

Divine Right

"Lions Den"

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TEASER

EXT. DORON HOME - DAY

The Doron home is a two-story brick home in a moderate working class neighborhood. We bypass a BLOW UP jumping jack filled with a few kids and surrounded by partygoers and up the stairs and into the house where we find...

A "welcome Home" banner hanging just over the head of HELEN DORON, mid-thirties, beautiful with long dark hair and even darker eyes standing around friends and family. She's smiling as if she doesn't have a care in the world.

--HUGGING her leg is her son, DANNY DORON, seven, handsome, but shy in that awkward adolescent stage.

HELEN DORON

Danny, don't be scared it's just your Tio Pablo.

We span up from Danny's POV and get our first view of PABLO DORON, early forties. He's a little gruff, but he exudes power and confidence.

PABLO

Come give your uncle a hug, nephew.

Danny is reluctant. We can tell he hasn't seen much of his uncle.

HELEN DORON

Danny give him a hug.

PABLO

It's okay, Helen, I know I've been gone for quite some time.

She leans in to give her brother a hug. He kisses her on the cheek.

HELEN DORON

It's been too long, Pablo.

PABLO

I know, sis, but I'm back now and nothing is ever going to take me away from you two again.

Pablo ruffles Danny's hair as the young boy fights to put it back the way it was.

Pablo turns away from his sister to acknowledge the partygoers.

PABLO (CONT'D)
 Is this a party or what? Where's
 the music?

--And as if on cue, the salsa music begins to play.

Pablo bends down to little Danny who continues to hold on to his mother's leg.

PABLO (CONT'D)
 (mimic dancing with two
 fingers in the palm of
 his hand)
 Hey, pappi, you mind if I steal
 your mother away for a little dance
 around the room?

Danny shakes his head "no" and with that we are off dancing with Pablo and Helen.

PABLO (CONT'D)
 Sis, I want to say thank you for
 holding down the fort while I was
 gone.

HELEN DORON
 It was hard, Pablo, but we made it
 through.

PABLO
 How did our family in Mexico take
 it when you told them you'd be
 running things?

HELEN DORON
 Like putos. They wanted to send
 one of the cousins up here to
 inspect things. I told him that we
 were Dorons and didn't need
 inspecting.

PABLO
 Good. Good.
 (pulls an envelope from
 his pocket)
 Here is twenty large. See that our
 familia are taken care of. After
 that this will be your last dealing
 with them. I'm back.

Helen takes the money. But her eyes say differently.

PABLO (CONT'D)
 What?

HELEN DORON

Are you sure, Pablo, that your back
for good?

PABLO

Yeah, I'm sure. There's nothing--

Pablo's words are cut short by someone outside screaming his name.

VICTOR SANTIAGO

Hey Pablo Doron. You stinkin'
puto. Come on out so I can see
your cowardly face!!!

The music dies as we hear partygoers protest.

DANNY

Mommy who's that?

Helen picks up Danny as she moves to the window to look out it and find a drunken VICTOR SANTIAGO, early forties standing out front.

HELEN DORON

(to Danny)

It's no one, baby.

(To Pablo)

It's Victor Santiago. He looks
drunk.

Pablo is clearly angry. He's moving towards the door. Helen jumps in his path.

PABLO

I told that mother--

HELEN DORON

Pablo, no. Let it be.

PABLO

We can't have just anyone
disrespecting us, Helen. We're
Dorons.

HELEN DORON

I know. But please just let it go,
Pablo.

PABLO

I'm just going to talk to him
that's all. Okay, I swear. I'm
just going to talk to him.

And with that Pablo exits the home.

Helen sits Danny down on the couch.

HELEN DORON

*Danny stay right there. Mommy will
be back in a second. Do you hear
me, Danny?*

*Helen turns and goes out the door. We follow her and as we
head for the door we're...*

INT. PICKUP TRUCK - MORNING

Inside a pickup truck with a much older Pablo Doron. He's in his early sixties and sitting across from him is Danny who is now sixteen, still handsome, but he now wears black framed glasses that give him the persona of a punk-rock intellectual.

PABLO

*I'll drop you off at school, but
first I need to make a run.
Nothing that shouldn't take more
than a few minutes at best.*

DANNY

(nonchalant)

*Okay, Uncle Pablo, whatever you
say.*

PABLO

*You know, Danny, you don't have to
continue to call me Uncle Pablo.
You could just call me Tio. I'm
cool with that.*

DANNY

Sure thing, Uncle Pablo.

Danny reaches over and turns on the radio. He starts channel surfing before he lands the dial on a local rock station playing the Smashing Pumpkin's "Disarm".

The song plays as the pickup cruises down the lone dusty road.

EXT. ABANDONED NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

The pickup bypasses a wire gate where a sign reads "under construction" It pulls up to a small abandoned one flat home. The place has been boarded up and is surrounded by three or four other similar looking houses that have also been boarded up.

DANNY

Who are you meeting here?

Pablo looks at Danny long and hard. It's his parenting eyes.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Oh right. That's none of my
business.

PABLO

Just stay in the truck. I'll be
gone no longer than five minutes.

Pablo fishes a backpack out from behind his seat and heads
towards the house.

Danny waits inside the truck, wrestling with the radio for
some good tunes when his phone rings.

The display reads: KAT

He flips open the phone.

DANNY

Hello.

KAT

Danny. I had this really crazy
dream about us.

DANNY

Oh yeah, how crazy?

KAT

Lets just say we were both covered
in sweat and breathing hard.

DANNY

Yeah, tell me more.

He opens the truck door and gets out. He looks up at the
house wondering if he should tell his uncle he's walking
away, but decides not to.

KAT

Danny? Danny? You still there?

DANNY

Oh yeah, sorry, Kat. Had to take a
walk to get some fresh air. Now
where were we?

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - MORNING

Pablo stands inside the living room with his backpack on a table. Sitting across from him is the SELLER with a similar looking backpack.

SELLER
You got the cash?

PABLO
Only if you got what I want.

SELLER
I got that and then some, but I only brought a small sample.

PABLO
Well I bought the whole thing. So what am I suppose to do with a sample?

SELLER
Maybe we can rearrange a new meeting in a more--

BOOM!

Out of nowhere the Seller is blown out of his seat, but not by Pablo, but by a MASKED MAN wielding a double barrel shotgun.

PABLO
Take the money. There's no product.

The masked man eyes the money but then he levels his shotgun on Pablo.

MASKED MAN
You're either Daniel or you're the lion.

The masked man pulls the trigger.

EXT. ABANDONED NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

Danny is walking down the desolate street on his phone. He's so wrapped up in his own conversation that he doesn't hear the sound from the first blast of the gun.

DANNY
So when can we make this erotic dream of yours a reality.

KAT

I don't know, but one day we will,
I promise.

DANNY

As long as you promise.

Danny stops in mid-stride and looks back over his shoulder. He listens. Doesn't hear anything, continues walking.

KAT

So your uncle's going to drop you
off at school?

DANNY

Yeah, but who knows when that will
be.

