

"Liberty and Life"

"The Year of The Cat"
[working titles]

Story by Jay Kline
Screenplay by Jay Kline

1. INT. PAYDAY LOAN OFFICE - NIGHT

OVER BLACK we hear the flipping whir sound of a money-machine counting money.

SUPERIMPOSE

"The lack of money is the root of all evil."
-George Bernard Shaw-

The machine fades in as it whips through the singles with the speed of a greedy hummingbird. The machine stops. Hands grab the money then quickly and diligently wrap it with a money band that reads \$10,000. The hands place the bundle on a stack of 20 to 30 similar bundles. Then the hands grab the tall stacks of cash and carry them away. As the safe comes into view, a cat crosses the scene. A hand slowly twists the dial to its last number, then turns the handle. The safe opens. There's a gun and stacks of cash. The hands places more fat stacks inside where another 40 or 50 stacks are already sitting. There's at least 500k in the safe. The safe door slams closed...the screens GOES BLACK.

2. INT. BANK - DAY

OPEN ON BLACK. We hear easy listening music in the background, it's Chicago's "If you leave me now". Over the music are 10 to 15 people chattering softly.

A gunshot rings out, the bank becomes quiet, and a man starts shouting.

MARCUS [V.O.]

I'm not here for the bank's money. I'm here for yours, so line up and make this easy so I don't have to shoot anybody.

Screen fades up and we are in a bank with a man holding a gun. It's Marcus, a late-forties businessman. He points the gun at an elderly woman.

MARCUS

You! Grandma. Put everything you've got in the bag. Now!

We see a bank teller behind bullet proof glass. She looks small and distant in the background of the scene. Her hand is under the counter, repeatedly pressing a button. The label on the button reads, "panic button, police notified." Marcus doesn't seem to notice her, or even care what she's up to. He continues his lobby robbery.

MARCUS

You!

He points to a man standing next to a boy, then he points the gun at the boy's face and looks at the man. Marcus is trying his best to seem ruthless.

MARCUS

Put your wallet in the bag or I'll shoot the boy.

The child looks terrified. Marcus appears a little uncomfortable with his actions for second, but the man drops his wallet in the bag, and Marcus continues the heist. He moves through a crowd of people who already have their wallets out. He steps in front of an old man.

MARCUS

In the bag, come on, come on!

The old man drops it in the bag and Marcus steps to the next person.

MARCUS

You too...

Another man drops his wallet in the bag and Marcus moves to the next victim, a woman in mid-thirties. She has a young girl standing next to her.

MARCUS

You too. Let's go... Come on.

She drops a handful of cash and change in the bag. Marcus looks at her impatiently.

EVELYN

That's all the money I have. If I have to get new IDs...I'll lose my job.

[pleading]

Please.

Marcus looks at the girl, then at the woman. He pauses as if he might recognize her.

MARCUS

Fine.

Marcus moves to the next person. A good-looking young man in his early twenties.

YOUNG MAN

I got nothing. I was in line to take money out.

Marcus notices the young man's watch.

MARCUS

That's a nice watch.

YOUNG MAN

[pleads]

Oh, come on.

MARCUS

In the bag.

Marcus sticks the gun in the man's face.

MARCUS

You can get a new watch when this is over.

Just as the young man slowly removes the watch and puts it in the bag, sirens can be heard approaching. In seconds, six police cars swarm the building. One by one the squad cars pull up. And one by one the officers crouch behind their doors and prepare for a standoff.

Marcus fires his gun three times into the ceiling. The cops take cover.

MARCUS

Everybody on the ground, Now!

Half of the bank customers drop to the ground, but the other half just look on in confusion. Marcus fires another shot into the ceiling.

MARCUS

Now, goddamn it!

Everyone falls to the floor. Marcus looks at them and with sincere concern in his voice he says...

MARCUS

No matter what happens, please stay down. For your own safety.

Surprised by his concern, some customers look up at him with a confused expression. Marcus nods to them.

MARCUS

[says calmly]

Heads down, people.

They put their heads down and Marcus turns towards the door. He stops... and stares out at all the police lights and officers covering behind their cars. There is no sound and everything slows down. He looks at the clock. It reads 4:37 PM. Suddenly, he notices the late day sun piercing the mini blinds in the lobby - how the shafts of light create beautiful thin strips on the terrazzo floor. He admires the lines as he takes a breath. The sounds fade away and all we hear is Marcus breathing. He exhales slowly, throws the bag of loot over his shoulder and looks down at the customers one last time. Marcus notices the single mother who begged him to keep her wallet. He smiles at her slightly, then turns back towards the front door and starts walking. As he gets to the door, he raises his gun.

