

Black Sun

Written By

NzFilms

Nzfilms123@gmail.com

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

MARTIN COLE(45), an unshaven, out of fashion man is staring out the passenger side window. In the driver's seat is his partner, JOSEPH AIMS(35), the opposite of Martin.

MARTIN
How much further?

JOSEPH
About five minutes.

MARTIN
(annoyed)
Why don't you put on the lights? We would've been there by now.

JOSEPH
I told you, the lights bother my eyes.

MARTIN
You're getting soft.

JOSEPH
No... I'm getting old.

MARTIN
(sarcastically)
Yea you're the one getting old.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Martin and Joseph step out to a frantic scene taking place outside of a suburban home. OFFICERS, PARAMEDICS and MEN with hazmat suits are scattered in and around the house.

MARTIN
Did they mention a chemical spill?

JOSEPH
No they did not.

They're approached by a bald headed SERGEANT MILLER(50).

MILLER
Took you guys long enough.

MARTIN
Sorry about that.

Martin glances at Joseph.

MILLER

Neighbor's kid saw him through the window when he was getting his ball. It's uhh... This is a bad one.

JOSEPH

What's up with the hazmat suits?

MILLER

It's a precaution. We weren't sure what to do or what it was but they said it was clear.

MARTIN

Well I guess we shouldn't waste anymore time.

Before taking another step toward the house, an Officer runs out of the front door and immediately begins to vomit into a bush.

Martin and Joseph exchange glances.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Martin and Joseph immediately cover their noses as they enter.

Officers and forensic scientists are moving around the living room.

JOSEPH

What the fuck is that?

They make their way into the living room where a body is laying on a chair in front of the television.

The skin of the body is webbed around the chair as if it's been melted. His skeleton is protruding through his thin pale skin.

MARTIN

Jesus Christ.

They both circle around the body with confused looks on their faces.

JOSEPH

How could this even happen?

MARTIN

Maybe a disease?

JOSEPH
What disease could do this?

MARTIN
I don't know. I'm just trying to
make sense of it.

Joseph is about to touch the skin when Martin stops him.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

JOSEPH
They said it was okay?

Martin can't believe Joseph is being that stupid. Miller enters.

MILLER
(to Joseph)
He's probably right.

MARTIN
Any sign of a break in?

MILLER
Nothing. Officers just found him
with the TV on. His name is Patrick
Schafft. Just turned twenty one a
couple of weeks ago.

MARTIN
Is this his parents house?

MILLER
Yea, we had a neighbor call them.
They were at the Mom's sister's
house for the day. They should be
back here soon.

JOSEPH
We can't have them see him like
this.

MARTIN
He's right. As soon as forensics is
done, we need to get the body out
of here.

MILLER
Okay.

Miller stands still... He can't take his eyes off the
gruesome scene.

Beat.

MILLER (CONT'D)
You ever seen anything like this
before?

MARTIN
No... No I haven't.

Miller leaves the two detectives.

JOSEPH
Martin.

MARTIN
What?

Joseph tilts his head as though he's trying to look at the
body from a different angle.

JOSEPH
Does it look like he was screaming?

MARTIN
What are you talking about?

JOSEPH
It looks like this might've been
painful but his mouth is closed.

MARTIN
He wasn't screaming.

JOSEPH
You think this could've been
painless?

INT. PATRICK'S BEDROOM - DAY

Martin enters the room with Joseph behind him. Music and
horror movie posters are scattered along the walls of the
filthy room.

MARTIN
It's gonna take some time going
through this.

Martin opens up the nightstand drawer. He finds a small bag
of weed stuffed inside a sock. Next to it is a bible.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
(to Joseph)
Two things you don't usually see
next to each other.

JOSEPH
I think we can rule out weed as the
cause.

Joseph has his hand behind a drawer. He's trying to pull
something out.

MARTIN
What is it?

JOSEPH
I'm not sure but it's stuck.

Joseph yanks out a cellphone wrapped in duct tape.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
Looks like a burner.

MARTIN
What's on it?

JOSEPH
Nothing except... There's one call
call he made out to a blocked
number three months ago.

MARTIN
Call it.

Joseph dials.

JOSEPH
Nothing.

MARTIN
Shit. Well just bag it.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Martin and Joseph are sitting across from each other.

JOSEPH
Maybe it was a gun?

MARTIN
What?

JOSEPH

Like a gun. Something advanced from the government or something.

Martin can't hold back a smirk. He decides to play along.

MARTIN

Okay and how would a twenty one year old come across that kind of technology?

JOSEPH

I don't get why you have to hinder my creative thought process.

MARTIN

(laughing)

Because it's stupid and that kind of technology doesn't exist.

Miller approaches the two men with a file in hand.

MILLER

I got something for you boys.

MARTIN

Autopsy is back already?

MILLER

No. It's the boy's record.

Martin starts looking through the file.

JOSEPH

He's been picked up?

MARTIN

Three DUI's and two possessions...
Meth.

JOSEPH

He was an addict?

MILLER

I guess so. Last arrest was a little over four months ago. I suggest you get yourselves ready, the parents are on their way over here.

MARTIN

Already?

MILLER
They're gonna see the body first.

MARTIN
Shit.

JOSEPH
Just let us know.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Martin and Joseph are standing outside of an interrogation room.

MARTIN
You ready?

JOSEPH
I hate this shit but yea.

MARTIN
Just imagine how it is for them.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Martin and Joseph enter the room where DONNA SCHAFT(45) and DAVID SCHAFT(45) are waiting.

They both look like they've been crying their eyes out.

MARTIN
Mr. and Mrs. Schaft, we really appreciate you guys coming down here.

DONNA
Did you guys find anything?

