowly spread wider.

Caine mops the blood up. A darkish brown stain is left over on the beige color floor.

Using the dish towels and several pieces of tape, Caine seals up a wound located at the back of Gabriel's head.

RING. Caine glances at Gabriel's cell phone. Seeing the caller, he places it away and goes back to work.

"Mark" shows on the cellphone screen.

RING. Caine stuffs Gabriel's upper body into one garbage bag. RING.

Caine stuffs Gabriel's lower body into another garbage bag. RING.

He throws the black diamond ring into the garbage bag covering Gabriel's upper body. RING. High PITCH, then SILENCE.

Tapes both garbage bags together at the center. RING.

"John" shows on the cellphone screen now.

New names pop up on Gabriel's cellphone as Caine uses up all the garbage bags on Gabriel.

INT. DARK ROOM

MAN

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 cover your ass so that people don't suspect you as the murderer.

INT. GABRIEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

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.

INT. HALLWAY

Caine drops the bag.

He pauses glancing at the bag and then Gabriel's body. How's he going to take this down and where to put them?

Snapping his fingers, he goes to the closet, grabs a large laundry bag and stuffs Gabriel's body inside, making it fit.

Next, he goes to

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

He stops at a decent looking car, enters, drives back to...

EXT. BUILDING

where he double parks, and exits.

INT. BUILDING - HALLWAY

Caine exits carrying the duffel bag on the shoulder and dragging the laundry bag on the ground. He presses the elevator button.

The elevator arrives. Opening the door, he finds SOMEONE inside.

Closing the door, he glances at the laundry bag.

Presses the elevator button again.

The elevator arrives. Opening the door, he finds SOMEONE else inside.

Closing the door, he glances at the laundry bag.

Pounds the elevator button.

The elevator arrives. He opens to find it finally empty and enters.

INT. ELEVATOR

The elevator stops on the third floor, where an ELDERLY MAN opens the door.

ELDERLY MAN
Going down?

CAINE
Yes.

The elderly man enters.

ELDERLY MAN
That's alot of stuff.

CAINE
Junk. I'm throwing it away.

INT. BUILDING - MAIN FLOOR

The elderly man exits first and very kindly holds the door open for Caine.

CAINE

Thanks.

Once Caine is fully out, the elderly man leaves Caine alone.

EXT. BRICK 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 he finds it cluttered with stuff.

He angrily looks at the laundry 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 goes around to the driver side, enters, and starts the car.

INT. DARK ROOM

MAN

He went to bury the body. Many choose to bury the body for the obvious reason that it's simple and quick. As sick as they are to kill someone, they are not sick enough to do something far worse such as burning the body.

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, constantly looking around.

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.

INT. DARK ROOM

The darkness has dissipated a bit. A disheveled shape is located in the middle. Everything else is hard to make out.

MAN

Looks like, Caine solved his
problem. But unbeknowst to him,
life's just given him a new one.
Not because it's just or it's right
as many of you are already
concluding, but because life's a
bitch who likes to have fun.

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 (30s), a man who be handsome if he didn't have a scratch on his left cheek.

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.

Knowing that Caine's watching him, 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.

Holding the ring, 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.

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.

(CONTINUED)

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.

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 and eating a apple.

CHRISTIAN

That's my job.

He moves close, taking a bite from his apple.

CAINE

Who...

CHRISTIAN

Life's a playful bitch. Once you think everything's settled, it comes along and messes things up. Why you might ask? Because she's a playful bitch.

Moves closer. Takes another bite.

Caine's eyes droop.

CHRISTIAN

Apparently watching people happy is boring for her. So, she likes to liven things up. More for her enjoyment if I may say so myself. But what can you do.

Moves closer. Takes another bite.

Caine blinks and opens his eyes wide.

CHRISTIAN

You can't escape from her. Not even in death. You have to play with the bitch. It's never personal for her. Just a game.

He's now a foot away from Caine. Takes another bite before throwing it away.

Caine tries to shake the drowsiness away but it's futile.

CHRISTIAN

You belong to her. But the question is how long before she gets you. She can have you now or later. But since she's a playful bitch who finds happiness to be boring, she wants this to be exciting. You saw what I did and gave your brother. You understand what happened back there. He won't stop till he fulfills it. You're job is to stop him. If he fulfills his purpose, you're hers.