3. EXT. BANK - DAY

He flings the door open and starts walking to the police cars. He can see officers shouting but the sound is a million miles away. He hastens his pace then raises the gun. He can feel his finger flexing on the

trigger. The shot sounds out and a hail of bullets rip through him. Arms, legs, torso, violently twitching from every shot. He slowly falls to the ground until he only sees sky. The hollow slow-motion sounds become normal and fill the scene again. He hears people running all around him, shouting, his gun being kicked away. He looks up, the sun becomes too bright to look at. He winces just as a shadow cast over him. He opens his eyes to a plain clothes officer with a badge hanging from a chain and bandages on his neck and face. Marcus recognizes the man, puts his bloody hand on the officer's cheek, smiles, then coughs up some blood.

MARCUS

I know you.

GRAHAM

I'm sorry. I didn't know it would come to this.

MARCUS

I thought it would hurt more.

Marcus puts his index finger in front of his lips, then looks into the empathetic officer's eyes and says...

MARCUS

Shhhh.

Marcus's lifeless hand slides off the officer's face, leaving a bloody handprint. The officer stares at Marcus, then gently closes his dead eyes. Fade to black.

4. ENT. 2017 CROWN VICTORIA - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE

" Three days ago. "

BOSCO

[V.O.]

See anything.

GRAHAM

[V.O.]

No. Nothing.

As type fades out, a view through a pair of binoculars fades in.

GRAHAM

[V.O.]

It's dead as cemetery out there.

Something moves next to the building.

GRAHAM

[V.O.]

Hold on.

BOSCO

[V.O.]

What!? Do see you him?

A cat walks out for behind the dumpster.

GRAHAM

[V.O.]

Yeah. Knock off five feet and 200 pounds and we got'em.

BOSCO

[V.O.]

What?

GRAHAM

[V.O.]

It's a cat, Bosco.

[beat]

Just a cat.

5. INT. 2017 CROWN VICTORIA - NIGHT

We see a detective in his late 30s sitting in car with his older partner. It's the officer from the bank, but his neck and face aren't bandaged up.

GRAHAM

Five and a half hours and all we've seen are a couple of vagrants and a cat.

Bosco turns to Graham.

BOSCO

How much do you think the Six Million
dollar Man would cost today.

GRAHAM

What?

Graham gives Bosco a bewildered look.

GRAHAM

Seriously?

BOSCO

Yeah.

GRAHAM

I don't know, a billion.

BOSCO

Oh no. No. No. You don't get off that
easy.

GRAHAM

What do mean?

BOSCO

What do we know?

GRAHAM rolls his eyes as though he been through this a
hundred times.

BOSCO

The bionic man was six million dollars
1973.

GRAHAM

Right?

BOSCO

And not fully bionic. He got an arm, a
couple of legs and an eye.

GRAHAM

Alright, so inflation over the past 50 years is what, like 2 to 3 percent? So he would be the 30 to 40 million dollar man.

BOSCO

Maybe, but military spending is different.

GRAHAM

How so?

BOSCO

The pentagon paid around 3 million for a fighter jet in 73. Now they cost over a hundred million.

GRAHAM

So he's more like the 200 million dollar man?

BOSCO

Don't forget the waste and fraud.

GRAHAM

The half a billion dollar man?

BOSCO

And then all those third party guarantees and parts and maintenance contracts.

GRAHAM

So I was right in the first place... He'd be the billion dollar man.

Bosco smiles at Graham.

BOSCO

Sounds better than the 200 million dollar man, huh?

GRAHAM

Imagine the upgrades. The internet. GPS. Laser sighting. None of that existed back then.

BOSCO

And his bionic limbs would be probably be titanium and carbon fiber.

GRAHAM

And his skin would be Kevlar.

BOSCO

Are we in the wrong business,

Suddenly, a homeless man crashes into the window and scares the shit out of the detectives. They both instinctively draw their guns.

GRAHAM

Jesus. What the fuck? We could have shot you.

The homeless man puts his arms up.

HOMELESS MAN

I'm sorry, man. Oh shit! Don't shoot. Please don't shoot. I'm just looking for some change.

The detectives look at each other in sigh. Graham rolls his window down.

BOSCO

Get the fuck out of here.

BOSCO points his gun at the man again...or we will shoot you.

HOMELESS MAN

Alright. Alright. You don't gotta be a dick about it.

The vagrant grumbles as he wonders off. Graham looks back at Bosco.

GRAHAM

Woo! I'm awake now. How about you?