MARTIN
No Mam... Not yet. It's still very early and these kinds of investigations-

DAVID
"These kinds of investigations"?

JOSEPH
Considering the state in which the body was discovered-

DAVID

What does that mean? Can you even say what it was?

David is about to break down. His voice starts to tremble. Tears fill his eyes.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Someone did that to my boy.

Donna grabs his hand. Martin and Joseph exchange glances.

MARTIN

We're not going to sit here and pretend we know what you guys are going through. But in order to find out what happened we need your help.

Donna wipes her tears with a tissue. David keeps his gaze on the floor.

DONNA

I'm sorry.

MARTIN

You have nothing to apologize for.

JOSEPH

We know Patrick was brought in a few times... Some possession charges.

DONNA

He struggled with addiction for a years but... he's been clean.

(her eyes go wide)

Do you think he took something? Maybe someone gave him something that was laced?

MARTIN

We won't know that until we get the autopsy back.

DAVID

This is a waste of fucking time. You guys should be out there finding out who did this!

DONNA

David please.

David gets up and begins to walk out of the room.

DAVID
I'll be in the car.

Beat.

MARTIN
This might have been a little
rushed.

DONNA
I think we just need a little more
time.

MARTIN
Of course.

Martin opens the door for Donna. She stops before walking
out.

DONNA
He had a friend... Harry. They
were both using. We found them in
the basement one time.

MARTIN
Was he the one supplying Patrick?

DONNA
I don't know. They were close
friends since high school.

MARTIN
Okay. You mind leaving his
information at the front desk?

Donna nods her head. She stops herself again before leaving.

DONNA
He's a good person. Him and Patrick
were good boys they just...

Martin places a hand on her shoulder.

MARTIN
I know.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Martin is leaning on his car. Joseph approaches and hands him
a soda.

JOSEPH

I didn't think it was going to be that bad.

MARTIN

Can you blame them? We should probably try and find his dealer.

JOSEPH

You actually wanna go that angle?

MARTIN

It's a place to start. Until we get the autopsy at least.

JOSEPH

You wanna start with the friend?

MARTIN

Yea but not now.

Martin makes his way to the driver's side.

JOSEPH

Where you going?

MARTIN

Somewhere you don't need to know about.

JOSEPH

It's just a question. No need to get upset.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Martin walks into a room where we find his pregnant wife, SARAH COLE(38) sitting across the desk of DR. PARK(50).

Sarah doesn't even look in his direction when he enters the room.

MARTIN

Sorry I'm late. There's a new case and things have been kind of crazy.

DR. PARK

Glad you were able to make it.

Martin glances at Sarah who clearly looks annoyed.

DR. PARK (CONT'D)
I wanted to start from where we
left off last week.

MARTIN
(smiling)
I think I'm going to need a little
refresher on that.

Sarah isn't amused and rolls her eyes. Martin notices and his
smile quickly fades away.

DR. PARK
Sarah if there's something you need
to say, this is the place for it.

SARAH
I think you already know what I
want to say.

DR. PARK
Sarah-

MARTIN
Fine. I'm sorry I was late. Can you
accept my apology?

She doesn't react.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Sarah I'm sorry.

Sarah finally looks at him. The animosity is gone from her
face.

SARAH
Okay.

DR. PARK
Good. Glad to see these meetings
are working.

INT. CAR - DAY

Martin pulls in front of his house. Sarah is in the
passenger's seat.

SARAH
What's wrong?

MARTIN
I have to go out for a little.

SARAH

Why?

MARTIN

I gotta run a lead. If I don't do it now I'll lose it.

SARAH

(suspecting a lie)

A 'lead'?

MARTIN

Why are you doing that? Why can't I go out without there being a problem anymore?

Sarah doesn't respond, she just stares out the window.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I fucked up and I know that but you can't hold it over me forever. I'm going to these sessions because you said we needed it. I'm trying over here.

Martin gently grabs her hand.

Beat.

SARAH

What time are you gonna be back?

MARTIN

It shouldn't be more than a couple hours.

SARAH

Okay but I'm not waiting to eat. Remember I'm eating for two.

MARTIN

Make sure you feed my little man.

SARAH

(laughing)

You don't know he's a boy.

MARTIN

I just have a sixth sense about these things.

SARAH

Yea whatever. Listen, I'm really happy about... Us.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

I know this whole 'expressing yourself' thing isn't easy so thank you.

MARTIN

I'm happy too. I like to think I'm getting better though.

SARAH

You are.

Sarah reaches over and gives him a kiss.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Be careful.

MARTIN

I will. I'll see you in a little.

SARAH

Okay.

As soon as Sarah exits the car, Martin's fake smile fades away.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Martin is half naked sitting on the edge of the bed. He starts putting on his clothes when a WOMAN walks up to him with her hand out.

MARTIN

Just take the cash that's in the wallet. You take anything else and I'll come for you.

INT. POLICE STATION - OFFICE - DAY

Martin walks into a tiny, cramped and dark office. Sitting at a desk is ROGER(30). He has his headphones on while watching videos on his computer.

MARTIN

Hey did you get anything on that phone?

Roger doesn't hear him. Martin gives his chair a kick causing the young man to jump.

ROGER

Oh shit. Detective how are you?

MARTIN

The phone, did you get anything on that blocked number?

ROGER

Not exactly.

MARTIN

What does that mean?

ROGER

Well the number was blocked which means you can't really get a number or call it back but luckily our victim made the call so it might be possible to get a general location on where the call was made to.

MARTIN

Okay, how long is that gonna take?

ROGER

If I had the right tools I could probably do it fairly quickly but because the department isn't too keen on increasing my funding the equipment I have here isn't exactly capable-

MARTIN

(interrupting)

How long?