Danny hears the second shot. Doesn't really know what it is, but his instincts are telling him to check on his uncle.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hey Kat how about I check you at
school. I've gotta find my uncle.
Okay, later.

He hangs up the phone and starts heading back towards the house.

When he nears the house he begins to check his watch. It's been more than five minutes. He gets in the truck and begins flickering with the radio. Nothing good on. He opens his phone and calls his uncle. After a few rings it goes to voice mail.

He hangs up and gets out of the truck. He stares at the house, checks his watch and then calls his uncle's phone. It's ringing and it's loud enough that he can hear it through the boarded up windows.

That's strange.

Danny goes to the door and gently knocks on it.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Ummmm, hello, I'm looking for my
Uncle Pablo Doron.

He knocks again. A little harder. The door cracks open.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Hello?

He steps into the home and finds...

--Pablo on the floor lying in a pool of his own blood.

Danny rushes to his side.

DANNY (CONT'D)
 (crying)
 Tio Pablo! No!!

PABLO
 Danny.
 (coughing)
 Danny. It's okay, Pappi. I'm
 going to be fine.
 (Fighting through pain)
 Just remember....you're either
 Daniel or you're the lion.

And with that said Pablo dies in Danny's arms.

CUT TO BLACK.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN STREETS - MID MORNING

Danny is walking the streets with his arms wrapped tightly around his body. His dark jacket is covering his blood covered T-shirt. He's been crying, hell, he's still crying as he looks over his shoulder and sees a sheriff's cruiser pulling up behind him. He walks faster as he dries his eyes. The cruiser pulls up along side him. SHERIFF BAUER, forties, strong upper body, lets down the window.

SHERIFF BAUER
 Son, where you headed?

DANNY
 Nowhere.

SHERIFF BAUER
 I see that. Now how about you just
 jump on in the back of this car and
 we end the twenty questions before
 they begin.

Danny contemplates the officer's request. What choice does he have? The Sheriff's got him.

INT. CRUISER - MID MORNING

DANNY

I didn't have anything to do with it.

SHERIFF BAUER

I know. You don't look like you did, but I think you can tell me who did.

DANNY

I don't know. I wasn't there. I just happen to walk in after it happened.

SHERIFF BAUER

I see. Well, can't fault you for walking into something you had no part in. Tell you what. I'll drop you off at school and I won't report this as a truancy, but only if you keep your ears open about anybody that might have vandalized Jacob's hardware.

The officer looks at Danny through the rearview.

DANNY

What?

SHERIFF BAUER

Is that a deal?

(He hands a business card
over his shoulder)

This here is my cell number.

Danny takes the card and then the sheriff pulls the car out onto the road.

OFFICER

Pleasure doing business with you,
kid.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Danny is walking down the empty school halls towards his locker. He pops it open, grabs a T-shirt he has hidden somewhere in there and heads for the bathroom.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM

Danny throws off the bloody tee shirt and jacket. He throws on the new tee and then rinses his face in the sink. He looks at himself in the mirror. His hands are trembling.

DANNY

Okay, Danny, you can do this. You can be the lion.

(Starts to cry)

Who the hell am I kidding? Once they find out about Uncle Pablo I'm gone. Off to some boy's home.

The bell rings and a few boys start to crowd the bathroom.

Danny washes his face again and when he looks at himself in the mirror a second time he sees ANTWON DIGGS, sixteen, black, a tough kid who could possibly be a jock if he didn't live to cause trouble.

ANTWON

What up Doron? You got something for me today?

DANNY

I'm not in the mood, Antwon?

ANTWON

You're not in the mood? Did I ask you if you were in the mood? I asked if you had something for me.

Danny turns to face Antwon.

DANNY

And what if I don't?

ANTWON

Then your boy, Juan, is going to have to come up with payment for blowing up my Playstation 3 or I'm going to take it out of his ass. But you his boy right?

Danny bites back whatever he was going to say and concedes.

DANNY

(defeated)

Yeah, he's my boy. I'll have the money for you tomorrow.

Danny pushes past Antwon and his lackeys and out into the crowded hallway.

ANTWON

(holding up the bloody tee-
shirt)

Ahh, Doron, you left your tampon?

LACKEYS

(laughing)

Maneuvering through the bustling crowd of young people, Danny bumps into his best friend, JUAN, fifteen, African American, captain of the chess team, a comic geek, and possibly a computer prodigy.

JUAN

Hey Double D

DANNY

I thought I told you not to call me
that Juan?

JUAN

Technically you didn't. You said
you'd rather be called D or just
Danny, but Double D makes you sound
you know...like you're a super spy
or something.

DANNY

But I'm not, Juan, and I advise you
to stay low. Antwon's out for
blood.

JUAN

But you paid him right?

DANNY

Not today. Told him I'd get to him
tomorrow.

JUAN

You did what?

DANNY

Listen, Juan, I have a lot going on
right now. I'll catch you later.

JUAN

Care to talk about it?

DANNY

No. Just give me a little space,
okay?

JUAN

Sure, Double D, whatever you want.

Danny moves on down the hall, leaving Juan to slowly blend in with the rest of the students.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MATH CLASS - AFTERNOON

Danny is sitting at his desk, lost in his thoughts, scribbling away in his notebook as the teacher draws up elaborate problems on the blackboard.

MS. SMITH

Would anyone care to solve the problem on the board?

The teacher looks around the room. No one's eager to answer. She spots Danny scribbling away in his notebook. She's found her volunteer.

MS. SMITH (CONT'D)

Mr. Doron, maybe you'd care to solve the equation. After all, it doesn't seem like you're paying Miss Cruz any mind more than you are me.

Danny is perplexed. That is until he catches Ms. Smith nodding at his feet where several pieces of balled up paper sit.

He looks down at the paper and then turns to look over his shoulder where we get our first glimpse of KATALINA CRUZ, short black hair, sexy long eyelashes, an America Ferrara look alike with all the right curves.

Kat drops her head into her arms.

Danny gets up and heads for the board.

He looks over the problem with unflattering eyes, grabs the chalk and solves the problem as if he'd been listening to the teacher all along.

MS. SMITH

Thank you, Danny. Now, Miss Cruz, if you were paying as much attention to the lesson as you were to trying to contact mister Doron then you wouldn't be averaging a C in my class. Please see me after the bell.

As Danny makes his way back to his seat Kat gives him the EVIL EYE.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Danny is at his locker exchanging books for other books. Doing his high school thing. He closes the locker door and standing behind it he finds Kat, still giving him the evil eye.

KAT

So where were you earlier?

DANNY

Nowhere. Why would I have to be somewhere?

KAT

Clearly you were somewhere because you weren't in home room.

DANNY

Oh, that, Well I was running late. Had a lot on my mind.

KAT

I'm sure, but let me remind you that it was only a dream.

Danny is silent. Something else is bothering him and Kat knows it.

KAT (CONT'D)

Okay, so one day it won't be just a dream. Cheer up.

(She kisses him on the lips)

Wow, well thanks for kissing me back.

