THE SABRE THIEF

By

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FADE IN:

INT. SPENCER HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

ROB SPENCER snaps awake. He lifts himself up in his bed to look around. The room is dark and quiet. As he lies back down, a large squeak is heard.

Rob gets out of his bed and goes to turn the lights on. The room is a complete mess: clothes are out of place, books are crudely stacked, movies are everywhere, etc.

There is a crash in one corner. Rob jerks around to see what it is. A large stack of books has fallen. Rob sighs in relief and laughs silently. He walks into

INT. NEXT ROOM

He switches the light on and scans the area. Nothing. He turns around to go back to sleep. Another loud squeak can be heard. He grins this time.

ROB
Okay, who’s trying to kill me?

WHAM! A dark figure from behind swings a bat at him. It collides with the door frame, breaking the light switch in Rob’s room, making it dark again.

Rob’s eyes wide as he stares from the bat to the owner.

ROB
I wasn’t serious!

The figure swings again, but Rob dodges it and runs away to the stairs. The figure throws the bat, hitting Rob in the back. He falls down the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Once he rolls to a stop at the bottom, he quickly gets up and runs again. He brakes when he sees a teenage boy ahead of him. The boy wears a neat uniform, a sports coat, and sharp shoes. His name is BILL WARWICK.
ROB
Whoa, Bill. How did you get in my house?

BILL
Never mind that. Let's talk about something more important.

ROB
Well, it's a good thing you're here. One of your guys was trying to kill me.

Bill yanks out a gun and points it at Rob's face.

BILL
No shit, Spencer.

Rob laughs, but is obviously frightened, when he sees it is only a BB gun.

ROB
(shaky)
Nice try. I know that gun's fake. Right?

Bill examines the gun. He then shoots Rob in the foot. Rob screams and falls down.

BILL
(shrugs)
Real enough.

Rob struggles to stand back up.

BILL
I'm sure you now know why I'm here, so I suggest you tell me right now. Where is it?

ROB
I don't remember.

Bill shakes his head and points the gun closer to Rob's face.
BILL
Why do you have to make this harder on yourself, Rob? I just want one thing.

ROB
It's not here.

The figure from upstairs comes down and knocks Rob out with the bat.

BILL
Why'd you do that?

FIGURE
I think he's lying.

BILL
So you found it?

FIGURE
No.

Bill stares at him incredulously.

BILL
Alright. You and Joe take him to the car. We’ll get him to tell us eventually.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SPENCER ROOM – LIVING ROOM – DAY

GIRL (OS)
Rob!

A teenage GIRL with an angry expression on her face enters the room. She calls up to the upper floor.

GIRL
Rob! I know you can hear me. Get down here!

No response. She stomps up the stairs.
INT. BEDROOM

The girl goes in and finds the room empty except for all the junk. It’s actually worse than before.

GIRL
Mom is going to kill him.

She leaves.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The girl walks past the entertainment center. She suddenly stops. She looks back at the center. A white card sticks from inside the crack. She takes it out and reads it. The name on it says “The Batting Cagers were here”.

GIRL
Oh, Rob.

INT. MASONGRESS BASEMENT – DAY

Two teenage BOYS duel each other with poles. They both move swiftly, matching each other perfectly.

The phone rings. One of them, named JIM MASON, lets his guard down. His fighting partner, ISAAC GRESS, whacks him in the back of the head. Jim glares at him and then goes to answer the phone.

JIM
Masongress Fighting Demonstrations. This is Jim Mason. How may I help you?

He puts it on speaker phone so Isaac can hear.

INT. SPENCER HOUSE – LIVING ROOM

The girl reads from a flier that has the information for the Masongress Demonstrations.

GIRL
Yes, this is Samantha Spencer. I’m calling
(more)
GIRL
regarding the kidnapping of
my brother. Can you help me
out?

INT. MASONGRESS BASEMENT

JIM
I’m sorry, Samantha, but we
only fight for entertainment.
We don’t-

Isaac shoves Jim out of the way.

ISAAC
Yes, we can help you, Ms.
Spencer. Hold on for one
second.

Isaac leaves the basement. He comes back with paper and a
pen. Jim stops him for a second.