ROGER

(nervously)

At least three days.

Martin runs his hand across his face as he walks out.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Sorry.

MARTIN

We just gotta hope no one else dies in that time right?

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Martin walks in and is immediately met by Joseph who looks to be in a hurry.

JOSEPH

What took you so long?

MARTIN
What happened?

JOSEPH
Coroner's ready for us. I hope you
haven't had your breakfast yet.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Martin and Joseph are standing over a closed body bag.

JOSEPH
At least the smell is gone.

MARTIN
You act like a child.

The CORONER(70) enters.

JOSEPH
I hope you have something good for
us.

CORONER
I wish I did too.

MARTIN
(disappointed)
Shit.

CORONER
I've been doing this almost as long
as you boys been alive and I've
never seen anything like this.

The Coroner pulls open the body bag revealing the disfigured
face.

CORONER (CONT'D)
Normally you'd see some
discoloration or some sign of
decomposition but this is... It
hasn't changed. When he came in his
skin was hardened... Almost like
wax.

JOSEPH
Is there anything you can tell us?

CORONER

Well because of the even coloring around the whole body, I'm willing to bet that whatever happened to him was probably instantaneous.

MARTIN

Any idea what could've caused this?

CORONER

My guess, something dangerous. I'm sorry I couldn't be more helpful. If you'll excuse me I'm supposed to be on my lunch now.

The Coroner exits.

JOSEPH

Shit. I thought he was going to say a gun.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Martin and Joseph are about to enter their car.

JOSEPH

You getting a little freaked out by this?

MARTIN

I don't know. I was hoping this would give us something.

JOSEPH

We still got the friend's address.

MARTIN

Yea lets go check him out.

JOSEPH

You wanna get something to eat before?

Martin cracks a smile.

MARTIN

Get in.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Martin knocks on the door. An ELDERLY WOMAN(75) opens the door with a warm smile.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Can I help you?

JOSEPH

Yes mam we're detectives with the state police. We were told Harry Masters lives here. We just had a few questions for him.

The Woman looks the detectives up and down. Her warm smile turns into a cold, stern look.

ELDERLY WOMAN

This about that boy Patrick isn't it?

JOSEPH

Yes mam. We know that they were close friends with each other and just wanted-

ELDERLY WOMAN

He had nothing to do with that. There's no reason for him to be questioned. I bet if Harry was in the morgue y'all wouldn't be questioning that white boy. Just chalk it up as another junkie.

JOSEPH

I can assure you-

Footsteps can be heard coming down the stairs. HARRY MASTERS(23) approaches.

HARRY

Grandma, It's okay.

The Woman reluctantly moves out of the way.

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Joseph and Martin sit across Harry who lights up a cigarette.

HARRY

Go ahead, ask your questions.

JOSEPH

How close were you and Patrick?

HARRY

We met in the seventh grade. We liked the same movies. We stayed close ever since.

JOSEPH

You two were best friends?

HARRY

(somberly)

Yea. I'd say so.

MARTIN

He battled with addiction right?

Harry nods his head.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

So did you?

Harry is embarrassed.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

We're just here to get a better picture on what happened to him.

HARRY

We had problems. We tried to get right a couple times but once one of us slipped the other would follow.

MARTIN

When was the last time you guys saw each other?

HARRY

It's been a few months.

MARTIN

Why? Best friends usually don't go that long without seeing each other.

JOSEPH

Especially when you guys live five minutes apart.

HARRY

We had gotten into an argument and I just didn't want to see him.

MARTIN

What kind of argument?

Beat.

HARRY

Look, I'm trying to get clean now but at the time I was still... Doing. Both of us were and one day I see him and he's just find.

MARTIN

"Fine" how?

HARRY

Like he never seen a needle. His skin was clear, his teeth were whiter than ever. He was a new person.

JOSEPH

So how did this argument start?

HARRY

I wanted to know how he did it. You gotta understand, Patrick was deeper in the shit than I ever was. He's the one who put me onto it. So if there was something that can save him, I wanted it.

JOSEPH

And he didn't give it to you.

HARRY

No. He just kept saying "I can't. Trust me I can't". That was the last time we talked. I mean what kind of friend does something like that?

MARTIN

You have any idea what it could've been?

Harry shakes his head.

HARRY

You think it had something to do with what happened to him?

JOSEPH

We don't know but we'd like to find out.

MARTIN

It would help if you gave us the name of Patrick's supplier.

HARRY

(scoffs)

Come on man.

Harry slumps back into his seat with his arms folded. Martin and Joseph exchange glances.

MARTIN

What happens if someone else ends up like Patrick? You don't seem like a bad person Harry. Don't let this be the thing that keeps you up at night.

Harry stares at both the men for a moment.

HARRY

His name is Mikey. Older dude. He hangs around the Lincoln Projects.

MARTIN

You got a number for Mikey?

Harry shakes his head.

HARRY

Patrick always set that up.

Martin gives Joseph a nod.

MARTIN

Okay Harry, I think we got what we need for now. If there's anything you think of, you can call us.

Martin hands him a card.

HARRY

The kid who saw the body. He said he looked like a monster.

Beat.

JOSEPH

Good thing monsters aren't real.

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

The two detectives are driving through a quiet suburban street.

MARTIN
You believe him?

JOSEPH
It's tough to say. I had an uncle who was hooked on that stuff. It's not something you can shake off over night. But at the same time, what happened to the kid hasn't made a whole lot of sense either.

MARTIN
He said it's been a few months since they talked. That call he made out on the burner was three months ago.

JOSEPH
You think whoever was on that call is involved?

MARTIN
That's my guess.

