

THE RAGE

Written by

William David Glenn IV

THUG #1 (V.O.)
(over black)
Come on mother fucker. Get up!

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

BEN's eyes snap open. Take in his surroundings. A dingy floor. An unconscious man passed out beside him, THUG #2.

Ben looks up to see THUG #1 standing over him, in fighting stance. Waiting for Ben to get back up.

Ben slowly stands, disoriented. Wipes blood from his mouth. His eyes fill with rage.

He charges, taking the Thug back against the stall wall. Thug #1 kicks out, forcing Ben back. They trade heavy blows.

Ben isn't the most experienced fighter, but his pure volatile rage and his quest for vengeance carry him through.

As Ben and Thug #1 struggle for dominance, Thug #2 stands up behind them.

Ben drops Thug #1. Delivers the final blow, a swift kick to the face.

Thug #2 grabs Ben from behind. His feet drag against the floor as they head toward the sink.

Thug #2 slams Ben on the floor. Wails on him.

Ben swings around, sweeping Thug #2 off his feet. The Thug's head slams against the bathroom sink on his way down.

Blood drips off the edge of the sink onto the floor.

Ben rises. Staggeres forward, stepping over the Thug.

He splashes water on his face. Stares at himself in the mirror, his rage boiling over.

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Ben snatches his keys. His SISTER blocks the door, her face bruised and bloody. Ben can't stand the sight.

SISTER
Don't go. Please. I'll call the
cops. Tell them everything.

BEN

And what are they gonna do?

Her silence says it all. Ben moves her out of the way. Slams the door on his way out. His sister holds back tears.

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

Ben glares at himself in the mirror. His hand grips the sink.

INT. POOL HALL - NIGHT

Closed for the night. RICHARD, the owner, counts his earnings. THUGS #3 and #4 stand nearby.

Ben swings the bathroom door open. Stumbles forward, fighting through the pain. Glares right at Richard.

Richard look up from his cash. Wears an amused smile. The Thugs, bigger than the guys in the bathroom, circle Ben.

RICHARD

Go on home now. Quit while you're ahead.

Ben gets into fighting position. Richard motions to his thugs, giving them the "go-ahead."

The thugs close in. Ben throws Thug #3 back against a pool table. Trades blows with Thug #4. Leads him around the table.

Thug #3 grabs a pool cue. WHACK. It snaps against Ben's back.

Ben goes to his knees. Thug #3 whips him with the broken cue while Thug #4 wails on him from the front.

Ben launches up, throwing Thug #4 over the table. Thug #3 stabs him in the back with the broken cue.

Richard laughs from his seat, enjoying the show. This only fuels Ben.

Ben leans against the table. Pulls the cue from his back.

He charges. Attacking Thug #3 with the broken cue.

Thug #4 hits Ben in the gut. He drops the cue. It CLINKS on the ground.

Ben slams Thug #3's head down against the pool table. Thug #4 watches in horror as his buddy goes down for the count.

Thug #4 slams Ben back against the table. Choking him.

Ben struggles. Takes hold of a cue ball. Strikes the Thug's head. Blood sprays onto the table.

Thug #4 drops. Ben stands over him. Raises the ball high above his head.

Thug #4 surrenders, but it's too late. Ben brings the ball down repeatedly. A force of fury. Thug #4's hand twitches.

Ben drops the ball. It rolls to its blood drenched half.

Ben takes a moment to catch his breath. Richard claps.

RICHARD

Well done Benjamin. Well done.

Richard stands, putting them on level ground. Ben turns to face him. His hand forms a fist.

RICHARD

She gets out of line sometimes, and I gotta set things straight. It's just part of the game.

BEN

I warned you.

RICHARD

Yeah, well I had half a mind to take you out back and end this quick, but I wanted to give you a chance to prove your worth.

Ben takes this in.

BEN

You're offering me a job?

RICHARD

One time offer.

Ben laughs at the prospect. Throws Richard down against the pool table. Richard grabs hold of his shoulder, pained.

Ben straightens Richard's arm, laying it flat.

RICHARD

You're making a big -

Richard continues to fight as Ben swings his arm down, breaking Richard's in one swift move.

Richard howls in pain. Cowers, holding his broken arm.

BEN

She's out. You hear me? And if you
ever so much as look at her again,
I'll break every bone you got.

Richard can see he means it. Tries to mask his fear.

SIRENS SOUND. Flashing blue and red lights. Ben moves to the window. His rage turns to worry.

Richard smiles a devilish grin.

RICHARD

She's gonna have to work overtime
to cover tonight's mistakes.

Ben glares back at him. He grabs hold of his other arm. Rests it against the table.

RICHARD

Hold on. Wait. Let's -

Richard's victory laugh quickly transitions into pathetic cries for help. Ben lines up his arm. He brings it down.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. PRISON - BOILER ROOM - DAY

A nasty space. SOUNDS of Ben getting BEATEN are hidden by the LOUD HUM of the machinery.

Ben collapses on the floor. Spits up blood. Three PRISONERS stand over him. Enjoying this.

Ben struggles to remain conscious. His eyes fall shut.

INT. BEN'S CAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Ben watches as the thugs smoke outside the pool hall. Blinded by anger, about to make the biggest mistake of his life. His hand forms a fist.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. PRISON - BOILER ROOM - DAY

Ben's hand forms a fist. He launches up, much to the shock of the other inmates.

Ben throws one back. Takes the other two on at once. Blocking and deflecting. A fight for survival.

One of the Prisoners grabs hold of Ben from behind. The others wail on him. He keeps on fighting.

They slam Ben on the floor. Kick him into submission.

INT. PRISON - VISITING ROOM - DAY

Ben, face bloody and bruised, stumbles toward a glass visiting wall. He takes a seat.

QUICKFLASH

Ben is kicked in the chest. Winces.

INT. PRISON - VISITING ROOM - DAY

Ben's battered Sister sits on the other side, smiling. Ben can't stand the sight. All this has been for naught.

QUICKFLASH

A heavy blow to the face. Ben raises his arm for protection.

INT. PRISON - VISITING ROOM - DAY

The siblings stare at one another. Neither speak nor show any signs of pain. They're bloody and beaten but not defeated.

INT. PRISON - CAFETERIA - DAY

Ben sits in a corner by himself. A group of PRISONERS watch from a few tables over. Ben ignores them.

PRISONER #1 leaves their table and takes a seat beside Ben.

PRISONER #1
Got a present for you. From your
old pal Richard.

The name ignites Ben's rage. He struggles to contain it.

The Prisoner reveals a shank, attempting to intimidate.

Ben calmly takes another bite. Swallows. He turns to the Prisoner who's ready to strike.

BEN
This won't end well.

PRISONER #1
I'm counting on it.

A tense beat. The Prisoner moves in for the stab. Ben twists his arm, making him stab himself in the throat.

He slings the food off his tray and clobbers the Prisoner in the face.

The Prisoner slams hard against the floor. Ben beats him senseless with the tray

The other Prisoners close in, withdrawing weapons.

AN ALARM SOUNDS. Ben swings his food tray, forcing them back.

One gets a stab on Ben, but it doesn't stop him.

Ben tosses his food tray into the group. He squares up, ready to brawl.

The Inmates stare at him. Fear in their eyes.

Ben lets out a VIOLENT YELL. A BATTLE CRY.

CUT TO BLACK.