DANNY

Sorry, Kat, I just got a lot of things on my mind. Some family stuff that's got me all spacial.

KAT

Do you want to talk about it?

DANNY

I can't. At least not yet.

KAT

Maybe you should go see one of the school counselors.

(MORE)

KAT (CONT'D)

I heard when Tina Bear found out she was pregnant she went to see a counselor. They helped her cope with her pregnancy and with telling her folks.

DANNY

I'm not sure a counselor can help with this.

KAT

You never know until you give it a try. Just know that I'll be here for you when you're ready to talk.
(She kisses him on the cheek)

DANNY

Thanks, Kat.

Kat turns and walks away as we stay on Danny watching her depart and then we

CUT TO:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - COUNSELORS OFFICE

Danny is sitting in a chair and across from him a school counselor sits at a desk.

DANNY

I just need some advice.

COUNSELOR

Okay.

DANNY

What if you had a friend and this friend knew something bad had happened to someone, but the friend didn't want to tell anyone because he-- I mean she-- or it could be a he was afraid that if the news got out him or her would have to move away.

COUNSELOR

Well if I were friends with him or her I'd tell my friend that they need to talk to their parents and if not their parents then an adult.

DANNY

But what if he or she can't tell
their parents or any other adult
without the news destroying their
life, then what?

COUNSELOR

I'd say that he or she needs to
talk to at least a good friend.
And if that friend is smart he will
try to talk his friend into getting
help whether that's from the
parents or from an outside source.

The counselor hands Danny some pamphlets.

COUNSELOR (CONT'D)

Maybe these will help your friend.

Danny looks down at the pamphlets. They're teen pregnancy pamphlets. Now what he really needs.

EXT. CITY STREET - EVENING

Danny is walking home from school. As he nears his home we start to visibly see the burden he's been carrying on his back. His shoulders have slumped and his overall demeanor has changed.

He climbs the stairs slowly as if every step brings him to his demise.

INT. DORON HOME

He enters his home. It's quiet. He steps into the living room and we find pictures lining the mantle, picture of him and his mother and uncle. Pictures that create a time line of Danny's life as he comes to rest a hand on a picture of him when he was seven and as we draw closer in on the picture-

--we find ourselves in the living room some 11 years ago as 7 year old Danny gets up off the couch and heads for the front door.

We push past Danny and out into the yard where we find Drunken Victor still spewing obscenities at the partygoers.

VICTOR SANTIAGO

Fuck you all. And to that rat
bastard, Pablo Doron, I spit on him
and curse his whole family.

PABLO

Victor Santiago. You are drunk, carnal, and I would advise you to take yourself home and sober up.

HELEN DORON

It's okay, Pablo, I'll handle Victor.

Helen moves to try and calm victor.

HELEN DORON (CONT'D)

Please, Victor, listen to reason. This is not the place or time to air your grievances with my brother.

VICTOR SANTIAGO

This is the perfect time! You lied to me, Pablo!

PABLO

I did no such thing. If anything I kept my word and said nothing. I protected you all.

VICTOR SANTIAGO

Liar!

Helen goes to quiet Victor and as she does Victor SMACKS her. As Helen goes down we--

CUT TO:

INT. DORON HOME - EVENING

We have returned to the present and we find Danny Looking down at the picture as his tears stain the dusty glass.

Unexpectedly a phone rings.

Danny wipes the tears from his eyes and looks around the room for the ringing. He follows the ringing into the next room where a cellphone sits on the dining room table. He answers the phone.

DANNY

Hello.

VOICE

Mr. Doron we have your package.

DANNY

Package?

VOICE
Yes, at pier 31.

DANNY
I'll be right down. Thank you.

Danny closes the phone. And we

CUT TO BLACK:

EXT. PIER - NIGHT

Danny gets off a bus and then starts heading for pier 31. At the entrance a man frisks him and then they both step into the warehouse.

INT. WAREHOUSE

They walk past rows of crates before coming into an open space where a MAN sits at a table with a lone light dangling down from the ceiling.

DUBBIN
Hello, Mr. Doron.

Danny steps into the light about to take a seat.

DUBBIN (CONT'D)
Who the hell are you?

The other two men in the room pull guns on Danny.

DANNY
I'm, I'm Danny Doron.

DUBBIN
Right name, kid, wrong face.

Danny eyes the guns. He's gotta think fast.

DANNY
(nervously)
My, my uncle Pablo sent me.

DUBBIN looks Danny up and down. He's trying to read him, but all he can see is a lamb amongst Lions.

DUBBIN
So what are you suppose to be. His look out or something?

DANNY
I was told that there was a package to be picked up.

DUBBIN

Yeah, there's a package.
(Signals for the guys to
put away the guns.)
Right this way, boy wonder.

Dubbin and his guards lead Danny past another row of crates to the loading docks. One of the guards opens the back of a cargo truck to reveal....

A trailer full of marijuana stacked to the ceiling. Street value somewhere in the possible millions.

DUBBIN (CONT'D)

Here's your package.

DANNY

(astonished)
Oh, man, you gotta be kidding me.

DUBBIN

Now where's my money?

DANNY

(hesitant)
Money? No one said anything about
money.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Danny is sitting in a chair, stripped down to his underwear. Standing on either side of him are the two bodyguards with guns drawn. Standing across from them is Dubbin smoking a cigar.

DUBBIN

So you don't have my money, but you came here to pick up a package? Give me one reason why I shouldn't put a bullet in your head right now?

DANNY

You don't have to do this.

DUBBIN

One reason.

DANNY

Listen, this was just a huge misunderstanding.

DUBBIN

I only asked for one. Kill him.

The guards cock their guns ready to execute poor Danny.

DANNY

Okay, listen, if you kill me my uncle is not going to be too happy. What do you think he'd just send the money without checking the place out?

This gives Dubbin something to think about.

DUBBIN

Okay. That's a good reason. Put the guns away boys.

The men do as they're told. Danny breathes a sigh of relief, but he's not out of hot water yet.

DUBBIN (CONT'D)

So now that you've seen that we're on the up-and-up. How about you get me my money.

DANNY

As soon as I return to my uncle
safely I'm sure he'll take it from
there.

DUBBIN

Okay,
(to guards)
Give him his clothes and show
Mister Doron the door.

The guard throws Danny his clothes as he tries to catch them,
but he's no first baseman and his shoes hit the floor. He
gathers them.

DUBBIN (CONT'D)

When you tell your uncle about this
little strip search he'll
understand that it was necessary.
(To the guards)
Get'em out of here.

The guards are about to escort Danny out of the warehouse,
but Dubbin stops them.

DUBBIN (CONT'D)

Oh, and before I forget. Tell your
uncle that if I don't get my money
soon I'll be paying your cousin Sam
and his brother James down in
Mexico a special visit. I'd hate
to involve distant family in our
affairs, but I will get my money by
any means.

Danny stares at Dubbin for a second before the guards gesture
him out.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Danny is standing outside the warehouse with his clothing in
his arms as the warehouse doors close behind him.

He slips on his jeans and tee shirt.

