

"RETRIBUTION"

By

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2nd Draft
version October 1, 2002
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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

It's a beautiful day in the big city. A long, slow pan finds the tops of old, redbrick buildings crowding the skyline. The smell of wet concrete looms in the air like a sentinel on watch, and metal fire escapes seem to substitute for both clotheslines and gardens.

Panning down the buildings reveals broken windows and dark rooms. On the streets below, kids are running around playing tag as they narrowly avoiding the passing cars. Although the area is poor, several shops are busy today.

A final pan pulls us into a BLUE SEDAN parked across the street from a small Farmer's Market where JENNY CIRCO, a young mother, sits in the driver seat. Mild traffic continues to cruise by.

INT. BLUE SEDAN - DAY

Inside the BLUE SEDAN, Jenny's four-year-old son, JUSTIN CIRCO, is playing with toys in the back seat while Jenny taps her fingers on the steering wheel to a song on the radio. Suddenly, gunshots are heard.

JENNY
(frightened)

Jack?

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

JACK CIRCO, a young, good-looking man, comes running out of the Farmer's Market holding a gun and a bag brimming with money. He charges across the street through traffic to the Blue Sedan. The kids stop playing but do not run and hide.

JACK
(to Jenny)
Start the car!

INT. BLUE SEDAN - DAY

Hysterical, Jenny starts the car as Jack gets in the front seat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
Drive! Drive!

JENNY
What's going on?

JACK
I said drive!

JENNY
(scared)
Okay! Okay!

Shaking, Jenny starts the car and pulls onto the street nearly causing an accident. The sound of a siren can be heard in the distance.

JENNY
What did you do?

JACK
Jenny, listen to me. Just drive.
I'll explain everything later.

Justin begins to cry.

JENNY
Jack...

JACK
(interrupting)
Trust me, okay.

The siren can be heard getting closer. Jack turns around to see a POLICE MOTORCYCLE gaining on them.

JACK
(to Jenny)
Head for the freeway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jack turns, leans out the window, and fires several shots at the Police motorcycle. One of his shots hits the OFFICER in the arm, forcing him to drop his gun and pull the motorcycle over. In pain, the officer falls to the ground.

JENNY

(screaming)

Jack, no! What are you doing?

JACK

(yelling)

Shut up and drive!

More sirens can be heard nearby.

EXT. CITY HIGHWAY - DAY

Several POLICE CARS have begun closing in on the Blue Sedan. A helicopter can be heard in the distance. Jack reloads his gun and turns to fire on the Police cars.

INT. BLUE SEDAN - DAY

Jenny is in tears and the Police cars are closing in. Jack prepares to fire on the Police car behind them.

JENNY

Please, Jack. They're right behind us. Let's just stop and...

JACK

(interrupting)

If we stop, I go to jail. Is that what you want? Is it?

JENNY

(barely able to speak)

No.

Jack leans out the window and fires at the Police car. A young, Black officer in the Police car, DAMON CANE, fires back. Sparks fly off both cars as a chase through the city begins.

EXT. CITY HIGHWAY - DAY

Gunshots from the Police car and the Blue Sedan fire back and forth as both cars weave through the city streets. The Blue Sedan approaches an intersection filled with people. Jenny quickly swerves the car up on the sidewalk.

The car narrowly misses some pedestrians as the Blue Sedan swings onto a new road smashing an old wooden bench. The Police car pursues, but waits for the pedestrians to clear out of the way.

As they round the corner, the Blue Sedan turns into a narrow alley full of old tin trashcans. The Blue Sedan blasts through them, followed closely by the Police car. Jack fires out the window again but misses badly.

The Blue Sedan heads back onto an empty road that leads away from the city. The Police car turns to follow, barely missing an old man on a bike. The other Police cars continue their pursuit close behind.

On the empty road, Jack and Damon fire back and forth at each other. Finally, Damon hits the tire of the Blue Sedan. It begins to spin out of control and skids off the highway flipping over and finally coming to a halt.

Police cars surround the Blue Sedan and officers rush over to the car with their guns drawn. A POLICE HELICOPTER circles above. Jenny has been thrown from the car, and there is no movement inside the Blue Sedan at all.

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM 319 - DAY

DR. STEVEN HOLMES sits by his wife, AMY, as she rests in a hospital bed. As Steven reads her chart, a heart monitor beeps steadily beside them. Amy, a beautiful young woman with long curly brown hair and green eyes, looks very pale.

AMY

So what's the good word, Doctor?

STEVEN

(trying to smile)

Oh, it's ah... well it's...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMY

I'm getting worse, aren't I?

As Steven pauses to find the words, another DOCTOR lurks outside the room. He stands within earshot of the couple but stays out of sight.

STEVEN

It's your blood type, honey. It's just so rare. There's still the possibility that...

AMY

(cutting him off)

That's my doctor talking. I want to hear what my husband has to say.

STEVEN

Your husband...

(pauses)

If I could give you my heart, Amy, I would. If I thought for one moment that I had missed just one detail, one petty fact, one iota of information, I would move mountains to find it. There is nothing on this earth that your husband wouldn't do for you. But right now, you need your doctor.

AMY

No, sweetheart. I need my husband.

Steven puts the chart down and leans over Amy. He gently kisses her on the head. The doctor lurking outside the room turns and walks away.

STEVEN

I'm here, Amy. Your husband's here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the two embrace, the INTERCOM system begins paging over the loudspeakers.

"INTERCOM"

*DR. SPIELMAN and DR. HOLMES,
please report to the Emergency
Room. DR. SPIELMAN and DR. HOLMES,
please report to the Emergency
Room.*

Steven looks at Amy, reluctant to leave her.

AMY

I'll be fine. Go do what you do.

STEVEN

I'll be back soon.

Steven forces a smile as he leaves Amy's room.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Steven rushes into the Emergency Room where three people were just brought in. A young man, Jack, who is barely conscious, his wife Jenny, who is unconscious and in very serious condition, and their son, Justin who is crying.

Two other doctors are there, DR. SPIELMAN and DR. BARKER, a pediatrician. There are also several Police officers waiting around the emergency room, including Damon Cane, as well as numerous nurses.

The patients are put into three separate rooms, and Steven, being the senior and best doctor present, enters Jenny's room. Damon follows him. Dr. Spielman heads toward Jack.

STEVEN

What's the status?

As the NURSE updates Steven on Jenny's condition, Jack begins yelling from the other room.

JACK

Let me up, I wanna see her!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. SPIELMAN

Sir, you going to have to lie still.

JACK

Let me see my wife!

DR. SPIELMAN

Sir, if you can't settle down, we will have to sedate you.

Meanwhile, Steven has just gotten an update on Jenny. It's very severe, and she has little chance to live. Suddenly, a look of shock comes over one of the nurses who has been taking a blood test.

NURSE 1

Doctor, she's AB Negative.

Everyone in the room freezes, and Steven is clearly taken aback.

STEVEN

Check her again.

NURSE 1

I checked it twice, Doctor... AB Negative.

Jack throws one of the nurses aside and tries to get up. The officers draw their guns and point them at Jack. He continues to struggle as the remaining nurses try to hold him down.

JACK

What are you doing to my wife? Why aren't you helping her?

DR. SPIELMAN

Nurse, sedative.

(to the officers)

Hold him down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Jenny!

A few officers hold Jack down as Dr. Spielman injects him with a sedative. Jack quickly falls into a daze and passes out.

In the other room, Steven has finished examining Jenny. He turns to one of the nurses.

STEVEN

Tell Dr. Spielman we have a complication. I need to speak to his patient.

NURSE 2

Yes, Doctor.

As the nurse walks into the next Emergency Room, Damon approaches Steven.

DAMON

What's the problem, Doc?

STEVEN

This patient is brain dead. Now I can keep her heart beating, or I can turn the machine off. Either way, I need spousal consent.

DAMON

You might have a problem getting that, Doc. He's gonna be locked away for a long time.

STEVEN

Why?

DAMON

He almost killed a cop, not to mention old man Pimberlake who owns the Farmer's Market downtown.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

What did she do?

DAMON

She drove the getaway car.

Dr. Spielman enters the room bringing the nurse with him.
He seems very relaxed as he approaches Steven.

DR. SPIELMAN

Well, you're not going to be
getting consent from him anytime
soon. Nor do I think you need it.

STEVEN

What do you mean?

DR. SPIELMAN

Come on, Doctor. She's a
vegetable. Her quality of life is
as vacant as she is. I understand
her husband's taking the prison
express, and since her kid seems
fine, our tax dollars will take
care of him for a while.

STEVEN

So you think I should turn the
machine off?

DR. SPIELMAN

I understand she's AB Negative.
Such a rare thing to find these
days, isn't it?

Steven looks at Dr. Spielman then over to the nurse. The
nurse nods in agreement with Dr. Spielman. Steven looks
back at Dr. Spielman.

DR. SPIELMAN

(continuing)

It's your patient... your call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NURSE 2

What would you like us to do,
Doctor?

The room fills with tension as Steven continues to think.
Finally, Steven takes a deep breath and sighs.

STEVEN

Turn the machine off.

NURSE 2

Yes, Doctor.

DR. SPIELMAN

(smiling)

Good choice.

Dr. Spielman pats Steven on the back, but Steven looks
unsure. As soon as the nurse turns Jenny's breathing
machine off, her heart rate and her blood pressure begin to
drop. After a few seconds, she flatlines.

STEVEN

Time of death, TWELVE THIRTY-FIVE
P.M.

There is a long silence. The nurses look at each other as
if deciding who will speak first, but Steven just stares
vacantly at Jenny's body. Finally, one of the nurses walks
over to Steven.

NURSE 1

Doctor, should we prepare her
heart for transplant?

Steven looks back at Dr. Spielman who has already turned
and walked away. The beep of the heart monitor indicating
flatline continues to permeate the room.

STEVEN

Yeah... Do it.

CUT TO:

11 YEARS LATER

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

The sound of an alarm clock beeps a high, steady pulse as Jack wakes from a nightmare. He is drenched in sweat and breathing heavy. As the alarm halts, he wipes his brow and turns to look at the clock, which reads SEVEN A.M.

The bedside table is covered with old pictures of Jack's wife and son. A faded family portrait hangs on the wall nearby, but Jack is clearly younger in it. There is little else occupying the room.

Jack rises out of bed, grabs a towel off a hook on the wall, and wraps it around his waist. He is tall and muscular with dark hair and blue eyes, and his rough, unshaven face accentuates a scar on his cheek.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - FRONT DOOR - MORNING

Jack opens the front door and picks up the newspaper. A headline that reads "INFANT'S HEART TRANSPLANT A SUCCESS" above a picture of Dr. Steven Holmes immediately catches his eye. Jack returns inside and slams the door shut.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steven is getting ready to leave for work. His wife, Amy, walks into the kitchen. A silver medical ID bracelet around her wrist shines as she lifts up a briefcase. She smiles at Steven.

STEVEN

I need that, don't I?

AMY

Most heart surgeons have some type of carrying device for all those beautifully signed important documents.

Steven goes to grab the briefcase, but Amy holds it away. Steven smiles and puts his hand on her heart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Sounds like you're speaking from experience.

AMY

I've met one or two in my day.

Steven tries to grab it again, but again Amy moves it away.

STEVEN

I'm sure they're not all as charming, witty, and articulate as I am.

AMY

You'd be surprised, Doctor.

Steven puts his hands around Amy's waist and kisses her gently on the lips. Amy lowers the briefcase.

STEVEN

I suppose they all kiss like that too.

AMY

Now that, I just don't know.

Amy hands Steven his briefcase as their FIVE-YEAR-OLD son, PATRICK, comes running into the room. He looks a lot like Amy and is very energetic. Patrick grabs Steven's leg.

PATRICK

Daddy! When are leaving for vacation?

Steven puts down his briefcase and picks Patrick up.

STEVEN

As soon as I get back, buddy. You excited?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATRICK

Yes, Daddy. I hope it's not boring!

STEVEN

(sarcastic, to Amy)

It must be tough being five.

AMY

I blame the parents.

PATRICK

Me too.

STEVEN

I'm going now.

Steven puts Patrick down and kisses Amy goodbye.

STEVEN

(continuing)

I'll be back soon.

Steven turns to leave the kitchen and head to the door.

AMY

(picking up Steven's
briefcase)

For this?

Steven stops, backs up, and turns around.

STEVEN

I did that intentionally, you know.