JIM
(whispering)
Why’d you tell her that?

ISAAC
Someone's kidnapped that poor
girl's brother. We don't just
let the bad guys get away
with this.

JIM
We don't solve mysteries,
Isaac. We entertain. Can you
tell the difference?

ISAAC
Come on, Jim. First caller.
Ever. If we do this right,
she tells more people, and we
get more money.

JIM
We're not doing that.
ISAAC
Jim. Look in my hand.

Isaac sticks out his hand.

JIM
What point are you trying to make?

ISAAC
It's empty. What should be in my hand?

JIM
Your pole.

ISAAC
No. Money! Where's the money, Jim? Where is it?

Jim ponders this.

JIM
You're an idiot.

Isaac gets ready to write.

ISAAC
All right, Samantha. What’s your address?

EXT. SAMANTHA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jim and Isaac knock on the door. Soon, Samantha comes to answer it.

SAMANTHA
Jim and-

JIM
Yes.

Isaac says nothing, but stares at Samantha in awe.

SAMANTHA
Okay, come in.

When she walks away, Isaac exchanges a look with Jim.
ISAAC
She's hot.

JIM
Stop talking please.

They go inside.

INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

Isaac and Jim sit on a couch opposite of Samantha in a chair.

JIM
Batting Cagers? Are they a baseball team or something?

SAMANTHA
No, they’re really just some nerds trying to make a name for themselves by being these well-dressed badasses who go around attacking people with bats.

ISAAC
Wow. Someone should have told them that that name sucks.

JIM
This really seems like something that should be brought up with the police. Why don't we just notify them about this?

SAMANTHA
This is such a small problem that I thought I'd call you guys instead.

Jim and Isaac exchange glances.

JIM
Right. Well, Ms. Spencer, we’re going to help you get back your brother.
ISAAC
Yes. And the first thing we need to do is look at the scene of the crime.

JIM
What?

ISAAC
Where's your brother's room?

SAMANTHA
It's upstairs.

ISAAC
All right! Let's go!

Isaac runs up the stair, nearly falling. Jim shakes his head and follows, along with Samantha.

INT. BEDROOM

Isaac rolls into the room like an action star. He stares at his surroundings.

ISAAC
Man, your brother is a slob.

SAMANTHA
I'll been telling him that for ten years.

Isaac scans the area.

SAMANTHA
(to Jim)
Can I talk to you in the other room?

JIM
Yeah.

(to Isaac)
Isaac, I'm going in the other room.
ISAAC
Go ahead. I'm going to search for clues.

Isaac starts his search as the other two leave.

INT. NEXT ROOM

Samantha closes the door to Rob's room and then looks at Jim.

SAMANTHA
I'm assuming you're the smart one, right?

JIM
Unfortunately, yes. Isaac can barely handle any-

SAMANTHA
Well I need to tell you something very important.

Jim straightens up and becomes attentive.

JIM
I'm listening.

INT. BEDROOM

Isaac energetically searches the room. He looks on and under the bed and then quickly jumps away to look somewhere.

INT. NEXT ROOM

SAMANTHA
Downstairs you asked me why I didn't just call the police. I can't do that.

JIM
Why?

SAMANTHA
If the Batting Cagers are arrested then Rob will be, too.
JIM
Why? Did he do something bad?

SAMANTHA
Yes. He was a Batting Cager.

Jim is taken aback.

INT. BEDROOM
Isaac looks at the DVDs on the floor. They are mostly composed of anime. Isaac nods in approval.

ISAAC
Nice.

INT. NEXT ROOM

JIM
If he's a Batting Cager, how do you know he's not just helping them vandalize the neighborhood?

SAMANTHA
Because he's not one anymore. He quit. So far the smartest thing he's ever done.

INT. BEDROOM
Isaac opens a drawer and pushes the clothes away to look for clues. He finds a balled up sheet of paper.

ISAAC
Ah ha! A note.

He takes it out and finds it rather heavy.

INT. NEXT ROOM
Jim moves closer to Samantha.

JIM
Did he tell you anything else that might explain why they kidnapped him?
SAMANTHA
No. He just told me he was through with the gang, and then he gave it up.

