

INT. CHURCH. DAY.

CARMICHAEL (early 30s) exits a confessional booth. He is dressed in a crumpled black suit, one lapel torn, his red tie loose around his neck.

His eyes are red from crying, his voice is equally hoarse.

He slowly walks down the aisle and moves into a pew. FATHER CONSIDINE (50s) also leaves, walking up the aisle. He pauses by CARMICHAEL.

FATHER CONSIDINE
I will return soon.

CARMICHAEL
How do you know?

FATHER CONSIDINE smiles grimly.

FATHER CONSIDINE
Have faith.

As FATHER CONSIDINE leaves the main foyer CARMICHAEL kneels, clasping his hands together. He bows his head, muttering frantically.

After a few moments another man enters the church, FIENNES (late 30s). He is dressed in a suit, though this one is sharp and clean and blue.

He pauses at the threshold and offhandedly crosses himself with holy water. He walks purposely down the aisle and slides in two rows behind CARMICHAEL.

FIENNES
Thought I'd find you here..

CARMICHAEL looks up, his brow furrowed over red eyes, betraying previous tears.

CARMICHAEL
Did you bring it?

FIENNES
Of course.

FIENNES passes CARMICHAEL a thick envelope; it isn't sealed. CARMICHAEL slides the contents out, shuffling through them: money, documents, a passport.

As he does a card falls to the ground. He leans over and picks it up. Hesitantly, he turns it over.

CARMICHAEL
(whispering)
No..

The King of Hearts is held between CARMICHAEL's fingers, its eyes crossed out. FIENNES' face hardens.

CARMICHAEL
(fearful, panicking)
You, um, you brought this straight here?

FIENNES
(wary)
Yeah..

FIENNES slowly moves his hand to the inside of his jacket. He tenses.

CARMICHAEL
I.. I need to leave, now. The King, they could send anyone..

CARMICHAEL hurriedly stands, moving into the aisle in one fluid motion. FIENNES quickly mirrors him. The two stand facing each other. FIENNES is looking down, remorseful. After a moment of silence FIENNES looks up, and they make eye contact.

FIENNES' face hardens and he goes for the inside of his jacket; CARMICHAEL drops the documents and does the same. They both draw pistols and stand there, arms outstretched. CARMICHAEL is in shock.

CARMICHAEL
(tears in his eyes)
You? They chose you?
(angrily)
My friend?

FIENNES
They knew you'd come to me.. after what you did..

CARMICHAEL

They knew I'd come to you because
you're my friend!

FIENNES looks away, hardens his resolve.

FIENNES

You.. I can't.. what were you
thinking?

CARMICHAEL shakes his head.

CARMICHAEL

Fi.. why are you doing this?

FIENNES shakes his head.

FIENNES

(angrily)

No! This is on you. You did this, not
me.

CARMICHAEL

We can run, both of us.. we could get
away, we coul-

FIENNES

(fiercely)

No we can't!

(softer)

We can't..

Silence.

FATHER CONSIDINE re-enters the main church hall and freezes
upon seeing the two men in a stand off.

FIENNES

(cont.)

(calling)

You should leave Father. Now.

FATHER CONSIDINE hurriedly backs out of the church.

CARMICHAEL

What now friend? Will you really kill
me?

FIENNES

I can't let you leave Car, your card's been dealt and there's no coming back from that. All we can do now is play our hand.

FIENNES cocks his gun.

FIENNES

(cont.)

I'm sorry Car, but there's no escaping them.

CARMICHAEL tenses, his finger squeezing the trigger, but only slightly. His face hardens, and tears form. His arm starts shaking as his breathing intensifies.

After a moment, he suddenly lowers his arm, letting go of the pistol. He drops to his knees and looks up.

CARMICHAEL

I'm glad it was you Fi.

CARMICHAEL smiles bravely as FIENNES aims his gun; he looks remorseful.

CARMICHAEL

(whispers)

I was so close..

A tear rolls down one cheek.

CARMICHAEL

..so close

He closes his eyes.