AMY

I know. Bye, sweetheart.

Steven smiles and walks toward the front door. SAMINA, the maid, walks into the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAMINA

Bye, Mr. Steven.

STEVEN

Bye, Samina. Take good care of the fat lady.

AMY

(from the other room)

I heard that!

SAMINA

Yes, Mr. Steven.

STEVEN

And Samina, I still can't find my gold watch. You haven't come across it, have you?

SAMINA

No, Mr. Steven, I haven't. I will look for it today.

STEVEN

Thank you, Samina.

Steven leaves the house and heads for the hospital.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME - GARAGE - MORNING

Steven gets into a brand new, silver DODGE VIPER. He puts the briefcase on the passenger seat, presses number five on his cell phone, and starts the car. He pulls out of the garage and heads off to the hospital.

EXT. CITY HIGHWAY - MORNING

The skies are clear and the sun is shining. Steven flies through the city streets weaving in and out of traffic. He is talking on his CELL PHONE to his best friend, DETECTIVE DAMON CANE.

INT. STEVEN'S CAR - MORNING

STEVEN

Just making sure you're still
coming to the banquet, Big D.

CELL PHONE (DAMON)

I'm already here, Steve.

STEVEN

You're at the hospital?

CELL PHONE (DAMON)

Yeah, man. And as usual, you're
late.

STEVEN

Well, the guest of honor gets late
privileges.

CELL PHONE (DAMON)

That's funny, Steve. You're
getting funnier all the time.

STEVEN

I'm working on it.

CELL PHONE (DAMON)

Hey Steve...

STEVEN

Yeah?

(long pause)

Damon?

(short pause)

Hello?

Steven realizes that Damon hung up on him and hangs up the
phone.

STEVEN

(to himself)

That wasn't funny.

INT. HOSPITAL PARKING GARAGE - MORNING

Steven pulls into his parking spot. He grabs his briefcase
and heads towards an open elevator, just making it inside.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - MORNING

Jack opens a door into a small bedroom. The windows inside the room have been boarded up making the room dark. Jack steps over a large steel chain that has been bolted into the floor and turns on the light.

The room is full of medical equipment including heart monitors, I.V. bags, oxygen tanks, and two hospital beds, one on each side of the room. Several surgical tools rest on top of a stainless steel cart in between the beds.

Jack walks across the room to a closet. He slides the door open and picks up a black leather bag sitting on the floor. He opens the bag, stares at the contents intently, then closes it. Jack walks over to an old wooden dresser.

JACK

(to himself)

Today... today is the day.

Jack picks up a tarnished gold ring and puts it on his ring finger. He opens the dresser drawer and pulls out a gray jumpsuit and a pair of faded blue boxer shorts. He removes the towel around his waist and drops it to the floor.

INT. HOSPITAL - AUDITORIUM - MORNING

Steven sits at the center of a long, glass table in a huge, state-of-the-art auditorium. Other well-known surgeons who vary in both age and ethnicity surround him. Members of the media and affected families complete the room.

Images of doctors and patients flash on projector screens covering the walls while the hospital Chief of Staff, Dr. David Spielman, is speaking from a podium in the center of the table. Cameras flash every few seconds.

DR. SPIELMAN

Therefore, with the overwhelming
success of the organ transplant
program, will be able to increase
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. SPIELMAN (CONT'D)
funding beyond our original
expectations. On behalf of the
hospital, I accepted a donation
this morning in the amount of
three hundred million dollars.
This money, this generous
donation, marks the beginning of a
new era... an era that will make
many dreams come true. I
congratulate you all on your hard
work.

The doctors all begin to applaud as the flash or cameras
bombards the Chief of Staff.

DR. SPIELMAN
(continuing)
Have a great weekend!

Dr. Spielman steps down from the podium, and after a few
seconds the applause dies down. The remaining surgeons get
up and begin to leave. The FAMILY of the infant who just
received a new heart, MR. & MRS. WONG, approach Steven.

MR. WONG
We just wanted to thank you again
for saving our daughter's life.

MRS. WONG
We don't know what we would have
done without you.

Mrs. Wong hugs Steven and Mr. Wong shakes his hand.

STEVEN
I'm just glad I could help.

They thank Steven again and exit the auditorium.

Steven approaches Dr. Spielman who is speaking with a man
dressed in a gray suit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Excuse me, Doctor. Do you have a second?

DR. SPIELMAN

Ah... Steven. What can I do for you?

STEVEN

I was just wondering about the success of the transplant program.

DR. SPIELMAN

Yes, fabulous, isn't it?

STEVEN

Remarkable, in fact. It's just that...

(pause)

Well, I was under the impression that we hadn't completed the necessary amount of successful transplants to receive the donation.

Dr. Spielman looks briefly at the man in the gray suit then back to Steven.

DR. SPIELMAN

Yes, well, we were a bit short on heart transplants, but we were very successful with our other programs. You're not the only talented surgeon at this hospital, Doctor.

STEVEN

Of course not. I just meant...

DR. SPIELMAN

(cutting him off)

Now if you'll excuse, I have to be somewhere. Enjoy your vacation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dr. Spielman turns and leaves the auditorium followed by the man in the gray suit.

STEVEN
(to himself)
That went well.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - GARAGE - MORNING

Jack gets into a blue van with the words "Surgical Suppliers" painted on the sides in red. He starts the van and heads out of the garage. The road twists down the hill and dumps him onto the highway.

As he travels down the highway, several POLICE CARS turn on their sirens and begin traveling at high speeds behind Jack.

JACK
Un-fucking-believable.

Jack moves the car into the right lane and is preparing to stop when the Police cars fly past him. Beads of sweat begin to drip down Jack's head. He takes a deep breath and continues on his way.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Enclosed by glass windows, Steven's 22nd Floor office appears enormous. It is clean and organized without even a hint of dust. Steven is going through some papers on his desk while talking on the phone to Amy. His computer is on.

STEVEN
I ordered the tickets last week,
so they should have been delivered
by now.

PHONE (AMY'S VOICE)
Well they're not, and we're
leaving today.
(talking to Patrick)
Patrick, put that down right now!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

I'll call them again, honey. Don't worry about. It'll get taken care of.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Amy is on the phone with Steven. She removes a pill from an orange plastic bottle and pops it into her mouth. She takes a sip of water from a glass on the counter and swallows the pill.

AMY

It just seems like there's still so much to do.

As they continue to talk, Amy notices a blue van parking outside.

AMY

(continuing)

Listen, I have to go. I have to feed Patrick and finish packing.

PHONE (STEVEN'S VOICE)

Okay, I'll be home soon. Bye, honey.

Amy hangs up the phone and puts the bottle back in the cupboard.

AMY

(yelling)

Patrick, come downstairs!

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME - FRONT YARD - MORNING

Jack exits the blue van wearing a gray jumpsuit, latex gloves, and carrying a red toolbox. He walks up the brick steps to the front door and rings the doorbell. A few seconds later, Samina answers the door.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - FRONT HALL - MORNING

Samina looks outside the window and sees the van marked "Surgical Suppliers". She opens the front door. Jack is standing there.

SAMINA

Can I help you?

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - MORNING

His secretary, DIANE walks in.

DIANE

I put your plane tickets and your itinerary in your briefcase, Doctor.

STEVEN

Thanks, Diane. Now as long as I remember my briefcase, I'll be all right.

DIANE

(smiling)

Don't forget the envelope from the Opera House is still sitting on my desk.

STEVEN

Me? Forget? Not a chance.

Steven looks embarrassed.

DIANE

Do you need anything else, Doctor?

STEVEN

No, that'll do. Now promise me you'll do something exciting on your week off.

DIANE

I promise. Have a great vacation, Doctor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven waits for Diane to leave then walks out of the office and over to her desk. He picks up the envelope from the Opera House.

STEVEN
(to himself)
See, honey, I told you I'd take
care of it.

In his enthusiasm, Steven leaves his office open as he heads down the hallway to the elevator.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAMON'S OFFICE - MORNING

Damon is going through some papers on his desk when an OFFICER knocks on his door.

DAMON
Come in.

The officer enters the room and closes the door. He looks nervous.

DAMON
(continuing)
Somethin' wrong?

OFFICER
We just got a call... Single
homicide, possible break-in.

DAMON
And?

OFFICER
It's your friend's house, Dr.
Holmes.

Without uttering a word, Damon gets up, grabs his coat, and dashes out the door. The officer follows him.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME - FRONT YARD - MORNING

Steven pulls into the driveway, which is surrounded by Police cars. An ambulance is in front of the house and the CORONER'S VAN is in the driveway. Damon is standing at the front door as Steven bolts from his car.

STEVEN

(running)

What happened?

DAMON

Before you go in there, I need you
to listen to me.

Steven tries to rush past Damon, but Damon grabs him and holds him.

STEVEN

Where's Amy? Where's Patrick?

DAMON

Steve, listen to me.

Steven continues to try to break free.

STEVEN

Where are they, Damon?

Damon relaxes his grip for a second, and Steven pushes him aside. Steven runs into the house. In the hallway, he sees Samina on the floor, motionless, covered in blood. He stops.

DAMON

Steve...

STEVEN

Where are they?

DAMON

I don't know.

STEVEN

(turning to face Damon)

What do you mean you don't know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

They're not here. Now I need you
to listen to me.

STEVEN

Maybe they went for a walk.

Damon puts his hands on Steve's shoulders.

DAMON

Steve, you have to listen to me.
What little evidence we have so
far suggests that they've been
kidnapped.

STEVEN

Kidnapped?

DAMON

We don't know for certain yet...

STEVEN

(interrupting)

You don't know?

DAMON

Yet... We don't know yet. Samina let
someone in the house, and we're
checking for witnesses. We got an
anonymous call that we traced to a
pay phone outside the Farmer's
Market downtown, but no one was
there.

(pauses)

You and Amy weren't having any
problems, were you?

Steven gives Damon a dirty look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

(continuing)

I had to ask, man. You guys are my family too. We're gonna figure this thing out, Steve. I promise.

Damon puts his arm around Steven.

DAMON

(continuing)

Come on. Let's go back outside.

Steven nods his head, and he and Damon walk outside.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - DAY

As we pan through the rooms of the dark, dilapidated house, the sound of Amy trying to scream and Patrick trying to cry can be heard. As we finally reach the 2nd Bedroom, Jack emerges slamming the door shut.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAMON'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Damon has been questioning Steven for a couple of hours.

DAMON

Can you think of anything else?
Anyone at all who might have a reason to get back at you?

STEVEN

I know you're trying to help, and believe me, it's appreciated. But I don't have enemies like that. It's not that kind of job, man.

DAMON

Okay, I think we've covered everything we can. Go home. Try to get some rest.

They both stand up and Damon gives Steven a hug.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON
(continuing)
Call me if you need anything.

STEVEN
Yeah... thanks.

EXT. CAMDEN PARK - NIGHT

The grass at Camden Park is dead, and the sandbox is all but empty. Lights from the park expose a glimpse of how poor this area is. The park sits next to a dam, which is covered in graffiti.

Justin Circo and RAMÓN RAMIREZ, two gang members about FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, sit on top of an old, BLACK CADILLAC. Ramón lights up a joint as Justin counts some money in his hand. A car quickly approaches them.

RAMÓN
Oh shit...

JUSTIN
(still counting)
What's up?

RAMÓN
Not my dick... Mace is here.

A car pulls up to the Cadillac, stopping just short of them. One GANG MEMBER, much bigger and older, gets out of the car while MACE and two others remain inside. He approaches Justin and Ramón.

GANG MEMBER
Mace's money...

JUSTIN
I ain't got it yet. He said I got
'till the end of the week!

GANG MEMBER
He wants it now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN

All I got is two bills. I just
need a couple more days.

The gang member turns and looks back inside the car. Mace
shakes his head back and forth. The other two gang members
exit the car and walk toward Justin and Ramón.

GANG MEMBER

Today ain't your lucky day, kid.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Damon, his wife MONIQUE, his son JASON, Steven, family and
friends are gathered for a funeral service. A PRIEST is
finishing the service. In the distance, a man seems to be
watching the funeral.

PRIEST

... And may the soul of Samina
Hernandez rest in peace. Amen.

As the ceremony ends, people offer Steven their condolences
and leave flowers above Samina's gravestone. The man in the
distance turns and walks away.

DAMON

(to Steven)

How you doin'?

STEVEN

I don't know. I feel helpless,
lost... I don't know which one is
right.