Bosco just continues on.

BOSCO

Did you know that they changed the Chinese calendar last. They replaced the Rabbit with the cat. Do you know why they did that, Graham?

Graham grabs the binoculars and check the alley again.

GRAHAM

Nope...Not a clue.

Bosco gets serious and tilts his head.

BOSCO

The cat people complained...and BAM! Just like that! The cats are on the calendar. They didn't earn it. They just complained and the people in charge changed calendar. they just gave it to them.

Graham is still scanning the alley.

GRAHAM

So what? It's just a calendar. And it's not even our calendar.

Bosco grabs Graham's arm in concern.

BOSCO

I know it's just a calendar, but where does it end, Graham?

GRAHAM

[Interrupts]

Shhh!

Suddenly, Graham realizes that the homeless man is gone.

GRAHAM

Where'd that homeless guy go? He was just right here.

He scans the building. It looks empty, like the last five times he checked it. Just as Bosco turns to Graham..

BOSCO

[shouts]

Behind you!

The window behind Bosco explodes. He falls to the floor with half his face shot off. Graham pulls his weapon and swings around to meet a hooded man behind him who is preparing to shoot. They both fire. Graham's shot finds the man's eye and the stranger is killed instantly, but Graham is shot through the cheek. He swings around to face the man who shot Bosco. It's the homeless man. He fires a sawed of shot gun and some buck shot peppers Graham's neck and shoulder. He's thrown back by the blast and drops his gun. Graham scrambles for the gun but can't find it. Suddenly he spots Bosco's gun on the seat and grabs it. The homeless man shoves the shotgun through the window. Graham grabs the barrel and deflects the shot. He jams Bosco's gun into the man's chest and fires until the it's spent. The homeless man falls to the ground, grabbing his chest and wailing in pain. BOSCO is alive, barely, moaning under Graham's weight.

Graham grabs the radio handset.

GRAHAM

This is William-Victor 24. Officers down. Officers down at the midtown warehouse district...riverside. Off West First Ave. Officers down.

Graham falls on Bosco. He releases the handset. Blood drips from the handset onto the gun he dropped earlier. He can still see the cat sitting next to the dumpster. Graham's vision goes blurry and the scene fades to black.

6. INT. 2016 MINIVAN - MORNING

Continues on black. We hear an I-phone alarm go off. It shuts off, then...

SUPERIMPOSE

"To eat is human...to digest is divine."
-Charles Townsend Copeland-

The alarm sounds again.

EVELYN

[V.O.]

Oh my god, oh my god. Get up, Mia. Come on, get up. We're gonna be late.

MIA

[V.O.]

Mom. Relax, mom. it's only 6:30.

EVELYN

[V.O.]

Are you sure?

EVELYN flips the light on and their little bedroom lights up. They both start dressing. It's a very tight space but it's obvious by the synchronization they've done it a hundred times before.

EVELYN

6:30 huh?

Mia hands her mom a pair of glasses. Evelyn puts them on and looks at her phone. It reads 6:33 AM.

EVELYN

[groans]

I hate Mondays.

MIA

Everybody hates Mondays, mom.

Evelyn and Mia put away their night clothes and begin removing the curtains. We now see that they are living in a minivan in a parking garage, 3rd maybe 4th floor. Judging from the view out the windshield.

EVELYN

Good point, sweetheart.

They look at each other and chuckle. "DING!" A microwave sounds. Evelyn opens the microwave door and grabs a steaming hot egg and ham muffin. Evelyn puts it on a plate with some melon slices. Mia, who is finishing her homework, grabs the plate without even looking up. A man in a security uniform walks by. Mia looks up and waves.

MIA

Hey, Pablo.

Pablo waves back.

PABLO

Hey, Mia.

His sound is muffled by the closed windows, then Pablo sees Evelyn.

PABLO

Hey, Evelyn.

Evelyn lifts a cup of coffee to her lips. On the cup is a "cat" precariously hanging from a tree branch with a caption that reads, "you got this."

EVELYN

Good morning, Pablo.

Evelyn watches Pablo walk his morning security perimeter as Mia brushes her teeth with a bottle of water. Mia finishes up and shoves the bottle into a tiny fridge and turns to Evelyn.

MIA

So...we're still not talking about what happened the other night?

EVELYN

No, we aren't.

MIA

Why?

Evelyn slides into the driver's seat and looks back at Mia with a cross stare.

EVELYN
I don't want to think about it.

MIA
But that man j...

EVELYN
MIA! I don't want to talk about it.

