

EXT. BUILDING GROUNDS - DAY

A crooked badge pinned to a uniform bobs up and down.

Réné (40's, huge, obese) patrols the lot of an old building.

He walks with purpose and vigilance. On his hat: SECURITY

-He locks the gates to some dumpsters.

-He darts around a corner, imaginary gun in hand.

-He tries to fix a leaky garden faucet. Reports it on his CB.

LATER

Réné patrols the parking lot while eating an apple. He suddenly stops. Something up ahead has caught his attention:

ANTOINE (18, overweight, gangster wannabe) jimmy's a car.

Startled, Réné reaches for his CB but fumbles with his apple and it falls. He bends down to pick it up when:

SCREEEEEEECH!

The car speeds towards the street. Réné looks up, makes a judgment call and sprints to head it off.

He races into the exit just in time to block the car, but it doesn't stop. Réné holds his ground and braces for impact.

SMACK! Réné tumbles over the hood and on to the ground.

The car crashes onto the curb. Antoine jumps out and runs.

Réné calls out to a nearby security guard:

RÉNÉ
Yan! Stop him!!!

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

VROOM! Dirt and grass shoot out from a spinning tire.

ANDRÉ the HEAD GUARD (Male, 50's), yells from inside the car.

ANDRÉ
Push!

It doesn't budge.

YAN
This is pointless.

Réné slams the hood.

RÉNÉ
You let him get away!

YAN
You want me to pepper spray a teenager?

RÉNÉ
I want you to do your job!
(To André)
He's completely useless.

YAN
Hey! Next time lose a hundred pounds and catch him yourself.

RÉNÉ
Disrespect me like that next week and you'll end up in jail.

Yan up in Réné's face,

YAN
You really think their going to let your fat ass be a cop?

Réné shoves him, Yan goes to strike... BEEEEEP!

ANDRÉ
That's enough!

André gets out of the car.

RÉNÉ
Either he's gone or I am!

ANDRÉ
Calm down. He followed protocol.

Réné stares in disbelief.

RÉNÉ
So we should let cars get stolen?

ANDRÉ
You'll make a great cop. But for now it's observe and report.

RÉNÉ
This job's a joke.

ANDRÉ
Focus, we need to move this car.

Réné turns and leaves.

ANDRÉ (CONT'D)
Réné! We need your help!

RÉNÉ
I'm done with this.

INT. CLINIC - PHYSICIAN'S ROOM - DAY

A DOCTOR (30's, pretty) sits at a desk typing. Réné, shirtless and outraged sits on the examination bed.

RÉNÉ
I can't be a cop if you don't sign!

DOCTOR
You can put your shirt back on.

He gets dressed.

RÉNÉ
You don't understand, I already passed the exams. After the fit test I'm a cop.

She continues typing, distracted.

DOCTOR
You're on the right track. Your cholesterol is down. You quit smoking. You lost an impressive amount of weight...

RÉNÉ
Because I want to join the force! Otherwise what's the point?

She turns to him, unsympathetic.

DOCTOR
Heart attacks are an elevated danger for officers and you're still at risk.

RÉNÉ
It's been my dream since I'm a kid.
(MORE)

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
I'm not leaving until you sign.

DOCTOR
Your Father died from a heart
attack around your age. I can't
approve. My job is on the line.

RÉNÉ
My LIFE is on the line!

She stares, not understanding.

DOCTOR
You can do anything else?

RÉNÉ
Being a cop means honor and
respect. I'd rather die tomorrow as
one than live like the worthless
nobody my father was.

She pauses conflicted. Then turns, signs her name and stands.

DOCTOR
My day's done so you might be
waiting a long time.

She hands the paper to him and leaves.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
I think you have a cracked rib.

He looks down at the paper: ORDINANCE FOR X-RAY

EXT. FAST FOOD DRIVE THROUGH - EVENING

Réné idles next to a drive through speaker-com.

DRIVE THROUGH
What would you like to order?

He stares ahead in a daze.

RÉNÉ
Combo 1. Supersize.

He drives ahead as the speaker trails off and glances down at
the X-RAY paper on the seat next to him.

The car in front takes their food and leave. René pulls ahead
to the window. He flashes his card "BEEP", then waits.