JOSEPH
I thought that number was a dead end.

MARTIN
For now it is.

JOSEPH
What do you think we're gonna get from this Mikey?

MARTIN
Hopefully answers.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Martin and Joseph make their way through what looks to be an abandoned project building. HOMELESS PEOPLE are pushing their carts past them. The graffiti covered building has bullet holes scattered across it.

JOSEPH
It looks like no one has been here in years.

MARTIN

Perfect place to deal from.

Before they enter the building, a sickly looking WOMAN(25) comes out. Her eyes are barely open. She's high as can be.

The mumbling and stumbling Woman doesn't even notice the two detectives in front of her.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(stops her)

Hey. Who else is in there?

YOUNG WOMAN

What?

JOSEPH

Don't waste your time Martin. She's completely gone.

MARTIN

How many people are inside?!

YOUNG WOMAN

You want this right?

The Woman reaches her hand toward Martin's crotch. He jumps backward.

MARTIN

What the fuck?!

Joseph pulls the girl back and pushes her away from the two.

JOSEPH

I told you.

MARTIN

(sarcastically)

I'm sorry, I didn't wanna go into the crack den blind.

JOSEPH

You're forgiven.

MARTIN

Asshole.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

They cautiously enter the building. Sunlight through the broken windows is the only light. Garbage is littered across the floor along with needles and dead rodents.

MARTIN

I can't believe this place is still standing.

JOSEPH

You'd think they bring it down and put up a strip mall or something.

MARTIN

Some people don't know when to let go.

Martin stops... He hears something.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Joseph. You heard that?

Martin points down a dark hallway.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Over there.

They both pull out their guns and slowly move down the hall.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

State Police! Step out with your hands up.

In the blink of an eye, a YOUNG MAN dashes across the hallway. Martin immediately begins to chase after him.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

(to Joseph)

Go out back!

Joseph runs in the opposite direction. Martin turns the corner just to get a glimpse of the Man turning another corner.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

STOP! Son of a bitch!

The Man pushes through a door. Martin loses sight of him. He runs out of the building where he sees the Young Man laying on the ground clutching his face. Joseph is standing over him.

JOSEPH

You're getting slower.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Martin and Joseph are standing outside the interrogation room.

JOSEPH
You think he's our guy?

MARTIN
No. The kid said he was older. This guy is probably another junkie.

JOSEPH
But he did run.

MARTIN
That's what junkies do but he might have something on our guy.

JOSEPH
Alright you wanna go in now or make him wait a little?

MARTIN
Your choice.

Martin gives him a tap on the back as he walks away.

JOSEPH
Where are you going?

MARTIN
That was a big building. He might not be the guy we wanted but there's probably something in there that can help us.

JOSEPH
So I'm supposed to do this alone?

Martin turns his back and waves goodbye.

MARTIN
I trust you.

JOSEPH
Yea but I'm the asshole.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Martin is making his way through the building. He inspects every room he passes.

He comes across one room with a door that's locked. He tries shaking it a few more times before he resorts to kicking it down.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He covers his nose as he walks in. Laying inside the abandoned room is SUNNY(67). He's homeless, dirty and unconscious.

MARTIN

Hey!

No response.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Oh come on.

Martin leans down next to Sunny and checks for a pulse. He takes a sigh of relief before shaking the Man awake.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Come on man wake up.

SUNNY

(confused)

Who the hell are you?

MARTIN

I'm with the State Police. Who are you?

SUNNY

They call me Sunny.

Sunny sits himself up while clearing the crust from his eyes.

MARTIN

You need me to call an ambulance for you Sunny?

SUNNY

I was just sleeping. Why would I need an ambulance?

MARTIN

I kicked down that door and you didn't notice. I thought you might've overdosed on me. That's what people do around here right?

Sunny looks at the door with a disappointed look.

SUNNY

Damn man. Now I gotta find another room.

Sunny lights a cigarette.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

And yea that is what people do here but that's not what Sunny does. No sir. There's a reason why I keep that door locked. Don't want any of them junkies trying something.

MARTIN

You stay here a lot?

SUNNY

Yea. When I need to.

MARTIN

You've probably seen a few faces huh?

Sunny looks at him with a grin.

SUNNY

Oh I see what you're doing. It's not going to work on me. I ain't no snitch I'll tell you that right now.

MARTIN

I'm not asking you to snitch. Just want to know if you've seen a guy around here. He goes by the name of Mikey.

SUNNY

You're wasting you're breath officer.

Beat.

MARTIN

If you tell me I won't bring you in for trespassing on state property.

Sunny's smile turns into a look of defeat.

SUNNY

Shit man... That's low.

MARTIN

You didn't really give me a choice.

SUNNY

Look there's a lot of Mikes,
Michaels, Mikey's that be around
here.

MARTIN

This one would've been a dealer.

SUNNY

(sighs)

Yea that sounds about right. He has
his dealers come through here a
lot. Haven't heard anything about
him recently though.

MARTIN

Why's that?

SUNNY

I can't say. People in general been
coming less. I don't know what it
is but I'm not gonna complain.

MARTIN

You know where I could find Mikey?

SUNNY

Shit you gonna have to find someone
else to help you with that. I told
you I don't mess with that shit.

MARTIN

How long has business been slow
around here?

SUNNY

I'd say about a few months. I know
that because that's when I started
sleeping better.

Martin pulls out his card and hands it to him along with some
cash.

MARTIN

If you hear anything else just call
me.

Sunny nods his head.

SUNNY

Why you looking for him anyways?

MARTIN

Just chasing leads on a murder.

SUNNY

I see. I hope you find whoever did it.

MARTIN

Stay safe Sunny.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Joseph's phone starts to ring as he starts the engine.