Mia slumps down in her seat. Then Evelyn turns to the wheel, starts the van and backs out.

7. INT. PARKING GARAGE - MORNING

The van is an older model but it's in fair condition. However, as Evelyn pulls out, we hear a vehicle that is in clear need of a tune up. She pulls out of the downtown garage and waves to Pablo as they exit.

EVELYN
See you tonight, Pablo.

PABLO
Not if I see you first. Be safe out there.

Pablo looks at Mia.

PABLO
Good luck, Mia.

Mia yells back from the van.

MIA
Thanks, Pablo.

Evelyn looks at her daughter.

EVELYN
Goodluck?
[a beat]
What was that for?

MIA
Yeah...uh. I have a little test today.

EVELYN
How little?

8. EXT. PARKING GARAGE - MORNING

The van pulls out into traffic.

MIA
[V.O.]
Okay. Not so little.

EVELYN
[V.O.]
Mia!

MIA
[V.O.]
I didn't want you to worry. You worry
too much already.

EVELYN
[V.O.]
It's my job to worry.

MIA
[V.O.]
So that means you have three jobs now.
[rolls eyes]
Great.

9. EXT. HIGHWAY ON RAMP - MORNING

The van veers onto a highway and disappears into the
horizon where the highway meets the sky.

10. EXT. PAYDAY LOAN STORE - DAY

Fade up on a car sitting in a payday lone store parking
lot. The car is in silhouette, but we can see a man is
sitting in it.

11. INT. MARCUS CAR - DAY

A very tired and defeated looking man is holding a piece of paper. It's Marcus. We see the paper. In the corner of the sheet there's a National Hospital Chain logo. Marcus looks down and sees a scary number. "Amount Due: \$133,000." He closes his eyes and lifts his head as if the number might disappear. He opens them again and to his horror, but not surprise, it's still there. Marcus sighs and looks up at the payday loan sign. He sighs again then looks back down at the number. STILL THERE, staring up at him. Marcus shutters, gets out of the car and walks towards the establishment.

12. INT. PAYDAY LOAN STORE - DAY

Marcus stops just inside, looking around the place carefully - like he's casing the joint. There are two associates helping customers and 10 to 12 people are in the store waiting in line. He looks at the cameras in each corner of the room.

CUT TO: a CCTV shot of Marcus looking up at the camera.

He finishes surveying the room, then reaches into his suit. He walks towards the line, stops when he reaches it and says...

MARCUS

Excuse me.

The lines open enough to let Marcus walk through. He nods to the customers as he passes.

MARCUS

Thank you.

He pulls a card out of his suit and waves it in front of a card reader. The door buzzes then Marcus pushes the door open. He walks into the bullpen and heads for the back office. His office.

MARCUS

How are we doing, Carlos?

CARLOS
South of 500.

MARCUS
How South?

CARLOS
North of 450.

MARCUS
That's not too South... not for a Tuesday.
[looks at his watch]
And it's still early.

The other associate, an attractive woman in her late 20s with lots of tattoos turns towards Marcus.

DAWN
Hey boss.

Dawn points to a red envelop on the back counter.

DAWN
The big boss left you something.

Marcus grabs the bright red envelope off the back counter and disappears into the office. He opens the envelop and pulls out a condolence card. A bunch of confetti falls out of the envelope. He opens the card without reading it. Hand-written under the cheesy punchline are these words. "Pat and I are really pulling for Natasha. Land prayers. Tumi and Pat." Marcus looks at the card.

MARCUS
[grunts]
It's Natalia.

He throws the card and envelop in the trash and falls back into his chair. As he sits there, letting his anger subside, Marcus notices his desktop calendar and sees that today is circled in red, with the words "60 days" hand-written on the date. Marcus smiles then slowly stands up. He looks over his desk carefully, then begins to rifle through it, obviously looking for

something important. Marcus gets frantic when he can't find it.

MARCUS

Where is it? Where the fuck is it!?

He calms down, smiles, sits back down and surveys the desk more thoughtfully this time. He closes his eyes and thinks for a moment. Then, he opens them, leans forward and reaches under his desk. Marcus pulls a 9x12 manila envelope that he taped there exactly 60 days ago. It reads "Liberty & Life" on the right corner. He pulls the policy out of the envelop and skims it. We see flashes of the policy as he reads.

"This policy is inactive during the first 60 day "probationary period". He sees another passage. "this policy shall pay out \$1,250,000 in the case of death." Marcus looks further down on the page. "Suicide is exempted from coverage." He looks at the previous line again, "shall pay out \$1,250,000 in the case of death." Marcus stops reading and lowers the policy, revealing the cat sitting next to the safe.