DANNY

What the hell did you just get
myself into Danny?

He slips on one shoe.

DANNY (CONT'D)

And what does my family in Mexico
have to do with anything?

He slips on the last shoe and as he comes down he lands smack dab in a pile of dog shit.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Awww, man. Fuck me.

Danny starts walking off into the night.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Danny exits a bus and starts walking up the street to his home.

He stands in front of it, hesitant, as if he's just missed curfew and doesn't want to face the music.

At the same time his uncle's phone starts to rings. The name on the phone reads: BOSCO.

He doesn't answer and instead he turns away from the stairs and starts walking up the street.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

It's late. The streets are empty. It's the perfect time for Danny to be alone with his thoughts.

But those thoughts are interrupted by a group of three young punks spray painting a local business, destroying it's windows with that acid acrylic bullshit. Danny sees the destruction, it's Juan's favorite comic shop. If he doesn't say something he'll be hearing it from Juan for days.

DANNY

Ah, stop that!

PUNK 1

Fuck off.

DANNY

I said stop that. (Pulls out his phone to fake dial.) I'm calling the police.

PUNK 2

And how are you going to do that without any fingers to dial with?

The three punks stop what they're doing and advance towards Danny.

He's surrounded, nervously anticipating the first punch, but not backing down.

PUNK 3
Why couldn't you mind your own
business?

DANNY
Because it's people like you that's
destroying this neighborhood.

PUNK 1
People like us? You hear this?

PUNK 2
Yeah, I hear it, but who can
believe it.

Punk 2 pushes Danny. Fuck this. If he's going to get beat
up he's going down fighting.

Danny lands a hard right to Punk 3.

The other two guys move in. They're throwing wild punches.
They're clearly outnumbering Danny but he's putting up a good
fight, well to some degree, but the end result is that he's
getting his ass kicked.

A police car sirens sound.

The three punks make a break for it. Leaving Danny on the
ground to sulk.

DANNY
Fucking pussies!!!

He spits out blood on to the concrete and then looks over at
the comic shop. It's still in tact and it's windows are
saved.

Danny laughs to himself and then groans as the pain sets in.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Where's Superman when you need him?

EXT. SHERIFF'S STATION - NIGHT

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION

Danny is sitting at the desk of Sheriff Bauer giving his
statement. He's holding a cold compress to his busted lip.
His glasses are cracked. He looks like shit.

DETECTIVE BAUER
We've gotta quit meeting on such
circumstances.

DANNY

You told me to contact you if I came across any information on those vandals.

DETECTIVE BAUER

Yeah I did, but I never said anything about taking them on.

DANNY

Just trying to do my part to keep the neighborhood safe.

DETECTIVE BAUER

Danny I just realized I don't have your last name for the report.

DANNY

It's Doron.

DETECTIVE BAUER

Doron? As in Pablo Doron is related to you in what way?

DANNY

He's my uncle.

A beat.

DETECTIVE BAUER

I see.

DANNY

What?

DETECTIVE BAUER

Nothing. It's nothing. Now you're positive that you'd be able to identify the three men that jumped you?

DANNY

Yeah, I'm sure. I never forget a face.

DETECTIVE BAUER

I see. Let me ask you a question, Danny. Is there anyway we can keep this between us for now.

DANNY

I'm not sure I understand.

DETECTIVE BAUER

I'm just asking that maybe you don't mention this to your uncle. You know, maybe tell him you got hurt at school.

DANNY

And why would I do that?

DETECTIVE BAUER

I just want to have time to catch these guys is all. Do this for me as a return on the favor that I did for you earlier.

DANNY

Okay, Sheriff Bauer, sure.

DETECTIVE BAUER

Good. Thanks. Now that that's settled. How about I get you a ride home?

DANNY

It's okay. I'll be all right.

DETECTIVE BAUER

You sure?

DANNY

Yeah, I'm sure. Thanks again for the compress.

Danny gets up and heads out of the sheriff's station.

EXT. SHERIFF STATION

Danny exits out of the door and finds a BRONCO parked out front. Standing next to the bronco is BOSCO, early thirties, tough, dangerously handsome with a lethal disarming smile.

BOSCO

Hello, Danny.

BOSCO (CONT'D)

Hey Bosco. How'd you know I was here?

BOSCO (CONT'D)

Lets just say I received a call.
(Gestures towards the car.)

Let's take a ride.

INT. BRONCO - NIGHT

Bosco is cruising through town on his way to take Danny home.

BOSCO

I tried contacting your uncle. But I've been unsuccessful. Have you heard from him?

DANNY

Yeah, I heard from him, he's, he's been busy.

BOSCO

Yeah, that I figured. So you want to tell me who did that to your face?

DANNY

This
(touched his busted lip.)
It's nothing. You should see the other guy.

BOSCO

Yeah?

DANNY

Yeah, those boxing lessons you gave me came in handy.

BOSCO

That's good, Danny, but seriously who did that to you?

Danny is hesitant to tell Bosco, but being picked up at the police station is like the cat is already out of the bag.

DANNY

Some graffiti punks. I tried stopping them from vandalizing that old comic shop on main street.

Bosco reaches over to examine his face.

BOSCO

You did all that for a comic store? I hope they give you some free books for your dedication.

DANNY

Yeah, well some things you gotta fight for you know.

BOSCO

That's true.

Danny stares out the window watching as the road disintegrates before him. He's trying to think of how to tell Bosco that his uncle is dead.

DANNY

So listen, Bosco I got something to tell you.

BOSCO

Shoot.

DANNY

It involves my uncle.

BOSCO

I'm listening.

DANNY

Early this morning I went with him on a little trip.

BOSCO

Man, I told him to let me handle it.

DANNY

Wait, you knew about the run?

BOSCO

Yeah, but he insisted that he wanted to handle this one personally.

DANNY

So you let him go alone?

BOSCO

I didn't let him do anything, plus you were with him. Why? Did something go wrong?

Danny contemplates telling Bosco the truth but decides not to. Who knows if Bosco was in on it or not.

DANNY

Yeah, my uncle was injured.

Bosco pulls the car over to the side of the road.

BOSCO

What do you mean he was injured?

DANNY

I mean it was a setup, Bosco.

BOSCO

Where's your uncle now?

DANNY

Laying low. Moving forward my uncle will be corresponding through me and me only.

BOSCO

What do you mean through you?

DANNY

I mean that for now on if you want to speak to my uncle you speak to me and I speak to him.

BOSCO

Hold on, meho, this doesn't sound right. Your uncle never wanted you to be a part of this business.

DANNY

I guess it can't be helped. Did he say the same about Sam and James?

BOSCO

Your cousins were born and bred for this business, but not you, Danny. It's different for those in Mexico.

DANNY

I understand that, Bosco, but this is how my uncle wants it.

BOSCO

No, I can't believe this. I want to speak to your uncle.

DANNY

You can't. Before my uncle went below the radar he told me two things. That I was the only one he felt he could trust right now. And that I would either have to be Daniel or the Lion.

Bosco let's Danny's words settle in. He stares straight out at the dark road.

