

Fighting Words

by

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FADE IN.

EXT. STREET - DAY

It's the year 2000 in New York City. TIO, late twenties, and RAFAEL, Tio's 9 year-old nephew, are parked across the street from a maximum security prison under construction.

RAFAEL

What are we doing here, Tio? I thought you were dropping me off at school?

TIO

Yeah, I'm taking you to school. Don't worry, Rafael, I'll get you there in time. How are things going for you in school, anyway? Is that Barnaby kid still giving you crap about your pigeon-toes?

RAFAEL

Yeah.

TIO

Is he the reason why you started cutting classes?

RAFAEL

Yeah.

TIO

I don't get it. You're still taking Judo lessons, aren't you?

RAFAEL

Yeah, but my judo instructor tells his students to refrain from using our skills on those who are not as well versed in the arts.

TIO

The hell with that! You can't go through elementary school avoiding this kid. You're going to have to confront him at some point. It wouldn't necessarily make you a bad person if you were to stand up for yourself and things got physical.

(CONTINUED)

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RAFAEL

Yeah, I know.

TIO

Well, don't you worry about a thing, Rafael. There's a special place in hell for asshole kids like Barnaby, which is why I wanted to bring you here. Do you know what they're building over there?

RAFAEL

No, what?

TIO

A Juvenile Detention Center.

RAFAEL

Really?

TIO

That's right.

RAFAEL

So, are you going to get a job here once it's finished, or are you going to stay put at Rikers Prison?

TIO

It's Rikers Island, not Rikers Prison.

RAFAEL

Rikers Island, right.

TIO

And Rikers is not a prison, it's just jail.

Rafael calls his uncle out for correcting him on every little thing.

RAFAEL

Okay, whatever, are you going to try to get a job at this new place when it opens, or not?

TIO

I really haven't given it much thought, but now that you ask, maybe I should think about it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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TIO (CONT'D)

Anyway, consider yourself lucky that there's only one Barnaby in your life messing with you. Imagine what it would feel like to have hundreds of them in your face all the time, with nowhere for you to run and hide. As a correctional officer, I have to put up with hundreds of assholes like Barnaby getting in my face day in and day out. If you don't ever want to know what it feels like to go through that, don't ever end up in prison, Rafael, you'll hate it. So, no more cutting classes. Keep cutting classes, and that's exactly where you're going to end up. You're way too smart for prison, prison will only drive you up the walls.

RAFAEL

Come on, Tio. Okay, I'll stop cutting classes, but you don't have to worry about me living a life of crime. I could never get away with anything. Picture me trying to run from the cops with my flat-feet and pigeon-toes. I would stick out like a sore thumb. Law enforcement would have my pale, Puerto Rican ass picked up in fifteen minutes.

Rafael ensures his uncle that his worrying about him is all for not.

TIO

Yeah, you're right. What am I worried about? You've got a good head on your shoulders.

RAFAEL

Can we go now?

TIO

Yeah, we can go now. Good talk, nephew.

RAFAEL

Good talk, Tio.

(CONTINUED)

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Tio starts up his jeep and waits for a good time to pull away from the curb.

INT. SUBWAY - DAY

A rough-looking man is nodding off in his seat, unaware that his manspreading is annoying the hell out of the middle-aged man sitting next to him. The middle-aged man finally gives the manspreader a nudge with his elbow, waking him up.

MAN ON THE SUBWAY

Do me a favor... keep your legs
off of my legs, alright?!

Manspreading guy gives the man a dirty look for nudging him with his elbow.

MANSPREADING GUY

Alright, man, but it's not like I
was doing the shit on purpose, you
know what I'm saying?! I'm asleep
over here... I wasn't aware that I
was doing it!

MAN ON THE SUBWAY

Well, now you know, just keep your
legs off of my legs!

Manspreading guy jumps out of his seat and hovers over the man still seated.

MANSPREADING GUY

Yo, what did I just tell you?!

Manspreading guy grabs the middle-aged man by his lapel and stands him up on his feet. The video is paused before blows are exchanged.

INT. NO GI DOJO - MOMENTS LATER

RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR steps away from the Television to address his students.

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RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR

Okay, so you guys know how I like to start each class showing you clips of real life scenarios that you might find yourselves in when you least expect them, and then spend the rest of the class providing you with options on how to get out of those situations. It's what differentiates No Gi from the other dojos that are out there. So, let's take this clip, for instance...

Rafael's dojo instructor resumes the clip for his students.

RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Here you've got one guy grabbing hold of another guy by his coat with both hands. Now, there are several things you can do in this situation. I need a volunteer. Who wants to be my Uke for the day?

Rafael sees his dojo instructor looking right at him and tries to hide behind another student.

RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Rafael, how about it? Come up here. Let me take a look at you. You've got long arms, you would be perfect for this demonstration.

Rafael is slow to get up from his spot and walks over to the instructor.

RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Okay, Rafael's going to be the manspreading guy, and I'm the middle-aged guy. And since I'm not wearing a coat, you're gonna have to improvise, so grab hold of my shirt, Rafael.

Rafael gets hold of his instructors shirt with both hands.

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RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Okay, first, I'm going to demonstrate this technique for everybody in real time, and then I'll break it down for you step by step... Okay, here we go, Rafael.

After facing each other and bowing, Rafael's dojo instructor grabs him by his sleeves to break free of his grip. Rafael is then taken down to the matt with a leg sweep and lets out a whole lot of air when his dojo instructor falls on top of him.

RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Okay, that's what it looks like in real time. Now, I'm going to break it down for you slowly.

Rafael's dojo instructor gets back to his feet.

RAFAEL'S DOJO INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)

Come on, Rafael, get back on your feet.

Rafael is slow to get back to his feet after having the wind knocked out of him.

INT. RAFAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rafael is standing in the middle of the floor trying to master a kung-fu technique called the tiger-tail leg sweep with the help of a tutorial. He steps across his body and drops to the floor when his mother enters his room and interrupts.

RAFAEL'S MOTHER

Do you plan on leaving this room at all today, Rafael? You've been cooped up in here all day. Why don't you go out?

Rafael gets up off the floor to pause the tutorial.

RAFAEL

I know you want me to be more outgoing, but maybe if I wasn't so flat-footed and pigeon-toed, I would be more outgoing.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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RAFAEL (CONT'D)

But since I inherited your pigeon-toes, and Dad's flat-feet, my flat-footed, pigeon-toed ass can't even make it down the block without some asshole gawking at my feet like I'm some kind of a freak.

RAFAEL'S MOTHER

Well, remember, your cousin, Pito, is going to be visiting soon from Puerto Rico, and he's going to be counting on you to show him around the city.

Rafael's mother exits the room, leaving him to his tutorial. Rafael presses play and the tutorial resumes. He gets back to the starting position and steps across his body, dropping down on his hands, and pivoting on the balls of one foot to whip the other leg around. He gets up off the floor and back to the starting position to try the technique again, and he keeps trying it until he dizzies himself.

INT. RAFAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

PITO, Rafael's nine year-old cousin, is bored out of his mind watching him entertain himself with action movies.

PITO

So, is this really how you like to spend your time, Rafael?

RAFAEL

Hey, I know what we could do.

PITO

What?

Rafael gets out of his bed.

RAFAEL

Stand up.

Pito gets out of his seat.

PITO

What are we doing?

RAFAEL

I'm gonna show you something. Get into a fighting stance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PITO

What for?

RAFAEL

Just get into a boxing stance.

PITO

Okay.

Pito gets into a boxing stance.

RAFAEL

Now, I'm going to get into my fighting stance.

Rafael spreads his feet shoulder width apart, and knuckles up.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Okay, you're the aggressive fighter pressing forward, and you got me on my bicycle peddling backwards, but you accidently step on my shoe and I stumble backwards to the ground.

Rafael gets down on his own and lays down on his back.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

So, now I'm on my back, and you're standing over me, throwing down punches.

PITO

Okay.

Pito stands over Rafael and throws slow punches down at his head.

RAFAEL

I guess you've got me right where you want me, right? Wrong. I simply get a hold of your wrist with my right hand.

Rafael gets a hold of Pito's left arm to stop his attack.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Then my left leg goes behind your lead leg, and I'm going to place my right foot on your hip.

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CONTINUED: (2)

Rafael continues to hold on to Pito's sleeve while he wraps his left leg around Pito's lead leg and places his right foot on Pito's hip.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Now, I'm going reach for your lead leg with my free hand and release your sleeve. I'm releasing your sleeve because I want to hook on to your other leg so I can swing my body around.

Rafael rotates his body and swings his right leg around, causing Pito to stumble forward. Pito puts both hands out in front of him to preventing hitting the floor with his face.

PITO

Oh, that's cool.

Rafael then locks up Pito's leg with his and gets a hold of Pito's foot.

RAFAEL

You better tap, if you don't want me to pop your knee.

PITO

Okay, I tap out!

Pito slaps the floor with the palm of his hand three times. Rafael releases his hold on Pito's leg and lets him up.

RAFAEL

You like that?

PITO

Yeah, that was cool. I didn't know you were taking karate lessons.

RAFAEL

Not Karate, it's a whole other thing. But, the weird thing is I'm getting a lot more out of watching tutorials on social media, than I am in the dojo.

PITO

So, is that the only leg lock technique you have to show me, or do you have others?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAFAEL

No, I have others. You want me to show you something else?

PITO

Yeah, okay.

RAFAEL

It's another leg lock technique, so I'll have to lay back down.

PITO

Wait a minute, before we move on to another technique, let's go over the leg lock technique you just showed me one more time. I have to get that one down.

RAFAEL

No problem.

PITO

You know, as long as you're going to be teaching yourself how to scramble, you might want to get yourself one those foam matts, instead of rolling around on this hard tile floor.

Rafael gets into position on the floor.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND - DAY

It's a great day for swimming, but not that many swimmers. Chest deep in water, Rafael is behind Pito with his hands clasped around Pito's waist.

PITO

I don't know about this, Rafael. This shit don't look right.

RAFAEL

What? We're not doing anything wrong. What better place to practice sacrifice throws than in the water?

PITO

What's going to happen again?

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RAFAEL

I'm going to kick my left leg out between yours, then I'm going to release the grip I have on you, then as I'm falling my left leg is going to get entangled around your right leg bringing you down into a heel hook position, you know!

PITO

Well, do it fast! People are going to see us.

RAFAEL

Okay, I'm going.

Rafael takes a deep breath and drags Pito under the water with him. Rafael submits Pito with a heel hook and let's him get back to the surface for air.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I think that went well, don't you?

Pito can't stop coughing up water that he swallowed.

PITO

That was not cool.

RAFAEL

What are you talking about?! It worked like a charm.

Rafael and Pito are interrupted by a couple of girls curious about what they are up to.

BEACH GIRL #1

Hey guys. We just wanted to come over and tell you how awesome it is for the two of you to be out in the open like this.

BEACH GIRL #2

Yeah, we were watching from over there, and we just had to come over and say something. There's nothing wrong with two guys showing public displays of affection. Don't let anyone tell you guys different.

Embarrassed, Pito feels he needs to clear things up right away.

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PITO

Oh no, you girls have it all wrong! What you just saw might have looked gay, but we're not gay. We're cousins. We were just going over some techniques.

(to Rafael)

You see, I told you it wasn't a good look for us to be holding each other in the water like that!

BEACH GIRL #1

Really, guys, it's okay! There's nothing for you to be embarrassed about.

RAFAEL

No, my cousin's being real with you. We were just going over a few things, that's all. Look, why don't I just show you what we were actually doing? Would you mind?