A paper bag is held out to him when he notices a police car

whirl by. He let's the food hang mid air as the sirens fade.
He drives away.

CASHIER
Sir, your food!

MOMENTS LATER - In the parking lot:

Réné forges the signature from the X-RAY paper onto his form.

INT. POLICE ACADEMY - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Trim, shirtless men change into workout gear.

Réné unzips a duffle bag. He glances at the fit bodies of the others then shamefully removes his shirt.

TRAINER (O.C.)
The next four hours will prove if
you have what it takes to be a cop.

INT. POLICE ACADEMY - GYMNASIUM - DAY

Trainees stretch. The TRAINER (40's, fit) approaches René.

TRAINER
Your test scores were impressive.
Let's see you kick some ass today.

LATER: The recruits run drills while a trainer times them.

-They do wind-sprints. René is focused and primed.

TRAINER (CONT'D)
Good speed!

-They do burpees. René pushes through the pain.

TRAINER (CONT'D)
You're a machine!

-They carry punching bags. René is the fastest.

TRAINER (CONT'D)
Réné your killing it!

-Réné, covered in sweat chugs from a water bottle. He jumps up and down psyching himself up. He's in the zone.

TRAINER (CONT'D)
This is the wall.

A tall barrier with a rope.

TRAINER

Climb this and you can be a cop.
Réné, you're first up!

Réné stares at the wall, determined.

BLACK

EXT. BUILDING GROUNDS - DAY

The grounds are vacant.

It's quiet.

A door opens. Out walks Réné in his security uniform.

His demeanor in stark contrast to before. He wanders sluggishly, barely holding it together.

ANDRÉ (IN WALKIE)

Good to have you back. Now
remember, *observe and report*.

LATER

-He closes the dumpster gate. The lock hangs unbolted.

-He notices the leaky garden faucet, shakes his head and tries to fix it. He forces the nozzle and hurts his hand.

RÉNÉ

Goddammit!

He rises, kicks it in spite. It breaks and sprays everywhere.

LATER

The sun is setting while Réné rounds the corner of the building, suddenly he stops. He stares ahead into the lot:

Antoine roams the parked cars suspiciously.

RÉNÉ (INTO CB) (CONT'D)

I see the car thief. He's in the
lot now, call it in.

CAPTAIN (CB)

Copy. Don't approach.

He hides back behind the corner, sticks his head out to see.

Antoine discreetly jimmy's a car door.

RÉNÉ (INTO CB)
He's breaking into a car.

CAPTAIN (CB)
Cops are on their way.

Réné struggles impatiently to stay hidden. He looks out:

Antoine enters the car and fiddles under the dash.

RÉNÉ (INTO CB)
He's going to get away!

CAPTAIN (CB)
Don't approach! We can't risk it!

Réné watches. Anger rising... The car false starts.

RÉNÉ (TO HIMSELF)
Fuck this.

He throws down his CB and sprints full tilt.

He arrives panting. Antoine watches cautiously from inside.

He pulls out his baton and taps the window.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
It's over. C'mon out kid.

Antoine gives him the finger, tries to start the car again.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
Hey! Get out of the car!

The car revs into life. Réné panics and smashes the window. Antoine, covered in glass, rushes to the passenger door.

Réné reaches inside. Antoine tries to escape but is jolted back. Réné has him by the backpack. They struggle.

Antoine turns, kicks him hard in the face. The strap rips and Réné falls out with a bloody nose as Antoine takes off.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - NIGHT

SECURITY FOOTAGE: Réné struggles to his feet and stumbles.

An officer reviews the footage. André and a bloodied Réné wait. Réné eye's the officers badge, embarrassed,

RÉNÉ

I had him, but his bag ripped.

He holds up the broken strap.

OFFICER

This was completely mishandled.

RÉNÉ

He was about to steal a car.

OFFICER

And you should have let him. Taking a stolen car for a joyride is a common gang initiation ritual.

RÉNÉ

I was right there, I could've stopped him.

OFFICER

We would've found the car later. It's the kid's life we care about, not the property.

RÉNÉ

Of course, but...

OFFICER (INTERUPTS)

Look at your face. Your actions were extremely irresponsible.

Réné stares open-mouthed, stunned.

ANDRE

Go get some ice for that.

RÉNÉ

I'm fine.

ANDRE

So sorry about this officer.