MARCUS

Don't look at me like that, Max. I don't have nine lives.

[mumbles]

Just one big problem.

13. EXT. - HIGHWAY OFF RAMP - MORNING

Evelyn's van pulls off the highway.

14. EXT. TOWN STREET - MORNING

Evelyn drives onto a beautiful suburban street. It is a handsome thoroughfare, lines of well-trimmed bushes and yards and quaint shops and boutiques - not a place Evelyn could afford to live. She passes a school. The school lawn and entrance are full of teens as parents dropping their kids off. Evelyn passes the school and pulls around the corner. Mia opens the door and jumps out.

EVELYN

You've got everything you need, right?

MIA

Yeah, yeah. I'm good.

EVELYN

You sure?

MIA

Yes, mom. I've got everything I need...I'm sure.

Mia comes back into the car, leans forward and kisses her mom on the cheek, then leaves again. Evelyn shouts after her.

EVELYN

Good luck on the test. Oh, Hey! I almost forgot!

Mia turns back to her mother.

EVELYN

I've got a late shift at Starbucks, so you'll have to take the bus to the midtown plaza and wait for me there.

Evelyn does her best indifferent teenage shrug.

MIA

Fine.

EVELYN

Cheer up, sweetie. Tomorrow's shower day.

Mia smiles then runs around the corner. Evelyn watches Mia leave as she pulls away. When she turns back to the road, there's cat in the middle of the street and she slams on the breaks.

EVELYN

Jesus!

Evelyn watches the cat as she slowly drives around it.

EVELYN
I guess you only have eight now.

15. EXT. TOWN STREET - MORNING

As Evelyn pulls away, we see Mia around the corner meeting her friends. They cross the street to school. Just as Graham pulls up behind them.

16. INT. 2017 CROWN VICTORIA - MORNING

Graham is dropping Kevin, off at the bus. Kevin is a good looking 15 year-old boy. He grabs his backpack. The right side of Graham's face and shoulder are all bandaged up from the previous night's shootout.

KEVIN
See ya, Dad.
[a beat]
You sure you're alright.

GRAHAM
Yeah. I'm good, buddy.

Graham smiles at his son and Kevin knows what his dad's going to say. They point at each other and laugh.

GRAHAM & KEVIN
You should see the other guy, Oh!

KEVIN
Love you, dad.

GRAHAM
Love you too. See you tonight.

Kevin begins to leave but Graham grabs his backpack and stops him.

GRAHAM
Kevin, wait!

KEVIN
What?

GRAHAM
Do you have your insulin?

KEVIN
Of course, Dad.

GRAHAM
Do you have enough? Is it the right
kind?

KEVIN
Man, you sound like mom. I'm fine, dad.

Graham lets go of the bag.

GRAHAM
I know you are, Son. I'm just being a
paranoid dad.

17. EXT. HIGH SCHOOL ENTERANCE - MORNING

Mia calls out to Kevin.

MIA
Hey, Kevin, are you coming?

He starts running then yells back to his dad.

KEVIN
See ya, Dad.

GRAHAM
Hey, Mia.

Mia waves at Graham.

MIA
Hey, Mr. D.

GRAHAM
Keep him out of trouble, would you?

Mia smiles.

MIA

I'll do my best.

Graham drives off and Kevin rushes to greet Mia and two other students. A boy, Major, and a girl, Rhianna. Mia obviously noticed Graham's bandages...

MIA

Jesus, Kevin, what happened to your dad?

KEVIN

I have no idea.

MIA

Really?

KEVIN

He doesn't talk about work. None of us do. It's like an unwritten rule.

RHIANNA

That's so weird.

Everyone looks at Rhianna.

KEVIN

Why?

RHIANNA

That's all my dad ever talks about.
Work. Work. Work.

Mia looks at Kevin with concern.

MIA

He didn't say anything about it all?

KEVIN

My mom said he had a scuffle at work and he'd be fine in a couple of days.

Major interrupts the moment.

MAJOR

Come on you guys, we're going to be late.

The four begin to leave when Kevin grabs Mia's arm gently.

KEVIN

Hey, Mia.

She stops and looks at Kevin.

MIA

What?

KEVIN

I was wondering if you want to come over and study later.

Mia is taken by surprise.

MIA

Study for what? The test is in 10 minutes.

KEVIN

So then maybe we watch TV and hang out. You know, to relax after the big test.

Mia smiles.

MIA

Nice recovery, Kev.

KEVIN

[smiles]

Thanks.