Beach Girl #1 looks over at Beach Girl #2. Beach Girl #2 shrugs her shoulders and gives Beach Girl #1 her approval.

BEACH GIRL #1

Sure, why not?

RAFAEL

Good.

Rafael positions himself behind Beach Girl #1 and walks her through what's about to happen.

PITO

See, that's a much better look.

RAFAEL

Okay, so I get behind you like this, then I grab you around the waist. Now, I'm going to kick my left foot out in front of me and release the grip I have around your waist. Here I go.

Rafael goes down bringing Beach Girl #1 underwater with him.

EXT. CONEY ISLAND - BOARDWALK - MOMENTS LATER

BARNABY, Rafael's nemesis, is hanging out with three of his friends. He spots Rafael on the sand drying himself off with Pito and his two female companions.

BARNABY

What's up, Rafael?

RAFAEL

Oh God, not this candy ass motherfucker.

PITO

Who is that?

Barnaby and his friends are not close enough to hear what Rafael is saying to Pito.

RAFAEL

Just some asshole from school. This motherfucker walks around in public with that ridiculous looking man-bun on his head, and he has the nerve to give me shit about my pigeon-toes. Do you believe that shit? I can't do shit about my pigeon-toes, but this piece of crud chooses to go out in public with a hairdo like that.

BARNABY

I thought that was you. I could spot your pigeon-toed ass from way over there.

RAFAEL

Not today, alright, Barnaby?

Barnaby notices Rafael's female companions.

BARNABY

Ah, what's wrong? You're afraid I'm going to embarrass you in front of your chicks?

Beach Girl #1 and #2 are confused by what is happening and look on.

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BARNABY (CONT'D)

You girls aren't really hanging out with this pigeon-toed motherfucker, are you? Why don't you come hang out with me and my friends? We can guarantee you a much better time than this fucking guy.

Rafael looks at the two girls he just met and can see in their faces that they are embarrassed for him. He visualizes taking down Barnaby with a corkscrew scissor sweep then executes. With Barnaby in a heel hook position, he pleads with Rafael not to injure his ankle.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Don't do it, Rafael! I was only fucking with you. Alright, I won't fuck with you no more, just don't fuck up my ankle, alright?

With everyone, including Barnaby's friends, watching, Rafael fully commits to the submission and twists Barnaby's ankle, causing him so much pain, that you can see down his throat.

BEACH GIRL #1

Nicely done, Rafael. He won't be messing with you any time soon.

BEACH GIRL #2

Yeah, don't feel bad, Rafael. It was a clean shoot. That guy had it coming.

RAFAEL

See, the thing about self defense is the more skills you pick up, the easier it is to get them mixed up in your head. That's why it took me so long to retaliate. I couldn't decide if I should go for the Ashi-Guruma or the Makikomi.

PITO

So, you went with the corkscrew scissor sweep... nice choice.

Rafael, Pito, and the two girls walk away, while barnaby's friends tend to him.

INT. RAFAEL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rafael and Pito are down on the matt together. Rafael has Pito in a arm triangle, and tries to find the right angle to cut off his circulation and render him unconscious.

PITO
I'm feeling nothing.

RAFAEL
Nothing? Okay, hold on.

Rafael adjusts his position and gets off his one knee.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)
How's that?

PITO
Still nothing.

RAFAEL
Damn it. What haven't I tried?
Oh, I know.

Rafael goes for the arm triangle again with his hip up instead of flat on the floor.

PITO
Okay, there it is now. There's that pressure.

RAFAEL
You feel it now?

PITO
Oh yeah, you got it now. Let me go before I pass out.

Rafael releases the hold on Pito, letting him up.

RAFAEL
How did it feel?

PITO
I was feeling light headed... A few more seconds, and it would've been lights out for sure.

RAFAEL
I think I've got it figured out now...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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RAFAEL (CONT'D)

your hips have to be up instead of flat on the floor to make for a tighter arm triangle.

RAFAEL'S FATHER enters the room.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Hey Dad.

RAFAEL'S FATHER

What are you two doing in here?

RAFAEL

Just going over a few things.

RAFAEL'S FATHER

There's a kid in the hallway asking for you.

RAFAEL

A kid?

INT. OUTSIDE RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Barnaby paces back and forth until Rafael finally steps out.

BARNABY

What's up, Rafael?

Barnaby greets Rafael with a smile.

RAFAEL

How did you know where I live, Barnaby?

Rafael doesn't look too happy to see Barnaby.

BARNABY

How do you think? I asked around.

RAFAEL

Well, if you're here for an apology, you wasted a trip. I don't owe you shit!

BARNABY

No, I know. I'm not here for an apology. I know I was asking for it. What I can't figure out is why didn't you beat my ass a long time ago.

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RAFAEL

How's your foot?

BARNABY

Still healing. The doctor said I won't be a hundred percent for another week, or so. I'm not even supposed to be out of bed, yet, but I haven't been able to get the way you handled yourself out of my head. So, I just had to come over here to find out how you did it. So, would you show me?

Rafael gives Barnaby the benefit of the doubt.

RAFAEL

Yeah, why not? My cousin and I were just in the middle of going over a few things, anyway. So, come on in.

BARNABY

Cool.

Barnaby follows Rafael into the apartment.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. FERGUSON, MO - BODEGA - DAY

It's 15 years later. DEVANTE HILL, 17, lays a couple of items on the counter for the bodega worker, MR. RUIZ, to ring up, while his friend waits for him by the exit door.

MR. RUIZ

\$4.75.

DEVANTE HILL

\$4.75?! Why is that? How much for the soda?

MR. RUIZ

Three dollars.

DEVANTE HILL

Three dollars?! I was in here two weeks ago. The soda was two dollars back then.

(MORE)

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DEVANTE HILL (CONT'D)

How you gonna jack the price up a whole dollar in two weeks? That's price gauging, right there!

MR. RUIZ

Well, I don't know what to tell you. You want the stuff, or not?

DEVANTE HILL

Look, all I got is \$3.75, but you know me, though. I come in here all the time. Why don't you let me have the stuff now, and I'll pay you what I owe the next time I come in here?

MR. RUIZ

No, I can't do that. You either have the money to pay for the stuff, or you don't.

DEVANTE HILL

Yo, why you acting like that? You being an asshole right now.

MR. RUIZ

That's it. I want you out of my store!

A tug of war between Devante Hill and Mr. Ruiz ensues over the items on the counter.

DEVANTE HILL

Fuck you! I'm taking this shit!

MR. RUIZ

Get out of my store now, or I call the police!

Devante Hill strong arms the Mr. Ruiz and tries to wrestle the items away from him.

INT. FERGUSON, MO - COURT ROOM - DAY

Packed with family and friends seeking justice for the death of Devante Hill on one side of the room, and supporters of the Defendant, Officer JASON KAMINSKI, who is accused of gunning down Devante Hill, on the other side of the room.

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DEFENSE LAWYER, representing officer Jason Kaminski, pauses the tape from the Bodega surveillance camera and has the bodega worker, testifying on the officer's behalf, explain the video in his own words to the Jury.

DEFENSE LAWYER

Okay, I'm going to pause the tape here. Mr. Ruiz, you say that Devante Hill was not new to your store, is that right?

MR. RUIZ

Yes, he was not new. He would come into my store like maybe twice a week.

DEFENSE LAWYER

And has he ever been a problem for you before?

MR. RUIZ

No, never a problem.

Officer Jason Kaminski, dressed in a suit and tie, is taking notes from behind the defense table.

DEFENSE LAWYER

So, Mr. Ruiz, would you please tell the court what is happening in the surveillance video. Describe the verbal exchanges.

MR. RUIZ

This is the part in the video where I tell Devante how much he owed me for the items, he then tells me that he doesn't have enough money and starts accusing me of price gauging.

DEFENSE LAWYER

He tried to accuse you of price gauging?

MR. RUIZ

He did. I deny it, of course, then he tries to be slick by telling me that if I let him pay for the items with the money that he had on him, that he would pay me the rest the next time he came in.

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CONTINUED: (2)

DEFENSE LAWYER

And what did you say to that?

MR. RUIZ

I told him that I couldn't do that, and that's when he started cursing at me.

The judge presiding the case is having trouble hearing the witness and instructs him to speak louder.

JUDGE

Please speak louder, Mr. Ruiz, so that the jury can hear you.

Mr. Ruiz apologizes to the judge and repeats himself for the court.

MR. RUIZ

Sorry, your honor. I told him that he had to pay the full amount for the items, and that's when he started cursing me.

DEFENSE LAWYER

What did he say exactly?

MR. RUIZ

He told me that I was being a real asshole, to go fuck myself, and that he was going to take the items anyway.

DEFENSE LAWYER

Then what did you do?

MR. RUIZ

I tried to stop him from taking the items off the counter, so he started throwing punches at me, and then I told him that if he didn't leave my store, I would call the police.

DEFENSE LAWYER

And did you call the police?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MR. RUIZ

I did call the police. I wouldn't have involved the police over this one incident, if there hadn't been other reports of theft made by store owners in the area, so I just thought that the deceased might have been someone the police were interested in talking to.

DEFENSE LAWYER

Understood. We'll come back to that point later. At this time, I'm going to resume the tape.

Defense lawyer resumes the surveillance video for the court.

INT. PITO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pito is all grown up and following the televised trial on his Sony 65' inch smart TV.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

DARNELL, one of seven punks hiding from the hot sun under the scaffolding, picks a fight with Rafael for accidentally bumping into him while making his way into the building.

DARNELL

Oh, so you're just going to bump right into me and not say anything, is that how it is?

Rafael stops in his tracks to face Darnell and responds.

RAFAEL

It won't be the last time either.

DARNELL

What?!

RAFAEL

If you're so worried about people bumping into you when they come in or out of this building, then maybe you should find a more sensible hangout spot than under the scaffold.

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DARNELL

Man, fuck you! I don't give a fuck. I'll hangout wherever the fuck I feel like hanging out!

RAFAEL

Alright, then don't be surprised if you get bumped into every now and then.

One of DARNELL'S FRIENDS encourages him to put Rafael in his place.

DARNELL'S FRIEND

Yo, fuck that, Darnell! Smack the shit out that nigga, son!

Darnell grows tired of arguing with Rafael and takes a few steps forward to confront him. Rafael is prepared to stand his ground, but four uniformed police officers with a man in custody exit the building and de-escalate everything. Rafael seizes the chance to walk away from the petty argument and enters the building.

INT. PITO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

There's a knock on the door. Pito gets off the couch and puts his pet ball Python back in its terrarium before answering the door. Pito comes to the door and looks through the peephole before letting Rafael in.

PITO

What up, Cuz?

Rafael sees that Pito has yet to take down the Halloween decor.

RAFAEL

What up? I see you still haven't taken down your Halloween decorations.

PITO

No, not yet. I'll get to it. How you been? You doing good?

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RAFAEL

You know, when these fucking scaffolds started going up all over the city, I never would've imagined that these Ghetto fucks would take to them the way they have. You must have seen these assholes. They're treating these scaffolds as if they're at a shelter at the YMCA. I just had words with one of these knuckleheads coming into the building.

Pito makes his way over to his living room window.

PITO

Who are you talking about? Point him out to me.

Pito's view is blocked by the scaffolding.

PITO (CONT'D)

I keep forgetting I used to have a clear view of everyone who comes in and out of this building, but now I can't see shit with that damn scaffolding in the way.

RAFAEL

That's alright. It was no big deal. Besides, it's just New York City going to hell in a handbasket, that's all that is.

Rafael notices that Pito has been following the trial on TV.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Where's your girl at?

Pito pulls himself away from the window and sits down on the couch.

