INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

A man leans against the wall with his right leg propped up.

REY CONSTANZA

A young homicide detective with an innocence to his eyes that you don’t find in urban detectives. An up-and-comer, burning with ambition.

CLOSE ON

him putting on a pair of police tactical gloves. In the center of the room sits a square table. Half sitting on the table is --

NICO MENDEZ

Early forties veteran police detective. His face tells it all - tough guy, reeks of complexity. A dirty cop who is nonetheless committed to ridding the community of scum thugs.

A DOOR OPENS ABRUPTLY...

JIMMY BONES, late thirties, low-life thug informant enters the room indifferently. He notices Rey by the door.

    NICO
    Sit down

    JIMMY
    What’s this all about Nic?

    NICO
    What’s this all about? What’s that? A new greeting of the day Jimmy? What’s this all about?

    JIMMY
    How you doing Nic?

    NICO
    I don’t know Jimmy. You see I’m not doing so great. A lot of shit on my mind. The kind of shit you lose sleep over - you know what I mean? How the hell are you?

    JIMMY
    Oh I’m Peachy.

(CONTINUED)
NICO
(chuckles)
Peachy? What the hell kind of shit is that? Peachy. Didn’t I tell you were going to love this guy

JIMMY
Depends on what you mean by trouble.

NICO
So what, you’re a fucking comedian now?

JIMMY
Coming here is not smart Nico. You know this.

REY SLAMS THE DOOR. Jimmy’s startled.

JIMMY
Who’s this fool?

Their eyes are digging into each other.

NICO
Mind your manners Jimmy. This here is my new protégé.

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Nico’s sitting in his car either dazed or grappling with a very deep thought. Momentarily, Rey knocks on the passenger side window. Nico barely noticing, then lowers the window.

REY
Lieutenant Nico Mendez?

NICO
Who’s asking?

REY
I’m Detective Rey Constanza sir, reporting for duty.

Nico smirks.

NICO
So what do want? A fucking medal?
REY
No sir. Just told to report to you.

Rey extends a handshake and Nico responds in kind.

NICO
Welcome to shit-ville sport.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR, COFFEE SHOP PARKING LOT - LATER THAT DAY

Nico and Rey getting acquainted.

NICO
They say you have quite a record. Police brutality, using excessive force and then some.

REY
Who’s they?

NICO
Let’s just say I’m well connected.

REY
So I have anger issues. Don’t we all sir?

NICO
Stop with the formalities kid. Nic’ll suffice...

Rey nods.

NICO
...Did you ask for a transfer or did you have no choice in the matter.

REY
The latter. The way I see it though, the transfer was an opportunity to start fresh.

NICO
So you’re looking for a fresh start huh?

REY
Yeah. A new place to hang my hat.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

NICO
Here? Boy, you need to lay off the crack pipe kid. It’s affecting your judgment.

REY
Nope. I’m beginning to feel right at home.

Rey looks intently, for a moment.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE – DAY
BACK TO SCENE.
The tension is building up.

JIMMY
I don’t like this guy Nic. He’s not one of us.

NICO
Don’t get your panties in a bunch.

JIMMY
This is bullshit Nic and you know it.

NICO
Jimmy, you’re trying my patience. Boy here needs a guide, a mentor of sorts – You feel me?

JIMMY
This shit’ll never end will it?

NICO
It’ll only change. You see, change is inevitable in a progressive society. It’s constant. In this racket, you change or die. It’s that simple. So do me a favor, get your head out of your ass and into the game.

Jimmy sighs, looks over at Rey and notices the tactical gloves.

JIMMY
What’s with the gloves?
REY
I’m a fashionista.

JIMMY
He puts his hands on me, you gonna have to deal with Slick.

NICO
Slick finds out you’re here -- it’s you that’ll have to deal with Slick. Not me.

JIMMY
Nic! My intel is always good. My information gets you results. Why you recruiting new meat? You know how sensitive these matters are.

NICO
What are you my general manager? You just sit, shut the fuck up, and answer my questions. That’s it.

Jimmy glares over at Rey.

REY
Your move sport.

JIMMY
Yeah, fine, whatever.

NICO
So, a lot of things are being said through the grape vine Jimmy, I happen to be close so I’ve picked up on a few things. You on the other hand - are even closer. So why don’t you shed some light on what you know.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Nico is behind the wheel and Rey sits in the passenger seat of a police sedan that lies skewed in a parking slot.

REY
You seem to be clueless.

NICO
That obvious?
REY
So what makes you think I’m right for this?

NICO
You’re a dirty cop.