He walks away. Caine's eyes are half open.

CHRISTIAN

You're game starts now. And since we already know life's a playful bitch, it's safe to say that you don't have much time for this game.

Caine's eyes finally shut.

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

Caine awakes with a jolt.

Looking around the room, recognizing his environment, he becomes calm.

INT. DARK AREA

MAN

A dream. How can you tell? When you're dreaming it feels real, doesn't it? But you're dreaming. I suppose there are ways of finding out.

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

The sound of the main door CLOSING.

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 (20s, bald, has a scratch on his left cheek) is on his cellphone.

GABRIEL

I don't remember.

INT. DARK ROOM

By the sound of FOOTSTEPS moving right to left and vice versa, we can guess the man is pacing.

MAN

Like before when I said there's no real end, there's always going to be a way of solving your problems. How much it solves the problem is another problem.

Stops.

MAN

There's still a great doubt looming over Caine's situation. I mean no one comes back from death unless you believe in religion or fiction. You die, you die. So, what's happening? Has Caine lost his mind?

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

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.

(CONTINUED)

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)

CAINE
I, I... thought... I...

He breaks down into tears.

GABRIEL
Hey, it was a dream.

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

INT. DARK ROOM

No FOOTSTEPS. The disshevled shape stands in the middle.

MAN
Gabriel doesn't have a mark on his head, signifying that it was all a dream. If this was real, he would have a mark. Won't he?

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

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)

Caine breaks the hug.

GABRIEL
Feeling better?

He looks directly at Gabriel and nods.

GABRIEL
Let me get you some water.

Gabriel leaves.

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

He 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.

INT. DARK ROOM

FOOTSTEPS moving right to left and vice versa.

MAN
Very conflicting is it not? Caine's either lost his mind or his alleged dream actually happened. Which one?

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.

(CONTINUED)

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?

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

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL (cont'd)
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
You saw what I did and gave your
brother. You understand what
happened back there. He won't stop
till he fulfills it. You're job is
to stop him. If he fulfills his
purpose, you're hers.

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

Caine looks at Gabriel.

INT. DARK ROOM

No FOOTSTEPS.

MAN
How will you resolve this
situation? Talking will only get
you so far. Talk is cheap. Actions
are what matters. That old saying,
"Stick and stones may break my
bones but words will never hurt
me." It's true. Action is the key.
Call me a asshole but that won't
hurt me like me punching you in the
face.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Caine still looks at Gabriel.

CAINE

I think I have an idea of where you
were.

He's peaked Gabriel's interest.

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 to the place.

Opens the door.

(CONTINUED)

CAINE
Lock the door.

Exits.

INT. BUILDING - HALLWAY

Pressing the button, Caine waits for the elevator.

During the wait, he doesn't look back.

The elevator arrives. Gabriel exits from his apartment.

A victory smile 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.

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

Both enter.

INT. DARK ROOM

No footsteps.

MAN
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. Both of these individuals
are going to learn that fact.

INT. CAR - DAY

Gabriel looks out the passenger window.

GABRIEL
I was here?

CAINE
I think so.

GABRIEL
How do you know?

CAINE
You're 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.

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...

(CONTINUED)

CAINE

Stop complaining and see for yourself.

GABRIEL

What did I do?

CAINE

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

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 blunges Gabriel.

EXT. FOREST - DAY (LATER)

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

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.

(CONTINUED)

CAINE

Hello.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

Hey loser!

LAUGHTER sounds on the other end.

CAINE

Excuse me?

GABRIEL (V.O.)

It's your brother, Gabriel, the one
you killed.

CAINE

I'm going to hang up asshole.

GABRIEL

You believe what you want to. You
lost.

CAINE

Bye.

GABRIEL (V.O.)

You lost!

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

Blinded, Caine falls backwards onto the duffel bag.

Dirt falls above.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY- DAY

Caine's MUFFLED SCREAM comes from a cellphone that Gabriel
(scratch-less) holds. He closes the cell.

GRACE (25) hugs Gabriel from behind.

GRACE

How did he take the proposal?

GABRIEL

He seemed happy.

GRACE

Is he coming over?

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL

Not now.

Gabriel kisses her.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Black

FAKE GABRIEL (O.S.)

Here. You can open them now.

The FAKE GABRIEL towers over him.