MARTIN

Yea.

JOSEPH (O.S.)

I think I got something on our Mikey.

MARTIN

You got the guy to talk?

JOSEPH (O.S.)

Turns out he's one of Mikey's dealers. I told him he'd get an obstruction charge unless he talked. Luckily he didn't go to law school because he gave us a location. He goes by Mikey but the address is registered to a Michael Salcedo.

MARTIN

Alright lets take it up in the morning. I need to get some sleep.

JOSEPH (O.S.)

Alright. You find anything else in there?

MARTIN

I'm not sure but I think we might be on the right path.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Martin quietly enters the room where Sarah is sound asleep. He stares at her for a moment.

INT. NURSERY - NIGHT

Martin turns the light on and walks over to the crib of his unborn child. He looks inside it. His face is emotionless.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Martin, shirtless, stares out the window. A Woman makes her way out of the room leaving him alone.

As he gets dressed, he stops when he sees his reflection in the mirror. He grabs his pistol and stares at it for a moment.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Martin is making his way into the police station when his phone starts to ring.

MARTIN

I'm right outside what's up?

Something stops him in his tracks. He pulls the phone away from his face as though he's about to scream. He takes a deep breath through his nostrils.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I'm on my way.

EXT. UNDERPASS - DAY

Martin walks through a crowd of officers and EMTs. Joseph is among them. They glance at each other. Joseph doesn't say a word.

In the middle of the underpass are two bodies. They are both sitting up against the wall with their heads facing each other.

Their bodies are conjoined together by their webbed skin that runs along the concrete wall like vines climbing a house.

Joseph approaches Martin who's eyes are stuck on the bodies, his jaw clenched with rage.

JOSEPH

We haven't found ID's yet but they look like they knew each other.

Martin doesn't react. His eyes still focused on the bodies.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
What are you thinking?

Beat.

MARTIN
Salcedo, You have his address
right?

JOSEPH
Yea.

MARTIN
Then lets go.

Martin starts to make his way out of the underpass.

JOSEPH
What about the scene?

MARTIN
What about it?

Joseph takes a sigh as Martin gets further.

JOSEPH
(under his breath)
Son of a bitch.

INT. CAR - DAY

Martin and Joseph are parked across the street from a
suburban house.

MARTIN
You sure he's in there?

JOSEPH
That's what the guy told me.

MARTIN
When have you seen a dealer living
in a place like this?

JOSEPH
I don't know!

MARTIN
We're wasting time sitting here.

JOSEPH
We don't even know if anyone's
home.

MARTIN

Yea well it's probably time we found out.

JOSEPH

We can't just go around accusing him of murder when all we got is the word of a junkie dealer.

Joseph looks at him. He can tell something is wrong.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

MARTIN

I'm fine.

JOSEPH

Well you're not acting like it. You look like you haven't slept in days.

MARTIN

Are you done being my mother?

JOSEPH

Martin-

MARTIN

Good. Now are you gonna get my back?

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Martin makes his way across the street. He's got a dangerous look in his eyes.

Joseph quickly follows him.

JOSEPH

God dammit Martin wait.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Martin knocks on the door as Joseph catches up to him.

MARTIN

State police open up!

Joseph grabs him by the hand.

JOSEPH
You need to calm down.

MARTIN
Get your hand off of me.

JOSEPH
If you-

Standing in the door way is MICHAEL SALCEDO(40). A well put together man who looks like he's never seen drugs in his life.

MICHAEL
How can I help you?

MARTIN
Are you Michael Salcedo?

MICHAEL
Yes. Is there a problem?

JOSEPH
Sorry to bother you sir we-

MARTIN
You mind if we come inside? We just have some questions for you.

Joseph looks at him, trying to hide his frustration.

MICHAEL
(nervously laughs)
Questions about what? I haven't done anything.

MARTIN
There's been some deaths around town. You're name popped up and we're just here to cross it off our list.

MICHAEL
My name? What are you talking about? I have nothing to do with any murders.

MARTIN
Never said they were murdered.

Beat.

MICHAEL
What?

JOSEPH

Sir, I'm sure this is just a mix up
but we do have a few questions and
the sooner you can answer them the
better.

Michael looks at the more friendly Joseph for a moment before
clearing the doorway.

MICHAEL

I can't believe this.

Before the two men step inside, Joseph stops Martin.

JOSEPH

(whispering)

You need to fucking relax.

Martin yanks his arm away.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Martin and Joseph sit across Michael.

JOSEPH

So what do you do for a living
Michael?

MICHAEL

I'm a customer service rep.

MARTIN

Must pay well. This is a nice
neighborhood. I know it can't be
cheap.

MICHAEL

I'm smart with my money. I never
was a big spender.

JOSEPH

You live alone?

MICHAEL

I do. Well, now I do. I just went
through a divorce.

JOSEPH

I know what that's like.

MICHAEL

Yea it's not fun.

JOSEPH

You're telling me. She wanted three thousand a month on top of taking half of everything.

Martin gives Joseph a glance... He knows it's bullshit.

MICHAEL

That's brutal I'm sorry to hear that.

JOSEPH

Yea it is what it is I guess.

MICHAEL

The system wasn't built in our favor.

JOSEPH

(laughing)

You can say that again.

MARTIN

You got any kids?

Michael's smile fades when he remembers Martin is still there.

MICHAEL

No. I wasn't so lucky in that category. I always wanted some though.

An awkward silence lingers.

JOSEPH

Michael you mind if I get a glass of water?

MICHAEL

Yea sure.

They wait until Michael is out of reach.

MARTIN

He's lying. How the hell do you keep a house like this with that job. After going through a divorce? Come on man it's bullshit.