INT. BEDROOM

Isaac unwraps the paper and gasps.

A shiny, elaborate dagger rests in the crumbled paper. Isaac looks at it with admiration.

INT. NEXT ROOM

JIM
Are you sure that he didn't do anything bad to them?

SAMANTHA
I don't know.

Isaac opens the door and comes out slowly.

JIM (to Isaac)
Did you find any...

He stops and sees that Isaac with the dagger in his hand.

JIM
What is that?

ISAAC
The greatest weapon of all time!

Jim looks confused.

The phone rings. Samantha goes to pick it up.

SAMANTHA
Hello?

INT. CAGERS’ BASEMENT - DAY

Bill is on the other end of the phone connection.
BILL
This is Bill Warwick, the leader of a gang called the Batting Cagers.

INT. NEXT ROOM

Samantha becomes serious. She puts the phone on speaker and then signals Jim and Isaac to listen.

SAMANTHA
Yes?

INT. CAGERS' BASEMENT - DAY

BILL
I'm sure you're familiar with a kid known as Rob Spencer, so I suggest you listen to everything I have to say.

Further in the basement, Joe, the figure from Rob’s house, and Artie fight each other with bats, using them like swords.

BILL
(to Artie and Joe)
Hey! Cut out all that noise!

The two teenagers stop.

BILL
I'm willing to negotiation with you for Mr. Spencer if you'd recover something for me.

JIM (VO)
And what is that?

Bill starts to answer when-

ROB (OS)
Excuse me! Hello!

Bill looks up at Rob. Rob is held in a small cage wearing the uniform of a Batting Cager.
BILL
Hold on.
    (to Rob)
What is it?

ROB
I know you guys are mad at me, but does the cage have to be so small?

BILL
Rob, you already know what the consequences are for our enemies. Besides, it’s our trademark. We’re not called the Batting Cagers because it sounds cool.

ROB
(chuckles)
I would hope not.

BILL
What’s that supposed to mean?

ROB
Nothing.

BILL
No, really tell me, what does it mean?

ROB
It means-

BAM! Bill shoots the cage, making Rob recoils and shut up.

BILL
Shut up.

He puts the gun away and talks back on the phone.

BILL
Where were we?
JIM (VO)
You wanted us to recover something?

BILL
Oh yes. A while ago, our little friend Rob quit the team, but forgot to give back the team symbol.

JIM (VO)
What is that symbol?

BILL
A collectable.

There is a long silence.

JIM (VO)
A collectable? That's all?

BILL
Not just any collectable. One of the most rare pieces of artifacts in the world. A dagger rather.

INT. NEXT ROOM

Samantha looks dumbfounded.

SAMANTHA
This is a joke, right?

JIM
No. It's real.

Jim points out the dagger in Isaac's hand.

BILL (VO)
So you know what dagger I'm speaking of?

ISAAC
Yeah. I've got it right here.
He doesn't take his eyes off of the dagger.

INT. CAGERS' BASEMENT

Rob suddenly perks up.

ROB
Don't give him the dagger!
He's no good! He's going to
damage it and then it will be
worthless!

As Rob rambles on, Bill looks at the rounds in his gun. There aren't many in it.

BILL
Joe, would you?

JOE
Yeah!

Joe moves out of sight to the cage.

BILL
Now let's make a deal.

There is the sound of a opening cage, a swung bat and Rob’s grunt.

INT. NEXT ROOM

Isaac puts the phone back in its charger.

BILL (VO)
We'll meet up on the big hill
in the park. You give us the
dagger and we'll release Rob.
Be there at twelve o'clock
sharp, or Mr. Spencer will
have more than four shells in
his chest. Goodbye.

The phone connection dies. Jim looks at the worried Samantha and
then at Isaac, who stares at the godly dagger. Jim stares as
well, though more blasé.
JIM
That’s it?

ISAAC
That’s it? This is the one of a kind Emperor’s dagger from the Shadow Demon’s game. Do you know how hard it is to find one of these anymore?

SAMANTHA
They're going to kill my brother over a toy sword? That's stupid.