MONIQUE

They're all right, Steve. We feel
the same way.

JASON

I miss Patrick.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONIQUE

Jason!

STEVEN

No, it's ok, Monique.

(crouching to Jason)

I miss him too. And I'm sure he misses you.

DAMON

We're gonna give you some time alone. We'll see you back at the house.

MONIQUE

(giving Steven a kiss on the cheek)

Take all the time you need.

Steven nods his head in appreciation as Damon and his family leave. Motionless, Steven stands alone at the cemetery.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - DAY

There is barely a sound in this dark, secluded house. Amy and Patrick sit back to back, bound and gagged and chained to the floor. Amy's face looks bruised, but Patrick appears to be fine.

Amy is trying to undo the ropes around Patrick's wrists when the door opens. Jack walks in carrying a black leather bag.

JACK

You missed a lovely service.

Jack puts the bag down and walks over to Amy. He pulls the gag out of her mouth and walks away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMY
(crying)
What do you want with us?

Jack doesn't answer.

AMY
(louder)
I said what do you want with us?

Jack turns around quickly and moves towards Amy's face.

JACK
What makes you think I want
anything from you?

There is a long silent pause. Beads of sweat begin to form on Amy's head. Jack looks down and notices she has been working on the ropes tied around Patrick's wrists. His face shows no expression.

AMY
Please... Let my son go. Do whatever
you want with me, but let him go.

Jack ignores her as he walks over to a closet, opens it, and pulls out a roll of duct tape. He begins to wrap Amy's wrists, but her silver ID bracelet catches his eye. He stares at it curiously for a moment, then lets it go.

Jack finishes securing Amy and puts the gag back in her mouth. He stares at Patrick for a moment, but Patrick closes his eyes. Jack walks over to dresser, opens a drawer, and removes a video camera. He walks back to Amy.

JACK
(continuing)
Smile.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAMON'S OFFICE - DAY

Damon is on the phone while looking through a file marked "Westbrook Memorial Hospital". Inside the file is a list of names, most of which have a check by them, followed by the name of a cemetery.

The next unchecked name on the list is DENA MORGAN.

DAMON

And you have no record of a Dena Morgan having ever been brought there?

(short pause)

I see... Well, thanks for you time.

Damon hangs up the phone and places a check next to Dena Morgan's name. He moves down to the next name on the list.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - DAY

A videotape sits on a nearby table. Jack puts the video camera back in the drawer and shuts the door. He picks up the videotape and puts it in his black leather bag.

JACK

I'll be back later. If you value your life and the life of your son, you'll be here when I return.

Jack grabs his leather bag and walks out the door locking it behind him.

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY AREA - EVENING

Jack parks his blue van in a "Delivery Zone" parking spot. He exits the van holding his leather bag and enters the hospital. Several people say hello to him, and he says hello back. He rounds the corner and heads toward a closet.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUPPLY CLOSET - EVENING

Wearing a "Surgical Suppliers" uniform, Jack walks into a supply closet in the hospital. He rummages around for some medication and quickly finds what he was looking for. He picks up a bottle and begins to read the label.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Steven is sitting on the couch holding a picture of Amy and Patrick. He begins to cry. Just then, the PHONE rings. Steven gets up and answers it.

STEVEN

Hello?

PHONE (JACK)

That was a lovely funeral, Doctor.

STEVEN

What?

PHONE (JACK)

It must be frustrating, being a famous surgeon yet lacking the ability to save your own family.

STEVEN

Who is this?

PHONE (JACK)

(pauses)

I have what you want.

STEVEN

(desperate)

Amy? Patrick? Where are they?

PHONE (JACK)

If you want them back in once piece, Doctor, you will help me. No cops, no lies, and no tricks...

(pause)

Or they will die.

STEVEN

What do want from me? I'll pay you whatever you...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE (JACK)

(interrupting)

Don't insult me, Doctor. Not everyone in the world is motivated by money. For some, it's just a means of survival! A way to get from one day to the next.

STEVEN

I'm sorry. I didn't mean anything...

PHONE (JACK)

I will tell you what I want soon enough. In the meantime, if you tell anyone we spoke, your wife and your son will die. Goodnight, Doctor.

Before Steven has a chance to say another word, Jack hangs up. Steven drops the phone to the ground. Just then the doorbell rings. Steven walks to the door and opens it. Damon is standing outside. Steven looks terrible.

DAMON

Steve? You okay?

STEVEN

(stuttering)

I don't know. I mean, yeah, I'm fine. I'm just... what... what are you doing here?

DAMON

I just came by to see if you needed anything.

Damon hears the sound of the phone off the hook in the background.

DAMON

(continuing)

What's going on?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Nothing.

DAMON

Okay, so why is your phone off the hook?

STEVEN

(tense)

Oh, that... I just didn't want to hear it ring anymore. It's been a tough day.

DAMON

I know it has, man. I'll leave you alone, but do me a favor. Hang up your phone. The kidnapper might be trying to reach you.

STEVEN

Yeah... I hadn't thought about that.

DAMON

You sure you're all right?

STEVEN

Yeah, I'll be fine. And thanks for coming by.

DAMON

Don't mention it. Goodnight

STEVEN

Goodnight.

Steven closes the door and looks through the peephole. He waits until Damon gets into his car and then walks over to the phone. He hangs it up, waits a few seconds, then dials *69. The phone rings twice, then someone answers it.

PHONE (RECEPTIONIST)

Westbrook Memorial Hospital, how may I direct your call?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven is caught off guard and pauses.

PHONE (RECEPTIONIST)
(continuing)
Hello?

STEVEN
Hi, this is Dr. Holmes. Did a man
just call me from your phone?

PHONE (RECEPTIONIST)
No, Doctor. I've been alone for
the past few hours.

STEVEN
Well, I just pressed *69 and it
dialed your number.

PHONE (RECEPTIONIST)
This is just the exchange, Doctor.
All the outgoing calls from the
hospital are routed through this
line. It could've come from any
phone in the hospital.

A look of horror comes over Steven's face. He hangs up the
phone, grabs his car keys, and runs out the front door.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jack is scrolling through files on Steven's computer. He
opens up a file called "Amy's Surgery" and begins reading
it. A crazed look comes over his face. Suddenly, Steven's
office phone rings.

JACK
(to himself)
What the fuck?

Jack stares at the phone for a moment then decides to
answer it. He picks up the phone, but he doesn't say a
word.

INT. STEVEN'S CAR - NIGHT

Steven has his cell phone on speaker. Someone on the other end has picked up the phone.

STEVEN

Hello? Who's there?

There is no response.

STEVEN

(continuing)

I know you're in my office. What do you want?

The phone disconnects.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Shaken, Jack hangs up the phone and picks up his leather bag. He leaves a videotape on Steven's desk and rushes out of the office, closing the door behind him. In his haste, he leaves the computer on.

INT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Steven is on the phone with the hospital receptionist.

STEVEN

Have security monitor all the exits. Nobody leaves, understand?

PHONE (RECEPTIONIST)

I don't have the authority to do that.

STEVEN

Lady, there might a murderer in there somewhere. Now do you want to be responsible for him getting out?

PHONE (RECEPTIONIST)

No, I...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN
(interrupting)
Then do it now.

PHONE (RECEPTIONIST)
Yes, Doctor.

Steven hangs up the phone as he pulls into the hospital parking lot. He parks his car and races into the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY AREA - NIGHT

Jack exits the elevator on the ground floor. He notices a SECURITY GUARD by the delivery entrance. He turns and looks down the hallway only to see more security guards at the main entrance. He heads towards the delivery entrance.

SECURITY GUARD
(blocking Jack)
I'm sorry, sir. Nobody can leave
the hospital right now. You'll
have to wait here.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Steven rushes out of the elevator and into his office. His office is empty, but he notices that his computer is on and the "Amy's Surgery" file is open. He runs back to the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY AREA - NIGHT

Jack removes a bottle of medication from his leather bag and hands it to the security guard.

JACK
If I don't get this medication
over to Franklin Memorial in the
next fifteen minutes, a young
woman is going to die tonight. Now
if you don't want to be
responsible for that, then let me
do my job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The security guard looks at the medication then back at Jack.

SECURITY GUARD

Let me see your I.D.

Jack removes an I.D. badge from his bag and shows it to the Security guard.

JACK

Can I go now?

The security guard looks at the I.D. then hands it back to Jack.

SECURITY GUARD

I'm just doing my job, sir.

The Security guard moves aside as Jack walks out of the hospital. Just then, the elevator door opens and Steven emerges. He rushes over to the receptionist.

STEVEN

(out of breath)

Has anybody tried to leave the hospital?

RECEPTIONIST

No, Doctor. I haven't heard a word from Security yet. Shouldn't we call the police?

STEVEN

No!

(calming down)

I mean, not yet. Not until we're sure.

Steven hears the sound of a car starting in the distance. He runs over to the delivery entrance. The security guard is standing there.

STEVEN

Did somebody just leave?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SECURITY GUARD

Yes, sir. He was delivering
medicine to Franklin Memorial.

STEVEN

What medicine?

SECURITY GUARD

I'm not sure, sir.

STEVEN

Tell me you got his name.

The security guard lowers his head.

STEVEN

(continuing)

Great... That's just great.

Steven runs outside but the van has already left. Steven
shakes his head in disbelief and returns to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Jack, his WIFE, and their SON are rushed into an emergency
room. Nurses scramble around furiously while several
doctors begin to check on the three patients. Seeing that
his wife is in very bad condition, Jack tries to get up.

JACK

Help my wife first! Please help
her!

The nurses grab Jack and hold him back down. He is bleeding
from the side of his face and his finger looks broken.

JACK

(continuing)

You don't understand. She's
pregnant! You've gotta help her!

The nurses hold Jack down while the doctor administers a
shot to Jack's arm. The drug calms him down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
(slowly, quietly)
You've got to help her.

Jack closes his eyes for a second. When he opens them, his flashback is over.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The sound of crickets sneaks in softly through a slightly open window, as if complimenting the quiet hum of an old refrigerator. A black leather bag rests on a deteriorated, pale yellow countertop, and a towel sits by a decayed sink.

Jack sits motionless at an old wooden table in the center of the room as beads of sweat drip down his face. He walks over to the sink, grabs the towel, and wipes his brow dry. He then takes his leather bag and heads toward the bedroom.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Amy and Patrick are asleep on the floor as Jack enters the dark room. Jack puts his bag down on the dresser and kicks Amy's leg, not hard, but enough to get her attention.

JACK
Wake up.

As Amy opens her eyes, Jack reaches into his leather bag and pulls out a bottle of medication. He removes the gag around her mouth. Amy looks concerned.

AMY
(quivering)
What is that?

JACK
Funny, I was just going to ask you
the same question.

Jack holds the bottle so that Amy can read the label. Amy wants to cry but she holds back the tears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
(continuing)
Well?

AMY
(still quivering)
It's Cyclosporin.

JACK
And why do you need Cyclosporin?

AMY
(best Poker face)
I don't. I only take it sometimes.

JACK
I see. That must be why your
husband prescribed it for you...
(pauses)
...for the past eleven years.

AMY
How did you know about that?

JACK
I know a lot more than you think.
(pauses)
And I'm finding out more all the
time.

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY AREA - NIGHT

Steven decides to head back up to his office. At the other end of the hallway, he notices Dr. Spielman talking to some other doctors. As he begins to walk toward them, they see him and stop talking.

STEVEN
Working late?

DR. SPIELMAN
Aren't you supposed to be on
vacation?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

There's been a change of plans.

DR. SPIELMAN

I see.

(to the other doctors)

Gentleman, I'd like a moment alone
with Dr. Holmes if you don't mind.

The other doctors nod their heads and walk away.

DR. SPIELMAN

(continuing)

I don't know what kind of game
you're playing, but let me make
something painfully clear. You
will never be Chief of Staff of
this hospital as long as I'm
alive. If I had my way, you
wouldn't even operate here. So
follow me around all you want, but
remember this. I am not a man with
whom you dare fuck.

Dr. Spielman turns and walks down the hall to his office.
Steven looks perplexed. He heads to the elevator and up to
his office.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Steven enters his office and sits down at his desk. He
begins scrolling through file after file on his computer,
but finds nothing.

STEVEN

Come on, Steve, think.

He opens up his email, but there are no new messages in his
inbox. He slams his hands down on the desk.