JOSEPH

Okay. We'll call it in to be safe.

Michael walks back in with the glass of water.

MICHAEL

I hope it's cold enough.

JOSEPH

Oh thank you man. Now we just got a couple more questions for you if that's alright.

MICHAEL

(laughing)

I didn't do it?

Joseph fakes a laugh.

JOSEPH

No you see me and my partner were just thinking, most people who end up divorcing usually downsize. You on the other hand haven't.

MARTIN

We also haven't noticed any pictures of you wife. So either customer service reps are in high demand all of a sudden or you're lying.

Michael is taken aback.

MICHAEL

I didn't feel like leaving reminders of her around the house and I already told you guys, I'm good with my money.

MARTIN

I'm sure you are but maybe we can give your wife a call. Just to make sure everything checks out.

MICHAEL

I guess I could call her. Let me grab my phone.

JOSEPH

We'd really appreciate it.

MICHAEL

I think I left it in the kitchen.

Martin and Joseph exchange glances as Michael walks away.

Martin looks around the room... Something grabs his attention. On the table near them is a cell phone.

MARTIN

That's not your phone is it?

JOSEPH

Mine is right here.

As Martin turns toward Joseph, Michael is standing behind him with a shotgun pointed at his head.

Before Martin can say anything, BOOM! Joseph's brain matter splatters across the room.

Martin whips out his pistol. He sends a bullet right into Michael's arm causing him to drop his gun.

Martin jumps behind the couch as Michael makes a run for it.

The sound of the back door opening causes Martin to take a peek. He starts to chase after him.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Martin is clutching his bloodied arm while dodging trees and rocks.

A bullet zips right through Michael's leg. He screams in pain as Martin steps over him.

MICHAEL

(whimpering)

Okay okay... Please I'm sorry.

Martin kneels on Michael's wounded leg causing him to scream in agony. He puts the pistol against his head.

MARTIN

Patrick buys from you... What did you give him?

MICHAEL

I don't know what you're talking about.

Martin applies more pressure to his wound.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

FUCK! Okay... He was just another customer. I swear I had nothing to do with whatever happened to him.

MARTIN

You're lying. You gave him something.

(MORE)

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Just like those people in the
tunnel. How many are out there huh?

Martin pushes the gun deep into his head.

MICHAEL
I don't know what the fuck you're
talking about! I haven't sold
anything in weeks.

MARTIN
Why?

MICHAEL
Patrick got clean. Some of my guys
said others were getting clean too.

MARTIN
How are a bunch of junkies getting
clean all of a sudden?

MICHAEL
I swear I don't know. They've been
going to someone but I was never
able to find out. That's all I know
man I promise.

Martin stands up, his gun still pointed at Michael.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Aren't you gonna arrest me?

Martin looks around to make sure no one is around.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
What the fuck are you doing?

He takes a quick glance back at the house where Joseph's body
is laying. He turns toward Michael and unloads his pistol
into his chest.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Martin stares out the window with a blank face. Across from
him is LAURA SCOTTS(40).

LAURA
Martin... Martin?

Martin snaps out of his trance.

LAURA (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

MARTIN
How much longer?

LAURA
I'll let you know when we're done.

MARTIN
I've been telling this story for
almost a week.

LAURA
I understand that this is a tough
situation but it won't be over
until I can clear you. You know how
IA works.

Sarah enters the room with a cup of coffee for Laura.

SARAH
I hope it's not too hot.

LAURA
Oh thank you.

Sarah takes a seat next to Martin. An awkwardness lingers.
Sarah gets the message.

SARAH
Well if you need anything else just
let me know okay?

LAURA
I will. Thank you again.

Sarah gives Martin a kiss on the cheek. He doesn't react to
it. Before she leaves the room, she turns around toward
Laura.

SARAH
I know that you have to do your job
and all but you-

MARTIN
Sarah!

SARAH
... But you and everyone at the
department knows that Martin is one
of the best officers that
department has ever had.

(pause)
I just needed to put that out
there.

Laura glances at Martin unsure of how to respond.

LAURA
I understand.

Sarah, almost proud of herself, gives Laura a nod before walking out.

MARTIN
I'm sorry about that.

LAURA
It's alright. That's not the first
time it's happened.
(pause)
How far is she?

MARTIN
About seven months.

LAURA
Are you scared?

Martin nods his head.

LAURA (CONT'D)
What are you scared about?

Beat.

MARTIN
I have an appointment this
afternoon so...

LAURA
Right. So you don't have to tell
the story from the beginning but
just tell me what happened after
you left the house.

MARTIN
He tried to escape through the
woods. I was gaining on him so he
turned and tried to shoot at me.

LAURA
But there were no casings recovered
at the scene.

MARTIN
I said he tried. I was able to get
the shots off before he could.

LAURA

So he never shot at you?

MARTIN

Because he just blew my partner's head off, I didn't think he was turning to apologize.

Beat.

LAURA

I'm sure you could guess the theory I'm working with.

MARTIN

I shot him in cold blood as revenge.

LAURA

A lot of people are just as happy with that story as they are with yours. Maybe even more.

MARTIN

Yea well the truth can be disappointing.

LAURA

Martin if that's your story then I'm going to believe you. I know with what happened to Joseph and then getting taken off the case... It's not an easy time for you. I'm not trying to make things harder.

MARTIN

You think I need you to feel sorry for me?

LAURA

I think I got what I came for.

MARTIN

I think you did.

Martin gets up and opens up the door for her.

LAURA

I could get fired for telling you this but they found another one yesterday.

That got Martin's attention.

MARTIN

How many?

LAURA

Just one. Male probably. It's hard to tell.