ISAAC
Hey! This stupid toy sword is one of the most valuable collectables in the world!

As he talks, Isaac threatens Samantha with the dagger.

JIM
Isaac. Stop.

ISAAC
You're right. It’s too precious for that anyway.

Jim rolls his eyes.

EXT. HOUSE - LATER

Isaac, Jim and Samantha walk out of the house. Jim holds the dagger and examines it.

JIM
I still don’t see what’s so special about this.

ISAAC
If you’ve every played Shadow Demons, you’d know.

JIM
That’s very helpf-
Jim slips on some ice. The dagger flies out of his hand as he falls. Samantha catches him before he actually hits the ground.

ISAAC

Noooo!

Isaac lunges onto the grass and catches the dagger before it hits the snow. He turns around and glares at Jim.

ISAAC

Are you insane? It almost got damaged!

Jim stands up and gawks at Isaac. Just then, he gets an idea.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HILL - HILLTOP - DAY

Four kids sled on this hill. On the other side, Bill sits in a chair while Joe and Artie fight each other. Bill checks his watch, which reads 11:59. He then scans the area for any incomers.

ROB (OS)

Excuse me!

Bill looks around at Rob, who is in the same cage he was in earlier.

ROB

Do you really have to have me like this out in the open? It’s very embarrassing.

As if on cue, two girls that walk pass point and laugh at Rob. The imprisoned boy tries to hide his face.

BILL

Yes. It’s necessary that the people in this city know who the Batting Cagers are so
BILL
that we can increase awareness. This will be our first actual exploitation of our potential.

ROB
(confused)
Right. Good for you. But you know what I think? You have got to change the name of this group. I mean who’s going to take the Batting Cagers seriously?

BILL
It’s a temporary name. Once we acquire that dagger and make a little more money, we’ll be known as... the Shadow Demons.

There is a long silence.

ROB
Actually, Batting Cagers does sound like a good name.

Bill sneers and wheels back around.

EXT. TREES

Jim, Artie and Samantha watch from their hiding spot.

JIM
Okay. Now remember, don't do anything until I give you the signal. Do you understand?

ISAAC
Yes. I heard you the first time.

Jim looks from him to Samantha.
JIM
Make sure you do it fast and then both of you go straight back to the trees, all right?

SAMANTHA
Okay.

Jim exits the hiding spot.

EXT. HILLTOP

Artie and Joe stop the match when they spot Jim walking into their territory. He stops and faces them.

JIM
I’m here for the negotiation.

Hearing this, Bill gets up to confront Jim.

BILL
Do you have it?

Jim takes out the crumbled paper. Artie goes to grab it when-

BILL
Stop.

Joe reluctantly obeys. Bill moves to Rob’s cage and puts his foot on the side.

BILL
Any funny business, and Mr. Spencer will be going down the hill. And to tell the truth, I would really like to see that.

Jim unwraps the paper to reveal the beautiful dagger. Joe and Artie are completely stunned. Jim looks at them and then at the nearby trees. He gives a subtle nods.

EXT. TREES

Isaac and Samantha see this from their hiding spot. Isaac yanks out his pole.
ISAAC
Samantha, darling, get ready
to sit back and enjoy the
show.

SAMANTHA
Just go!

Isaac progresses from the safety of the trees.

EXT. HILLTOP

Bill shoves Rob’s cage a little before going to view the
dagger. Rob panics.

ROB
That’s not cool, man!

Bill observes every inch of the precious collectable.

BILL
More beautiful than the pictures.

JIM
I know a background that
would make this look really
beautiful.

BILL
What?

JIM
In the snow.

Suddenly, Jim hurls the dagger into the air behind him. The
three Cagers look on in terror.

JOE
Noooo!

Artie rushes past Jim, lunges into the snow, and catches
the dagger, much like Isaac. Artie gets up relieved. Jim
whips out his pole and swings it upward at Artie’s hand.
The dagger flies once the pole makes impact. Artie falls in
agony. Jim catches the dagger and puts it in his pocket.
Joe attacks with his bat. Jim quickly blocks it, and they begin to fight. Neither gets through to the other for a long while.

After a few more hits, they stop and break up.