PITO

She's here. She's just getting ready. She's got an appointment with a manicurist.

RAFAEL

What are you watching? Have you been following the trial happening in Ferguson?

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CONTINUED: (2)

PITO

Yeah.

RAFAEL

Free officer Kaminski! It's a damn shame what they're doing to that officer. How is he the criminal in all of this? Not only should that cop get off, but the thief's legal guardian should be brought up on charges for letting him leave the house without the proper home-training. That Devante shouldn't have resisted when the cops showed up at his house to arrest him. When are these dumbasses going to learn that they will lose every time? Stupid!

PITO

True that.

RAFAEL

Anyway, what is it that you wanted to show me?

PITO

Oh yeah, I almost forgot.

Pito gets off the couch and leaves the room.

PITO (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

Rafael checks out the ball python in the terrarium while he waits for Pito to return.

RAFAEL

What you been feeding your snake, guinea pigs?

Rafael asks Pito as he reenters the living room.

PITO

No, just plain old white lab rats.

RAFAEL

I think he's big enough to swallow guinea pigs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

PITO

Check it out. You're going to be
an uncle, Rafael.

Pito shows Rafael the sonogram pictures he has in his
hands.

RAFAEL

Get the fuck outta here!
Lisette's pregnant?

PITO

Yeah, man. Three months.

Rafael takes the pictures from Pito's hands to get a
closer look.

RAFAEL

Three months? Well, I'll be
damned. Congratulations, Pito.

PITO

Thanks Cuz.

LISSETTE, Pito's pregnant girlfriend, walks in on Rafael
and Pito dressed to go out.

LISSETTE

Oh hi, Rafael. I didn't know you
were here. You just getting in
now?

RAFAEL

Yeah, about ten minutes ago.

Lisette walks over to give Rafael a kiss hello.

LISSETTE

How are you doing?

RAFAEL

How am I doing? How are you
doing?

LISSETTE

What do you mean?

RAFAEL

Your man here just gave me the
good news. Congratulations.

LISSETTE

Thanks Sweetie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAFAEL

Do you know what you're having,
yet?

LISSETTE

No, I still got a long ways to go,
yet. Hey, how are your folks
finding Puerto Rico?

RAFAEL

Oh, they love living out there.

LISSETTE

That's good to hear. Well, tell
them hello for me, okay?

RAFAEL

Okay.

LISSETTE

I got to go. I don't want to be
late. We'll talk more later.

RAFAEL

Wait a minute, Pito? Are you
really going to let your pregnant
girlfriend go out on her own in
her condition? What's the matter
with you?!

PITO

What the fuck you talking about?

LISSETTE

That's alright, Rafael. He
doesn't have to come with me. I'm
still able to manage on my own.

PITO

Yeah, what are you starting shit
for, Rafael?

LISSETTE

If he's not lifting a finger to
help me around here when I'm
further along in my pregnancy,
then you can have my back.

RAFAEL

You can count on it.

Lisette kisses Pito goodbye and heads for the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

LISSETTE

Bye guys.

RAFAEL

Okay, Lissette, be safe.

PITO

Have a good one, Mommy.

Lissette unlocks the door and steps out of the apartment.

PITO (CONT'D)

Okay, Rafael, out with it.

RAFAEL

Out with what? What are you talking about?

PITO

That look on your face --- I know what it means. It means that there's something you really want to get off your chest.

RAFAEL

I do have something I want to get off my chest.

PITO

Well, whatever it is, get it off your chest without air-quotes because anyone who can't get shit off their chest without doing that dumb shit with their fingers can't tell me a damn thing!

RAFAEL

I know what you mean, don't worry. I can get shit off my chest without air-quotes.

PITO

I'm glad to hear it. Now tell me what's on your mind.

Rafael is still holding on to the sonogram pictures and finally gives them back to Pito.

RAFAEL

I really am happy for you and Lissette, Pito.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I just thought you would have had more sense to move out of the projects and into a house before starting a family. With a baby on the way, it's going to be that much harder to get your family out of the hood.

Pito places the sonogram pictures on the diner table.

PITO

I know, you're right. I should've waited, but there's nothing I can do about it now. Like you said, the baby's on the way. What do you want me to do, ask Lissette to terminate the pregnancy?

RAFAEL

Hey, now you know that I'm all for a woman's right to choose, so I wouldn't think any less of her if she were to terminate the pregnancy. But, no, of course, I wouldn't want her to do that.

PITO

Okay, then what are we even talking about here?

RAFAEL

Just tell me that you'll at least look for a better place to raise your kid, okay? Because, let's face it, New York City is no place to raise a kid.

PITO

You're talking about the crime spike, right? Yeah, it is getting out of hand. But if that guy looking to be the next Mayor of New York wins the election and keeps his promise to crack down on crime, things might get better around here.

Rafael can't keep quite about how Pito just left his sonogram pictures on the table any longer.

RAFAEL

Hey, don't leave your sonogram pictures on the table like that.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Don't you have some place better
to keep them in?

PITO

We just keep them in a folder.

RAFAEL

No, that won't do. Leave it to
me. I have just the thing to put
them in.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - DAY

It's pay day. Rafael walks into his place of employment
to pick up his check.

RAFAEL

Morning, Mike.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - MIKE'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

MIKE, Active Temp Agency dispatcher, deals with hundreds
of temp workers each day and still needs Rafael's
identification to find his check.

MIKE

Morning. ID.

Rafael takes his identification out of his pocket and
gives it to Mike.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Mr. Morales.

Mike pulls Rafael's check out of a stack of envelopes and
gives it to him along with his identification.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Here you go.

RAFAEL

Thanks.

Mike is not quite done with Rafael and keeps him from
walking away from his desk.

MIKE

So, Mr. Morales, do you feel like
working today, or did you just
come in to pick up your check and
go home?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL

No, I'll work. I'll stick around.

MIKE

Well, leave your identification here on my desk so I'll know to call you when a job comes up.

RAFAEL

Okay, I'll be right over here.

Rafael pockets his check and walks away from Mike's desk.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - WAITING AREA - CONTINUOUS

Rafael takes a seat where he can watch TV while he waits to be called. He then puts in ear buds to listen to music on his phone. Rafael can see the newswoman's mouth moving on TV, so he takes the ear buds out to hear what she's saying.

INT. NEWSROOM - DAY

NEWS ANCHOR #1 is reporting the news from behind the news desk.

NEWS ANCHOR #1

Although the Mayor-elect Max Stafford doesn't officially take over the reigns from the current administration until January 1st, The Republican and his aides wasted no time touring inner city neighborhoods today, and here is just some of what he had to say about his day as he took questions from reporters.

EXT. STREET - DAY

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD is taking questions from field reporters.

FIELD REPORTER

Can you just clarify once and for all what you meant when you said that your first order of business as Mayor would be to remove the benches from all of the inner city neighborhoods?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Well, I don't recall saying that it would be my first order of business, but, yes, it is one of the things I plan to do as Mayor of New York. If there is one thing I've learned while touring these inner city neighborhoods is that if you spend enough time hanging out on a bench in the housing projects, you're either going to get shot or beat down over some ghetto stuff, and those aren't my words, those are the words that some of the residents I spoke with used to describe the things that go on around here. So, what better way to put a stop to the nonsense than to remove the benches from the housing projects all together?

FIELD REPORTER

Just one more question, before I let you go: What do you have to say to those who are worried that you're going to bring back Stop and Frisk?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Ah, the infamous Stop and Frisk policy put in place by my predecessor, yes. About Stop and Frisk, it was a policy that many in the Brown and Black communities deemed racist and unconstitutional, so they fought to have it abolished, and they won, they got what they wanted, Stop and Frisk went away. And if there was ever a time for the brown and black community to prove to us politicians and law makers that a Stop and Frisk policy was not necessary to keep them in check, that was the time. But, instead, they did the opposite, and now I believe shootings in this city are up 17% or something like that.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

Well, to the Brown and Black community, I just want you to know that I hear you loud and clear, and if you want the Stop and Frisk policy back so badly, I'll bring it back. Message received.

Mayor Max Stafford ends his talk with that reporter and keeps walking, not taking anymore questions from reporters.

INT. ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - MIKE'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Mike finds the perfect job for Rafael and calls for him.

MIKE

Mr. Morales, come on down.

RAFAEL

Coming.

Rafael gets out of his seat to make his way to Mike's desk.

INT. SUBWAY - NIGHT

Rafael leans with his back against the closed subway doors and rolls his eyes at the FIVE GAY MEN behaving effeminate around him.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

I really like my hair this way. I should let you do my hair more often.

GAY STRAPHANGER #2

And you thought I was going to mess it up.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

I really did. I'm sorry, do you forgive me?

GAY STRAPHANGER #3

Get a room.

The gay men laugh amongst themselves and are oblivious of how uncomfortable they are making Rafael.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

Oh, I have a bone to pick with you. When are you going to wear the pink sweater I gave you for your birthday? It's been weeks, and I haven't seen you in it yet.

GAY STRAPHANGER #2

I'm waiting for the proper occasion, love.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

Uh-huh, you sure you didn't re-gift it to someone else?

GAY STRAPHANGER #2

Why would I do that? I love that sweater.

The gay men follow Rafael with their eyes as he moves to another part of the subway car.

GAY STRAPHANGER #4

Was it something we said?

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

Really, what was that about?

GAY STRAPHANGER #5

Did you see that, the way he walked off? Were we making him uncomfortable somehow?

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

I don't see how. We weren't doing anything. Why would he move away from us?!

GAY STRAPHANGER #2

I don't know, but I couldn't help but notice the way he kept rolling his eyes at us the whole time we were standing here.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

Okay, you know what? This is going to eat away at me all night unless I find out for sure why he moved away from us the way he did.

GAY STRAPHANGER #3

You're not going over there to ask him, are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GAY STRAPHANGER #5

No, don't do that. Leave it alone. Fuck him.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

No, I've got to know if he's got a problem with us being gay. I've got to hear from his own lips.

Gay straphanger #1 makes his way over to where Rafael is standing. Rafael sees the gay straphanger #1 coming towards him and continues to lean against the subway doors. Gay Straphanger #1 gets to where Rafael is standing and looks him in the eye but doesn't say a word. Rafael tires of wondering why Gay Straphanger #1 keeps staring at him and final has to ask...

RAFAEL

Can I help you with something?

Friends of gay straphanger #1 stand behind him to have his back.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

Hi, yes, you can actually. This is going to sound strange, but I was just curious as to why you chose to move to this part of the subway car when just a few seconds ago you were standing right over, where my friends and I are, or were.

RAFAEL

Are you serious? Is that really why you came over here?

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

I told you this was going to sound strange. See, my friends all thought that you were not comfortable being around gays, and that's why you chose to move away from us, but I don't like to think the worst in people without talking to them, first. So, what's the deal?

RAFAEL

I don't feel comfortable around gay people.

Gay Straphanger #2 chimes in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GAY STRAPHANGER #2

Yo, get over it, dude! It's 2016 already.

Rafael talks past Gay Straphanger #1 to address Gay Straphanger #2

RAFAEL

I know it's 2016. What does the time period that we're living in now have to do with anything? It could be 2024, 2045, and if I'm still around by then, I'm almost sure I'll still be feeling the same way about it as I do now. I don't think that makes me a bad person.

Not knowing how to respond to Rafael, Gay Straphanger #2 stands there with his mouth open.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, but I can't help how I feel the same way some women can't help feeling like they get along with men better than they do other women... are you gonna crucify them, vilify them?

(beat)

Or what about those women who feel better about having gay male friends than straight ones... are you gonna crucify them, vilify them?