REY
Well, we all got a little dirty in us.

NICO
(smiles)
Yeap. It’s pretty clear you’re not one to follow the rules. You apply the law as you see fit. People are scared to you. More importantly though, you got guts kid.

REY
Read my file?

NICO
Like I’m sure you read mine player.

REY
Yes indeed.

NICO
Now that the dirty laundry is out, what say we get to talking a little business. I need you to run my district. To start, eighty-twenty...

REY
You cut right to the chase.

NICO
It’s the only way.

REY
But eighty twenty? How about Fifty-fifty?

NICO
I’m making the offers here brother.

REY
Hey, if I’m gonna be doing the heavy liftin fifty-fifty is reasonable. Don’t you think?

Nico sighs in disbelief.

(CONTINUED)
NICO
Sixty-forty. And that’s my final offer.

REY
Alright. Fair enough.

Nico chuckles as he shakes his head.

NICO
Shit, I’m getting soft.

Nico takes a moment and looks at Rey for a second.

NICO
You seem familiar to me kid.

REY
People say I got one of those faces.

NICO
Forget about it. Let’s focus on business.

REY
What are you working on?

NICO
I gotta an off the books informant I’ve been working for some time now. A good one. But he’s high maintenance. He’s got dumb ass requests that I approve and in return, I get good intel.

REY
Who is he?

NICO
Jimmy. Jimmy Bones. He’s a lower-level player but well connected.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

Jimmy is against the wall and Rey is frisking him.

(CONTINUED)
JIMMY
There’s no need for this shit. We’re in your neighborhood. How long we’ve been meeting like this Nic?

NICO
The kid just wants to be sure -- on account he’s new and all. Make sure you’re clean.

JIMMY
God damn-it. Don’t talk to me about being clean.

NICO
Bring it down a notch Jimmy.

JIMMY
Yeah, my thoughts exactly.

Rey completes his frisk.

REY
He’s clean.

JIMMY
You happy now?

REY
(sarcastically)
I’m ecstatic.

NICO
(smiling)
I love this guy.

JIMMY
Sounds like you two should get a room then.

NICO
Considering the circumstances I’m gonna let that shitty-ass remark slide. But remember, you’re not running this show. You don’t have enough power. You want to keep up this arrangement, I suggest you show some god-damn respect.

JIMMY
Yeah, sure, respect -- you got it.
CONTINUED:

NICO
Okay then. Slick’s doing some shit behind my back. You want to stop beating around the bush and enlighten me?

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Nico hands a file to Rey. Rey inspects the file meticulously as Nico chatters away.

NICO
There’s this guy, Slick. He likes to creep up in my district from time to time.

REY
It’s quite a file he’s got here.

NICO
Oh, it could be larger. I’m the reason it’s not.

REY
So he owes you?

NICO
You could say that.
(beat)
I’ve been keeping an eye on this fool and brother, things are not as they seem. We’ve had our dealings for some time now, so for the kind of business I know he’s running, he shouldn’t be as well off as he is.

REY
What’s the connection with Jimmy?

NICO
He’s Slick’s cousin. Jimmy see’s all and hears all. Slick knows this. He doesn’t trust the kid. Being that the case, we need to start applying some pressure. I need to be taken more seriously.

CUT TO:
EXT. PARK - DAY

Rey is talking with someone we don’t yet reveal.

REY
You want to hear the truth? I was sent here because I have no tolerance for shits like you. With me in the hood you gonna to need to be a survivor. Survivors go far. How far do you want to go? You want to be at the top of your game? Or do you want to fall prey to my wrath.

We reveal the unknown person as Jimmy.

JIMMY
One day I’m gonna be at the top. You mark my words.

REY
And what day might that be?

JIMMY
Some day.

REY
You got talents Jimmy. You now things no one else does. I’ll give you that. And if you continue to enlighten me with those talents, you might just achieve your goal. But bare in mind -- although information has a price, I don’t pay. On the flip side, withholding information has a price as well. That’s when you get taken out of the equation. You following me?

JIMMY
Closely.

REY
You’re the future Jimmy. Hell, we both are. So lets get it right.

JIMMY
What would you have me do?

REY
Nico wants something from you.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JIMMY
He always does.

REY
But this time around, you gonna
give him more than something -- the
mother of information.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

Rey STRIKES Jimmy.

JIMMY
Is that the best you got?

REY
I’m just warming up.

NICO
Jimmy, "I know nothing" is not the
answer I wanna hear. You got ears
to the ground 24/7. I know this. So
start talking.

JIMMY
Nic, this was never necessary.