STEVEN

(continuing)

Dammit!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Out of the corner of his eye, he notices a videotape sitting on his desk that he didn't notice before. He picks it up.

STEVEN
(continuing)
What the hell is this?

He gets up from his desk and walks over to a VCR below a large TV on the wall. He turns the TV on, puts the videotape in the VCR and presses "play". The tape begins to play.

STEVEN
(continuing)
Amy? Oh my God!

The tape shows Amy bound, gagged, and bruised. She looks like she has been crying. The camera pans around Amy to Patrick who is also bound and gagged. He's crying, but he looks okay. Wherever they are, it is very dark.

STEVEN
(continuing)
Hold on buddy, Daddy's gonna find you.

Finally, the camera pans down to a piece of paper with a message written on it. The message says, "Tonight, Midnight, alley behind the abandon high school... Alone". The tape abruptly ends.

Steven looks at his watch. It is almost ELEVEN O'CLOCK P.M. He grabs his keys and sprints down the hall to the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SPIELMAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dr. Spielman is putting papers into his briefcase. He opens a desk drawer revealing stacks of newspaper clippings all regarding recognition for Steven. Every article mentions Steven being one of the best heart surgeons in the world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. SPIELMAN

What ever happened to quality
reading material?

A headline on one of the articles states, "Heart Surgeon turns down Chief of Staff Position". Dr. Spielman grabs the stack of articles and throws them back into the drawer. He slams the drawer shut, pauses, then turns to his computer.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Steven is racing through the streets trying to get home. He enters his neighborhood and flies up the driveway to his house.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - NIGHT

Steven races into the house and runs upstairs. He opens the bathroom medicine cabinet and grabs a bottle of medication. He opens it, looks inside, and closes it back up. He races back downstairs and out of the house.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

Steven gets back into his car and pulls out of the driveway. The clock in his car says ELEVEN FORTY P.M. Steven steps on the gas.

EXT. ABANDON HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Steven arrives at the old high school and parks his car. He exits the car and sees a dark alley leading behind the school. He grabs the bottle of medication and heads for the alley.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Steven enters the alley. The sound of dripping water can be heard, but there is nobody around. Suddenly, a calm voice calls out.

JACK

Hello, Doctor. Glad you could make
it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven looks around but cannot see where the voice is coming from.

STEVEN

Where are you? Show yourself.

JACK

This is not your operating room,
Doctor... it's mine. I give the
orders here.

STEVEN

What do you want from me?

JACK

You've stolen something from me,
Doctor, and I want it back.

Steven continues to try to find where the voice is coming from.

STEVEN

Stolen? I don't even know who you
are!

JACK

Then let me jog your memory.
Eleven years ago, long before you
were the *Super Surgeon*, you had a
patient in the ER... a young,
beautiful, loving woman. She was
alive when her husband was
sedated, but she was dead when he
awoke.

STEVEN

Wait a second...

JACK

I never gave consent for the
machines to be turned off, Doctor.
I never had a chance to.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

You don't understand.

JACK

(yelling at the top of
his lungs)

No, you don't understand! You are
not God; you are not above the
law! You are just a man!

(pauses)

(calmly)

You are nothing.

STEVEN

It wasn't like that. I did the
best I could.

JACK

Then for your sake, Doctor, I hope
you do better this time.

STEVEN

What are you talking about?

JACK

On the ground beside you is
another videotape. Everything you
need to know is on it. Should you
get any clever ideas like
contacting the police, let me
assure you, Doctor, you will never
see your wife and child again. You
have twenty-four hours.

STEVEN

Whoa, whoa, wait! Twenty-four
hours for what?

JACK

To find my wife, Doctor. Or you
will never see yours...

(pause)

Or your son again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven stands there in shock for a moment. He takes a few steps, leans down, and picks up the videotape.

STEVEN

I'll do whatever you want, but my
wife needs this medication.

Steven removes a bottle from his jacket pocket. He places it on the ground beside him.

STEVEN

(continuing)

I'm leaving it here. Please make
sure she gets it.

JACK

I'll consider it... and I'll see you
back here in twenty-four hours,
Doctor.

Steven slowly turns and heads back to his car. He gets in and drives away. Jack walks cautiously down the alley toward the bottle of medication. As he leans down to retrieve it, he begins to have a flashback.

Night instantly turns to day, and the quiet serenity of the alley is interrupted by the overlapping voices of teenagers. Looking up, Jack sees a teenage Jenny leaning against the wall smiling affectionately at him.

JACK

(continuing)

Jenny?

Jack walks toward her, but she scampers down the alley. Jack follows her, but as he rounds the corner, Jenny is gone. The abandoned high school appears vibrant and pristine just as it did years ago. A few teenagers run by.

JACK

(continuing)

Hey, wait!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Suddenly, the touch of a finger gently tapping on Jack's shoulder turns him around. Jack spins around to find no one there as the dark, silent night returns. Water from the rooftop drips methodically on his shoulder.

Jack stands still for a moment, holding the bottle of medication in his hand. The voices in his head are gone.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - OFFICE - NIGHT

Steven has just started watching the videotape Jack gave him. The tape shows a blank headstone at a cemetery and images of the hospital. The tape also shows pictures of Jack's wife and son, but no pictures of Jack.

Suddenly, the phone rings. Steven picks it up.

STEVEN

Hello?

PHONE (JACK)

Did you enjoy the tape?

STEVEN

Look, I don't understand what you want.

PHONE (JACK)

I told you what I want, Doctor.
Now it's your job to find her. The clock's ticking.

STEVEN

But...

Before Steven can finish, Jack hangs up. Steven rewinds the tape and plays it back again. This time, he notices that the grass at the cemetery is dead. He pauses the videotape.

STEVEN

(to himself)

The grass wasn't dead yesterday.

Steven grabs his keys and a jacket and bolts from the house.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack pulls the gag off Amy, waking her up. He is holding a bottle of medication in his hand.

JACK
Does this look familiar?

AMY
It's my medication.

JACK
(reading the label)
What exactly is Cyclosporin?

AMY
It's an anti-coagulant. It's for my heart.

Jack stands right over Amy.

JACK
And why would you get blood clots in your heart?

AMY
No reason, it just happens sometimes.

JACK
No reason... I see.

Jack grabs Amy's dress by the collar and tears it open down the front. As the dress falls, a long scar running down her chest is revealed. Jack backs up.

JACK
(continuing)
Let's try this again. Why do you need this medication?

AMY
(crying)
I had a heart transplant. It keeps the blood from coagulating.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

And when was your heart
transplant?

AMY

A long time ago.

JACK

When exactly was it!

AMY

(scared)

About eleven years ago.

Jack pauses for a moment. He then removes a pill from the bottle. He gets a glass of water and brings it to Amy. He puts the pill in her mouth and gives her some water.

JACK

Well we don't want anything to
happen to your heart, do we?

Amy looks terrified as she swallows the pill.

JACK

(continuing)

You can go back to sleep now.

Jack replaces the gag around Amy's mouth. He walks over to Patrick and stares at him. A smile crosses Jack's face.

JACK

Don't worry, son, everything well
be fine.

In Jack's mind, Justin's face replaces Patrick's. Jack begins to believe that Patrick is actually his son Justin from eleven years ago. He starts to rub Patrick's head.

JACK

(continuing)

We're gonna be a family again real
soon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amy begins to struggle and moan, waking Patrick up. Patrick begins to cry.

JACK

(continuing)

Don't cry, son. Daddy's gonna take care of everything.

Patrick continues to cry causing Jack to snap back into reality. He pauses for a moment. Finally, he stands up, turns, and leaves the bedroom.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The hospital is empty. Steven has been trying to figure out a way to get into Dr. Spielman's office. Suddenly, he sees the CLEANING LADY, MARIA down the hall. He walks over to her.

STEVEN

Hi, Maria.

MARIA

Hi, Dr. Holmes. You're here late.

STEVEN

Yeah, I'm working on a very important project, and I could use your help.

MARIA

After all you've done for my son, Dr. Holmes, you name it.

STEVEN

Well, there are some papers I need that Dr. Spielman left in his office, and I can't get a hold of him. Could you unlock his office for me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIA

I'm not really supposed to do that, Dr. Holmes. I could get into a lot of trouble.

STEVEN

These papers are very, very important, Maria. I promise you won't get into any trouble. You might even be a hero.

Maria smiles and giggles a bit.

MARIA

Okay, but you gotta remember to lock it when you leave.

STEVEN

Deal.

Maria walks over to Dr. SPIELMAN'S office and unlocks the door. Steven walks inside.

STEVEN

Thanks, Maria. I owe you one.

MARIA

Call it even. Goodnight, Dr. Holmes.

Maria turns and leaves the office as Steven closes the door.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SPIELMAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Dr. Spielman's office is full of filing cabinets. His computer's screen saver is on, and the clock on the wall reads ONE FIFTY-EIGHT A.M. Steven takes a deep breath and begins to look through the files.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MONTAGE:

Steven looks for hours through all the files he can, but they don't make sense. Many of the files say "Deceased", but they don't show where the bodies were taken. Every file has a six-digit numeric code assigned to it as well.

Steven tries opening files on Dr. Spielman's computer, but they're empty. Finally, Steven tries a different program, but it prompts him for a code. He grabs one of the files on the floor, and enters the six-digit code on the file.

Suddenly, the patient's entire file opens on the computer. Steven reads in horror. The file shows dates and costs of various organs sold from this patient. Steven tries another file only to find more of the same.

Steven begins opening every drawer in Dr. Spielman's desk. Most of them are filled with junk, but he finds the one filled with newspapers clippings about him. He reads through them quickly.

STEVEN
(to himself)
You sick fuck...

Steven removes all the articles. At the bottom of the drawer is a file. Steven opens it. The file belongs to Jenny Circo, and it is eleven years old. Steven grabs a pen and writes the six-digit code from the file on his hand.

He turns back to the computer and enters the code, but nothing happens. He enters the code again, but the file has been deleted. All that remains is a file named "Justin". Steven clicks on that file.

The file opens but says very little. It states, "Justin Circo treated for minor cuts and scraps. Released to the care of Social Services." Steven looks at the clock. It is almost EIGHT A.M., when Dr. Spielman usually arrives.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven frantically puts everything away but forgets to close the file on the computer. As he's cleaning, the computer's screen saver comes back on. Taking one last look around, he shuts the desk drawer and grabs Jenny's file.

He turns off the light and exits the office forgetting to lock the door. Suddenly, he reaches back in, locks the door, and shuts it.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAMON'S OFFICE - MORNING

Damon is looking through some papers when his boss, the CHIEF walks in.

DAMON

What's up, Chief?

CHIEF

Any word on your friend's wife and kid?

DAMON

No, nothin' yet.

CHIEF

Don't you think that's a little odd?

DAMON

Yeah, we usually hear somethin' by now. I'll give him a call today.

CHIEF

What's the latest on that hospital thing?

DAMON

I'd say we've got enough for a search warrant. I'm thinkin' next week, we blow this one wide open.

CHIEF

Could make it tough for your buddy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

I know. At least he's not mixed up
in it.

CHIEF

You sure about that?

DAMON

Positive.

CHIEF

All right, all right. Hey, I'm on
your side.

An OFFICER enters Damon's office.

OFFICER

Chief, you got a call on line
five.

CHIEF

I'll take it in my office.

The Chief looks at Damon.

CHIEF

(continuing)

I'll catch up with you later.

The Chief leaves Damon's office.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - MORNING

Jack is preparing the room with the medical equipment. He
turns on the heart monitors and prepares the I.V. bags and
oxygen tanks. He places sheets and pillows on the two
hospital beds, and arranges the surgical tools nearby.

EXT. CEMETERY - MORNING

Steven's car skids to a halt just outside an office door.
He gets out of his car, opens the door to the office, and
heads inside.

INT. CEMETERY OFFICE - MORNING

An OLD MAN is inside the office sitting at a desk.

OLD MAN
How can I help you?

STEVEN
I'm looking for a grave.

OLD MAN
You've come to the right place
then. We've got graves and plenty
of them.

STEVEN
I'm looking for a specific grave.

OLD MAN
I'm sorry, I didn't mean anything.
Maybe if you give me a name, I can
look it up.

STEVEN
The name is Jenny Circo, and she
would have been brought here about
eleven years ago from Westbrook
Memorial Hospital.

OLD MAN
(shaking his head)
Is this a joke?

STEVEN
Far from it.