Rafael has his say and ends the conversation.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I think we're done here. Get out of my face already, son.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

I'm not your son, alright! Don't call me that!

Gay Straphanger #1 smacks Rafael in the face...

Rafael pulls his head down and jumps up with both knees, knocking him down to the train floor...

Gay Straphanger #3 cocks his fist to attack Rafael and gets knocked back with a push kick to the chest...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Rafael ducks under a punch from Gay Straphanger #4 and manages to get behind him, putting him in a choke hold...

Rafael sees Gay Straphanger #5 holding a knife and pushes Gay Straphanger #4 out in front of him to take the blade in the stomach...

GAY STRAPHANGER #5

Look what you made me do, you
asshole!

The train pulls into the station and comes to a complete stop.

GAY STRAPHANGER #5 (CONT'D)

Help me with him!

Gay Straphanger #1, #2, #3 rush over to help Gay Straphanger #5 tend to Gay Straphanger #4.

GAY STRAPHANGER #1

How bad is he?

GAY STRAPHANGER #5

He looks pretty bad, I don't know.

The train doors open and Rafael steps out into the subway platform, where he vanishes into the crowd of train riders.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Midtown Manhattan is charged with thousands of angry protesters taking advantage of the media coverage to let the world know how upset they are about Officer Jason Kaminski's acquittal. Rafael makes his way through the crowd of protesters and news crews to get to Macy's department store, only to be met by a line of Black Lives Matter protesters with their arms linked together allowing patrons to exit the store but prohibiting patrons from entering the store.

BLM PROTESTER

(to fellow
protesters)

Let them out! Don't let them in!

The protesters break the human chain for the patrons leaving the store, and then they link arms again.

BLM PROTESTER (CONT'D)

Let them out! Don't let them in!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rafael reaches his destination but is denied entry.

RAFAEL

What is this? Why are you people blocking the entrance to this store?!

BLM PROTESTER

What's wrong, Brother? Haven't you been keeping up with current events? For weeks, The founder of the Black Lives Matter movement has been telling the media and anyone who would listen what to expect this holiday season if we didn't get a just and fair verdict in the Officer Kaminski trial.

RAFAEL

Yeah, yeah, yeah, I caught all that... I just didn't think that you guys would be foolish enough to follow through with your threats because it was so ridiculous.

BLM PROTESTER

Nothing ridiculous about it, brother. Police are shooting down Black brothers and sisters like dogs! They're trying to make us an endangered species, brother, and it's got to stop!

RAFAEL

So, this is your solution, to stand in front of department stores and keep people from shopping?! Come on, man!

BLM PROTESTER

What's the matter with you, my brother?! Don't you care about what's going on in your own community?! We're not just doing this for the black community. We're doing it for all people of color. Brown people are getting shoot by police as well as blacks. Instead of fighting against us, You should be standing out here with us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL

I am standing out here with you,
but what I really want is to get
inside the store behind you.

BLM PROTESTER

If you really gave a damn, you
would be standing right here with
your arms linked around ours.

RAFAEL

If you think that it's worth it to
cry your eyes out and protest the
police over some thieving asshole
who could care less about obeying
the laws in this country, like
Davante Hill, that's your
business, but leave me the fuck
out of it. As long as the stores
are open for business, my business
is with them.

BLM PROTESTER

(shaking his head)
That's cold, my brother.

RAFAEL

It ain't cold! You're just not
being honest about what we all saw
in that bodega store surveillance
video. And before you say
anything else, I would be feeling
the same way if the knucklehead in
the surveillance video had been
Latino, White, Asian, or Arab!
But since we're talking about
Devante Hill here, you should know
that Devante had 5 prior arrests
before his run-in with Officer
Kaminski. So, you're gonna have
to excuse me if I don't sympathize
with the loss of Devante Hill.

BLM PROTESTER

And you're gonna have to find
another store to shop in.

RAFAEL

No, I don't have to go to another
store because I know that what I'm
shopping for is in that Macy's
right behind you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BLM PROTESTER

Well, I don't know what to tell you. You're gonna have to come back tomorrow when we're not here, I guess.

RAFAEL

I will not come back tomorrow. I'm here now! I'm not coming back tomorrow! Macy's is open for business now, and I'm going to do business in there. Who the hell are you to keep people from shopping?! Get the fuck outta here with that bullshit!

BLM PROTESTER

Yo, enough, enough! I'm done having this conversation! If you're unwilling to listen and open your eyes to what's really going on in your community, I can't do anything for you. You're not getting in this store, and that's all there is to it!

RAFAEL

Oh, I'm getting in that store, all right! You better believe that shit!

BLM PROTESTER

I'd really like to see that shit, Motherfucker!

RAFAEL

You wanna see how?! I'll show you how.

BLM PROTESTER

Yeah, show me, Motherfucker!

Rafael takes a step forward and snaps the Protester's head back with a jumping knee to the face...

...The Protester, with a bloody nose and forty pounds over Rafael, breaks away from the human chain and charges at Rafael...

...Rafael spins his body around halfway and drops to the ground on both hands to mule kick his attacker in the groins...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

...Rafael's attacker keels over from the pain and falls to ground holding himself...

...Another Black Lives Matter protester comes from behind and wraps his arms around Rafael's waist to power slam him to the ground...

...Rafael can feel himself being lifted up off the sidewalk and hooks his leg around the leg of his 2nd attacker to keep from being slammed on the concrete...

...Rafael manages to break the grip of the 2nd attacker and force him down to the ground with a Kimura armlock.

BLM PROTESTER #2

Fuck you, motherfucker! Let go of my arm!

Rafael threatens to break his attacker's arm if the other black lives matter protesters come any closer.

RAFAEL

If you don't want your arm broken, you better tell your people not to come any closer.

Black Lives Matter Protester #2 swallows his pride and instructs the other protesters to stand down.

BLM PROTESTER #2

(to his people)

Yo, stand down. Let him in the store. Only him, no one else.

Rafael let's his attacker have his arm back when he sees the other protesters complying, and is allowed to go inside the department store without further incident.

INT. MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - GROUND FLOOR - NIGHT

Rafael pushes his way through the revolving doors and makes his way to the elevators.

EXT. MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

STACY, a field reporter for a conservative news channel, describes what the energy is like in lower Manhattan on the air.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STACY

Activists from Minnesota to California and beyond have poured into the streets on this Black Friday, of all days, to protest police violence and raise awareness. Here in our area, Protesters are asking people not to shop at all on this Black Friday, or if they did want to shop, to shop at and support black-owned businesses.

Rafael interrupts the newswoman and gets in front of the cameras to get something off his chest.

RAFAEL

That's right! I got what I came for! Ain't nobody gonna tell me I can't shop today!

Rafael holds up his shopping bag to the cameras and then walks away, letting the newswoman get back to reporting the news.

STACY

Okay, well, apparently that was one shopper who was happy to get into the stores and buy.

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS

JAMES, host of a popular conservative cable news show, interrupts Stacy, the newswoman, and asks her to get Rafael back in front of the cameras.

JAMES

Not so fast, Stacy.

Stacy hears James in her ear.

STACY

Yeah, go ahead, James.

JAMES

Don't let that man walk off just yet. Try to get him back on and ask him if he had any trouble getting into the stores? I want the viewers who are thinking about shopping today to know what they might be in for.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STACY

Okay, I'll see if I could get him
to come back.

Stacy tries to get Rafael's attention and calls out to
him.

STACY (CONT'D)

Excuse me, Sir!

Rafael is still within earshot of the newswoman calling
out to him. Rafael stops in his tracks, only to turn
around and see the newswoman waving for him to come back
over to her.

STACY (CONT'D)

Would you mind talking to us some
more?

Rafael walks back over to the newswoman and gets back in
front of the cameras.

RAFAEL

No, I don't mind.

STACY

No swear words, okay?

RAFAEL

No swear words, right.

STACY

Okay, what is your name, Sir?

Stacy sticks the microphone in Rafael's face for him to
speak into it.

RAFAEL

Sure, I'll tell you my name. I
ain't scared. My name is Rafael
Morales.

STACY

Okay, Rafael, and are you just
coming out of Macy's?

RAFAEL

Yup, Macy's.

Rafael holds up his Macy's shopping bag to the cameras.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

STACY

Were you in there shopping for yourself, or were you shopping for family?

RAFAEL

I was in there shopping for family. Normally, I wouldn't come out to shop on Black Friday. I've seen how crazy shoppers can get on black Friday, so I usually wait it out.

STACY

So, what made you decide to brave the heavy traffic this time around? Why this Black Friday?

RAFAEL

Well, this time is kind of special. My cousin, who's more like a brother to me, and is live-in girlfriend are expecting their first child together. They showed me the sonogram pictures, but you should see what they're keeping them in. Right now they're keeping the sonogram pictures in a plastic slip cover, and that's not gonna fly, so I figured I'd come down here and get them one of those frames to keep sonogram pictures in.

STACY

I hope you didn't spoil the surprise for your cousin and his girlfriend.

RAFAEL

No, that's okay. It wasn't meant to be a surprise, so it's not like I'm letting the cat out of the bag or anything.

STACY

On a more serious note, what do you make of the protesters trying to keep people from going inside the stores to shop?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

STACY (CONT'D)

Were you aware ahead of time that Protesters, like Black Lives Matter and other black power organizations, would be out in the streets in full force to boycott this day?

RAFAEL

Yeah, I might have heard a few things about it here and there, but I never actually thought that they would go through with it.

STACY

And why not?

Rafael speaks directly to Stacy and forgets that the cameras are there.

RAFAEL

I mean, what do they expect to accomplish by keeping shoppers from going into big name stores, like Macy's, on a day like today?! If only these Black Lives Matter protesters would spend more time denouncing criminal behavior, and less time defending criminal behavior, then maybe we wouldn't be where we are today. Unless these Activists are ready to step up and do that, they will never be worthy of any real credibility in my eyes. But boycotting Black Friday is no way to get police reform.

Rafael faces the cameras.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

I'm no preacher, but to all of the brown and black knuckleheads living criminal lives, I say this: Everyone knows there are good cops and bad cops, and there's no way of knowing which one is going to show up to haul your sorry butt off to jail for breaking the law, so, to play it safe, why not live your life the right way?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Otherwise, don't expect me to march up and down the street with a picket sign to try to get justice for your sorry butt if you do end up getting shot by the police...

Rafael takes a deep breath.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

It's okay if I say butt, right?
Is butt okay?

STACY

Butt's fine. You can say butt, that's okay. Thank you so much for speaking with us, Rafael. Enjoy the rest of your holiday, and be safe out there.

RAFAEL

Okay.

Rafael walks away from Stacy and her news crew.

STACY

Well, there you have it. Back to you, James.

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS

James takes over and gets back to hosting his show.

JAMES

I don't know how popular this is going to make Rafael amongst his peers, but I for one would like to buy that man a beer for saying what I've only been saying on this show since the trial began. Somebody ought to get that Rafael guy his own podcast, or something. If people won't hear it from a White guy, like me, maybe they'll listen to him, who knows?

INT. THE ACTIVE TEMP AGENCY - MIKE'S DESK - DAY

There is a long line of temps at Mike's desk waiting to sign in and leave their Identification with him. Rafael is next in line to sign in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL

Morning Mike.

Mike places his hand over the cup temps are required to leave their identification in to keep Rafael from leaving his identification.

MIKE

What do you want, Morales?

RAFAEL

Your hand is in the way.

MIKE

I know it is.

RAFAEL

Well, I can't leave my identification in the cup with your hand in the way.

MIKE

You've got some nerve showing your face around here. I don't know if you know this, but around here we support the black lives matter movement, which means this is no place for stuck on stupid Fox News watching motherfuckers, like yourself.