NICO
We’re under new management Jimmy.
Didn’t I tell you change was
inevitable? So tell me what Slick’s
up to.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Back to Nico and Rey.

REY
How did Slick get to the top?

NICO
Inherited it from his pop’s. We
used to call his pop’s, "Moleman".

REY
Moleman?

(CONTINUED)
NICO
Yeah. I hate to give scum any credit but that one was clever. Never did business outside. It all took place in his multimillion dollar home. We sent in an undercover. Our best. Officer Angelo Ramirez. When Moleman started checking every single man for wires, including his own men, that UC never showed up again. Son of a bitch vanished.

REY
So what happened?

NICO
That sort of thing triggers a meeting. You know what I mean? Needless to say, Moleman and I came to an understanding.

REY
And what understanding might that be?

NICO
For a nominal fee I make sure to keep him off the books.

REY
Just like that?

NICO
There was only one problem.

REY
Your partner right?

NICO
Yeah. My partner played by the book.

Rey stares intently at Nico.

CUT TO:
INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

Jimmy’s face SLAMS against the table. Rey’s about to strike him again when --

JIMMY
Ok Stop! I’ll talk.

NICO
Now that’s what I want to hear.

JIMMY
It’s something big.

NICO
That’s even better.

JIMMY
Years ago a man made a deal with Moleman.

NICO
Moleman?

JIMMY
Yeah. Remember? He used to own the territory.

Nico looks concern.

NICO
I know who the Moleman was.

JIMMY
Let me tell you what happened. The Moleman made a deal with cops to survive. One cop was on board, the partner wasn’t. You see, the partner was old school. Wanted to do things by the book. Making deals with criminals was not in his job description. He was ready to talk. Next thing you know, he’s dead. You want to hear what I know Nico? I know the name of the cop who killed him.

CUT TO:
INT. PARK - DAY

Back to Rey and Jimmy.

JIMMY
If Nico knows more than he should, everybody’s going to point the finger at me. Slick ain’t gonna be too happy about that and I don’t want those kinds of problems. Nico wants you cause he’s losing power, getting old and shit. He needs someone like you to do the dirty work. So you know what? You can beat me til you’re blue in the face -- I’m not saying nothing.

REY
I might have something that can make it easier for you Einstein. Save you from doing hard time and all. I believe there can be a win-win situation here.

He grabs a folded sheet of paper from his jacket and gives it to Jimmy.

JIMMY
What’s this?

REY
An old story you can use to buy your way out.

JIMMY
You don’t get it. Nico’ll kill me.

REY
Right now, the way I see it, you’re already dead. Now, you let him know what he needs to know and you might live to see another day. You lie to him, he’ll probably laugh and let you go -- cause you got nothing to sell. Now, you tell him the truth, he’ll keep you alive to verify the source. Essentially what you’re buying here is time.

JIMMY
What’s in it for you?

Rey pointing to the paper.

(CONTINUED)
REY
I need to hear what he has to say.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY
BACK TO SCENE.

Nico angrily pushes Jimmy against the wall.

NICO
Where’d you get that story from?

JIMMY
Take it easy Nico.

NICO
Don’t tell me how to take things.

JIMMY
That’s all I heard.

NICO
Who told you?

JIMMY
Some guy.

NICO
I want to hear a name. You give me a fucking name!

REY
You better start talking Jimmy.

JIMMY
Alright, alright! There’s this guy; you know? He says he’s the son of the dead cop and he wants vengeance.

Nico tones it down a notch releasing his grip on Jimmy. He casually steps back.

NICO
Where’s this guy right now?

JIMMY
Shit I don’t know.
CONTINUED:

NICO
What’s he look like?

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Rey listening to Nico intently.

NICO
The last time I saw that little kid he gave me a look I’ll never forget. It was as if he knew his dad’s death was because of my dealings with Moleman.

REY
What did you tell him?

NICO
That his dad was a great man who died in the line of duty. That’s the truth. You want to find a role model in our station? Check the record of that man. Best cop ever.

REY
But you never found the man behind the trigger, right?

NICO
It’s a cold case.

REY
What happened to the kid?

NICO
I would check in on him from time to time. Did my best to look after them. One day him and his mom just picked up and left. Never heard from them again. For some time, I wondered if he’d ever have an interest in finding out the truth.

REY
And what truth might that be?

NICO
The person who killed his father.

(CONTINUED)
REY
Would you help him.

NICO
I crossed a line a long time ago kid. A line you’re also willing to cross. The thing is, once you cross it, you find that the line between good and evil become synonymous to one another. To find out what really happened that day, he’ll have to cross that line too.