OLD MAN
Look, I told your buddy months ago
that she was never brought here.

STEVEN
My buddy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLD MAN

He asked me the exact same thing.
I even showed him my files, the
rude prick. Anyway, the hospital
must have screwed up their records
because she was never brought
here.

STEVEN

I see. Thanks for you time.

Steven turns and leaves the office.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SPIELMAN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Dr. Spielman enters his office and sits down at his desk.
He puts his briefcase down and looks around the room.
Everything seems to be in order.

INT. HOSPITAL - SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICE - MORNING

Steven enters the Social Services office and walks over to
the SECRETARY.

STEVEN

Hi, is Mr. Wong in yet?

SECRETARY

Yes he is. Would you like me to
page him.

STEVEN

Please.

Before the secretary has a chance to page him, Mr. Wong
comes walking in.

MR. WONG

I thought I heard your voice. What
brings you to this neck of the
woods?

Mr. Wong sticks out his hand, and Steven grabs it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Actually, I was wondering if you could help me with something.

MR. WONG

Sure, what can I do?

STEVEN

Can we speak in your office?

MR. WONG

Of course. Follow me.

Mr. Wong leads Steven to an office in the back. The office is full of Oriental art, and a small dragon statue sits on the edge of a desk. Mr. Wong closes the door and they sit down.

MR. WONG

So what can I do for you.

STEVEN

Eleven years ago, a family was brought into the ER. I was just a resident back then, and I was on call. The family had been involved in a robbery, and the police were waiting around to take them into custody. The father wasn't injured that badly, but the mother was brain dead shortly after they brought her in. We decided... I decided to turn off the machines, and the mother died. It was the right decision, and I've never thought twice about it.

MR. WONG

You said a family was brought in. Was there anyone else?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

A boy... about four or five years old. After the mother died, and father was sent to jail, the believe the boy was sent to a foster home.

MR. WONG

Yes, he would have become a ward of the state.

STEVEN

And there would be a record of that, right?

Mr. Wong sits back in his chair and thinks for a minute. After a few seconds, he begins typing on his computer.

STEVEN

(continuing)

I really...

MR. WONG

(interrupting)

My daughter is doing very well. She seems to be recovering quickly. Of course my wife is still very concerned.

As Mr. Wong talks, he is typing as fast as he can.

MR. WONG

(continuing)

I tell her not to worry so much, but you know women. All they ever do is worry, worry, worry. That's why I don't always tell her things. I don't want her to worry for no reason.

As Mr. Wong stops typing, his printer begins to print something. He hands the papers to Steven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN
I really appreciate this.

MR. WONG
Besides, I've always found that
the less you know, the easier it
is to forget.

Steven nods his head in affirmation. He takes the papers
and leaves the office.

EXT. FOSTER CARE CENTER - DAY

Steven walks up the stairs to the front door. He knocks on
door, but nobody answers.

STEVEN
Hello? Anybody there?

A twelve-year-old boy, MIKA, who has been standing behind
Steven startles him.

MIKA
Who are you?

Steven turns to see Mika looking at him curiously.

STEVEN
Hi, my name is Steven. I'm looking
for someone.

MIKA
Who ya lookin' for?

STEVEN
I'm looking for a boy named
Justin. He's probably around
fourteen or fifteen years old.

MIKA
Yeah, I know him.

STEVEN
I'd really like to see him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKA

He doesn't live here anymore. He
got kicked out.

STEVEN

Do you know where I can find him?

MIKA

Might want to try Camden Park.

STEVEN

Where's that?

MIKA

Fifth and Main, down by the damn.
Most of the gang bangers hang out
there.

STEVEN

Thanks, kid.

Steven walks down the stairs and heads for his car.

MIKA

You his dad, too?

STEVEN

Excuse me?

MIKA

You're the second guy to come
lookin' for him. First guy said he
was his dad. Couldn't see the
resemblance though.

STEVEN

No, I'm just a friend. Thanks,
kid.

Mika stands and watches as Steven gets into his car and
drives away.

EXT. CAMDEN PARK - DAY

JUSTIN and RAMÓN are lying on the roof of Ramón's old black Cadillac. Justin has a black eye and a few bruises, and Ramón has a cut on his forehead. Steven's Viper pulls up to the Cadillac.

RAMÓN
Nice ride.

JUSTIN
Yeah, what's it doin' here?

Steven gets out of the car holding a picture of Justin that Mr. Wong gave him. He walks over to the kids.

RAMÓN
You lookin' to buy somethin' today?

STEVEN
No, I'm looking to find someone.

Steven looks down at the picture than back to Justin. He folds the piece of paper and puts it in his pocket.

STEVEN
(continuing)
Are you Justin?

Ramón and Justin look at each other.

JUSTIN
Who wants to know?

Steven removes a business card from his wallet and hands it to Justin. The card has Steven's cell phone number on it as well as the hospital's address.

STEVEN
My name is Steven Holmes.

JUSTIN
And?

STEVEN
And I need your help.

JUSTIN

What the fuck you need my help
for? Looks like your doin' all
right without me.

STEVEN

Your father...

JUSTIN

(interrupting)

I don't have a father!

Justin jumps off the car and starts to walk away. Steven
follows him.

STEVEN

Well I have a wife and a son, and
right now, your father, or
whatever you want to call him, has
taken both of them.

Justin stops walking and turns around.

JUSTIN

What do you want from me?

STEVEN

I want you to come with me. Your
father wants me to bring your
mother's body to him, but I can't
find it.

RAMÓN

His mother's body?

STEVEN

I know it sounds crazy, but it's
the truth. I just thought maybe if
I brought you instead...

JUSTIN

(interrupting)

You thought you could use me like
everyone else has. Well fuck that!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

I'll tell you the same thing I told him. I don't have a father or a mother, and I ain't got nothin' to do with his life. I'm sorry about your old lady and all, but it ain't my problem. I got enough of those as it is.

(to Ramón)

Let's get outta here.

STEVEN

Justin... If you change your mind, my number's on the card.

Ramón and Justin get in the car, and Ramón drives away. Steven gets back into his car and hangs his head.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SPIELMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Spielman is on the phone.

DR. SPIELMAN

It shouldn't be long now. Is the transfer complete?

(pause)

Good, then I'll be seeing you very soon.

(pause)

No, he won't be a problem. I've taken care of that.

(pause)

Consider it done. Goodbye.

Dr. Spielman hangs up the phone and turns to his computer. He taps the mouse, removing the screen saver and revealing Jenny Circo's file. His eyes lock to the screen as a look of horror comes over his face. He let's out a yell.

DR. SPIELMAN

No!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dr. Spielman picks up the phone and dials a number. After a few seconds, somebody picks up.

DR. SPIELMAN

It's me... We may have a problem.

EXT. CAMDEN PARK - DAY

Justin and Ramón are sitting on top of Ramón's Cadillac. A gunshot can be heard in the distance. The sounds of sirens shortly follow.

RAMÓN

That's gonna be you if you don't come up with Mace's money.

JUSTIN

Thanks, fuckhole.

RAMÓN

Play it cool if you want, but I've seen what happens when you don't pay up.

JUSTIN

(pointing to his black eye)

You mean like last night?

RAMÓN

That shit from last night wasn't nothin'! Trust me, you got lucky.

JUSTIN

I still got a couple of days.

RAMÓN

Man, why don't you just call that doctor bitch and tell him you'll help him if he can front you a little cash?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN

Cause I ain't helpin' him, that's why!

RAMÓN

Fine, don't help him. Just make him think you're gonna help him. Take the money, pay off Mace, and leave the doctor hangin'.

JUSTIN

You know, for a fuckhole, you're pretty smart.

RAMÓN

Why thank you, little orphan white bread!

Justin shoves Ramón, and Ramón shoves him back. Ramón and Justin start to wrestle around on the car.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - EVENING

Steven has been watching the videotape of his wife and son looking for clues, but he hasn't been able to find any. The clock on his desk reads SIX THIRTEEN P.M. Suddenly, his cell phone rings.

STEVEN

Hello?

PHONE (JACK)

Have you found my wife?

STEVEN

Not yet... I need more time.

PHONE (JACK)

Time is running out, Doctor, for you and your family.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Your wife's body is eleven years old. It's not going to be any use to you even if I can find it!

PHONE (JACK)

That's why I need the famous heart surgeon, Dr. Steven Holmes. Rest assured, Doctor, if you don't find her body, you will never see your wife's body again.

(pause)

The clock is ticking.

Jack hangs up, and in his anger, Steven throws his cell phone at the couch in his office. Steven leaves his office and heads for the elevator.

EXT. STEVEN'S HOME - FRONT DOOR - EVENING

Damon knocks on Steven's door, but he doesn't answer. Damon pulls out his cell phone and calls Steven, but again, no answer. Damon turns the doorknob, and the door opens. He leans his head inside.

DAMON

Hey, yo, Steve? You in here?

(pause)

Steve?

Damon enters the house.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - OFFICE - EVENING

Damon has walked around the house, but there is nobody home. He enters Steven's office to find the TV and VCR on. He walks over to the VCR and presses play. The tape begins to play as Damon watches in horror.

DAMON

What kind of sick-ass shit is this?

INT. HOSPITAL - OPERATING ROOM - EVENING

Steven walks by an operating room and sees Dr. Spielman and a couple of other surgeons inside. He jumps back and tries to listen to their conversation.

DR. SPIELMAN
This one is a true find.

DOCTOR 1
We were lucky nobody claimed the body.

DOCTOR 2
Who'd want to claim this filthy old bum?

DR. SPIELMAN
It's academic now. As soon as you close him up, take him down to storage.

Dr. Spielman leaves the room and walks down the hall. He enters an elevator and disappears. The remaining doctors stitch up the old bum and cover him with a sheet. They wheel him out of the room and down the hall.

Steven waits for them to get into the elevator. He walks over to the front of the elevator and watches the numbers flash down. The elevator stops on Sub-Floor One. He presses the button to recall the elevator. Another door opens.

INT. HOSPITAL - ELEVATOR - EVENING

Steven takes the elevator down to the main floor. He exits the elevator and heads down the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUPPLY CLOSET - EVENING

Steven grabs a syringe and fills it with some kind of drug. He puts the syringe in his pocket and walks back to the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL - ELEVATOR - EVENING

Steven gets back into the elevator and pushes the button for Sub-Floor One. Eventually, the elevator stops and the doors open. Steven exits the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUB-FLOOR ONE - EVENING

Steven looks down the hall but sees nothing. He continues around the corner. Suddenly, he hears voices. He hides in an open closet.

The doctors from the operating room walk past him and head for the elevator. The elevator doors open, and they get inside. Steven exits the closet and continues down the hall.

As he rounds the corner, a DOOR GUARD stands blocking a huge, steel door. He has a keycard hanging around his neck, a gun in a holster around his waist, and a set of keys attached to his belt. Steven approaches the DOOR GUARD.

STEVEN

How's it going?

DOOR GUARD

Can I help you, Doctor?

STEVEN

My colleagues left some paperwork inside, so I just need you to let me in.

DOOR GUARD

I'm afraid I don't recognize you, Doctor. I'll have to clear it through Dr. Spielman.

STEVEN

Come on, I just need to grab a chart.

INT. HOSPITAL - SECURITY BOOTH - EVENING

Two Security Guards sit watching several monitors. The monitors cover all parts of the hospital, especially Sub-Floor One. The Security Guards notice the discussion between Steven and the DOOR GUARD.

SECURITY GUARD 1

What do we have here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SECURITY GUARD 2

I'd say we have Dr. Holmes on Sub-Floor One.

SECURITY GUARD 1

Get Dr. Spielman on the phone.

SECURITY GUARD 2

Way ahead of you.

One of the Security Guards picks up the phone, pushes a button, and begins to speak.

SECURITY GUARD 2

Get me Dr. Spielman... tell him it's an emergency.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUB-FLOOR ONE - EVENING

DOOR GUARD

What is your name, Doctor?

STEVEN

You know, I think I have my badge with me right here.

Steven reaches into his front shirt pocket and pulls out his badge. He reaches out to give it to the Guard, but he drops it on the ground.

STEVEN

(continuing)

I'm sorry, it's just been one those days.

The Door Guard frowns as he bends over to pick it up. Steven reaches into his pocket and grabs the syringe. He nervously stabs the Guard in the back, injecting him with a drug. Almost instantly, the Guard falls to the floor.