INT. RÉNÉ'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Réné sits on a couch with a bag of frozen pees on his nose. He inspects the strap and notices a small zippered pocket.

He puts the pees down unzips the pocket and pulls out a small pencil. He turns it over and notices some engraved writing:

Hillcrest pub... The rest cutoff from the sharpened end.

He places the pencil in his breast pocket and pops the frozen pees back on his nose.

EXT. BUILDING GROUNDS - DUMPTERS - NIGHT

The gate to the dumpsters sways openly in the darkness. A group of raccoons converse as garbage is thrown everywhere.

EXT. BUILDING GROUNDS - GARDEN - NIGHT

The broken faucet gushes water, flooding a garden.

EXT. BUILDING GROUNDS - MORNING

The sun rises over the gloomy buildings.

EXT. BUILDING GROUNDS - DUMPTERS - MORNING

Garbage everywhere.

André and René survey the mess.

ANDRÉ

Something else I want you to see.

EXT. BUILDING GROUNDS - GARDEN - MORNING

André and René stand next to a flooded garden. Plants and flowers destroyed.

ANDRÉ

The residents joined together to make this garden. It meant a lot to them.

RÉNÉ

Really? It looks like a bunch of overgrown weeds.

ANDRÉ

They did their best with what they had. They're gonna be devastated.

RÉNÉ

Not my problem, I'm just the guard.

ANDRÉ

Jesus René, you were never going to be a police officer! Wake up man!

RÉNÉ

You said I would make a great cop.

ANDRÉ

I was being nice! I thought you would get over it and move on with your life.

Réné is stung. André grabs two shovels, walks in the garden.

ANDRÉ (CONT'D)

If we dig a trench to the ditch I think we can drain this water.

He offers René a shovel.

RÉNÉ

Why should I even give a shit what you think anyways? Look at you! Look at this place!

ANDRÉ

I take a lot of pride in this job.

RÉNÉ

You're wading through dirt and shit!

ANDRÉ

You did this! Twenty years I've been trying to make this a better home for the people who live here, and you show up and *do this!* And I have to face them cause it's my fault I hired you.

RÉNÉ

Blame me then, I quit!

He walk away.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)

Bunch of fuckin welfare bums anyways!

ANDRÉ

Taking you back was a huge mistake!

EXT. APARTMENT BALCONY - NIGHT

Factories and ugly buildings stretch out into the skyline.

Réné leans on the rail looking out, smoking. He grabs his

beer, dangles it over the side and drops it.

It crashes into a thousand pieces. René stares contemplating.

His gaze switches to the pencil in his front pocket. He pulls it out and reads the writing:

"Hillcrest pub..."

EXT. HILLCREST SCHOOL - CAR - DAY

Above the entrance to a large building reads the sign:
"Hillcrest Public School".

René shuts off the engine and stares at the school entrance.

The SCHOOL BELL RINGS, a large crowd of students pour out.

René frantically searches among the many faces.

Stragglings in the back walks Antoine.

EXT. SKATE PARK / CAR - EVENING

The sun sets behind an urban skate park full of skaters.

Antoine sits at a table to the side talking with a GIRL (18).
Max sits next to him making out with another GIRL (18).

René watches from inside his parked car across the street.

Antoine makes a move to kiss the cute girl, but she dodges him and walks away. Antoine sits alone rejected.

René takes it all in, waiting.

Antoine gets up, says something to Max and they leave.

René starts the car.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The boys walk down the sidewalk.

René follows them, driving slowly without headlights.

They turn into an alleyway too small for a car.

René stops, hesitates.

BEEP BEEP! A car on his ass. Startled he continues driving.

RÉNÉ

Shit!

He speeds up, makes a sharp turn into a winding underpass.
Left of right? He turns right, accelerates and searches.

SCREECH! Dead stop, inches from hitting Antoine and Max.

Antoine smashes the hood.

ANTOINE

Asshole!

Réné flinches, wide eyed.

Antoine stares... They both hesitate.

RÉNÉ (TO HIMSELF)

Not this time.

Réné pens the door...

ANTOINE

Run!

Antoine bolts away with Max following behind.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Réné sprints after them with everything he's got.

The path is blocked by a tall fence. Max quickly climbs over
and disappears while Antoine struggles at the bottom.