REY
I wonder what he’ll find.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Nico HITS the table. He’s angry as hell. Jimmy’s anxious and Rey is calm but serious.

NICO
I’ve been here long enough to make sure I know more than anybody. And now you show up and tell me this boy is coming for me.

JIMMY
He’s not a boy anymore. He’s all grown up and he’s pissed. Thing is, if he come’s here to revenge his dad, and kills you, cause you’re guilty, who’s gonna keep Slick and all of us off the records?

NICO
I didn’t kill my partner. Moleman had him killed. He vowed to kill his family as well if I didn’t agree to his terms.

REY
Nic, if you’re clean in all this you have nothing to worry about.

NICO
You want to know when I crossed the line kid? The day my partner died I made a turn in the wrong direction in order to guarantee the safety of his family. That’s right!

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

JIMMY
Bullshit!

NICO
I know I’m dirty, but for the right reasons. The kid’s just gonna have to believe me or die.

REY
I don’t believe you.

Nico looks puzzled.

In a split second Rey draws his gun and --BANG! The bullet strikes Nico in the chest. He tumbles backward, struggling weakly to pull his gun as blood bubbles in his mouth.

NICO
Jesus, I’ve been shot.

He tries to rise, but can’t. Without hesitation Rey fires again striking him on the shoulder.

Jimmy is shocked. Nico wounded and shakened -- glares at Rey.

REY
I finally caught up to the man who pulled that trigger.

NICO
Now I see why you looked so familiar. Your file was lacking a few details.

REY
Some details were left out.

NICO
Your name for starters.

REY
I had to change many things to get to this moment.

NICO
How did you know?

REY
A little birdie. You were always on the top of my list though.

(CONTINUED)
Rey raises the gun to Nico’s face. Nico is in complete command of himself and nowhere near scared.

NICO
...Hope you can find some peace after this.

REY
Oh I will.

A final shot POINT BLANK into the Nico’s forehead. A stream of black liquid spouts from the hole. Nico lays motionless.

Jimmy is still in shock.

JIMMY
Oh man! You killed Nico.

REY
Yes, I did.

JIMMY
Oh no, this is bad, this is real bad!

Rey is grabbing Nico’s hand with the gun simultaneously when Jimmy approaches.

REY
Hey hey, you need to step back. This is a crime scene, you understand?

JIMMY
Fucking-ay it’s a crime scene. You just killed the guy. Who’s gonna protect us now? Nico was keeping us out of the system. Cops are gonna come for us now! We’re gonna get nailed for this!

REY
Calm the fuck down! Can you stay where you are?

JIMMY
What difference does it make?
REY
It makes all the difference shit-for-brains.

Suddenly, Rey points Nico’s gun at Jimmy. BANG! BANG!

Jimmy is shot. His body falls quickly to the ground.

REY
You’re at the top now. People are gonna talk about you.

Jimmy is gasping for dear life.

REY
I will erase whatever’s left of the Moleman and all his dealings. I’m fulfilling my father’s will and nobody’s gonna stop me. Take that last thought with you motherfucker.

He spits out blood and exhales his last breath -- he’s dead.

Rey wipes his fingerprints off his gun and puts the gun in Jimmy’s hand.

REY
Good bye Jimmy.

Rey gets up, grabs his leather jacket off the chair and puts it on. He fixes his look on his shield and then looks at Nico’s prostrate body.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

He walks out the door victoriously. Unexpectedly, the voice of someone we don’t yet reveal cries out to him. Rey glances over and eyes meet with a homeless man.

HOMELESS MAN
Can you spare some change sir?

Rey smiles. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a twenty dollar bill -- why not? He walks up to the homeless man and hands him the twenty dollar bill --

REY
I’m feeling generous today.

As he walks away toward us, behind him the homeless man stands and IN SLOW MOTION, pulls out a 45 caliber pistol fitted with a long silencer. Then, BANG, BANG, BANG. Rey falls slowly to his knees and then to the ground, dead.
A BLACK LINCOLN TOWN CAR pulls up and picks up the homeless man.

INT. CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A cell phone rings. The homeless man answers the phone. On the other end a voice --

    VOICE (O.S.)
    Is it done Angelo?

    ANGELO
    No more loose ends Moleman. No more loose ends.

INT. BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Back to Nico and Rey sitting at the bar.

    NICO
    That undercover officer Angelo, never showed up again, alive or dead. It’s like he vanished.

    END OF FLASHBACK

FADE TO BLACK.