From the height and the piles of dirt on the sides and in front, the hole's partially filled.

We see Caine's head above ground. His body is buried.

FAKE GABRIEL

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

CAINE

(to himself)

I've gone nuts.

FAKE GABRIEL

D answer. You can do better than
that.

CAINE

(to himself)

This is not real.

FAKE GABRIEL

F. You didn't have a problem
thinking this was real when you
were choking me.

CAINE

Ahh!

FAKE GABRIEL

You know the answer!

Before Caine's eyes, the fake Gabriel transforms into
Christian.

(CONTINUED)

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 as that.

CAINE

Fuck you.

Christian points at Caine.

CHRISTIAN

Right back at ya.

Some of the dirt from the right side tumbles on Caine.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Gabriel's on top of Grace, kissing and removing each other's
clothes off.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dirt from the left side tumbles down.

CAINE

Please! I beg you! 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.

INT. DARK ROOM

More of the darkness has dissipated. We see a figure shaped as a human crouching before us.

MAN

The end. Gabriel gets the girl and Caine rots.

(pauses, then CHUCKLES)

C'mon. That happy ending is for the movies and fiction. Rarely does this happen in life. Only the select few and Gabriel is not one of them. Welcome to the real world.

INT. GABRIEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

RING. Gabriel checks his cell phone. "UNKNOWN" appears.

GABRIEL

Hello.

CHRISTIAN (V.O.)

Did ya fuck her?

Gabriel's exits.

HALLWAY

CHRISTIAN (V.O.)

You did didn't ya? I know you're there Gabe. Answer me.

GABRIEL

Yeah.

CHRISTIAN (V.O.)

Congrats. I'm happy for you. Celebrations are in order...after

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRISTIAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
our business is over. I'll be there
soon. Do whatever you have to do
till I get there?

Hanging up, Gabriel enters the

BEDROOM

where cuddles beside Grace.

BEDROOM (LATER)

Gabriel and Grace are asleep.

The main door OPENS and CLOSES. FOOTFALLS grow close and
stop at the bedroom door. KNOCK. KNOCK

CAINE'S VOICE (O.S.)
Gabe!

KNOCKS again.

CAINE VOICE(O.S.)
Gabe!

GABRIEL
Caine?

CAINE'S VOICE (O.S.)
We gotta go. A guy is waiting for
us, downstairs!

GRACE
Tell him his busy.

CAINE VOICE(O.S.)
Can't. It's urgent.

GABRIEL
I'm coming.

Gabriel gets out of bed and puts on his pants.

CAINE (O.S.)
You got a minute.

GRACE
What's the rush?

Caine doesn't respond.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE
(to Gabriel)
When you coming back?

GABRIEL
Not sure. I'll give you a call.

Gabriel, putting on his shirt, exits.

HALLWAY

Gabriel's stunned.

He sees Caine, who has a scratch on his left cheek.

Caine hugs him.

CAINE
Let's go.

Leaving one of his arm's around Gabriel's neck, 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.

CAINE
He's dead as requested. You heard
it over the phone.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL

But...

CAINE

You heard his screams over the phone. He's dead. That was part of the agreement you and I made. The other part is collecting you.

GABRIEL

Is there a way that...

CAINE

No.

GABRIEL

But he deserved it.

CAINE

I don't care. You made the deal.

GABRIEL

No one has to know.

CAINE

I'll know and my bitch of a boss will know.

The elevator stops. Caine exits and holds the door open.

INT/EXT. ELEVATOR

CAINE

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 looking at the lower half of the street.

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

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

INT. DARK ROOM

Our night vision is working. We see the man has a full head of hair and a bulky build.

MAN

You can't back out of a deal.
That's how people die. Justice,
good, bad, these are meaningless.
It's another way for life to hurt
you. Happiness is not always the
end result just a by product of
whatever ending that bitch feels at
that moment.

A light shines from above and brightens the whole area.

Regaining our vision back, the room shaped. The wall is covered with pictures (of a FEMALE TEENAGER), news clippings, and white papers with writings on them.

The mystery man is Christian who stands in the center. There's no sight of a chair.

CHRISTIAN

What can you do about it? Nothing.
Take it as life lessons which
you're going to have to take it
like a dose of bad medicine. It's
life.

Christian snaps his fingers.

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.

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 --

(CONTINUED)

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.