RAFAEL

Oh, you must have seen me on TV.

MIKE

Thank you, Rafael, for not trying to worm your way out of this by denying it was you on TV talking crap about the black lives matter movement to that newswoman.

RAFAEL

No, that was me all right, but I think you have the wrong idea about me, my ruffle feathered friend.

MIKE

Oh, you think so, huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAFAEL

Yeah, I do. I'm not stuck on stupid Fox News watching motherfucker. I'm just sick of all the dumb shit going on in the streets, aren't you?! Come on, man... criminals are committing the same crimes over and over again and getting arrested just to be released on their own recognizance without any bail whatsoever! You might be okay with that shit, but I'm not!

The other temps in the room are getting a kick out of the back and forth between Mike at Rafael.

MIKE

Just save it, Rafael! Save it for someone who gives a fuck! You're gonna have to find work elsewhere. As a matter of fact, I have your last check for you right here.

Mike pulls Rafael's check out of a stack of white envelopes and places it on his desk.

MIKE (CONT'D)

You gotta sign for it. And I would appreciate it if you never set foot in this office again.

RAFAEL

So what, if I'm not down with the dumb shit coming out of the far left? That doesn't mean I'm down with the bullshit rhetoric coming from those right-wing excrements on the far right.

MIKE

You're still here?

RAFAEL

You can try to cancel me all you want. It's not like I believed Freedom of Speech ever existed in this country, anyway. Nothing you do is gonna make me change my mind. I said what I said, and I stand by what I said.

Mike abruptly jumps out of his seat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MIKE

I'm telling you for the last time,
Rafael. Get out of here!

RAFAEL

Yeah, come out from behind your
desk, so I can show you what I
really think of you and your
fucking Active Temp Agency!

Mike accepts Rafael's challenge and comes out from behind
his desk.

MIKE

See, now I know you done lost your
ever loving mind!

Rafael sees Mike rushing straight at him with anger in
his eyes but doesn't panic...

...Rafael grabs hold of Mike's sleeve and piece of his
lapel and lands on his back with a sacrifice throw to the
floor...

...Rafael swings his leg around Mike's head and traps
Mike's arm between his knees...

...Rafael raises his hips and hyperextends Mike's elbow
with an armbar...

...Mike let's out a loud cry from the pain, and Rafael
releases his arm.

RAFAEL

Fuck Active Temp Agency!

Rafael gets back to his feet and picks up his check off
of Mike's desk before making his way towards the exit
door. Some of the other temps stand in Rafael's way to
keep him from leaving.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you guys saw me on
TV, too. Well, if we're gonna do
this, can we at least do this one
at a time?

The first temp to attack Rafael gets kicked half way
across the room with a double teep push kick to the belly
and chest...

...the next temp to attack Rafael gets taken down by a
tiger-tail leg sweep...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

...Rafael gets back to his feet right away and strikes a third temp in the face with an elbow that causes a deep gash just above the eye...

...Rafael then changes levels and goes for a single leg on a fourth temp. Rafael then puts his back into lifting the temp over his shoulder and slamming him to the floor...

...Rafael then gets on top of the temp and starts pummeling his face with hammer fists...

...a fifth temp comes to the aide of the fourth temp and puts Rafael in a rear naked choke hold...

...Rafael gets off the fourth temp to go for a double leg on the fifth temp...

...Rafael gets his arms around both legs and lifts the fifth temp off his feet and over his shoulder, slamming him to the floor...

...Rafael gets back to his feet expecting the temps that are still standing to come for him, but they have seen enough and allow him to leave the premises.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

It's been nice knowing you guys.

Rafael opens the exit door and leaves the office.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Darnell is in the passenger seat being driven around his neighborhood in a green Nissan Maxima.

DARNELL

Man, listen, I don't know what the supreme court is going to do, but gay marriage will never be a real thing. If I'm having a conversation with some dude who says he's married to some other dude, I'ma be like no you're not. You wanna know why? Because gay marriage is not a real thing. You'll always be just two dudes who like to pump each other in the ass.

Darnell makes his DRIVER chuckle.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DARNELL (CONT'D)

If you can't procreate naturally, it just ain't meant to be. And don't even talk to me on some In-vitro fertilization, or surrogacy bullshit either. I don't even know why gay couples would want to subject innocent kids to that kind of perverted environment in the first place. The thought of that just makes my stomach turn.

DARNELL'S DRIVER

That's what I'm saying. I feel you, Son.

Darnell looks out through the passenger side window and sees a MAN IN HIS TWENTIES walking down the block with a purpose.

DARNELL

Oh shit, I've been looking for this motherfucker!

DARNELL'S DRIVER

What motherfucker, who?

DARNELL

That dude in the grey hoodie. That motherfucker owes me money. Let me out here!

DARNELL'S DRIVER

What are you, strapped?

DARNELL

Yeah, I'm strapped.

DARNELL'S DRIVER

I didn't know that.

DARNELL

Come on, hurry up! I don't wanna lose him.

DARNELL'S DRIVER

Alright, hold on. I'm pulling over.

The car pulls up to the curb. Darnell reaches into his fanny pack for a gun and jumps out.

INT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

With one eye on the automatic teller machine, and the other eye on the homeless man sleeping on the floor about a foot away from where she's standing, Lissette inserts her debit card into the Automatic Teller Machine and types in her pin number to make a cash withdrawal. Lissette steps away from the automatic teller machine and pockets her cash and debit card before opening the exit door.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Lissette is struck by two bullets as soon as she steps out of the bank and hits the pavement hard. Darnell's intended target is surprised by the two shots he heard go off behind him and turns around to find Lissette's lifeless body on the sidewalk. Darnell is disappointed for having missed his target, and takes it out on Lissette.

DARNELL

Damn, Bitch! Get the fuck out the way!

The intended target sees Darnell coming with the gun and realizes that those two shots were really meant for him, so he takes off running down the street.

DARNELL (CONT'D)

I want my money, motherfucker!

Darnell chases his intended target down the street opening fire. Darnell's intended target manages to make him miss shot after shot after shot by zigzagging his way down the block. Pedestrians duck for cover behind parked cars to avoid getting struck by stray bullets. The intended target accelerates speed and leaves Darnell in the dust, forcing him to give up the chase.

DARNELL (CONT'D)

This shit ain't over,
motherfucker! I'ma catch your ass
sooner or later!

Darnell can hear the police sirens and puts his gun back in his fanny pack as he flees the scene.

EXT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

One good samaritan gets down on his knees to tend to Lissette and asks the other Good samaritan with a phone in his hand to call 911.

GOOD SAMARITAN #1
Someone call 911!

GOOD SAMARITAN #2
I did! They'll be here soon.
Can't you hear the sirens?

Good samaritan #1 can see Lissette struggling to form words and instructs her not to speak.

GOOD SAMARITAN #1
Try not to talk, okay, Lady? Save
your energy. The ambulance will
be here soon, just hang on.

Good samaritan #2 looks down on Lissette from where he is standing and doesn't like her chances.

GOOD SAMARITAN #2
Oh, man, she's not looking too
good.

GOOD SAMARITAN #1
Shut up! Don't say that! She's
gonna make it.

Good samaritan #2 sees the ambulance coming and hurries over to the curb to flag them down.

GOOD SAMARITAN #2
Come on! We're losing her! Get
your asses over here!

GOOD SAMARITAN #1
You're going to make it, Lady.
You gotta fight! Lady, are you
still with me? Stay with me,
Lady... Lady?

As the ambulance pulls up to the scene, Good samaritan #1 sees the life go out of Lissette's eyes.

INT. GORDY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

GORDY, a long-time friend of Darnell's, comes to his door half dressed and looks through the peep hole to see who is knocking like a crazy person.

GORDY

Yeah, yeah, yeah, hold the fuck on!

Gordy unlocks his door to greet Darnell.

DARNELL

Gordy, thank goodness you're home!

Gordy is not ready to let Darnell in and keeps him standing at his doorway.

GORDY

What the fuck, Darnell?! You knocking on my door like you're the police and shit!

DARNELL

Sorry about that, my dude, but I got nowhere else to go. I can't go home. The cops are probably there now looking for my ass.

Gordy finally steps aside and lets Darnell into his house.

GORDY

The cops are looking for you? What kind of shit did you get your ass into now?!

Gordy locks up behind him. Darnell paces back and forth across the living room floor, talking a mile a minute.

DARNELL

I really fucking did it this time! I just shot this lady. I didn't stick around to check if she was dead or alive, so I don't know.

Gordy doesn't believe a word of what Darnell is telling him.

GORDY

Yeah right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DARNELL

I'm telling you I shot some lady, but it wasn't my fault, though! I was really going for some asshole who's been trying to get out of paying back the money he owes me, but the bitch just had to step out of the bank and take the bullet that was meant for that motherfucker.

GORDY

You being straight with me, man?

DARNELL

Why don't you take a walk to Broadway and see for yourself, if you don't believe me? The cops probably got the block sealed off by now.

GORDY

So where's the gun? What did you do with gun?

DARNELL

I don't have it with me. I tossed it on my way over here. Yo, I gotta get the fuck outta New York. Fuck New York. I know people in North Carolina, but I need money for a bus ticket to get out there.

GORDY

And I guess that's where I come in, right?

DARNELL

Yeah, man, I'd do it for you if the roles were reversed.

GORDY

I was just fucking with you, Darnell, you know I got you.

INT. GORDY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

LAQUITA, Gordy's girlfriend, is half naked in bed flipping through channels with the remote. Gordy enters and makes his way over to the dresser where he keeps his money.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LAQUITA

Who was at the door?

Gordy opens the top drawer and takes out a stash of money.

GORDY

Darnell. He's in some trouble,
and needs money for a bus ticket
outta town.

LAQUITA

And like an asshole you gotta be
the one who gives it to him,
right?

GORDY

Laquita, don't start with me!
It's my money, and I'll do what I
want with it, alright?!

Laquita bites her tongue and gets back to channel surfing. Gordy takes a couple of dollars out of the stash and puts the rest of the money back in the drawer before leaving the room.

INT. PITO'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

On the coffee table there's a sonogram picture in the frame that Rafael bought for Pito and Lisette. Rafael is looking over the engagement ring Pito plans on giving Lisette.

PITO

So, do you think she'll like it?

RAFAEL

Yeah, she's going to like it, but
what the hell do I know about
jewelry? I'm not an appraiser.
When do you plan on laying it on
her?

PITO

Later tonight.

RAFAEL

Are you nervous?

Rafael gives the ring back to Pito.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PITO

Why would I be nervous? I know she's going to say Yes; We've been living together for this long, she's carrying my baby and shit. My only regret is that I didn't ask her sooner.

Pito pockets the ring.

RAFAEL

Hey, now don't go beating yourself up over that. This is marriage we're talking. Even I know that isn't something you should rush into. You don't want to end up being the guy that everyone laughs at because he's been married four or five times, right? As a matter of fact, if the right woman for me ever comes along, I'll probably wait just as long before I pop the question.

Pito and Rafael are interrupted by a loud knock on the door.

EXT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Barnaby, dressed in NYPD uniform, waits for someone to answer the door. Finally, the door cracks open, and Pito pops his head out.

BARNABY

I'm sorry to bother you, but are you Pito Santiago?

PITO

Yes, I am. What can I do for you, Officer?

BARNABY

And do you know a Lissette Rivera?

PITO

Yeah, what about her?

BARNABY

I'm sorry to be the one to have to tell you this, but Lissette Rivera is dead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PITO

She's what?