BOSCO

Those are indeed your uncle's words. If he told it to you like that then we must respect his wishes until he resurfaces.

Bosco turns the truck back on to the road.

DANNY

So how about you tell me about Sam and James and how they play out in all this.

We watch the truck disappear into the night.

EXT. DORON HOME - NIGHT

INT. DORON HOME - DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Danny is tossing and turning as he sleeps.

--We pick up directly as Helen Doron is being smacked. She falls to the ground.

Danny watches from the porch as his uncle rushes towards Vincent.

Things start to move slow.

WOMAN

He's got a gun!

Vincent pulls a pistol from his waistband and levels the barrel directly at Pablo's head.

A shot goes off.

Was it Vincent's pistol?

No. We pan around and see Helen on the ground holding a small 22. Caliber pistol.

Vincent falls and as he does things start to speed back up.

PABLO

Helen, get Danny out of here.

She's in a bit of shock.

PABLO (CONT'D)

I said get Danny out of here!

The sound of Danny's name brings Helen out of her shock as she recovers from the ground and runs to pick up Danny and sweep him back into the house.

The door slams.

And we awaken with Danny in bed, covered in sweat.

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD MILL - NIGHT

INT. SMOCK STACK - NIGHT

Two out of the three graffiti punks are spray painting the inside of an old smoke stack. The ambiance from the headlights of a car as it pulls into focus illuminate's their artwork as well as silhouettes their bodies.

PUNK 1

Hey Finley turn off the fucking
brights, dude. Where's the beers.

But the lights continue to shine down on them.

PUNK 2

Dude, kill the fucking lights!

The door to the car opens. We focus on scuffed hard COWBOY BOOTS as the person wearing them walks and stands in front of the blazing head lights.

A large shadow falls over the wall, ala batman, and the two punks simultaneously turn.

PUNK 1

Dude, what the fuck are you--

What they find is not Finley but Bosco holding a bat in his hands while smiling.

BOSCO

Pablo Doron wants you to know that
this is a public service
announcement about the hazards of
using spray paint in doors.

Bosco begins to walk toward our frightened punks as we...

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

A bruised Danny and Juan move down the crowded hallway.

JUAN

Dude, did Antwon do that to you?
Because if he did I'm so sorry to
have drug you into my problems.

DANNY

No, Antwon didn't do this. I ran
into a little trouble last night is
all.

JUAN

(relieved)
Oh, cool.

DANNY

Cool?

JUAN

Well not cool, but at least it
wasn't because of me that you got
beat up.

DANNY

I didn't get beat up and in a way
all this was for you.

They come to Danny's locker.

JUAN

What do you mean in a way this was
all because of me?

DANNY

It's nothing, Juan, you can say I
just defended your honor against
some graffiti punks is all.

JUAN

My honor? What are you King
Arthur?

DANNY

You don't have to thank me.

ANTWON

Ah, yo Danny!

Danny and Juan turn to see Antwon and his crew moving towards them.

Juan is scared shitless.

JUAN

Well, ummmmm, I guess I'll catch you after calculus.

And with that said Juan disappears into the moving crowd. Leaving Danny alone to face down Antwon and his crew.

ANTWON

Where's that weaseling friend of yours headed off to?

DANNY

I'm really not in the mood, Antwon, what do you want?

ANTWON

Is that what you told the last guy that smashed your face in?

DANNY

Look, I said I'd take care of your gaming system.

ANTWON

Yeah, when?

Antwon moves in closer to Danny.

DANNY

Soon. As you can see I'm dealing with a lot of things right now.

ANTWON

Yeah, I can see. Tell you what. Either you get me a new system or I'm going to find your friend and make him your twin.

Antwon and his crew push past Danny leaving him at his locker.

KAT

You know you shouldn't let him push you around like that.

Kat comes up from behind.

DANNY

Hey beautiful.

Danny turns and Kat is startled by what she sees.

KAT

Oh my god! What happened?

She goes to touch his face, but Danny moves back out of her reach.

DANNY

It's nothing.

KAT

Did Antwon do this to you?

DANNY

(a little irritated)

Why does everyone keep asking me that. No, Antwon didn't do this or anyone else in this school for that matter.

KAT

Okay, are you at least all right?

DANNY

I'm standing, so yeah, I guess I'm all right.

KAT

Ley me guess, this has something to do with Juan.

DANNY

Yes-- I mean no-- kinda. Look, I just a disagreement with some punks last night is all.

KAT

Why do you keep putting yourself in harms way for him?

DANNY

I wasn't putting myself in harm's way. Besides, Juan is my friend.

KAT

Some friend, he lets you take all of his beatings.

DANNY

Look, I don't have to explain myself. I've got to get to class. We'll talk later.

Danny closes his locker and makes his way down the semi-crowded hall.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

INT. HOSPITAL - PATIENT WARD

We move past the nurses station and close on the door of a patient's room as we fade through the glass partition in the door and into the room where we find Sheriff Bauer standing near a bed. He's holding up a photo, which at this POV since his back is to us is unseen.

SHERIFF BAUER
Was this the guy?

We pan around to see one of the punks laying in bed with his jaw wired and his head wrapped in bandages. We see from the punk's POV that the photo is that of Danny Doron.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)
Just blink twice if this is the
guy.

The punk doesn't blink.

Sheriff Bauer produces another photo. This one is of Pablo Doron.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)
Was this the guy?

The punk doesn't blink.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)
Of course not. He'd never be this
close to the action.

Sheriff Bauer produces a third photo, this one is Bosco smiling that evil grin of his.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)
Is this the guy that put you in
this bed?

The punk slowly turns his head away from the photo as if the mere sight of Bosco hurts his eyes.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)
Look at it. Is this the guy?

The Doctor comes into the room.

DOCTOR

Sheriff I'm going to have to ask you to leave. This patient needs his rest.

sheriff Bauer takes his leave but not before pulling the doctor to the side.

SHERIFF BAUER

Doc, how are the other two guys holding up?

DOCTOR

Well one is still in a comma and the other one may never use three of the fingers in his right hand again. But in time I'm hoping they'll all pull through.

SHERIFF BAUER

Thanks, Doc

Sheriff Bauer exits the room and heads for the hospital exit.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASS

The room is filled with students sitting at their desks as their teacher, Mr. Himes, stands before the class reciting Shakespeare's Othello.

MR. HIMES

Hell and night.
Must bring this monstrous birth to
the world's light.

As the last of Mr. Himes' words hit the air so does a ringtone that mimics the horn of a tricked out lowrider.

The class starts to laugh as Danny pulls his uncle's cellphone from his pocket to try and quickly silence it.

Too late. Mr. Himes is already making his way towards Danny.

The phone rings again. Danny looks down at the display. It reads: DUBBIN.

MR. HIMES (CONT'D)

Mister Doron can you explain to me why you have a cellphone on in my class?

DANNY

It's my uncle. He's been a little sick.

MR. HIMES

I understand, but can you explain to me why he has to call you?

DANNY

Well I'm the only one that can look after him.