STEVEN

(continuing)

And I don't have time to discuss this with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven removes the Guard's keys and his keycard. He inserts the keycard into a slot by the door, but nothing happens. He notices one of the keys on the key ring is circular, matching a hole next to the keycard slot.

He inserts the key and turns it. Suddenly the door opens. Steven takes the keycard out and proceeds inside.

INT. HOSPITAL - SECURITY BOOTH - EVENING

The Security Guard is on the phone with Dr. Spielman.

SECURITY GUARD 2
He just entered the cryo-freeze
facility.

(pauses)
I understand, sir.

The Security Guard hangs up the phone.

SECURITY GUARD 1
Well?

SECURITY GUARD 2
He said he'll take care of it. We
just keep an eye on Dr. Holmes.

SECURITY GUARD 1
Easy enough.

INT. HOSPITAL - DR. SPIELMAN'S OFFICE - EVENING

Dr. Spielman picks up the phone and dials a number. After a few seconds, he begins to speak.

DR. SPIELMAN
We have a slight change of plans.
I'm leaving tonight.

(pauses)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DR. SPIELMAN (CONT'D)

We have no choice. This whole thing is going to blow up in our faces if I don't get out of here right now.

(pauses)

No, there's no time. Besides, I'm never coming back here again. I have to go. I'll contact you soon.

Dr. Spielman hangs up the phone and picks it up again. He dials 911. An OPERATOR picks up.

OPERATOR

911... What is your emergency?

DR. SPIELMAN

This is Chief of Staff Dr. David Spielman calling from Westbrook Memorial Hospital. We have a break in and attempted murder on Sub-Floor One. Please send officers immediately.

Dr. Spielman hangs up the phone and turns to his computer. He opens a program and initiates it. The program begins to systematically delete every single file stored on the computer. He grabs his briefcase and exits his office.

EXT. CAMDEN PARK - EVENING

Ramón and Justin are standing next to Ramón's Cadillac. Ramón hands Justin his cell phone, and Justin dials the number on Steven's card. A few seconds pass.

RAMÓN

Well?

JUSTIN

Just rings...

RAMÓN

Leave a message.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN

Nah, I got a better idea.

Justin hangs up the phone and tosses it back to Ramón.

JUSTIN

Gimme your keys.

RAMÓN

What for?

JUSTIN

Cause I got a doctor's appointment.

RAMÓN

No fuckin' way.

JUSTIN

You want some Benjamin's, don't ya?

Hesitantly, Ramón throws Justin the car keys.

RAMÓN

Don't you fuck up my ride!

JUSTIN

Don't worry, Ponch, I'll be back before you know it.

Justin starts the car and peels off toward the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - CRYO-FREEZE FACILITY - EVENING

Steven enters what appears to be an endless morgue of cryogenically frozen bodies. The massive room and the endless rows of glass coffins overwhelm him. As he proceeds, he notices six-digit codes marking each coffin.

Steven looks down at the number written on his hand, 009139. He begins to walk through the isles trying to find that number. Finally, near the back, he finds it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Oh my God...

Steven recognizes the face of the young woman, as it has been well preserved. A keycard slot sits next to a button marked "OPEN". Steven inserts the keycard and pushes the button. Suddenly, Jenny Circo's coffin opens up.

A rush of cold air escapes into the room. At the end of every isle is a medical table, and Steven pulls one over to the coffin. He slides Jenny's frozen body onto the table, grabs the keycard, and heads for the door.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUB-FLOOR ONE - EVENING

On the way out, Steven pauses and looks back inside. He reaches over to the key still inside the lock and breaks it off. He throws the remainder on the floor.

STEVEN

Let's go, Jenny.

Steven pushes the cart over to the elevator. As the door opens, several POLICE OFFICERS emerge and point their guns at Steven.

OFFICER

Freeze!

Steven looks down at Jenny then back to the OFFICER.

STEVEN

I guess you're talking to me.

OFFICER

Put your hands up, now!

STEVEN

(putting his hands up)
Wait, you don't understand!

OFFICER

Up against the wall now!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Call Detective Damon Cane! Call
his cell phone and tell him what's
going on!

The OFFICERS put Steven against the wall, cuff him, and
lead him to the elevator.

STEVEN

(continuing)

Please just call him!

OFFICER

He'll be called, Doctor.

(to the other officers)

Take him away.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - EVENING

Damon has been poking around Steven's office and found the
other videotape. He sits watching it in disgust.

DAMON

Why didn't you tell me, Steve?

Damon sees Steven's cell phone on the couch. He picks it up
and sees that there are 2 missed calls. He recognizes one
of the numbers as his cell phone, but he doesn't know what
the other one is. He dials the number, and it rings.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - EVENING

Ramón is walking around a liquor store looking for
something to steal when his cell phone rings. He answers
the phone.

RAMÓN

Hello?

PHONE (DAMON)

Who is this?

RAMÓN

Who the fuck is this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE (DAMON)

This is detective Damon Cane,
LAPD. Now one more time, who is
this?

Ramón is clearly shaken up.

RAMÓN

Ramón... My name's Ramón.

PHONE (DAMON)

Okay, Ramón, that's a good start.
Now why are you makin' calls to
Dr. Steven Holmes?

RAMÓN

Yo, man, that wasn't me. That was
Justin made that call. He just
used my phone.

DAMON

Justin...

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - EVENING

Damon is continuing his conversation with Ramón.

DAMON

(continuing)

So why is this Justin callin' the
doctor?

PHONE (RAMÓN)

The doc wanted Justin's help.
Somethin' to do with Justin's
fucked up dad takin' the doc's
wife and kid.

DAMON

Where is Justin now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE (RAMÓN)

I think he was goin' to the hospital to look for the doc. He didn't really say.

DAMON

Well if you see Justin, you tell him I'm lookin' for him, and I suggest he finds me pretty quick before he gets himself into trouble. Cool?

PHONE (RAMÓN)

Cool...

Damon hangs up the phone and puts it in his coat pocket. Just then, his cell phone rings.

DAMON

Damon Cane...

PHONE (CHIEF)

Mind telling me where you are?

DAMON

I'm at the hospital, why?

PHONE (CHIEF)

They just arrested your buddy. He's on his way over here now.

DAMON

Arrested? For what?

PHONE (CHIEF)

You know that hospital scam you thought he had nothing to do with? Well it looks like you were wrong.

DAMON

I'm on my way.

Damon hangs up the phone and races out of the office.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack is securing Amy to the one of the hospital beds in the bedroom. Her hands are tightly handcuffed to the sides of the bed, and her feet are tied down to the bottom. Her mouth is still gagged, but she tries to scream.

JACK

Save your strength, Amy. You're going to need it.

Amy continues to struggle as Jack covers her mouth with duct tape. Amy's dress has been removed, and she lays on the table in only her bra and panties. Jack connects Amy to the heart monitor, which reveals an accelerated heart rate.

JACK

(continuing)

If you don't calm down, I'll have to calm you down myself.

Jack moves the oxygen tanks and IV bags into position behind the hospital beds. Amy's heart rate continues to rise. Jack grabs a syringe and a vile off the surgical tray and fills the syringe.

JACK

(continuing)

Relax, Amy. This will all be over soon.

Jack injects Amy with some sort of drug. After a few seconds, Amy passes out. Her heart rate slowly returns to normal. Jack grabs a blanket and covers Amy's body.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Steven is moved quickly through the Police Station and brought to a holding cell in the back. The officer locks Steven in the cell and leaves the room. A clock hanging on the wall says EIGHT FIFTY-TWO P.M.

STEVEN

Please, I need to speak with Damon Cane! I'm running out of time!

Realizing that nobody is listening, Steven sits down and puts his hands over head.

INT. HOSPITAL - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Justin enters the hospital and walks over to the RECEPTIONIST. The hospital is empty except for a few scattered patients.

JUSTIN

I'm looking for Dr. Holmes.

RECEPTIONIST

And you are?

JUSTIN

Justin... He's expecting me.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, Justin, but Dr. Holmes is unavailable.

JUSTIN

Yeah, well, I'm sure if you tell him it's me, he'll become available.

RECEPTIONIST

Dr. Holmes is not in his office right now. If you want to see him, you'll have to make an appointment.

JUSTIN

Thanks...

(under his breath)

Bitch.

Justin shakes his head and walks away. He turns to leave the hospital but notices a glass case on the wall showing who can be found on what floor. He sees that Steven's office is on the 22nd Floor, so he heads to the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Justin enters the elevator and pushes "22". The elevator doors shut as it quickly begins the descent up to the 22nd Floor.

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Damon enters the room. He sees Steven sitting on a bench in the holding cell. He approaches Steven.

DAMON

(quietly)

Why didn't you tell me what was going on?

STEVEN

(looking up)

Damon, where have you been?

DAMON

Keep your voice down.

(looks around the room)

I've been looking for you. You're in a lot of trouble.

STEVEN

If I'm not out of this cell soon, it won't matter.

DAMON

If you're referring to the guy who sent you the videotapes, I know all about it.

Steven looks shocked.

DAMON

(continuing)

What do I do for a living again?

STEVEN

Right.

DAMON

I sure wish you would've told me, Steve.

STEVEN

He said if I told anyone, he'd kill Amy and Patrick. I didn't have a choice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

All right, listen to me. I can get you outta here, but it isn't gonna be easy.

STEVEN

Where's the body, Damon? I need that body.

DAMON

You mean the Popsicle? Still at the hospital. She's evidence, Steve, that whole room is evidence. You don't know what you've gotten yourself into.

STEVEN

Damon, please. You have to trust me.

Damon removes some keys and quietly unlocks the holding cell.

DAMON

If you're wrong, you're gonna be right back where you are now. Only this time, you won't be alone.

Damon lets Steven out of the cell, and they quietly walk down a hallway leading to the back of the station. Damon opens the back door, and they make a dash for Damon's car.

DAMON

(continuing)

So where to?

STEVEN

Back to the hospital.

DAMON

(opening the car door)

I was afraid you were gonna say that.

They get into Damon's car and head off to the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - STEVEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Justin has just finished watching the videotape given to Steven from Jack. He looks pale and is in shock. He gets up and staggers out of the office heading toward the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Damon and Steven come running in the hospital. They stop for a second to catch their breath. As they look around, they notice that the hospital is unusually empty. Damon reaches into his pocket and pulls out Steven's cell phone.

DAMON

(holding out the phone)

Thought you might want this back.

Steven takes the cell phone from Damon. As he looks at it, he notices the time, TEN THIRTY-TWO P.M. He looks back at Damon.

STEVEN

We're running out of time.

DAMON

Now listen to me. There's gonna be a guard down there watching the body, which means you can't go down there.

STEVEN

If you can distract him, I can get the body, put it in the elevator, and meet you by the delivery entrance before he knows what happened.

DAMON

That's not a good idea.

STEVEN

Sure it is.

DAMON

Then what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

I'm kinda making it up as I go
along, so bare with me.

DAMON

See, now you're not funny again.

The elevator door opens behind them and Justin emerges. He
looks like he's in a trance. Steven turns and sees him.

STEVEN

Justin?

Justin looks at Steven and stops. Steven runs over to him.

STEVEN

(Continuing)

Justin, it's me, Dr. Holmes.

JUSTIN

You have a nice office.

STEVEN

What were you doing up there?

JUSTIN

Waiting for you.

(pause)

I watched the tape.

Steven looks at Damon then back to Justin.

STEVEN

I'm sorry you had to see that,
Justin. I'm sorry I brought you
into this.

JUSTIN

It's okay. But now...

(pause)

I want to see him.

DAMON

That's not a good idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

He's right, you should just go home.

JUSTIN

Home?

(pause)

Go home?

(pause)

Sure, I'll just go home. I'll just forget all about this. It's not like it's is a big deal or nothin'!

Steven looks again at Damon then back to Justin.

STEVEN

Fuck it. Come on, kid.

Justin cracks a slight smile as they head to the elevator.

INT. HOSPITAL - SUB-FLOOR ONE - NIGHT

The elevator door opens and Damon steps out. He sees a guard standing at the end of the hall. Damon walks over to the guard.

DAMON

(pulling out his badge)

I need to see the inside of the facility, and I might need some assistance.

GUARD

I'm supposed to stay here, sir.

DAMON

Boy, I know I didn't hear what I think I just heard.

GUARD

(scared)

No, sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

All right then, let's go.

Damon leads the guard into the cryo-freeze facility. Steven looks at Justin.

STEVEN

Come on.