BARNABY

She's dead. Yeah, shot and killed by some scumbag about a block away from here. The first responders tried their best to save her, but she couldn't be saved. I'm sorry for your loss.

Rafael comes to the door to see if he could be of any help.

RAFAEL

Is everything alright here?

Rafael sees Barnaby but doesn't recognize him in his police uniform. Pito breaks down and wraps his arms around Rafael.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

What's wrong, Pito?!

Rafael consoles Pito at the door.

INT. HOSPITAL MORTUARY - ICU - MOMENTS LATER

Mortuary Attendants work to make Lissette's body presentable before showing it to family members.

INT. MORTUARY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

MORTUARY ATTENDANTS wheel Lissette's body in through one door. Another set of doors slide open for Pito and Rafael to come in and identify the body.

RAFAEL

You go in, Pito. I'll wait out here.

Rafael pats Pito on the back. Pito steps inside to identify Lissette's body, and the doors slide shut behind him. Pito makes his way over to Lissette's body.

MORTUARY ATTENDANT

Thank you for coming in, Mr. Santiago. It's unfortunate that it has to be under these circumstances, but it has to be done.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MORTUARY ATTENDANT (CONT'D)

(beat)

Whenever you're ready.

Pito nods his head and gives the Mortuary Attendant the okay to pull away the sheet covering Lissette's face. The mortuary attendant removes the sheet for Pito to make a clear ID.

PITO

It's her. That's Lissette Rivera.

Pito fights back tears and keeps his composure.

MORTUARY ATTENDANT

I'm sorry for your loss, Mr. Santiago. You can sign here whenever you're ready.

PITO

Can I just have a moment alone with her?

MORTUARY ATTENDANT

Of course, take all the time you need. I'll be right outside.

PITO

Thank you.

The mortuary attendant steps outside and lets Pito have the room.

PITO (CONT'D)

I can't believe this is happening, Lissette. You did not deserve this. You deserve better than this, we deserve better than this. And as God is my witness, I will not rest until the Low-life who took you from me is brought to justice, baby... I promise.

Pito kisses Lissette on the forehead.

INT. OUTSIDE THE MORTUARY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Barnaby limps over to Rafael to keep him company while he waits on Pito.

BARNABY

Hey, you wanna smoke?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Barnaby offers Rafael a cigarette.

RAFAEL

No, I don't smoke.

BARNABY

Yeah, I know what you mean. I shouldn't be smoking in a place like this, but notifying family members about their deceased loved ones is like the worst part of my job, very stressful, so damn depressing.

RAFAEL

I get it.

Barnaby sticks a cigarette in his mouth and lights up.

BARNABY

Let me tell you something, the asshole we're looking for is probably shooting his mouth off to all of his asshole friends and posting all about what he did on social media right now. That's how stupid these street fucks are. They just can't help themselves. It's only a matter of time before we catch up to him.

RAFAEL

You're so right.

BARNABY

Hey, you don't remember me, do you?

Rafael takes a long look at Barnaby.

RAFAEL

No, should I?

BARNABY

I'm Barnaby. We went to Junior high school together.

RAFAEL

Barnaby, oh yeah. I do remember you. I didn't at first because of your police uniform.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARNABY

Yeah, I figured that much.

RAFAEL

I mean, the way I remember it, you were well on your way to ending up on the wrong side of the law. It's good to know that man-bun of yours was just a phase you were going through. Why anyone would want to walk around in public with a damn man-bun on his head is beyond me.

Barnaby cracks up.

BARNABY

Yeah, I was kind of a dick, wasn't I?

RAFAEL

I see you walk with a limp now. Did you get shot on the job, or something?

BARNABY

No, this is from an old childhood injury. But I'll bet you anything that if you thought about it real hard, you could probably tell it a lot better than I could.

Barnaby's got Rafael thinking.

RAFAEL

Is that from the heel hook I slapped on your ass? No way.

Barnaby's got Rafael smiling from ear to ear.

BARNABY

Yeah, my ankle never did heal properly.

RAFAEL

Wow.

BARNABY

That's okay. I know I had it coming. I never should have tried to embarrass you in front of those two girls you were hanging out with.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAFAEL

Let that be a lesson to you.

BARNABY

Of course, had I known that you were taking classes in martial arts at the time, I never would've fucked with you to begin with.

RAFAEL

Well, that's no reason to give someone a hard time.

BARNABY

So, have you kept up with your training over the years?

RAFAEL

What do you think?

Pito finally emerges from the mortuary room and joins Rafael and Barnaby.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Hey Cuz.

BARNABY

Pito, I just want you to know that if you ever need anything to help you get through this trying time, don't hesitate to reach out to the NYPD.

Barnaby gives Pito his card.

PITO

All I want to know is who did this. What kind of leads do you have?

BARNABY

No, no real leads as of yet. We're still in the process of gathering information, but, as I was just telling Rafael, these street fucks are not the sharpest tools in the shed. Sooner or later, this asshole is going to slip, and when he does, we're going to be there to bag his ass.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

PITO

Whoever did this needs to be feeling the walls closing in on him like yesterday, whoever did this needs to be feeling the noose tightening around his neck like yesterday.

BARNABY

And I get all that...

PITO

Listen, I'm offering a five thousand dollar reward to anyone who could provide information that leads us to the piece of crud who murdered Lissette, alright?

BARNABY

Yeah, that's not a problem. I can get started on those flyers and have them posted all over the neighborhood.

RAFAEL

It's not right for you to front that much money yourself, Pito. I'll split the difference with you.

PITO

I'm sure that if Lissette's mother spoke to the people at her church, she'd be able to raise some more money.

RAFAEL

Well, what the fuck are we still standing around here for? We've got work to do.

Pito, Rafael, and Barnaby make their way towards the elevators.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Darnell is in the back seat of a NYC yellow cab watching the TV screen without sound. News breaks of a press conference. The headline on the bottom of screen reads Pregnant woman fatally shot in broad daylight on the Upper Westside. Darnell loses his cool when he can't get the sound to come on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DARNELL

Yo, Cabbie! How do I get the
sound on back here?

CABBIE sees Darnell from his rear view mirror.

CABBIE

Oh Sorry. You can't get sound
back there. It doesn't work, but
we're almost at your destination.

Rafael and Pito are present at the press conference.
Pito can be seen stepping up to the podium to speak to
the media.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE PORT AUTHORITY - CONTINUOUS

Cabbie pulls over to the curb and brings the cab to a
complete stop.

CABBIE

Okay, here we are --- Port
authority.

DARNELL

How much do I owe you?

CABBIE

That will be fifteen dollars.

Darnell pays the cab driver and gets out of the cab.

INT. PORT AUTHORITY - BUS DEPOT - CONTINUOUS

Darnell steps up to the window to purchase a bus ticket
from the TICKET AGENT.

TICKET AGENT

Hello Sir, and where are we
heading today?

DARNELL

How much is a one way ticket to
Raleigh, North Carolina?

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Mayor Max Stafford stops by to see his secretary at her
desk and asks about getting in touch with Lissette's
family members.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Morning Barbra.

BARBRA, the Mayor's secretary, puts down her phone.

BARBRA

Good morning, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Any messages?

BARBRA

Uh, yes, but we don't have to get to them right now. It's still so early in morning.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Come on, Barbra. I'm a big boy. I can take it. What are my messages?

BARBRA

Well, Sir, you're still getting a lot of push back from Brown and Black mothers hoping that you won't follow through with your plan to reinstate Stop and Frisk. They're afraid that you're going to reinstate the policy.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

For God's sake, what is the matter with these people?! If a pregnant woman getting shot coming out of a bank in broad daylight isn't enough of an indicator that the city needs Stop and Frisk now more than ever, I don't know what it's going to take. What was that woman's name again?

BARBRA

The woman who was shot?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Yeah, the pregnant woman --- what was her name?

BARBRA

Lisette Rivera, I believe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Right, Lissette Rivera. You know
that gives me an idea, Barbra.

BARBRA
What idea, Mr. Mayor?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
I still have to reach out to the
family of Lissette Rivera, and
offer them my condolences for
their loss. So, I'm going to do
that now. And when I do, I'm
going to invite them to show up at
that thing next week.

BARBRA
What thing is that, Sir?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
What thing?! The State of The
City Address, Barbra.

BARBRA
Oh, of course, yes.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Yeah that... I'll invite them to
attend, have them join me on the
stage, and maybe even get them to
help me sell the idea of
reinstating Stop and Frisk to the
Brown and Black community.

BARBRA
It's worth a try.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Do you think so? You don't think
that's asking too much?

BARBRA
No.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Okay, then let's make it happen.
Try getting Lissette's family on
the phone for me.

BARBRA
I'll get right on that, Sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Thank you, Barbra. I'll be in my office.

Barbra gets on her computer. Mayor Max Stafford adjourns to his office and leaves Barbra to her work.

INT. RIVERA RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Friends and family attend Lissette's wake. MARIBEL, Lissette's mother, sees Pito sitting alone on the couch and joins him.

MARIBEL

Mind if I join you, Pito?

PITO

Please do, Maribel.

Maribel sits down next to Pito.

MARIBEL

So, Pito, how are you holding up?

PITO

I was going to propose to her that very day, the day she was taken from us. I had the ring and everything. I even brought it with me. Would you like to see it?

MARIBEL

You have it with you? Yeah, I'd like to see it.

Pito takes the ring out of his pocket and takes it out of the box.

MARIBEL (CONT'D)

It's beautiful, Pito. You would've made her so happy. I know you would have. I always liked you, Pito. It was so refreshing to know that she had you in her life.

PITO

That means a lot to me, Maribel. Thank you for telling me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIBEL

And you know, just because Lissette is gone that doesn't mean we can't talk anymore. So, if you ever feel like you need to talk about anything, just know that you can always talk to me.

PITO

I'll be okay, but, more importantly, how are you holding up, Maribel?

MARIBEL

I'd be feeling a lot better if I knew that the animal who did this was in a prison cell where he belongs. It's crazy for me to think that he's still out there in the world when my baby daughter is in ashes.

PITO

We'll find him soon, Maribel. Trust me when I tell you that it doesn't matter if it's out of the goodness of their heart, or if it's just to collect the reward money we managed to raise together, someone with information will come forward.

Rafael is standing next to a land-line phone when it rings. Rafael tries to get Maribel to come to the phone. Maribel is busy being consoled by Pito. Rafael takes the call for Maribel.

RAFAEL

Rivera residence. Who's calling, please?

INT. CITY HALL - MAYOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mayor Max Stafford is sitting behind his desk speaking to Rafael on the phone.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Yes, Hello, This is Max Stafford, the Mayor of New York. With whom am I speaking?

INT. RIVERA RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Pito and Maribel are still in conversation.

PITO

Lisette and I were going to name her Patricia.

MARIBEL

Patricia.

Rafael joins Pito and Maribel on the couch and interrupts their conversation.

RAFAEL

Hey, you two, I don't mean to interrupt, but, just so you know, Maribel, there was a phone call for you... The Mayor-Elect.

MARIBEL

Are you serious?

PITO

Why didn't you say something, Rafael?!

RAFAEL

I tried to get your attention, but you both seemed so preoccupied. Anyway, I took the call for you, and apparently there's this big event taking place next week that he wants us to attend. I don't know how you feel about it, but I told him that we would be there.

MARIBEL

That's okay. What is this event?

RAFAEL

It's the State of the city Address.

MARIBEL

Well, that's okay.

RAFAEL

The thing is I only accepted because I thought that's what you would've wanted me to say, but I don't think it's such a good idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIBEL

Why not?

RAFAEL

I don't know about this Max Stafford. Have you ever heard him speak?

MARIBEL

No, I don't follow politics all that much.