MR. HIMES

And yet you are here in school are you not?

DANNY

Yes, Mr. Himes.

MR. HIMES

Then I'd advise you to cut the phone off seeing as though you don't have permission to carry it in school. That is, unless you want me to take it?

DANNY

No, Mr. Himes.

Mr. Himes turns back to the class.

MR. HIMES

Okay, class, let us continue on with Othello.

Danny looks down at the dead phone as if trying to measure the weight of his own decision.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Danny is walking down the hall about to turn on the phone when Kat comes up along side him.

KAT

You still mad at me?

DANNY

I could never be mad at you, Kat.

KAT

Good.

(She leans in to kiss him)
Because I was thinking we could--

JUAN

Hey guys.

Juan splits the two. He doesn't mean anything bad by it, he just doesn't realize what he's doing.

KAT
(deadpan)
Hello, Juan.

JUAN
Hi, Kat, how's it going?

KAT
Before you butted in I was about to ask Danny something.

JUAN
Then I guess I should just ask him what I was going to ask him and then I can get out of your way. By the way, cool phone. Is that the new Droid SX?

Danny puts the phone away.

DANNY
What's up, Juan?

JUAN
I just wanted to say thanks for looking out for me with Antwon and to show you how grateful I am I wanted to know if you wanted to hang out at the comic shop and possibly go see that new movie by the Nolans?

KAT
Wait, wait, I was going to invite you out to that movie and dinner.

JUAN
Then I guess we can all go together.

KAT
No. Just Danny and I. You know, as a couple.

JUAN
Oh, well how about you do your couple thing some other day.

KAT
How about you find some computer to watch porn on.

Danny's had enough.

DANNY

Listen guys. How about you two work it out amongst yourselves and let me know what you decide. I'm late for gym. You know how Coach Covington can be.

Danny rushes off down the hall leaving Kat to sulk and give Juan her evil eye.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM

COACH COVINGTON was once an athletic guru, but age and a lack of actual physical working out has left him a bulging image of his former self.

The coach has the boys lined up as if they were soldiers in column formation as they stand before braided ropes.

Danny enters the gym, late, as he tucks his tee shirt into his shorts and falls into line.

His tardiness hasn't gone unnoticed.

COACH COVINGTON

Tardiness is the way of the--
Mister Doron.

DANNY

Weak, sir.

COACH COVINGTON

I can't here you, mister Doron.

DANNY

Tardiness is the way of the weak,
sir!

COACH COVINGTON

That is correct and since you've decided to show up tardy how about you show us how weak you really are.

Danny approaches the rope with confidence. He grabs hold of it, looks back at his classmates and then begins climbing.

Okay, let's not call it climbing since Danny can't even get five feet off the ground.

But he's trying as his classmates begin to laugh. A student in the background walks up and hands the coach a letter.

COACH COVINGTON (CONT'D)
Quiet! Quiet!
(To Danny)
Doron, give it up, son.

DANNY
But I can do this Coach.

COACH COVINGTON
I'm sure you can but for now you're
wanted in the office.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - OFFICE

Danny enters the office wearing his gym uniform. He looks to the receptionist who points to a room to his right.

DANNY
Danny Doron. I was told to come to
the office.

RECEPTIONIST
In there.

Danny enters the room and finds Sheriff Bauer sitting at a table.

DANNY
Sheriff Bauer?

SHERIFF BAUER
Close the door, Danny, and have a
seat.

Danny sits.

Sheriff Bauer waits a few seconds before he starts in.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)
Danny you remember that promise we
made last night?

DANNY
Yeah, I remember.

SHERIFF BAUER
Good, because I like when people
keep their word and I despise those
that don't. Do you know where I'm
going with this Danny?

DANNY
Ummmmm...I don't think so.

SHERIFF BAUER

Well you should because you broke your promise.

DANNY

No, I didn't.

SHERIFF BAUER

Then you tell me how these three boys ended up in the hospital?

He lays three photos down on the table.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)

You tell me that you didn't tell your uncle and that he didn't do something about it.

DANNY

I didn't tell my uncle.

SHERIFF BAUER

Don't lie to me dammit!

Before Danny knows what is happening, Sheriff Bauer has grabbed his shirt and is pulling him up and over the table.

DETECTIVE BAUER

You look at those photos and tell me you had nothing to do with those boys being beat within inches of their lives.

A KNOCK comes at the door.

RECEPTIONIST

Sheriff Bauer is everything all right?

DETECTIVE BAUER

Yes, everything is fine, thank you.

He releases Danny as the boy slinks back into his seat.

DETECTIVE BAUER (CONT'D)

Okay, you say you didn't tell your uncle I believe you, but know this, Danny Doron, if I find out you had anything and I do mean anything to do with those boys being beaten I'm going to take you down along with Bosco Rivera and whoever else your uncle employs. Do you hear me?

Danny pushes back from the table and stands.

DANNY
Yeah, I hear you, Sheriff.

He exits the room.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - OUTSIDE THE OFFICE.

Danny exits the office and bumps into Kat. He's angry and she can read it all across his face.

KAT
Danny what's wrong?

DANNY
It's nothing.
(To self)
Stupid, stupid.
(He smacks his forehead.)
What the hell was I thinking
telling Bosco.

KAT
Danny what are you talking about?

He looks at Kat. He can see the concern on her face. He just wants to kiss her and hold her.

DANNY
It's nothing, Kat. Do you still
want to hang out?

KAT
Yeah we can catch the four o'clock.

DANNY
No, I mean now.

KAT
Are you talking about ditching?

DANNY
I-I just can't take school today.

Kat thinks it over, but only for a second before she takes hold of Danny's hand and they run down the hall towards the exit doors.

CUT TO:

EXT. AMUSMENT PARK - AFTERNOON

Kat and Danny are bursting through the doors of a haunted house as we see them doubled over with laughter. Kat grabs Danny's hand and leads him off on another adventure as we--

--begin our MONTAGE OF FUN.

-Kat and Danny on a tilt a whirl.

-Kat and Danny playing Laser tag.

-Kat and Danny sharing a funnel cake.

-Kat and Danny on a Ferris wheel, making out.

-Danny winning Kat a stuffed animal by throwing a hoop over a bottle.

We end the montage with Danny handing Kat the stuffed animal. As the two lovers move away from the gaming booth we see TWO figures step into view. We notice that the two men are Dubbin's bodyguards.

Oh man, they've been following Danny for quite some time.

BODYGUARD 1

(to partner)

Let's give'em some space. Too many witnesses. We've got time.

The bodyguards step off in the direction that Danny went as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. KAT'S HOME - NIGHT

Kat parks her car in the drive way as her and Danny get out.

A dark car comes to a stop and parks across the street from Kat's home.

Danny walks Kat up to her door.

KAT

Today was great.

DANNY

Yeah, it was. I can't remember the last time I had so much fun.

KAT

Thank you, Danny.

Kat leans in and kisses him. It's a long, wet kiss.

When they part we can almost see the steam coming off of them.

KAT (CONT'D)
Do you want to come in?