MARTIN

There's going to be more.

LAURA

I don't doubt it. So what are you gonna do about it?

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Martin and Sarah are eating dinner together.

SARAH

Did she say she what would happen next?

MARTIN

That's not something she could tell me.

SARAH

I still can't believe they would do something like this to you. The man killed a cop and it's like they're defending him or something.

MARTIN

It's their job.

SARAH

I know but you already told them what happened. I mean the man had the gun next to him. You'd think that would be enough but I guess you need to have video footage of him actually-

MARTIN

I did it.

SARAH

What?

MARTIN

I put the gun next to his body... After I killed him.

Beat.

SARAH
But you said-

MARTIN
I lied. I murdered him. He killed
Joseph so I murdered him. That's
what actually happened.

SARAH
Martin what are you doing?

MARTIN
I don't know. I'm just tired.

SARAH
Tired of what?

Tears begin to fill Martin's eyes.

MARTIN
I'm not good to you.

Tears begin to fill Sarah's eyes.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
I think I need to go for a little.

Martin gets up from the table.

SARAH
Martin wait.

Sarah tries to grab at him.

MARTIN
I just need time. I'm sorry.

SARAH
(touching her stomach)
What about us?

MARTIN
This is the best thing I can do for
us.

Martin leaves her as she breaks down into tears.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Martin is laying in bed. He looks like he hasn't slept in days. His dark circled eyes stare at the blank wall in front of him.

There's a man sitting in a chair behind him. It's Joseph.

JOSEPH

Why do you always choose this place?

MARTIN

It feels far from home.

JOSEPH

It's hard to see you like this.

Martin starts to get choked up.

MARTIN

I'm sorry Joseph. I'm sorry about what happened to you. I pushed too hard. I should've...

JOSEPH

You should've what... Seen the future? You're gonna kill yourself thinking like that.

MARTIN

I'm gonna figure this out.

JOSEPH

Maybe you will but what then? Solving this won't fix you.

MARTIN

How do you know?

JOSEPH

Because you've been coming here before I was gone.

MARTIN

It'll be one less thing to worry about.

JOSEPH

I didn't think I was going to convince you.

MARTIN

I don't know where to start anymore.

JOSEPH

Yes you do. You already told me.

Martin finally turns over to look at Joseph... He's gone.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Martin walks into the station and is met by an awkward silence and every eye in the room turned toward him.

Miller steps out of his office and approaches him.

MILLER

(nervously smiles)

Martin, you know you can't be here while under investigation. What are you doing?

MARTIN

I'm sorry. I just need to collect a few things from my locker.

MILLER

That's something you should've done already.

MARTIN

My mind was a little...

Miller sighs as he looks around the station.

MILLER

Don't you people have work to do?!
(to Martin)
Make it quick.

MARTIN

Thank you.

Martin starts walking away. He turns around to make sure the coast is clear before turning down a hallway.

INT. POLICE STATION - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Martin enters the office where Roger is once again watching videos on his computer.

Martin gives him a tap on the shoulder.

ROGER
(surprised)
Detective, what are you doing here?

MARTIN
I need whatever you got from the
phone I gave you.

ROGER
What? We shouldn't even be talking
right now. You're not even supposed
to be in the building.

MARTIN
Roger, I'm sorry that I have to put
you in this position but I can't
leave until I get it.

ROGER
Detective I'm sorry. I can't.

MARTIN
I understand.

Martin puts his hand over Roger's mouth. He pulls out his gun
and points it at Roger's head.

Roger's muffled screams go unanswered.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
I'm not going to shoot you. If
someone finds out about this, you
can tell them I didn't give you a
choice. I'm going to move my hand
now. Do I have your word you won't
scream?

Roger nods his head.

Martin slowly takes his hand away and lowers the gun.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Now I need the phone and whatever
you found from it. Location,
number... Anything.

ROGER
I tried to find the location the
call was made to but halfway
through that I found out about a
program that can reverse the call
of a blocked number.

(MORE)

ROGER (CONT'D)

I had to make a few changes to the code since this phone is about five years old but basically, you can't view the number but you can call the number back.

MARTIN

I doubt that someone's going to answer a dead person's call.

ROGER

That's probably true.

MARTIN

And the location?

Roger starts typing away at his computer.

ROGER

I was only able to get within a two block radius. If I had more time It could be more accurate but I'm guessing you're not going to wait.

MARTIN

Show me where.

Martin looks at the screen... He looks disturbed.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

You gotta be kidding me.

ROGER

Is that it?

Martin grabs the phone off the desk. He stops himself before leaving.

MARTIN

I know it probably won't matter at this point but I am sorry about this. If you're going to tell them, I'm just asking you give me some time before you do.

ROGER

You're committing a felony to solve a crime. Do you not see how crazy this is?

MARTIN

I know...

(pause)

But I'm hoping it'll be worth it.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Martin checks the clip in his gun before making his way toward the abandoned building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Martin starts dialing the number on Patrick's phone. He moves through the halls and rooms as the phone rings. Eventually, the faint sound of a ringtone can be heard.

He keeps dialing. The sound gets louder. Martin stands at a door, he hears the ringtone clearly on the other side.

He opens the door to find a sleeping Sunny laying on the floor. The phone ringing in his bag.

Martin reaches into the bag and pulls out the phone. He looks at it with confusion. He looks down at Sunny. His look of disbelief and confusion turns into rage.

He reaches down and grabs Sunny by the collar, waking up the fearful old man.

MARTIN

Wake the fuck up you son of a bitch!

SUNNY

What the hell are you doing?!

MARTIN

(holds up the phone)
How did you get this number?!

SUNNY

(recognizes Martin)
You're the cop?