RAFAEL

Neither do I, but I've heard him speak to the media once before, and he's got a lot of questionable ideas for the Brown and Black community. Even the decent, law-abiding brown and black folks are subhuman to him.

INT. POLICE PRECEINT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

FRANK, a homeless man, sits alone behind a desk and waits to be interrogated by police. Barnaby enters the room in plain clothes and takes a seat on the opposite side of the desk.

BARNABY

Good news, Frank, your boneless honey glazed barbecue wings and large soda are on the way. In the meantime, what do you say we get started?

FRANK

Fine by me. Hey, Officer, do you mind if I ask you something?

BARNABY

Yeah, ask me anything?

FRANK

Did you get shot in the leg, or something?

BARNABY

No, Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

I see you hobbling around. I figured you might have been shot on the job, or something.

BARNABY

No, I've never been shot, knock on wood. It's just an old childhood injury.

FRANK

Oh, I see.

BARNABY

So, how long have you been living on the streets, Frank? Do you prefer Franklin or Frank?

FRANK

You could call me Frank.

BARNABY

Frank it is. How long have you been living on the streets, Frank?

FRANK

I've been living on the streets for about three years now.

BARNABY

And how often do you pitch your tent inside of the Bank of America?

FRANK

Every now and then.

BARNABY

Well, no matter how today goes, whether we arrest the suspect we're looking for based on your information or not, We're going to take care of you, okay, Frank? We're not just going to let you walk out of here to fend for yourself. The NYPD has plenty of programs to help guys like you get back on their feet. Does that sound like something you would be interested in?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FRANK

It sounds good to me. I appreciate it.

BARNABY

So, tell me about the day Lissette Rivera went in and withdrew money from the ATM... Did you two say anything to each other?

FRANK

No, we did not speak. She just withdrew cash and walked out.

BARNABY

So, she leaves the bank, and then what?

FRANK

I hear two shots as soon as she exits the bank. She goes down, and then I could hear the shooter say something through the glass.

BARNABY

What did you hear him say?

INT. BANK OF AMERICA - ATM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Frank gets a good look at Darnell shooting Lissette and stepping over her lifeless body from where he is seated.

FRANK (V.O.)

He said Stupid Bitch, get out my way, or Stupid Bitch you got in my way, something along those lines. All I know is that the guy saw the woman go down and he couldn't have cared less.

INT. POLICE PRECEINT - INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT

Barnaby takes notes.

BARNABY

Okay, what else?

FRANK

And then he fired like five or six more shots at the guy he chased down the street.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK (CONT'D)

(beat)

I just want to wish you the best
of luck solving this case,
Officer.

Frank and Barnaby are interrupted by a knock at the door.

BARNABY

Just one second, Frank. You're
doing good.

Barnaby gets up to answer the door. He cracks open the door, and a fellow officer hands him a bag of food from McDonald's. Barnaby returns to the desk and sets the bag down in front of Frank.

BARNABY (CONT'D)

Here you go, Frank.

FRANK

Alright.

Frank wastes no time removing the content from the bag.

BARNABY

Take your time, enjoy that, and,
once you're done, I'm going to get
you together with our sketch
artist, okay?

FRANK

Sure thing, Officer. It's your
show.

Frank takes a sip of his soda and goes to town on his wings.

INT. NEW YORK CITY HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Hundreds are in attendance, formally dressed, for the State of the City Address. Mayor-Elect Max Stafford is center stage, addressing the crowd from behind a podium.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

My fellow New Yorkers, it is great
to be in the Bronx. This is the
birth place of Legends. Legends
like Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and
the workplace of legends like
Marina Rivera.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

And it is also the home of future superstars, like the Siera Cruz high school Latin band, and The P.S. 32 chorus. Weren't they fantastic?

The P.S. 32 Chorus take a bow.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

This is the city of innovation, and this one borough has given us some of the best authors, scientists, doctors, and athletes. The Bronx has been the borough of innovators, and you can see most recently from our students here at the academy for collaborative studies who built this award winning robot.

A robot holds up a picket sign that reads Boogie Down.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

How about the robot club, huh? I think they deserve a round of applause.

Members of the Robot club take a bow.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

But what kind of Mayor would I be if I didn't give it to you straight about the direction I feel this City is going. This is the State of the City Address after all, and while it is true this is a city of innovators and future stars, this is also a city marred with senseless acts of violence. Bad apples with no regards for human life are robbing us of our future stars with senseless acts of violence. You've all heard the stories. Just two weeks ago, Lissette Rivera, a twenty-three year old woman pregnant with her first child, was gun down in broad daylight coming out of a Bank of America on the upper westside. She was just an innocent bystander doing everyday things.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

It's an epidemic that's been going on in big cities like ours for far too long and it's been tearing families apart. Families like the Rivera family.

Mayor Max Stafford turns to the Rivera family who happen to be sitting in the front row.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD (CONT'D)

I've reached out to the Rivera family personally with a promise to do everything in my power to make sure that no other family suffers what they are going through right now. If it takes bringing back Stop and Frisk, or constructing more prisons to house these criminals once they are caught, so be it. I've invited the Rivera family here in the hopes that they would join me and my administration in the fight ahead. Ladies and gentlemen please join me in welcoming the Rivera Family to the stage.

The crowd applauds. Rafael, Pito, Tio, and the Rivera family come to the stage. Rafael shakes the Mayor's hand, steps up to the podium, and acts as the spoke person for the Rivera family.

RAFAEL

Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for allowing us the opportunity to say to your face that we know what you're trying to do by inviting us here tonight. It's not to pay tribute to Lissette Rivera but to use us as props to help you push your alt-right agenda on the people of New York.

Mayor Max Stafford interrupts Rafael.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Okay, let me stop you right there. I haven't the slightest idea where this is coming from... I'm confused.

Mayor Max Stafford stops his security team from ushering Rafael, and his family off the stage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RAFAEL

You know, you may be the Mayor of New York. There's nothing that could be done about that, but whatever you and your right-wing friends have planned for the Brown and Black community, you're gonna have to leave us out of it because we've still got some grieving to do. We're leaving now, excuse us.

Mayor Max Stafford keeps Rafael and the Rivera family on stage a while longer.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

Now, wait a minute. I don't know where you got your information, but you've got me all wrong. I can understand that you and your family are going through a lot right now, so let's just say that it's the grief talking, and we'll leave it at that, okay?

RAFAEL

So, you think I've got you figured all wrong, huh?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

I'm afraid so.

RAFAEL

Alright, then let's clear it up once and for all.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD

I'd be glad to. What do you have in mind? What else would you like me to say?

RAFAEL

It's real simple. I'm putting you on the spot. All you have to do is denounce White supremacy, and your alt-right donors in front of everybody here, and to the people watching at home... Do that, and I'll admit to everyone that I'm just some rambling idiot who doesn't know what he's talking about.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Mayor Max Stafford agrees to Rafael's terms with a forced smile on his face.

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Certainly, anything to put an end
to this awkward moment.

RAFAEL
Good. Let's hear it.

Mayor Max Stafford is reluctant to denounce White Supremacy.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)
You can't do it, can you?

MAYOR MAX STAFFORD
Why do you think I'm a White Supremacist? I don't get it, not that I think this is the time or place to get into it, but what Alt-Right agenda are you speaking of?

RAFAEL
(to the Rivera family)
Let's go.

Rafael steps away from the podium, and the rest of the Rivera family follow him off the stage, leaving Mayor Max Stafford standing there with his mouth open.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

With no one around to assist him, Rafael gets down on a foam mat in the middle of the floor and improvises with a chair to keep the details to doing a leg lock fresh in his head. The phone rings, interrupting his Kata form.

RAFAEL
I can't stand people with bad timing.

Rafael steps out of the bedroom.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Rafael exits the bedroom and heads for the ringing phone.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Rafael enters and answers the phone.

RAFAEL

Hello?

Rafael can hear someone breathing on the other end of the line but gets no response.

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Hello?

The anonymous caller on the other end finally responds.

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Is this Morales?

RAFAEL

Yes, this is Morales. Who is this?

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Is this Rafael Morales?

RAFAEL

Yeah, this is Rafael Morales... who is this?!

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

That was a messed up thing you did to the Mayor-Elect.

RAFAEL

Are you going to tell me who this is?!

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Take back what you said about the Mayor-Elect, and you'll be left alone.

RAFAEL

What?!

ANONYMOUS CALLER (V.O.)

Take back what you said about the Mayor-Elect, or there will be hell to pay...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL

Is that so? Listen here,
bedwetter, if you're looking for
your mommy, I put her in a cab
about an hour ago, and sent her on
her way. Where she went after
that is not my business, so suck
my flat-footed, Pigeon-toed butt.

Rafael hangs up on the anonymous caller, makes his way
back to the bedroom, and closes the door behind him.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Knocks on the door. Rafael raises the cover to the
peephole and sees his cousin Pito on the other side of
the door and lets him in.

PITO

Did they call back?

Pito and Rafael embrace each other.

RAFAEL

No, not yet.

Rafael locks the door behind Pito.

PITO

So, what are we going to do about
this? Should we call the police?

RAFAEL

No, we can't call the police.
That asshole who left the message
on the machine was adamant when he
said not to involve the police.

PITO

Let me hear the message for
myself.

INT. RAFAEL'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Pito removes his coat and sits on the couch, as Rafael plays the voice mail that was left on his phone by GANG RING LEADER.

GANG RING LEADER (V.O.)

Let me be clear, Morales. We don't want your uncle, we want you. You were the one who humiliated the Mayor Elect with that stupid ass stunt of yours, so you're the one who has to answer for it. And if you don't want your uncle to take what was meant for you, you better be here at his place before today is over.

Tio can be heard in the background of the message pleading with Rafael not to do as he is told.

TIO (V.O.)

Rafael, don't listen to him! I'll be alright!

Tio can also be heard getting roughed up for doing so.

GANG RING LEADER (V.O.)

Oh, and I don't think you need me to tell you what happens to your uncle if, in your infinite wisdom, you decide to involve the law.

End of message.

PITO

Fuck that! We gotta call the cops. We've got to at least talk to Barnaby.

RAFAEL

Absolutely not. We don't have enough time for that. If we tell Barnaby about this, then he's got to go through the proper chain of command, then they've got to put a whole plan into place. By the time we get to Tio, it might be too late.

PITO

Then what do you intend to do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL

All I know is that I've got to move now.

PITO

Well, if you're going, I'm going.

RAFAEL

No, I don't think that's such a good idea, Pito.

PITO

Why not? You taught me everything you know about self defense. You can use me.

RAFAEL

I don't have time to argue about this. We'll talk about this some more on the way to Tio's.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tio is seated in an office chair, his face stained with dried blood. Gang ring leader sits in an office chair beside Tio to keep him company along with six members of his crew.

GANG RING LEADER

So, tell me something, Uncle. Did you know what your nephew was planning to do once he got on stage to join Mayor Stafford? You must have known. Why the hell didn't you try to talk some sense into him? And even if I were to give you the benefit of doubt and say that you did try but failed to talk some sense into him, I sure as hell wouldn't have been stupid enough to get on the stage with him. But, there you were for the whole world to see. I guess you didn't think that the inmates doing time at the jail where you work would've be interested enough to tune in and hear Mayor Stafford's new plan for jail reform, huh? Well, you were wrong?

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GANG RING LEADER (CONT'D)

It was one of the inmates from your jail who contacted us and told us all about you. He was the one who suggested that we use you to get to your nephew.

Tio shakes his head and laughs at his captor.

GANG RING LEADER (CONT'D)

Are you laughing at me? Why are you laughing?