Steven and Justin exit the elevator and walk over to Jenny's body, still lying on the cart.

JUSTIN

Is this my... my mom?

Steven puts his hands on Justin's shoulders.

STEVEN

It was your mom, a long time ago.
Now it's just a lifeless body.

JUSTIN

Why does he want it?

STEVEN

I don't know, Justin. But right
now, all I care about is getting
my family back.

Steven and Justin wheel the body back into the elevator. Steven decides not to wait for Damon, and he shuts the elevator door.

INT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY AREA - NIGHT

Steven wheels the body toward the delivery area followed by Justin. They wheel the body out the door and into the parking lot.

EXT. HOSPITAL DELIVERY ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Steven stops to look around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN

Now what?

STEVEN

I'm thinking.

JUSTIN

I can steal one of those
ambulances if you want.

STEVEN

Is there a second option?

JUSTIN

We can put her in the trunk of my
car.

STEVEN

Ambulance it is.

They wheel the body over to an empty ambulance. The doors
are unlocked, so they quickly put the body inside. Then
Justin begins to hot-wire the van. Seconds later, the
ambulance starts.

JUSTIN

Hope this thing doesn't have
Lojack.

Steven gets into the front seat, and Justin is about to get
into the passenger side.

STEVEN

Dammit!

JUSTIN

What?

STEVEN

I didn't lock the back door.

JUSTIN

I can do it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As Justin leaps out of the ambulance, Steven steps on the gas. The ambulance speeds out of the parking lot. Justin just stands there.

STEVEN

(to himself)

Sorry, kid, but this is my problem now.

Justin races over to Ramón's Cadillac parked nearby. He starts it up, and begins to pursue Steven. At the same time, Damon emerges from the hospital.

DAMON

Son of a bitch!

Damon runs to his car, starts it up, and begins to follow Justin.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Steven looks at the clock in the ambulance. It is ELEVEN FORTY-NINE P.M. Steven races through the streets as fast as he can. Suddenly, his cell phone rings. Steven answers it.

STEVEN

Hello?

PHONE (JACK)

You are running out of time, Doctor.

STEVEN

I'm on my way right now. I'll be there in a minute.

PHONE (JACK)

Do you have what I've requested of you?

STEVEN

Yes, I have it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE (JACK)

(Yelling)

Her... You have *her*! My wife is not
an it, Doctor.

STEVEN

I'm sorry, I didn't mean anything.
I'm just a little tired, that's
all.

PHONE (JACK)

See you shortly, Doctor. And
remember... no cops.

Jack hangs up the phone as Steven continues on his way. His
cell phone rings again. Steven answers it.

STEVEN

Yes?

PHONE (DAMON)

You mind tellin' me where the fuck
you are?

STEVEN

I couldn't wait for you anymore,
man. I had to go.

PHONE (DAMON)

Do you know you have every cop in
the greater LA area looking for
you right now?

STEVEN

I've always dealt well with
popularity.

PHONE (DAMON)

Maybe this isn't the right time to
tell you, but I like you much
better when you're not trying to
be funny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

Look, I have to do this alone. You have to tell them that. If he sees any cops at all, he'll kill my family.

PHONE (DAMON)

Steve, wait...

Steven hangs up the phone before Damon can finish. He turns the corner and pulls up to the abandon high school.

EXT. ABANDON HIGH SCHOOL - MIDNIGHT

Steven pulls the ambulance near the dark alley. At the other end, he sees a van. As expected, his cell phone rings. He answers it.

STEVEN

Yeah...

PHONE (JACK)

Just in time, Doctor. I was about to go home and torture your family to death, but here you are.

STEVEN

I've got what you want, now give me back my family.

PHONE (JACK)

Patience, Doctor. Always, patience. First, back the van into the alley. Stop about ten feet from my van.

Steven backs the ambulance into the alley and stops near Jack's van.

PHONE (JACK)

(continuing)

Good... Now turn off the engine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven pulls a couple of wires apart under the steering column. The engine turns off.

PHONE (JACK)

(continuing)

Open the door and get out slowly.

Steven opens the door and gets out. He continues holding the cell phone. In the distance, Justin parks the Cadillac. He is too far away for Jack to either see or hear him, but he can't hear anything either.

PHONE (JACK)

Good... Now turn around and get down on your knees.

STEVEN

I'm not armed if that's what you're worried about.

PHONE (JACK)

Who said I was worried?

INT. CADILLAC - MIDNIGHT

As Justin continues to watch from a distance, Damon opens the passenger side door of the Cadillac. Justin jumps.

JUSTIN

You can give somebody a heart attack doin' that shit!

DAMON

Okay, kid, what's goin' on over there.

JUSTIN

The doc backed the ambulance down that alley. I haven't seen him since.

DAMON

I don't like this.

EXT. ABANDON HIGH SCHOOL - MIDNIGHT

Jack walks up behind Steven holding a club. Steven is still on his knees holding his cell phone.

STEVEN

Now what?

JACK

Now sleep.

Jack bashes Steven over the head, knocking him out. Steven's phone flies across the ground. Jack drags Steven into the van, wraps duct tape around his hands, feet, and mouth, and hand cuffs him to a metal ring in the floor.

He gets out and opens the ambulance door. Inside, he sees the dead body of Jenny. He begins to stroke her cold, naked body.

JACK

Jenny... I've missed you so much.

Tears well up in Jack's eyes.

JACK

(continuing)

Everything is going to be just like it was before. I even got Justin back for us.

Jack leans over and kisses Jenny's lips.

JACK

(continuing)

It's time to go home now, Baby.
It's time to go home.

Jack lifts Jenny and brings her over to the van. He places her on an old mattress inside, closes up the van, and gets in the driver's seat. He starts the van and heads home.

INT. CADILLAC - MIDNIGHT

Damon and Justin see the van leaving. They don't see the ambulance. Damon dials Steven's cell phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN
Should I follow him?

DAMON
Hold on.

Steven's voicemail picks up. Justin starts the car.

DAMON
(continuing)
I said hold on!

JUSTIN
What are you gonna do, arrest me?

Damon and Justin stare at each other for a second, then Damon nods his head. Justin turns to follow the van.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

There are a few cars on the road as Justin follows Jack's van through the city. He keeps a good distance away so Jack doesn't see him. Jack leads Justin into the hills.

The houses are spaced far apart and there are few cars around. The area is poorly lit and very quiet.

DAMON
Turn off your headlights, kid.

Justin turns off his headlights so Jack doesn't see him. Jack begins to slow down. He turns into a driveway below an old house in the hills.

DAMON
(continuing)
Pull the car over here.

Justin pulls the car over to the side of the road. They wait for a moment while Jack pulls his van into a garage. The garage door closes.

JUSTIN
Now what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

Now we call the cavalry.

Damon takes out his cell phone and dials the police station. His cell phone shows "No Service".

DAMON

(continuing)

Come on... Come on!

Damon continues to try, but he can't get reception.

JUSTIN

Too bad the cavalry ain't telepathic, huh?

DAMON

All right, listen to me, kid. I'm gonna walk down the street until I get some reception. You stay right here in this car. Don't get any brave ideas, you got me?

JUSTIN

I got ya.

DAMON

I mean it... right here!

JUSTIN

I said I got ya!

Damon frowns as he exits the car. He begins to walk back down the road, trying to get cell phone reception. Justin sits in the car until Damon is out of sight.

JUSTIN

(to himself)

He didn't say anything about stupid ideas.

Justin gets out of the car and slowly walks toward Jack's house.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Steven wakes to find himself bound and gagged on the floor in Jack's kitchen. Jack is standing above him holding a gun. He removes the gag from Steven's mouth.

JACK

How do you feel, Doctor?

STEVEN

(sarcastic)

Fantastic.

Jack points the gun at Steven's head.

JACK

Now is not the time for you to grow a sense of humor, Doctor.

STEVEN

I'm sorry. Look, what do want from me? I did what you asked.

JACK

What do I want?

Jack lowers the gun.

JACK

(continuing)

(getting progressively angrier as he speaks)

What do I want? I want what you stole from me, Doctor, 10 years, 11 months, 29 days, and 18 hours ago! I want my wife, my son, my life, my whole world back! Everything that you took from me, everything that you robbed me of, every chance for happiness I ever had, I want them all back right now!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)

And you're going to give them back
to me, whether you want to or not!
You want to know what I want,
Doctor?

(pause)

I want retribution!

Steven is terrified. He can't speak and his mind is racing.
After a long pause, Jack begins to speak.

JACK

(continuing)

(calm again)

It's time now, Doctor. Come with
me.

Jack lifts Steven up and leads him down a hallway toward a
bedroom.

EXT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - NIGHT

Justin has quietly crept up to the house and heard the
whole conversation. He is so nervous he can barely swallow,
and his feet are frozen in place. He takes a deep breath
and heads cautiously toward the front door.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack pushes Steven through the door and into the bedroom.
Steven is horrified by what he sees, and he rushes over to
Amy lying on the bed. In his haste, he doesn't notice
Patrick bound and gagged in the corner of the room.

STEVEN

Amy!

Amy is awake and the blanket is off her. Steven kisses her
head as tears well up in his eyes. He pulls the tape off
Amy's mouth with his teeth and removes the gag the same
way. Amy's eyes veer to the corner of the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMY

Steven!

Steven turns to see Jack in the corner of the room holding a large, sharp knife to Patrick's throat. Patrick looks like he hasn't been hurt yet, but he is clearly scared.

STEVEN

Patrick!

JACK

His name is Justin.

STEVEN

Are you okay, buddy?

JACK

He's fine now, Doctor, but he won't be unless you do exactly what I say.

STEVEN

First, let my son go.

JACK

Your son?

(smiling)

You don't have a son anymore, Doctor.

As some of the shock begins to wear off, Steven notices that there is another body underneath a blanket on a second hospital bed across from Amy. He also notices all the medical and surgical equipment in the room.

STEVEN

That boy is my son, and if you harm one hair on his head I swear...

JACK

(yelling)

He is not your son, he's my son!
My son! Your son is dead!

EXT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - NIGHT

Justin hears the yelling as he quietly picks the front door lock. He cautiously enters the house.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack holds the knife tightly against Patrick's skin. Beads of sweat begin to form on Steven's forehead.

STEVEN

Okay, okay... just don't hurt him.

JACK

Enough talk, Doctor. It's time for you to go to work.

STEVEN

What are you talking about?

JACK

Underneath that blanket is my wife... my beautiful wife. And inside your wife is her heart. You're going to put her heart back where it belongs, and then my family and I are going to leave you just as you left me... alone.

STEVEN

Listen to me. Your wife is dead and putting a heart inside her won't change that.

JACK

She's only dead because you stole her heart! She'll be fine once you give it back!

STEVEN

Okay, let's say that were true. Let's say I did what you're asking. Your wife was brain dead before her heart stopped beating. So even if I could put her heart
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN (CONT'D)
back, even if that somehow worked,
she'd still be brain dead.

JACK
You're a liar!

STEVEN
I'm telling you the truth.

JACK
You're lying!

Jack pulls the knife tighter against Patrick's throat.

JACK
(continuing)
Now put her heart back before I do
something we all regret!

Amy cannot stand the sight of Patrick in pain, and she
calls out to Steven.

AMY
Steven, do it!

Steven turns to face Amy.

STEVEN
What?

AMY
Do what he wants!

STEVEN
Sweetheart, it won't work.

AMY
(yelling)
I don't care!
(pause)
He'll kill Patrick, and I can't
live with that... no more than you
could.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

(confused)

But you'll die.

AMY

I've been the luckiest woman in the world to have these past ten years with you. My life is a gift, Steven, the greatest gift anyone's ever given me. I love you so much. But right now, it's time for me to give that gift to someone else.

Amy looks at Patrick and begins to cry. She looks back at Steven.

AMY

(continuing)

You just make sure nothing happens to our son. Make sure he knows how much his mother loves him.

Steven is at a loss for words. The tears in his eyes fall slowly down his face as he nods in acceptance to Amy.

STEVEN

I love you, Amy.

Steven leans down and kisses Amy one last time on the lips. He turns to face Jack.

STEVEN

(continuing)

Untie me.

JACK

No tricks, Doctor.

STEVEN

No tricks...

JACK

Then back up slowly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven slowly backs up to Jack. Using the knife, Jack carefully cuts the tape from around Steven's wrists. Jack puts the knife quickly back to Patrick's throat.