**JOE**

Yeah! Best swordsman in the west, baby!

**JIM**

That's a bat.

**JOE**

Oh, yeah. Well... Shut up!

They start dueling once again. Artie rushes into them with his bat and aids Joe in the fight with Jim. Jim manages to block both of their blows.

**BILL**

What are you waiting for?
You've got him outnumbered!

Isaac yells like a Mongolian and interferes with the two-on-one battle. Now Isaac faces Joe while Jim faces Artie.

**BILL**

Great.

Bill walks away from Rob's cage to watch the two brawls.

With Bill's back to her, Samantha rushes out onto the hill and to the cage. Rob sees her coming and suddenly looks hopeful. She stops at the door of the cage.

**SAMANTHA**

(laughing)
You have got to be kidding me.

**ROB**

Ha, ha. Funny. Sam, what are you doing here?

**SAMANTHA**

Weren’t you paying attention? We’re here to get you out of this.
ROB
Then why didn’t you just give them the dagger so I could be free?

SAMANTHA
They didn’t think you’d want that.

ROB
Oh. Smart guys.

SAMANTHA
Now keep cool. I’m getting you out of here.

She takes out a paper clip and starts to pick the lock. From a distance, but not in their sight, Bill approaches with his bat ready.

Rob glances back at the four fighters.

ROB
You better hurry up, Sam. If those guys see us then they’ll-

While he speaks, Bill hits Samantha down the hill. Rob turns back around.

ROB
Sam?

He looks up at Bill and frowns.

ROB
Damn.

EXT. SLOPE

Samantha rolls at an angle to her left. She finally stops. However, when she tries to stand up, one of her boots gets stuck in the snow. She tries to pull it out, but to no avail.

EXT. HILLTOP

Some of the sledders stop to watch the duels between Isaac and Joe, and Jim and Artie.
Bill pulls the cage close to the center of the hill and the edge.

BILL
This is your last warning.
Hand over the dagger, or Mr. Spencer is definitely going down the hill.

Bill gets ready to kick the cage down.

ISAAC
Never!

ROB
Nooooo!

Bill only taps the cage when Isaac attacks him. He blocks the hit. Now they engage in full combat. Jim fights Joe and Artie alone again.

Rob meanwhile tries to complete the work his sister started and unlock the cage. He struggles quite a bit.

Jim, Joe and Artie move close the cage. Joe takes a good swing at Jim, but he jumps out of the way. The bat hits the cage, moving it about a centimeter closer to the edge.

ROB
Hey!

Another swing-and-miss, though it hits the cage.

ROB
Dude!

They move a few feet away from the cage, but continue their fight.

Rob finally gets the lock off. Now he starts to unhook the cage door.

In their fight, Jim’s pole becomes horizontal. When Artie hits one side, the other flies up and whacks Joe so hard that he is forced back.
He falls and crashes into the cage. Now the cage definitely starts to slide down. Rob panics and tries to grab the ground to stop the cage.

It gains momentum. In its path, a large rock that sticks out of the snow. The cage hits and begins to tip over. Rob, shocked, screams as the cage rolls down the hill.

INT. CAGE

Rob cries as he spins in the cage.

EXT. SLOPE

Samantha is still stuck. She looks up to see the cage heading her way. She tries harder to get out of the snow. The cage speeds up.

Finally, her foot comes out of the boot. She jumps out of the way as the cage rolls past. She tries to stand up, and her other boot gets caught in the snow.

INT. CAGE

Rob tries to open the door. He succeeds. The door of the cage flies open and breaks off, rolling away in another direction.

EXT. BOTTOM

The cage stops rolling and slides on upright. Rob looks back at the hill and smirks.

The cage slow down and moves into some trees.

Rob looks forward and freezes. The cage edges close to

EXT. RIVER

The cage reaches the edge of the small cliff over the river. It starts to tilt into it. Rob quickly jumps out before the cage drops into the water.

EXT. HILLTOP

Bill knocks the pole out of Isaac’s hands. Isaac surrenders by raising both arms high into the air while Bill holds his bat close to him in a threatening way.
The sledders applause. Isaac approves by bowing. Bill rolls his eyes and pulls out his BB gun and aims it at Jim. The sledders gasp.

