

THE WASH
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FADE IN:

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

SAM, 19, shoots hoops by himself on the empty court. He has good form, knows how to work the ball.

A car parked across the street.

INT. CAR

RUDY VALDEZ, 30, vice cop, watches Sam on the court. Dark shades, smoking a cigarette.

RUDY (V.O.)

The kid's got talent. Basketball scholarship on the line. Too bad he could lose it all covering for his brother. Two nights ago there was a murder over drug money.

INT. CAR WASH - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Sam and RICHIE, 25, behind the counter.

A car pulls up and TWO MEN, 25, get out. Enter the shop.

RICHIE

(to the men)

I told you not to come here.

MAN #1

Tick tock, homes. You owe us, big time.

SAM

(to Richie)

I thought you said money was coming in?

MAN #2

Talking business out of class, it sounds like.

RICHIE

Never mind him. I'll get you the cash, I swear.

(CONTINUED)

MAN #1

Tick tock, see the glock.

Sam pulls a gun from under the counter and shoots them both.

BACK TO

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

Sam is fierce on the court. Frustration on his face. He dunks the ball hard.

Grabs his skateboard and leaves the basketball court.

INSIDE THE CAR

Rudy looks at his watch.

EXT. CAR WASH - DAY

Rudy spots Sam wearing overalls. Exits his car.

INT. SHOP

Rudy approaches the counter.

RUDY

Evening, Samuel.

Shows his badge and ID.

SAM

I don't want to talk to you. I don't want to talk to anybody.

RUDY

It's hard, but you have to give answers.

SAM

I won't jeopardize my brother's life.

RUDY

And what about yours? Unfortunately this won't all just wash away.

Sam glares at him.

(CONTINUED)

RUDY
Was it something I said?

SAM
I've got nothing to say to you.

RUDY
I know you're covering for him.

Sam isn't looking at him. Rudy fingers a pack of gum.

RUDY
Where are the bodies and where is
Richie now?

A customer pulls up outside.

RUDY
Thanks. You've said a lot for not
wanting to talk.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS - DAY

It's a run-down, poor section. The sedan drives.

INT. CAR - MOVING

Rudy sits cool behind the wheel, shades on, chain smoking.

RUDY (V.O.)
The kid's alright. It's his brother
that will pull him down.

EXT. HAMBURGER STAND - DAY

Rudy orders food. Shows photos to the COUNTER PERSON. They
shake their head "no." Rudy takes his food, pockets the
photos.

Sits down at an outside table.

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Sam and Richie play one on one.

RICHIE
Nice. That scholarship is yours,
I'm telling' ya.

They toss the ball and forth and both sit on the side.

(CONTINUED)

RICHIE

I've got money coming in. The guys
owe me.

SAM

You trust them, don't you?

Richie thinks about this a moment.

RICHIE

Yeah.

SAM

Don't sound too sure.

RICHIE

It'll be alright. Come on. Enough
of this. Game on.

He grabs the ball and stands up.

BACK TO

EXT. HAMBURGER STAND - DAY

Rudy still sits at his table. Empty tray in front of him.
Pulls out a cigarette.

TWO KIDS, 10, on bikes order food.

KID #1

Why don't we ride back down to the
wash?

KID #2

There's nothing there. Let's just
head up to my house.

Rudy catches something.

RUDY

Hey, kid. Where is this place you
called the wash?

KID #1

Back over the bridge, about a mile.

Rudy nods.

EXT. THE WASH - DAY

Rudy scouts the area. It's a run-off where excess water drains when it rains heavily. Grassy and marshy. A light stream of water runs beneath the overpass.

Rudy walks down the bank, into the tunnel opening.

He senses a presence, hand moves to his side holster.

A figure appears in front of him.

RICHIE

Why don't you leave him alone?

RUDY

Why's he covering for you?

SAM (O.S.)

I'm not.

Rudy spins around, sees Sam pointing a gun at him.

SAM

I shot those guys. They were going to kill my brother and me.

RICHIE

Sammy, hey. Don't do this.

SAM

(to Rudy)

Hands up.

Rudy takes a deep breath, pulls his hand slowly out from under his jacket.

Sam fires, shoots Rudy.

Looks up and makes eye contact with Richie.

FADE OUT.