JACK

(continuing)

Now hurry up, Doctor.

Steven removes the blanket over Jenny's body. It has thawed significantly, but it is still cold. Steven shakes his head in bewilderment. The body seems to have been prepped very well. Steven walks over to Amy.

STEVEN

I'm going to have to put you out,
honey.

AMY

It's okay, Steven. Just do it.

Steven nods his head. He grabs a syringe and a vile off the surgical cart nearby, fills the syringe, and prepares the injection. He smiles tenderly at Amy. She smiles back. He injects the drug into Amy. Seconds later, she passes out.

EXT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - NIGHT

Damon sees that Justin is gone and notices the front door of the house is open. He draws his gun and approaches the house.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - 2ND BEDROOM - NIGHT

Steven lifts a surgical knife off the cart and places it over Amy's chest. He is shaking and unable to keep his hand steady. He pauses.

JACK

No stopping, Doctor.

STEVEN

I just need a second.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

You don't have a second! Now
continue.

Steven places the knife back over Amy's chest. Just as he
is about to cut, Justin enters the room.

JUSTIN

Wait!

Steven stops. A look of confusion comes over Jack's face.
Justin looks at Steven that over to Jack.

JUSTIN

(continuing)

Looks like I made it just in time.

JACK

What are you doing here?

JUSTIN

I thought about what you said,
about us being a family and all. I
was thinkin' maybe you're right.
Maybe we can start over.

JACK

You said you wanted nothing to do
with me.

JUSTIN

I was upset, you know. I didn't
expect to ever see you again. But
I've had a lot of time to think
about it since then.

JACK

And?

JUSTIN

I think we could be a family, you
and me. But not like this.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

(pause)

You gotta let Mom go first. You
can't live in the past anymore.
Otherwise, I can't be with you...
Dad.

The words clearly affect Jack, and he lowers the knife
around Patrick's throat. Steven discretely puts the
surgical knife in his pocket as he stands motionless next
to Amy.

JACK

What did you just call me?

JUSTIN

Dad... I called you Dad.

For the first time, the overwhelming pain that seems to
drive Jack diminishes. He cracks a slight smile. Quietly,
Damon approaches the bedroom.

JACK

Come here, son.

Justin walks over to Jack. Steven watches closely as Jack
puts his arms around Justin leaving Patrick unguarded.
Justin motions to Patrick to move, but Patrick doesn't
budge. Jack continues to hug Justin.

JUSTIN

Come on, Dad. Let's get out of
here. Let's start a new life.

JACK

Just us?

JUSTIN

Just us... I promise.

JACK

Okay, son.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Just as Jack lets go of Justin, the sound of cell phone rings outside the room. Steven lunges toward Patrick, but Jack grabs him first and puts the knife back around his throat. With his other hand, he grabs Justin.

JACK
(continuing)
Get back, Doctor!

STEVEN
Let him go!

Damon dashes into the room with his gun drawn.

DAMON
Let the kid go!

JACK
Back off or I'll cut him in two!

Damon pauses for a second.

JACK
(continuing)
I said back off!

DAMON
All right, take it easy.

JACK
Put your gun down and move over to the corner.

DAMON
Okay, okay... Stay calm.

Damon puts the gun down and walks over to where Steven is standing. Jack moves the kids toward the door and slowly leans down to pick up the gun.

JACK
If you try to follow me, the little one dies. Understood?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

Yeah, man. We understand.

The sound of a helicopter can be heard heading toward the house as well as sirens in the distance. Jack hears them all and turns to look at Steven.

JACK

I'm gonna make sure you never have the chance to hurt another family ever again.

Jack raises the gun, but Justin grabs his arm.

JUSTIN

Dad, wait! Let me do it.

Jack looks suspiciously at Justin.

JUSTIN

(continuing)

You've got to get the van started so we can get outta here!

Jack hands Justin the gun.

JACK

Kill them all, son... all three of them.

JUSTIN

Okay, but hurry!

Jack picks up Patrick and runs down the hall to the garage. Once he's out of sight, Justin points the gun at the wall.

INT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - GARAGE - NIGHT

The sounds of several gunshots pierce the air as Jack throws Patrick into the van. Seconds later, Justin runs into the garage and gets in the passenger seat of the van. Jack opens the garage door and speeds out onto the road.

EXT. OLD HOUSE IN THE HILLS - NIGHT

Steven and Damon emerge from the house unscathed. Steven sees the Cadillac parked down the street and heads for it. Damon follows right behind him.

DAMON

Don't even think about it!

STEVEN

(running)

You can stay here if you want.

DAMON

At least you're funny again!

Steven and Damon get into the Cadillac. Seconds later, they're in hot pursuit of Jack's van. Overhead, a Police Helicopter flies by as rows of Police Cars converge behind the Cadillac with their sirens on.

STEVEN

How did they know?

DAMON

I was able to get a call through to the station right after you were brought here. I'm sorry about...

STEVEN

(interrupting)

Don't worry about it. Just help me get my son back alive.

DAMON

We'll get him back, Steve.

INT. JACK'S VAN - NIGHT

Jack is driving like a maniac. He hears the helicopter above him, and he sees the Cadillac behind him. Suddenly, the helicopter shines its light on the van, and a VOICE cuts through the air.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE

This is the LAPD. Pull your vehicle over and come out with your hands up!

JACK

Where's the gun, Justin?

JUSTIN

It was empty, so I left it back at the house.

JACK

No matter.

Jack reaches behind him and pulls a gun from his pants.

JUSTIN

Dad, what are you doin'?

JACK

I prefer the dark.

Jack leans out the window and fires several shots at the helicopter. One of the shots hits the light, causing it to explode. The helicopter veers off the pursuit. Jack looks out the rearview mirror at the Cadillac behind them.

JACK

(continuing)

One down, one to go.

Jack swerves the van through the hills at high speed. The helicopter has moved far back, but the Cadillac and the trail of Police Cars stay right behind him. Jack leans his arm out the window and fires a shot at the Cadillac.

INT. CADILLAC - NIGHT

Steven sees Jack fire at them and swerves to the right of the van. Jack continues to fire.

DAMON

You're too close, Steve. Back off!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

No chance.

DAMON

Just take it easy.

STEVEN

My son is in that van, Damon, so
don't tell me what to do.

INT. JACK'S VAN - NIGHT

As they continue to wind through the hills, Jack prepares to fire at the Cadillac again. As he leans his arm out the window to fire, Justin reaches back and grabs Patrick.

JUSTIN

(quietly)

Hang on, kid.

Justin pulls Patrick into the front seat with him, grabs the steering wheel while Jack is shooting at the Cadillac, and pulls it hard to the left.

The van spins off the road and smashes into the hillside. It bounces off the hill, flips over, and lands right-side-up teetering over the edge of the cliff. Justin and Patrick are thrown into the back of the van.

INT. CADILLAC - NIGHT

Seeing what has happened, Steven pulls the Cadillac as close to the van as he can. He and Damon exit the car and Steven rushes toward the van.

STEVEN

Patrick!

DAMON

Steve, wait!

The Police Cars pull up to the scene, and the officers get out with their guns drawn. The helicopter circles above. Damon runs over to Steven.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Steven heads to the back of the van and carefully opens the doors. Inside, he sees Patrick and Justin looking a little dazed. Jack is passed out in the driver's seat.

STEVEN
Patrick, come here buddy.

Patrick looks up at Steven, but his hands are still tied and he can't move. The van continues to teeter on the edge. Justin slowly reaches over to Patrick and pushes him toward Steven.

STEVEN
(continuing)
It's okay, buddy. I've got you.

Justin pushes Patrick within arms reach of Steven, and Steven grabs his son. He pulls Patrick from the van and holds him close. Then he hands him to Damon.

STEVEN
(continuing)
Get him out of here!

Damon nods his head, and rushes Patrick over to the Police Cars. Steven reaches back for Justin.

STEVEN
(continuing)
Give me your hand!

Justin reaches for Steven, but he's too far away. The van begins to teeter a little more.

STEVEN
(continuing)
Come on, Justin, give me your hand!

Jack wakes up and realizes what has happened. He turns to see Justin working his way out of the van, and Steven standing at the other end.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

You lied to me! All of you lied to me!

Jack lunges forward grabbing Justin's leg right as Justin grasps Steven's hand. The van begins to teeter violently.

STEVEN

Let go of him!

JACK

If I go, he goes with me!

JUSTIN

Let me go, you sick fuck!

JACK

No! No!

The ground beneath the van begins to slide. Steven reaches into his pocket and pulls out the surgical knife. He hands it to Justin.

JUSTIN

You want to hang on to the past?
Fine... but you ain't takin' me with you!

With his free arm, Justin slams the knife into Jack's hand.

JACK

Ahh!

Jack releases his grip sending him flying back into the windshield. As the van begins to fall over the cliff, Steven barely pulls Justin out in time. The van, with Jack inside, plummets down to the bottom of the hill.

Damon rushes over to Steven and Justin.

DAMON

You both okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUSTIN
(looking at Steven)
Yeah, thanks to this dude.

Steven smiles then turns to look at Damon.

STEVEN
Amy's still in the house.

DAMON
We've got an ambulance already
down there. She's gonna be just
fine, Steve.

STEVEN
(looking at Justin)
Yeah, thanks to this dude.

JUSTIN
Ah, it was nothin'... you know.

DAMON
Let's get you guys outta here.

Damon, Steven, and Justin walk back to the Police Cars.

CUT TO:

ONE MONTH LATER

Steven and Amy are in bed making love. Steven is kissing Amy on her belly and moving sensually up her chest. His pager, which is sitting on the bedside table, begins to vibrate. Steven and Amy look at each other.

AMY
Don't they know you're leaving for
vacation today?

STEVEN
I've only told the entire hospital
staff.

Steven grabs the pager and looks at it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STEVEN

(continuing)

Then again, maybe I missed
someone.

AMY

(sarcastic)

So is this what it's like when
you're married to the Chief of
Staff?

STEVEN

I don't know. I've never been
married to the Chief of Staff
before.

AMY

Cute.

STEVEN

You know me.

AMY

Luckily for me, I do.

Steven gives Amy a kiss and gets out of bed. He heads
downstairs to the kitchen.

INT. STEVEN'S HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Steven walks into the kitchen and picks up the phone.
Before he has a chance to dial, he sees Patrick and Justin
playing in the backyard in their pajamas. He smiles as Amy
walks up behind him.

AMY

What are you thinking?

STEVEN

Do you ever wonder if maybe we
should have done that a long time
ago?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMY

Sometimes. Why?

STEVEN

I don't know. Just curious I guess.

AMY

Everything happens for a reason. I believe that now more than ever.

STEVEN

You're probably right.

AMY

I'm a woman, I'm always right.

Steven smiles again. Suddenly, the doorbell rings. Amy looks concerned.

STEVEN

Don't worry, I'll get it. You wait here.

Steven puts the phone down and walks to the front door. As he looks through the peephole, a smile comes across his face. He opens the door.

DAMON

Good mornin'!

STEVEN

What's up, Big D?

DAMON

I just stopped by to give you an update before you left.

STEVEN

Well, come on in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAMON

Thanks, but I gotta head back to the office. I just thought you might want to know that they were able to track down the three hundred million dollars that was supposed to go to the hospital. It's frozen right now, but there's a very good chance you'll get it all back.

STEVEN

That's wonderful news. Any word on Spielman?

DAMON

No, not yet. He belongs to the Feds now. My jurisdiction doesn't leave the county.

STEVEN

I want you to know I couldn't have done any of this without you.

DAMON

Yeah, well, you know...

Steven reaches out and hugs his best friend.

DAMON

(continuing)

All right, okay. No getting' sappy on me now.

STEVEN

Don't worry. I wouldn't want to mess up your image.

DAMON

You're a funny guy, Steve. You're a funny guy.

Damon smiles as he turns to leave. Steven smiles back as he watches Damon walk down the steps. Amy walks up behind him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMY
Everything okay?

Before he can answer, Justin and Patrick come running into the house all excited. Justin is holding a gold watch.

PATRICK
Daddy, Justin found your watch in the sandbox!

JUSTIN
Nice watch, Doc.

Steven looks at Amy.

STEVEN
Everything's great.

Steven closes the door and the family returns to the kitchen.

Long shot as we pan away from the door outside Steven's house up into the neighborhood, into the city, and finally into the sky. It's another beautiful day in the big city.

FADE OUT:

THE END