TIO

Yeah, I'm laughing at you. What the fuck do you think?

GANG RING LEADER

You wanna let me and my guys in on the joke?

Gang ring leader looks at his guys to see if any of them are smiling.

TIO

All I ever hear from you right-wing nut jobs is how woke and dysfunctional the liberals are. Okay, yeah, as A liberal myself, there are some things us liberals can ease up on...

(beat)

But then assholes like you do shit like this and think that it makes your side look sane... That's what I find so funny. No wonder people are jumping ship from both parties in record numbers.

One of the CREW MEMBERS looks out the window a sees a car pulling up in front of the house.

CREW MEMBER #1

There's a car pulling up.

GANG RING LEADER

(stays seated)

Is it our guy? Is it Rafael?

CREW MEMBER #1

Don't know. He ain't get out the car, yet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GANG RING LEADER
Well, what kind of car is it?

CREW MEMBER #1
Sedan, it looks like.

GANG RING LEADER
(to Tio)
Your nephew drive a sedan?

TIO
Not that I know of.

GANG RING LEADER
He could've rented one, huh?

EXT. OUTSIDE OF TIO'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rafael gets out of the car and makes his way to the house.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Crew member #1 makes a positive ID as Rafael walks towards the house.

CREW MEMBER #1
Yeah, it's our guy. It's Rafael.
He just got out of the car, and
he's coming this way.

Gang ring leader gets out his seat.

GANG RING LEADER
(to Tio)
Well, your nephew didn't leave you
hanging after all. It's close to
midnight. I didn't think he was
going to show.

Gang ring leader goes to the door to greet Rafael.

EXT. TIO'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Rafael goes up the steps to the house and is met at the door by gang ring leader.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GANG RING LEADER

Good of you to come, Rafael. Your
uncle and I are starting to run
out of things to talk about.

Gang ring leader steps aside to let Rafael get past the
doorway. He then sticks his head out the door to make
sure Rafael wasn't followed.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rafael sets foot inside and sees his Tio in the chair.

RAFAEL

You alright, Tio?

Gang ring leader locks the door.

GANG RING LEADER

Before we get into all of that, do
you mind one of my guys pat you
down first?

CREW MEMBER #2 steps up to pat Rafael down.

CREW MEMBER #2

Open your coat.

Rafael pulls his coat zipper down and lets Crew Member #2
pat him down.

CREW MEMBER #2 (CONT'D)

He's clean.

RAFAEL

(to gang ring leader)
I recognize your voice. You were
the one who left that stupid ass
message threatening to kill my
uncle if I didn't show up, right?

GANG RING LEADER

That's very good. You've got a
good ear.

RAFAEL

That must make you the ring leader
of this operation.

GANG RING LEADER

And proud of it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL

So, all of this is just to get me to answer for what I said to that Mayor of yours? If it is you've got another thing coming because I stand by what I did. So, now that you've got me right where you want me why don't you just let my uncle go like you said you would?

GANG RING LEADER

Oh, you didn't really come here thinking that we were going to stay true to our word, did you? Oh, please tell me you're not that stupid.

Rafael looks over at his Tio.

GANG RING LEADER (CONT'D)

Oh, Rafael, Rafael, Rafael...

(beat)

No, we're not going to let your uncle go. But we are going to take you and your uncle for a ride, a ride to a deserted little farm house in upstate New York.

INT. POLICE PRECEINT - NIGHT

Darnell walks right up to a COLLEAGUE OF BARNABY'S to turn himself in.

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

What can I do for you?

DARNELL

I'm Darnell Grant. You guys been looking for me. I'm turning myself in.

Without saying a word, Barnaby's colleague remains in his seat and takes a long look at Darnell.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Barnaby is in uniform making his way to his prescient with a box of donuts.

INT. POLICE PRESCIENT - NIGHT

Barnaby makes it to his desk and sets the donuts down. He turns to his colleague next to him to inquire about the commotion throughout the office.

BARNABY

What the hell's going on around here?

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Hey, where have you been? You're missing all the action. We've just closed the Lissette Rivera case.

BARNABY

Closed it?

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Yeah, man, the Scumbag, Darnell Grant, just walked up and turned himself in.

BARNABY

Get the fuck outta here! Are you sure it's him?

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

It's him. It is definitely him. He said that being on the run sucks, and that he just couldn't take it anymore. He waved his rights to an attorney. We've even got a unit checking out the sewer drain where he said he dumped the murder weapon, as we speak.

Barnaby picks up the box of donuts from his desk and places it on his colleague's desk.

BARNABY

Here... help yourself to some donuts.

Barnaby steps away from his desk.

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Where are you going?

BARNABY

I'm going to tell the Rivera family the good news.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARNABY'S COLLEAGUE

Why don't you just get them on the phone?

BARNABY

Nah, I owe it to them to deliver this news in person. I won't be long.

Barnaby leaves the office.

EXT. TIO'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Pito is lying in wait by the side of the house with a gun in his hand...

He takes a peek around the corner of the house and watches as the occupants inside the house start to file out one by one...

He waits until everyone is out of the house and down the steps to the front porch before coming out of hiding...

He sneaks up behind the last of the gang members to come down the front porch and grabs him to negotiate Rafael and their Tio's release.

PITO

Alright, Punetas! I got your man. Let my family go now or I drop your man right here.

Pito puts a gun to the back of the gang member's head to show that he's serious.

GANG RING LEADER

Where the hell did you come from?

PITO

Hey, asshole, did you hear what I said?! Let them go now or your man here is dead!

Gang ring leader nods, permitting Crew Member #1 and Crew Member #2 to release Rafael and Tio.

PITO (CONT'D)

Rafael, Tio move it! Back to the house!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Pito holds on to the gang member while Rafael and Tio make their way back up the front porch and into the house.

RAFAEL
(from the house)
Come on, Pito!

PITO
(to the gang)
Don't do anything stupid!

Pito holds on to his human shield while he makes his way back to the house backwards. Pito sees gang ring leader lifting his jacket to reach for something.

PITO (CONT'D)
Don't do it!

GANG RING LEADER
You're dead, you motherfucker!

Gang ring leader pulls out his gun and shoots his own crew member to get to Pito.

GANG RING LEADER (CONT'D)
Get that Spic motherfucker!

Pito returns fire and has the gang members running for cover behind Rafael's sedan.

RAFAEL
Get your ass in here, Pito!

Pito continues to fire his weapon at the car while he runs up the steps to the front porch.

GANG RING LEADER
Let's get 'em!

Gang ring leader and the rest of his gang come out from behind the sedan and try to get back in the house.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rafael and Tio pull Pito into the house with them.

RAFAEL
Get your ass in here, Pito!

Pito runs into the house and slams the door shut behind him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RAFAEL (CONT'D)

Are you alright? Were you hit?

Rafael checks Pito over for any sign of gun shot wounds.

PITO

I don't know. I don't think so.

Rafael finds no sign of gun shot wounds and stops looking.

RAFAEL

You're alright.

TIO

They're going to be coming. We need to be ready.

EXT. TIO'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Gang ring leader reaches the front door and kicks it open. He cautiously sets foot inside with his gun drawn and gang behind him.

GANG RING LEADER

Spread out. They're in here somewhere.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The gang members split up and search every inch of the house for Rafael, Pito, and Rafael.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Crew member #1 and #2 walk past the island where Pito is hiding under and get shot in the back...

They drop to the floor, and Pito comes out of hiding to finish them off by shooting them both in the head...

CREW MEMBER #4 arrives and takes several shots at Pito...

Pito takes cover behind the island. Rafael springs out of the broom closet and swings a broom stick knocking the gun out of the hands of Crew Member #4...

Rafael swings the stick again but crew member #4 grabs it this time and wrestles it out of Rafael's hands...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Crew Member #4 tries to strike Rafael...

Rafael parries his hand away and takes him down to the floor with a tani otoshi valley drop, where they scramble to get dominate position over the other...

CREW MEMBER #5 comes to the rescue, and Rafael uses crew member #4 to shield himself from gun fire...

Pito aims his gun and crew member #5 and blows his brains out...

Rafael then arms himself with the weapon Crew Member #5 was holding.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CREW MEMBER #6 joins Gang ring leader in heading to the kitchen.

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Tio sees gang ring leader and crew member #6 with guns drawn heading to the kitchen where he knows his nephews are and gets their attention.

TIO
Hey Crackers!

INT. TIO'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gang ring leader stops short of entering the kitchen and trains his weapon in Tio's direction...

Tio ducks for cover in the next room...

With Crew Member #6 and gang ring leader taking shots at Tio, Rafael comes out of the kitchen and guns down crew member #6 while he is distracted...

Gang ring leader forgets about Tio and focuses his attention on Rafael...

Rafael takes cover behind the couch and draws gun fire...

With his back turned to him, Tio sneaks up on gang ring leader and gets shot in the stomach for his troubles but still manages to tackle him to the floor...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

With Tio on top of gang ring leader, he uses his elbow to ground and pound his face open and doesn't stop until there is no sign of life left...

Now that the danger has passed, Rafael and Pito rush to Tio's aide to examine the severity of his injury.

RAFAEL

Tio, how bad is it?

TIO

Not too bad, I don't think.

Rafael lifts Tio's shirt and worries about all the blood.

PITO

We better get him to a hospital quick.

RAFAEL

Help me get him up.

PITO

Just hang in there, Tio.

Rafael and Pito help Tio to his feet, then they each take an arm and help him walk out the front door of the house.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN.

INT. COURT HOUSE - DAY

It's six months later, sentencing day for Darnell Grant...

The room is packed with the Rivera family sitting on one side of the room, and members of the Grant family on the other...

From where he sits, Rafael can see Darnell Grant at the defense table in a green jail suit, being very disrespectful and rolling his eyes at everything Maribel is saying about him in her victim's impact statement.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIBEL

Your Honor, Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, all I want is justice for my daughter, Lissette. So, may Darnell Grant's punishment fit the crime. Darnell Grant, I have nothing but contempt for you. And even though I know that not even the harshest sentence can bring my daughter back, I pray and ask the court that Darnell Grant be sentenced to the full extent of the law. Putting Darnell Grant behind bars where he belongs might not end crime as we know it, but it would certainly send a strong message. Darnell Grant, I hope you never get a moments rest in prison.

Rafael overhears a DARNELL GRANT SUPPORTER sitting behind him make a comment about Maribel to the Darnell Grant supporter sitting next to him.

SUPPORTER OF DARNELL GRANT

(snickering)

Alright, that's it! I'm knocking this bitch out right now. That's my cousin she's talking about.

The Darnell Grant supporter gets out of his seat and makes his way towards Maribel...

Rafael waits for the Darnell Grant supporter to walk past him...

Rafael grabs the Darnell supporter by the back of his shirt, pivots, and drops to one knee, tossing him over his shoulder with a rotating motion...

There's a loud thud as the Darnell supporter hits the floor...

A huge brawl breaks out between the two families. Darnell is removed from the courtroom by the bailiffs, and THE JUDGE presiding the case tries to regain order in his courtroom.

JUDGE

(slamming his gavel)

Bailiffs, remove the defendant!
Order in the court! Order in the court!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Rafael, with a BAILIFF on each arm, is being dragged out of the court room along with Pito, Tio, and several members of the Grant family.

RAFAEL

Easy, Bailiffs, I'm not resisting.
You see, I'm complying.

BAILIFF

Yeah, I see. You're doing a real
good job. Keep it that way.

RAFAEL

Yes, Ma'am, you won't get any
trouble out of me. I was just
trying to help you guys out,
that's all.

The Bailiffs clear Rafael from the court room.

FADE OUT.

THE END