With gritted teeth, Martin pulls out his gun and pushes it against Sunny's temple.

MARTIN

How did you get the number?! That's the last time I'm going to ask.

SUNNY

Alright look, It's not what you think it is.

MARTIN

You were the one he called. Why?!

SUNNY

Because that's what she tells me to do.

MARTIN

Who?

SUNNY

Damn man. I just tell the people where to go.

MARTIN

Who motherfucker?!

SUNNY

I don't know her name! If I get a call I just tell them where to go. I do that and she lets me stay here with no issue. That's all I do man I swear.

MARTIN

Where is she?

SUNNY

If I tell you, you gonna let me go?

MARTIN

Yea I'll let you go.

Beat.

SUNNY

She's here.

MARTIN

What?

SUNNY

There's an old storage compartment in the basement. That's where she lives man.

Martin keeps the gun on Sunny.

SUNNY (CONT'D)

You said you'd let me go man.

Martin cocks the gun.

MARTIN

Do you even know what happened to those people?

SUNNY
(pleading)
I don't know nothing man please.

Martin starts breathing heavily through his nostrils.

MARTIN
You're gonna get the fuck out of
here and never come back.

SUNNY
Okay okay.

Martin lowers the gun.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - BASEMENT - NIGHT

The sound of water dripping into a puddle is the only thing that can be heard as Martin makes his way down the steps. He has his gun out as his eyes scan across the darkness.

MARTIN
Who's down here?!

Metal rattles in the distance causing Martin to jump.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
Come out motherfucker!

Martin is breathing heavily. He frantically looks around as though something is about to grab him.

He can see the faint flicker of light coming from under a doorway.

He cautiously approaches before pushing the door open.

He finds a filthy sleeping bag along with a tiny lit candle in the corner of the room.

WOMAN (O.S.)
It's not much.

Martin quickly jumps around. His eyes wide with fear.

MARTIN
Who is that?

Martin moves backward into the small room. With his back against the wall, a figure begins to emerge from the darkness.

It's a Woman. Not just any Woman, the same one who attempted to grab Martin's crotch.

MARTIN (CONT'D)
(confused)
What the fuck?

The Woman steps into the doorway. She looks filthy but has a slight smile at the sight of Martin.

WOMAN
(calmly)
What can I help you with?

Martin looks unsure of what to say.

MARTIN
Who are you?

WOMAN
I'm the one whose bedroom you're in.

MARTIN
Sunny told me... He said that-

WOMAN
Relax. Ask what you need to ask.

With his gun still drawn, Martin takes the advice and pauses for a moment.

MARTIN
Patrick Schaft, what did you do to him?

WOMAN
I gave him what he was desperate for.

MARTIN
What does that mean? You killed him didn't you?

WOMAN
He already killed himself if you ask me.

The Woman points toward her sleeping bag.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
Do you mind if I take a seat?

MARTIN

What?

With her arms raised, she slowly moves around the room almost taunting Martin who shifts toward the door.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Did you kill him?!

WOMAN

I offered Patrick the same thing I offered the others... Peace.

MARTIN

What the fuck does that mean? I saw those bodies. There was nothing peaceful about it.

WOMAN

It was painless for them. You think I'm wrong for what I do. I get it...

(pause)

But I've been doing this for a long time and I never once forced anyone's hand.

MARTIN

What do you mean?

WOMAN

Don't you see, I'm a way out. Those who are bound by addictions, ailments or disabilities... I'm their cure.

MARTIN

What the fuck are you?

WOMAN

I haven't been around this area for long. Patrick was the first. He was special but I knew he was tired. I could see it every time he came here. The pain of constantly letting down his family. I could see it on his face. I offered him help.

MARTIN

How?

WOMAN

Does the how matter? Shouldn't you be asking what I gave him?

MARTIN

You cured him?

WOMAN

Not just that. I gave him his life back. Like I said, I offer peace. He was able to feel normal again... Feel free. Do you know how valuable that is? To go home and truly be happy even if it's for a short time.

MARTIN

Why did you kill him? Why not let him live?

WOMAN

Unfortunately nothing on this world is free. Time is a valuable thing and to continue my work, that time has to come from somewhere.

MARTIN

So you use these people?

WOMAN

Or they use me. Either way, everyone gets what they want.

MARTIN

What about his mother? She lost her son, what does she get?

WOMAN

The knowledge that her son didn't die on the street like a dog. That he was home... Safe. They probably had breakfast that morning and shared a few laughs. Laughs that she hasn't heard since he was a kid.

Martin starts to lower his guard.

MARTIN

This is wrong.

WOMAN

Is it?

(pause)

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)

What about leaving your pregnant wife? Is that wrong too?

Martin's eyes go wide. He raises his gun once again at the Woman.

MARTIN

What the fuck did you just say?!

The Woman raises her hands but there's still no fear in her.

WOMAN

I'm sorry.

MARTIN

How the fuck do you know about that?

WOMAN

I see it on you the same way I saw it on Patrick.

MARTIN

You don't know anything about me. I love my wife.

WOMAN

I know! I know you do and that's why you've been broken for so long. You think you're escaping when you're just going deeper into a hole you've dug for yourself.

The Woman gets up and very slowly steps toward Martin.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

What would it mean for you to be free from all of it. Free from the regret. Free from blaming yourself.

(pause)

What would it mean to see her smile again?

Martin slowly lowers his gun.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

To have a child that knows his parents loved him.

His eyes start to fill with tears. She gently puts her hand on his cheek.

MARTIN

I'm scared.

WOMAN

You don't have to be.

Martin looks at her for a moment.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Martin has Sarah wrapped in his arms while they watch a movie. They both are laughing.

THE END