DANNY
You mean now? Aren't your parents--

KAT
They won't be home for another two hours or so. I'm thinking that maybe this is the night we make that dream come true.

DANNY
(excited)
Yeah!?

Kat takes his hand and leads him up the stairs towards her front door.

But then Bosco's Branco pulls up as Danny turns to face his future bodyguard and handler.

BOSCO
Danny we need to talk.

DANNY
Now?

BOSCO
Now.

DANNY
(to Kat)
Wait here I'll be right back.

Danny steps down the stairs to talk to Bosco.

DANNY (CONT'D)
What's up, Bosco?

BOSCO
We have a problem. I need for you to contact your uncle.

DANNY
What kind of problem?

BOSCO

The kind of problem that involves
one of your uncle's business
associates by the name of Dubbin.

DANNY

Oh fuck! I totally forgot.

BOSCO

Forgot about what?

DANNY

Nothing, it was just a phone call I
forgot to return.

BOSCO

Well now I need for you to get on
that phone and contact your uncle.
I need to know what he wants to do
about Dubbin and our package.

DANNY

Okay, just give me a second.

Danny turns and walks back up the stairs where Kat patiently
waits for him.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Listen, Kat, I gotta go. I'm
sorry, but I have to tend to my
sick uncle.

KAT

I understand.

(She kisses him on the
cheek)

We'll get our chance.

Danny turns and bounds down the stairs. He hops into the
truck with Bosco.

Kat stands alone watching as the truck pulls off.

INT. TRUCK - NIGHT

Bosco is driving to the Doron home.

BOSCO

You know you have a good looking
senorita, Danny.

DANNY

Thanks, Bosco. Her name's Kat by
the way.

BOSCO
Kat, huh? Good name. I wasn't
taking you away from anything was
I?

DANNY
No, nothing I can't do another day.

BOSCO
Good.

Danny looks out the window and then he looks over at Bosco.

DANNY
Bosco I need to ask you something.

BOSCO
Shoot, kid?

DANNY
Did you put the punks that beat me
up in the hospital?

Bosco doesn't like when people ask him about his business.

BOSCO
And how does something like that
concern you, Danny?

DANNY
I'm just asking?

BOSCO
Well you shouldn't ask a man about
things such as that, but just so
you know. No, I didn't go looking
for the punks that beat you up.
Something like that would have been
petty and far below me.

DANNY
I thought so, Bosco, I'm sorry. I
didn't mean to offend you in
anyway.

BOSCO
It's okay, Danny, we have bigger
fish to fry. How about you get your
uncle on that phone.

Danny pulls the phone from his pocket. He turns it on. The screen glows bright in the dark cabin. He has three missed calls.

Danny begins to dial a number when the phone rings. He looks down at the name on the screen. It's Dubbin. Okay, he's so over this jackass calling him. He answers.

DANNY

What? What the fuck do you want?

DUBBIN

Take a listen.

Kat's scream squirms through the phone.

DANNY

(into phone)

Don't you fucking hurt her!

BOSCO

(to Danny)

Who is it? Is it Dubbin?

DUBBIN

(through phone)

Listen, kid, tell your uncle to deliver me my money or I won't hesitate shipping this little cunt all over the world for a first class experience in every little whore house that I can get her into.

The phone goes dead and so does every emotion in Danny's face.

BOSCO

What's wrong?

DANNY

It was Dubbin. He has Kat.

BOSCO

Shit. I was afraid something like this might happen. You need to get on that phone and get in contact with your uncle. He's the only one that can save her now.

END ACT 3

ACT 4

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

We hear the sounds of someone rustling around inside the home.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE

We find that it's Danny. He's searching for the backpack that Pablo had earlier.

DANNY

Dammit, where is it?

He kicks around some trash before he finds the backpack that his uncle had. He snatches the bag and heads for the door.

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

As Danny exits the house he finds Sheriff Bauer outside the house sitting on the hood of his car with his arms crossed, waiting.

DANNY

(surprised)

Holy-- you scared me, Sheriff Bauer.

SHERIFF BAUER

And why would I scare you, Danny?

DANNY

I wasn't really expecting to see you.

SHERIFF BAUER

I guess I can say the same for you.

Sheriff Bauer eyes the bag.

SHERIFF BAUER (CONT'D)

What's that you got?

DANNY

It's ummmmm nothing.

SHERIFF BAUER

Nothing, huh? As in nothing illegal?

DANNY

Why would I have anything illegal?

SHERIFF BAUER

Lets just say that the name Doron invokes an atmosphere of criminality.

Danny knows where this is going. He's got to get moving.

DANNY

Well I guess I'll be seeing you around, Sheriff Bauer.

DETECTIVE BAUER

Not so fast, Danny. I want to see what's in the bag.

DANNY

It's nothing just some--

DETECTIVE BAUER

I'll be judge of that. Now hand it over.

Danny is hesitant as he slowly hands the bag over to Sheriff Bauer.

The sheriff takes the bag and unzips it. As he does we see Danny searching the night behind him as a RED BEAM falls on the back of Sheriff Bauer's head.

Danny shakes his head, "no".

Sheriff Bauer peers into the bag and finds text books.

DETECTIVE BAUER (CONT'D)

(to Danny)

Textbooks?

The red beam disappears into the night from which it came as the Sheriff raises his head.

Danny is surprised more so by the sheriff's words then by the red beam that was once shinning from the darkness across the street.

DANNY

What?

DETECTIVE BAUER

Why would you be dragging textbooks out of this abandoned house?

Danny's got to think, and I mean fast.

DANNY

I was ummm, to tell you the truth my girlfriend and I were messing around earlier and I left my school books behind.

Sheriff Bauer hesitates before handing Danny the bag back.

DETECTIVE BAUER

You do know these homes are set to be demolished sometime this month. You kids shouldn't be in there, but I'm sure that goes without saying.

DANNY

Yeah, it does. Thanks, Sheriff Bauer.

Danny begins to walk away but stops when he notices that Sheriff Bauer is looking up at the abandoned house, as if trying to figure out if he should investigate or not.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Sheriff Bauer would you mind giving me a ride home. I just realized that the buses have stopped running out this way.

DETECTIVE BAUER

Sure thing.

Sheriff Bauer and Danny get in the car and drive off into the night.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

Sheriff Bauer pulls up in front of Danny's home. The car stops and Danny gets out with the backpack slung over his shoulder.

SHERIFF BAUER

Try to stay out of trouble, Danny.

Sheriff Bauer pulls away from the curb, but Danny continues to stand in front of his home.

A few seconds past and then Bosco's Bronco pulls up to the curb. Danny hops in.

BOSCO

I thought you were going crazy when you jumped into that car with that sheriff.

(MORE)

BOSCO (CONT'D)
You should have just let me kill
him when I had him in my sights.

DANNY
I couldn't. Killing him would have
just made things worse and that's
not what my uncle wants right now.

BOSCO
Okay, so where to?

DANNY
Pier 31.

Bosco shifts the truck into drive and we're off.