Mia thinks for a second.

MIA

Well...my mom is working late shift tonight, so... can someone take me to the Midtown Plaza at 10:00?

KEVIN

Sure, no problem.

MIA

Great. Now, let's go ace this test.

Mia and Kevin head into the school.

CUT TO:

18. EXT. LIFE & LIBERTY OFFICES - MORNING

Morning light shines on a modern glass skyscraper. It is the Life & Liberty main offices. We hear typing on a keyboard.

MS ORLANDO

[V.O.]

Evelyn. Are you there? Evelyn!

19. INT. EVELYN RECEPTION AREA - MORNING

Fade in on a picture of Evelyn, Mia and her late Dad standing at the Grand Canyon.

EVELYN

[V.O.]

Yes ma'am. I'm coming.

Evelyn is scrambling around her desk to gather her pad and paper. She accidentally knocks the picture over, then scurries into Ms. Orlando's office.

20. INT. MS ORLANDO'S OFFICE - MORNING

MS ORLANDO

Close the door, Evelyn.

From the look on Evelyn's face, it's not a request that she's used to hearing. Evelyn cautiously closes the door. Ms. Orlando motions to the seat and Evelyn slides into it. Ms. Orlando looks at her assistant, then turns and looks out the window.

MS ORLANDO

These are strange times we live in,
Evelyn, don't you agree?

Ms. Orlando turns around and looks directly at Evelyn.
Evelyn is obviously nervous. She nods in agreement.

EVELYN

Strange times? Yeah, I guess. I heard
some disturbing news about you, Evelyn.

EVELYN

Well...

[nervous]

you can't believe everything you hear,
Ms. Orlando.

MS ORLANDO

About your situation, I mean.

EVELYN

Yeah, that? Well, that's... that's just
temporary.

MS ORLANDO

I heard you're the only one who knows
what happened to Charlie Cannon.

EVELYN relaxes immediately.

EVELYN

Oh, that..

MS ORLANDO

Yes, that!? What did you think I was
talking about?

Ms. Orlando slides into her chair and gives Evelyn a
suspicious look.

MS. ORLANDO

How do you know what happened to him
anyway?

EVELYN

I saw it.

MS ORLANDO

What?

EVELYN

I was there when he jumped.

[a beat]

Are sure you want to hear this?

MS ORLANDO

That's why the door's closed, sweetie.

[beat]

Continue.

21. INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

EVELYN

[V.O.]

He drove right by me when I was walking
back to my car.

We see Evelyn and Mia looking through the curtains as
an expensive Audi pulls into a spot a few down from
theirs. It's Charlie Cannon, an executive from the Life
and Liberty. He gets out of the car, disheveled and
obviously intoxicated.

EVELYN

[V.O.]

He looked pretty drunk so I walked over
to see if he was okay.

We see Evelyn put her finger to her lips and shoosh
Mia. Then she puts on some slippers and steps out of t
the van. Dressed in leggings and an over-sized
Thundercats® shirt. She approaches Charlie, who is
sobbing and pathetic.

EVELYN

Mr. Cannon, are you alright.

Charlie is startled...

CHARLIE

What the hell!?

[he squints]

Do I know you?

EVELYN

No. But I work at Liberty & Life too.

CHARLIE

Yeah? How come I've never seen you.

EVELYN

Well, there are over 400 people in our building and there are like four buildings so...

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, right?

[a beat]

So how do you know me.

Evelyn

Your picture is in the lobby with all the other vice presidents.

CHARLIE

Oh yeah, it is, isn't.

[beat]

So tell me...

Charlie pauses to hear Evelyn names.

EVELYN

Evelyn.

CHARLIE

Evelyn, right? What do you do for us at Liberty & Life, Evelyn?

EVELYN

I'm just an assistant to one of the adjusters in the reclamation division.

CHARLIE

Oh, you work for a soul-sucker. My condolences.

Charlie notices the van and sees Mia looking through the curtains. Evelyn grimaces at her. Mia closes the curtain quick, well-aware that she's in big trouble when Evelyn gets back.

CHARLIE

Do you want to know how I made vice president, Evelyn?

EVELYN

Sure, I guess.

CHARLIE

I came up with an algorithm that reduced our coverage requirements by 4.8%.

[laughs]

4.8%. Do you know how much money 4.8% is at Life & Liberty?

EVELYN

If you made vice president over it, I'm sure it's a lot.

CHARLIE

2 Billion. I saved those assholes 2 billion dollars and all I had to do was pretend human beings are just numbers on a spreadsheet. CHARLIE pulls a flask from his jacket and takes a swig.