    BILL
    Give me the dagger, now!

Jim stops and reaches for the dagger.

    ISAAC
    Don’t do it, Jim. It’s not a real gun.

    BILL
    No.

Isaac is shot in the leg.

    BILL
    But it works. Now hand it over.

Jim runs. Bill shoots. The observing sledders scream and run away.

    SLEDDER
    Help! Police!

Jim runs a ways downhill and Bill fires another shot. Isaac grabs his pole before moving further back to the slope of the hill.

Jim throws the dagger up the hill. Isaac catches it.

Bill snaps around, raises his gun to Isaac’s face, and fires. Nothing happens.

Isaac laughs triumphantly. He shoves the dagger in his pocket and gets ready to hit Bill with his pole. That's when Bill pulls out a second gun from his sports jacket.

Isaac instantly swings his pole in front of his face. Bill shoots. The shot hits the pole, which in effect smacks Isaac in the face.
He falls onto a long sled, but quickly gets back up. Joe leaps onto the sled and attacks Isaac. The force of the jump eventually makes the sled, with its two passengers, go sliding downhill.

EXT. SLOPE

Jim and Isaac exchange a few hits, but most of the trip is spent trying to keep their balance.

Samantha struggles to get her other foot out of the snow. She notices the two boys sledding down and watches them go past. She turns back around to see Bill’s gun pointed at her.

EXT. BOTTOM

They reach the bottom. Now there is no need to worry about balance, so they continue to fight.

Joe knocks Isaac’s pole away. Then he hits him in the leg where Bill shot him. Isaac bends down in pain. Joe takes this opportunity to grab the dagger, and then knocks Isaac off the sled.

Joe laughs triumphantly and stares at the magnificent dagger. He looks straight ahead and stops laughing.

EXT. RIVER

Joe and the sled fly into the water. Luckily, he holds the dagger over the water the entire time. His bat lies on the edge of the cliff until it slides down.

It hits Rob, who is sitting under the cliff. He picks up the bat. Rob looks from the bat to Joe and the dagger.

Finally, he knocks Joe out and grabs the dagger. Joe falls onto the cage, which is half-submerged in the water. Rob looks happily at the dagger. He takes one last look at Joe and then runs away with the bat and the dagger.

EXT. HILLTOP

Jim and Artie still fight. When they pause, Jim looks down the hill to see that Bill has Samantha.
He instantly grabs the nearest sled. He stands on it and slides down the hill. Artie follows suit to chase after him.

EXT. SLOPE

As they slide, the two take some hits at each other. Near the bottom, Artie is knocked down on all fours.

EXT. BOTTOM

Up ahead, Isaac’s pole sticks out of the snow at a low angle facing the incoming Artie. Eventually, he collides with it and is sent flying into the air.

Now Jim steers towards Bill and Samantha. He gets set to hit Bill with his pole. Suddenly, Bill swirls around and launches the broken cage door at him. It hits Jim directly in the chest and he falls off the sled.

Now Bill’s gun is aimed at him.

BILL
Get up.

EXT. BOTTOM TREES - DAY

Rob runs happily through the forested area with the bat in hand. He is almost out of the forest when he trips on a root.

EXT. BOTTOM

Rob falls into the open. When he sees Bill a distance away, he scatters behind a tree. He peeks around to see Bill kick Isaac, who is trying to stand up. Rob gets ready to take off when-

SAMANTHA
What’s the matter with you?
It’s only a stupid sword!

Rob stops and slowly turns around to see if it’s really-

ROB
Sam?
Bill checks Isaac’s pockets. He gets very angry and kicks him again.

BILL
Joe better have that dagger
or else everyone here is
getting shot.

Rob looks down the dagger and starts to feel guilty. He puts it back in his pocket and runs back into the forest. Suddenly, something hits him.

ROB
Stupid sword?!

EXT. RIVER

Bill moves Isaac, Jim and Samantha to the edge. Artie catches up a little later. They see Joe asleep on the cage. Bill grows even angrier and glares at the three enemies.

BILL
If that dagger is his wet pockets...

Bill aims his gun at Samantha.