Réné arrives, shoves him against the fence and cuffs his
hands behind his back.

ANTOINE

You're hurting me!

RÉNÉ

Sit down!

Antoine resists but Réné forces him down hard.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)

SIT DOWN!

ANTOINE

Fuck you!

Réné pulls out his phone.

RÉNÉ
Is officer badge 793 on duty?

Antoine fumes

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
Can you put me through to him?

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

The city skyline illuminates darkness. Distant sirens echo.

EXT/INT. ALLEYWAY / POLICE GYM - NIGHT/DAY

Antoine sits against the fence, René against the wall.

ANTOINE
So, you're like just some security
guard who wishes he was a cop?

Réné pulls out a cigarette and lights up.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)
Ya, you're too fat to be a cop.

RÉNÉ
Didn't stop me from catching you.

ANTOINE
Cause I'm like, just as fat as you.
You notice my friend got away?

Réné goes back to his cigarette.

ANTOINE (CONT'D)
What good's a guard who can only
catch fat people!?

RÉNÉ
What good's a life if you waste it
in jail?

ANTOINE
I'd rather be in jail than be as
pathetic as you.

Réné ignores him.

Police sirens echo down the alleyway then disappear. René
looks to Antoine.

RÉNÉ
You eighteen?

Antoine stares down the alleyway.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
You could get ten years.

ANTOINE
Who gives a fuck.

RÉNÉ
What's wrong with you? I'd do anything to be your age again and start over. You've got a whole life ahead of you. You can do anything!

Antoine ignores him.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
Instead you try to join a gang!

Antoine unloads.

ANTOINE
What fucking life? Look at me! What do I have to look forward to! Being a fat, lonely failed cop like you!? Joining a gang's the only way I'll get any respect!

Réné stares, taken back. He throws his cigarette and gets up.

RÉNÉ
Stand up.

Confused, Antoine stands. René turns him, cuts his cuffs.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
Climb.

Antoine stares up at the tall fence.

ANTOINE
Why?

RÉNÉ
Climb!

ANTOINE
I can't!

RÉNÉ
Climb or go to jail, your choice.

Antoine hesitates, turns, grabs the fence and climbs. He struggles a few feet up and falls.

ANTOINE

This is stupid! Just let me go!

Their faces flash blue and red.

Down the alley a cop steps out of his car and looks to them.

RÉNÉ (YELLS TO COP)

Over here!

Antoine panics, starts to climb. René watches.

GYM FLASHBACK:

-René stares at the wall.

TRAINER

Réné, you're up!

-Rope in hand, René begins to climb.

ALLEYWAY:

Antoine climbs. It's difficult.

GYM FLASHBACK:

Réné climbs. It's difficult.

ALLEYWAY:

Half-way up Antoine clings to the fence, frozen.

The cop notices from down the alley.

COP

Hey! Get down!

RÉNÉ (TO ANTOINE)

You can do this!

ANTOINE

I can't!

GYM FLASHBACK:

Half-way up René is stuck.

TRAINER

You got this!

ALLEYWAY:

RÉNÉ
CLIMB!

Antoine reaches higher, shaking.

GYM FLASHBACK:

Réné pulls, shaking. He lets out a guttural scream.

And drops.

ALLEYWAY:

The cop sprints to the fence.

COP
Police! Climb down now!

Antoine doesn't move, conflicted.

The cop starts to climb after him,

GYM FLASHBACK:

Réné stands rope in hand mid argument.

RÉNÉ
I can do this!

TRAINER
No second chances.

RÉNÉ
I CAN DO THIS!

ALLEYWAY:

Réné climbs after the cop, grabs his foot.

RÉNÉ (CONT'D)
CLIMB!

A new courage drives Antoine to climb.

The cop kicks Réné off, but he climbs back, grabs him again.

COP
Let go!

Réné and the cop fall down and grapple.

GYM:

The trainer holds René back from the wall. They grapple.

TRAINER
IT'S OVER RENÉ!

René gives up.

Around him the faces of the others stare at him with pity.

ALLEYWAY:

The cop has René on his back. He's putting handcuffs on him.

Suddenly Antoine drops down the other side of the fence.

Face against asphalt, René locks eyes with Antoine.

They share a lingering glance.

René watches him disappear into the darkness.

THE END