[a beat]

I shed my humanity, Evelyn. I threw it away like it had no value at all. Like it was trash. And for what!?

Charlie stumbles a little, then recovers.

CHARLIE

A corner office and some more money? I can't even look at my children anymore, Evelyn. Can you imagine that?

EVELYN nods her head negatively. Charlie takes a few steps toward the wall and starts to sob again. Evelyn looks worried as he approaches the wall.

CHARLIE

I can't look at anyone's children anymore.

EVELYN

Mr. Cannon. Please. Everything will be alright. Just step away from the wall. Please? You're scaring me

Charlie looks over the wall, then back at Evelyn and laughs.

CHARLIE

Everything will be alright?

Charlie suddenly gets angry and shouts at Evelyn.

CHARLIE

Everything is not alright, Evelyn!

Silence follows. Too much silence. Evelyn winces then smiles nervously. There is another momentary silence as Charlie softens his gaze... Then says calmly.

CHARLIE

You really believe that, don't you, Evelyn? That everything is going to be alright.

[to himself]

Huh? Amazing.

EVELYN

What's amazing?

CHARLIE

You live in your car, work at an insurance company and you still believe everything is going to be okay? That's amazing.

EVELYN

I don't live in my car.

Charlie looks her over, noticing her attire.

CHARLIE

Really?

Embarrassed and scared, Evelyn looks down at her "Thundercats®" night shirt.

CHARLIE

I saw the little girl in the window too.
I'm drunk, not delusional.

Evelyn starts to stutter and speak nervously since she thinks her cover is blown.

EVELYN

They demolished our building six months ago. We didn't have a choice.

[defensive]

We're only doing this until we have enough money to get another place.

Charlie steps right to the edge of the wall. He looks at Evelyn with sympathetic eyes.

CHARLIE

Don't worry, Evelyn, your secret's safe with me. In fact...

[winks]

I'll take it to the grave with me.

Charlie stops talking and stares at Evelyn. He takes a breath. His breath is all we hear. He looks down, then looks back at Evelyn and smiles... then he throws himself over the edge. Evelyn stands there in shock. We hear Miss Orlando's voice.

MS ORLANDO

[V.O.]

That's terrible.

[a beat]

Did you call the police?

EVELYN

[V.O.]

Yeah, they spoke to me for like three hours.

There are flashing lights and Evelyn is speaking to the cops. The detective motions to Evelyn's minivan then to Evelyn and she nods.

EVELYN
[V.O.]
I thought I'd never get out of there.

MS ORLANDO
[V.O.]
And then...

We see Evelyn climbing back in the van and going back to bed.

EVELYN
[V.O.]
And then... I got in my car and went home.

22. INT. MS. ORLANDO'S OFFICE - MORNING

MS ORLANDO
And that's it?

We see Evelyn looking over the edge at Charlie. There are cops all around the scene and a coroner van parked close by to retrieve the body.

EVELYN
That's as much as I know.

Evelyn gets up and makes it half-way to the door.

MS ORLANDO
What were you doing there?

EVELYN
What?

MS ORLANDO
Didn't it happen at like 3:00 in the morning?

Evelyn gets nervous, but thinks quick.

EVELYN
A movie. I was there for a movie.

MS ORLANDO
At 3:00 in the morning?

EVELYN
We missed the 10:30 and decided to wait
for the midnight showing?

MS ORLANDO
We?

EVELYN
[faux shock]
Miss Orlando!?

MS ORLANDO
Of course. How inappropriate of me. My
apologies.

Evelyn leaves.
CUT TO:

23. INT. EVELYN'S RECEPTION DESK - MORNING

Evelyn walks back into the reception area and is just
about to sit at her desk when...

WILLIAMS
Ms. Rizzoti?

She looks up and to sees a man and woman both dressed
in in-expensive business attire.

EVELYN
Yes.

The woman pulls out a badge and ID.

WILLAMS
We're from Child Protective Services.

There is silence. Then a phone rings.
CUT TO...

24. INT. PAYDAY LOAN BULLPEN - DAY

A hand picks up the phone. It's Dawn in the PayDay loan
bullpen.

DAWN

Advance Payday, Dawn speaking, how can I help you?

MARCUS

Dawn, It's Marcus, could you come back here, please?

Dawn says nothing. She hangs up the phone, looks at Carlos and shrugs. She gets up and walks to back office. She knocks, but the door is already ajar.

25. INT. MARCUS OFFICE - DAY

MARCUS

Come in, Dawn. Come in.
[points to a chair]
Sit.