ROB (OS)
What if they’re in my dry ones?

They all jerk around to see Rob across the river, grinning.

BILL
Spencer! Do you have the dagger?

ROB
No shit, Warwick!

Rob pulls out the dagger.

BILL
Thank God. Hand it over!
ROB
No way! I’m going to throw it in the river!

Bill’s eyes widen.

BILL
You wouldn’t. You know you can’t do it.

ROB
But do you?

Bill thinks about it.

BILL
That’s a little irrelevant.

ROB
If I knew what that meant I’d agree. But let’s see who’ll be laughing once your precious prize is at the bottom of the sea!

He swings it towards the river. It slips. Everyone watches in horror as the dagger flies into the river.

Everyone, except Jim and Samantha, is shocked.

ARTIE
You bastard!

Even Rob is paralyzed. He looks at his wet, slippery hand.

ROB
What have I done?

BILL
Nothing you won’t regret!

Bill shoots. Rob dodges all of the bullets. Finally, Bill runs out of ammo. Frustrated, he throws the gun at Rob. Rob hits it away with the bat.

Joe, who has started to regain consciousness, is knocked out by the gun.
Suddenly, Bill jumps across the entire river. He runs up to Rob and attacks. Luckily, Rob blocks Bill’s blows. He runs away and Bill follows.

Jim, Isaac and Samantha exchange looks.

EXT. SLOPE

Rob makes his way up the hill. Occasionally, Bill will try to hit him, but Rob will either dodge or block it.

EXT. HILLTOP

Rob hits Bill’s bat away and knocks Bill down the other side. He rolls backwards and Rob chases after him.

EXT. OTHER SLOPE

Bill manages to grab his bat and block each of Rob’s hits as he rolls.

EXT. STREET

At the bottom, Bill stands back up and chases Rob into the street. Suddenly, a police car zooms in. It nearly hits Bill, who jumps out of the way. The car halts right next to them.

Bill smirks from this minor victory and gets ready to hit Rob. Then, the car door jerks open and knocks Bill down. He is immediately taken into custody by the two OFFICERS.

ROB
Yes, good job, guys. You-

They start handcuffing him as well.

ROB
Hey! I didn't do anything!

JIM (OS)
Wait, officers!

Jim, Isaac and Samantha get to the car with Joe and Artie in their captive.
JIM
These are the ones you want.

The officers look confused.

ROB
He's right! He's right!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Bill, Joe and Artie are all in the back of the police car. It drives away. Rob, Isaac, Jim and Samantha stand on the side to watch it go away.

ROB
In your face, Bill! Let's see you get out of this one!
(to Sam)
How do we get home?

SAMANTHA
We're not leaving until you talk to them.

She points to Jim and Isaac.

ROB
Oh. Well, thanks for saving me.

JIM
Well, we're going to have to thank you. Isaac and I finally got our first assignment.

ROB
Cool. You guys got a job, she’s got her brother back, and I’m still alive.
(to Sam)
See? Everyone’s happy. Now we should be on our way home.
ISAAC
I guess we’ll discuss our payment at your house?

ROB
Payment?

He looks at Samantha.

SAMANTHA
What? You thought this was free?

ROB
How much is it?

Jim takes out a sheet of paper and hands Isaac a calculator. As he calls off the list, Isaac adds everything up.

JIM
Let’s see. This whole setup took one hour. We were fighting for about ten minutes. And, technically, this was more of a rescue than a performance.

Isaac gives the calculator to Rob. He freezes up.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BASEMENT – DAY

Jim and Isaac practice again. The phone rings. Jim stops and is almost hit, but catches Isaac’s hit this time. He answers the phone.

SOMEONE (VO)
I need help.

INT. STAIRS – LATER

As they walk up the stairs, they pass a flier that reads “Masongress Protective Services”.

EXT. CAR – LATER

The car stops on a curb.

INT. CAR

Rob is in the back seat with a pole of his own.

ISAAC

Ready, rookie?

ROB

Shut up.

EXT. CAR – LATER

The three guys get out and charge towards their objective. Rob trips, but Jim and Isaac jump into battle.

FADE OUT:

THE END