EXT. PIER - NIGHT

Danny walks along the pier with the backpack on his back. As he walks in between the shadows that are cast from trailer to trailer our POV changes and we find ourselves--

--Watching Danny through a NIGHT VISION SCOPE as he approaches the door to the warehouse.

We see the guards frisking him and then they lead him inside--

INT. WAREHOUSE

The two bodyguards lead Danny back down the semi-lit packaging area to Dubbin who we find sitting at his table, smoking his cigar.

DUBBIN
The prodigal son returns. I hope
with my money of course.

DANNY
Where is she?

DUBBIN
In the back office.

DANNY
You better hope she's not hurt.

DUBBIN
Trust me, kid, if she was hurt
you'd know about it.

Danny takes off the backpack and removes the textbooks, which he stakes on the table.

Dubbin looks at the books confused.

DUBBIN (CONT'D)
And what the hell is this?

DANNY
It's your money.

DUBBIN
All I see are textbooks, kid.
Surely your uncle is
underestimating me.

DANNY
How about you open them before you
underestimate my uncle.

Dubbin moves to open the books and what he finds are crisp stacks of thousand dollar bills inside the pages of the books.

Danny can see that Dubbin is satisfied with what he sees.

DANNY (CONT'D)
You have your money just like my
uncle promised.

DANNY (CONT'D)
That I do.
(To guard)
Go get the girl.

DANNY (CONT'D)
No. Since your men grabbed her
they return her, and without one
hair displaced on her head.

Dubbin doesn't like taking orders, especially from a kid.

DUBBIN
And what would you say if I told
you I won't, better yet, why
shouldn't I just keep the both of
you and make it a pair. Double my
profit.

This time it's Danny that smiles, It's almost a sinister smile, that famous Doron smile that he learned from his uncle.

DANNY
Because then I'd say you've finally
underestimated my uncle.

A RED BEAM cuts through the pane glass ceiling and falls on Dubbin's head. He looks up to see it dancing across his forehead.

DUBBIN

I was just kidding. We'll return her just the way we found her.

DANNY

Good. Oh, by the way, my uncle said that when you return her make it look like a school prank. We don't need any unnecessary federal attention.

Danny turns and walks out of the warehouse as cool as night.

He has a new stride about him as if this encounter has awakened a new confidence in him that was not previously exemplified.

BOSCO

(through ear piece)

You did good, kid, your uncle would have been proud to know that you handled the situation smoothly.

DANNY

Thanks, Bosco, just keep an eye on them and make sure they get Kat home safely.

INT. WAREHOUSE

Dubbin is on his cell as he sits before the stacks of textbooks on the table.

DUBBIN

This is Dubbin. It seems your information about Pablo Doron's demise was wrong. He just paid me in full, which means that in order to correct my disrespectful act I'm going to be indebted to him, which means that going forward we are no longer business associates. I do hope you can understand the position you have put me in.

Dubbin hangs up the phone. He's annoyed and worried.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY

Danny and Juan are standing at Danny's locker when Antwon and his crew walk up.

ANTWON

Well, well if it ain't Danny and Juan. The two butt brothers that I wanted to see. You got something for me, Doron, or do I start pounding on your boy right here.

Danny turns and hands Antwon a new Playstation 3 system.

DANNY

One brand new system and I took the luxury of getting you a bigger hard drive. Next time you need your system moded leave Juan out of it.

Antwon and Danny lock eyes, but there's nothing Antwon can say but accept the generous gift.

ANTWON

Yeah, ah'ight.

Antwon and his crew depart.

JUAN

Dude, thanks for saving my hide.

DANNY

It's nothing. Wait, now that I think about it. I'm going to need some help with some banking programs on my uncle's computer.

JUAN

Sure, how about I come over after school?

Suddenly groups of Kids start to part as Sheriff Bauer and the principal head down the hall with Kat in between the two.

Things start to move in slow motion as Sheriff Bauer eyes Danny from a distance. It's as if these two opposing forces are the only ones that exist.

Then things speed back up and the principal and the sheriff are standing with Kat at her locker as she empties it out.

DANNY

Kat what's wrong?

PRINCIPAL

Mister Doron step back.

DANNY

Kat, look at me. What's wrong?

Kat slowly lifts her head and looks up at Danny. Is she hurt, scared, no, she's fine, but we can see that the innocence in her eyes is gone.

SHERIFF BAUER

Danny, please step back and give her some room.

Kat continues to empty her locker.

Danny steps back, with Juan near his side, watching as his girlfriend empties the last of her belongings into a backpack before she disappears down the hall with the principal and the sheriff.

Danny knows what's wrong as he watches the ghost of the girl he loves float out of his life, at least for now.

DANNY

Not tonight, Juan. It seems I've got some unfinished business I've got to take care of.

And with that Danny turns and walks the opposite way as if walking down a lone street by himself.

EXT. ABANDONED NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

We hear the head of a shovel being dropped into dirt as we move through the abandoned house, we find BLOOD SPLATTER on the walls, on the floor, but NO BODIES. We move through the halls as the sound of the shovel increases, and then we're in the empty, trash-filled kitchen as we move past the broken screen door and out into the backyard where we see a figure silhouetted against the moon's light digging a grave.

Dirt cascades into the air as we move in closer to the figure only to discover that it's Danny. He's digging a grave for his uncle, who lays next to the grave wrapped in an old sheet.

Danny continues to dig. His face is covered with tears as if every drop of the shovel into the dirt is a teardrop for his deceased uncle.

Finally, he stops digging. And climbs out of the hole.

He rolls Pablo into the hole. Then he falls to one knee, closes his eyes, and says a prayer.

He rises and begins to throw dirt over his deceased uncle.

As the dirt falls into place covering up Pablo Doron we descend into Danny's past.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. DORON HOME - LIVING ROOM - 11 YEARS AGO.

--Danny is fighting to break away from his mother.

--He does and goes running for the door and out into the yard where we find Pablo Doron being arrested for Victor Santiago's murder.

DANNY

Leave my uncle!!!

Danny hugs Pablo's leg. The cops try to break his inhuman hold.

PABLO

Listen, mijo, you take care of your mother. I'll be back soon, but until I do I want you to remember this: That one day you're going to have to be either be Daniel or the Lion in the Lion's den. Today, I was the Daniel and your mother was the lion. I just hope that one day you'll be both.

With that said, Danny releases his uncle's leg as if everything that has happened on this day has come to make sense to him as a child.

As Danny watches the cops take his uncle away we

JUMP CUT TO:

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE

Danny is dousing the stairs with gasoline. He flicks a lighter and drops it as the house quickly ignites.

He watches the house go up in flames as he takes out his uncle's cellphone and dials a number.

DANNY

It's me. My uncle wants the new shipment secured before Dubbin and his people leave. No, he says he wants them alive. That they're better as business associates than as fodder. And Bosco...

(pause)

I just want to say thanks for making sure that Kat got home safely.

Danny hangs up the phone and continues to watch the flames jump and try to reach the stars as we slowly fade up to the heavens and....

TO BLACK.

THE END