Dawn walks in and reluctantly sits down.

MARCUS

How are things?

DAWN

I'm under paid and I destroy people's lives for a living, but other than that...

MARCUS

Hey, hey hey...
[laughs nervously]
We provide a service when people have nowhere else to turn.

Dawn rolls her eyes.

DAWN

I work here and I have eyes, so spare me the bullshit, Marcus. What do you want?

MARCUS

It's okay to hate the game, Dawn.

DAWN

So?

Marcus seemed to have forgotten why he asked Dawn into the office.

MARCUS

So?

DAWN

[impatient]

So, why am I sitting here?

Marcus suddenly remembers.

MARCUS

Right? Sorry.

[beat]

I hear you hang out with some tough people?

DAWN

Yeah, you mean my friends?

MARCUS

Some of your friends.

DAWN

[cautious]

Okay?

MARCUS

I'm not sure how to ask this, so I'll just get to the point.

Dawn looks impatient.

MARCUS

If I wanted to hire someone to...

[beat]

You know...

DAWN

No I don't know. I thought you were getting to the point.

MARCUS

Okay. There's a guy harassing Natalia and police can't do anything about it.

DAWN

I'm sorry to hear that, but what can I do about it?

MARCUS

I need this guy taken care of.

Dawn is understandably outraged.

DAWN

A hitman!? You want me to get you a hitman? What the fuck, Marcus?

Dawn stands up and storms toward the door, then turns back to Marcus.

DAWN

My friends may be a little wild, but they aren't killers! Asshole.

Dawn leaves and slams the door. Marcus talks to the closed door.

MARCUS

Okay, yeah, you're right. What am I talking about? It was a crazy idea. Forget I ever said anything.

[to himself]

Shit!

Marcus slumps back into his seat and sighs. Suddenly, his phone rings. It's his son, Felix.

MARCUS

Felix, my boy. How are you. It's so good to hear your voice.

Marcus listens. We hear a frantic voice on the other end saying something about a tuition payment.

MARCUS

Wait, wait, wait. I sent the payment.

We hear the voice a little more clearly.

FELIX

[O.S.]

They said the check bounced, dad.

MARCUS

I can give you my credit card number.

FELIX

[O.S.]

No dad. It's cash only at this point.

MARCUS

How long do I have?

FELIX

[O.S.]

Tomorrow.

MARCUS

You'll have it, Felix. I promise. And Felix.

FELIX

[O.S.]

Yeah?

MARCUS

I'm sorry.

FELIX

[O.S.]

(sighs)

It's alright, dad. I know you have a lot on your mind with mom. How is she?

MARCUS

She's the same... more or less.

FELIX

[O.S.]

Give her my love, and tell her I'll call her tomorrow.

MARCUS

She'd love that, son.

FELIX

[O.S.]

I love you, dad. Thanks.

MARCUS

I love you too. And I won't let you
down. I promise.

Felix is about to hang up.

MARCUS

Oh, Felix, I almost forgot.

FELIX

Yeah?

MARCUS

How much is the tuition?

FELIX

[O.S.]

\$9600.

Marcus swallows hard.

MARCUS

No problem. See you in a few weeks.

FELIX

[O.S.]

Okay. See you dad.

Marcus presses end then opens his bank app. The phone recognizes his face and his bank account comes up and the balance reads \$2,876. He presses a button and his phone turns off. He squeezes his phone angrily with both hands. He raises the phone, and is about to throw it at the wall mirror when he notices a reflection of the safe. He turns and looks at the safe.

26. INT HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The screen is dark. We hear machines beeping and whirring. Fade in on medical machines. We are in Bosco's hospital room. He is lying in a bed and Graham

is in a chair sleeping next to him. A nurse walks in and touches Graham's arm.

NURSE

You asked me to wake you in an hour.

GRAHAM

It's been an hour already?

[looks at nurse]

Thanks.

The nurse nods, then leaves the room. Graham slowly comes awake. He sits up in his chair and looks at Bosco's torn up face. He looks at the machine with the slow heartbeat. Then he looks at Bosco, who just lies there, motionless.

GRAHAM

You know, Bosco, I've been thinking.

[a beat]

Maybe we're not tigers you and me...
Maybe we're just more cats... scratching
to get out of our cages... fighting for
scraps and stealing the scraps that
others fight for.

Graham leans in closer.

GRAHAM

We lock up the bad guys and more bad
guys take their place. Nothing ever
changes. It's like we're trapped in this
endless loop, and the harder we fight,
the worse things get. I know, sounds
crazy, right?

Graham grabs Bosco's hand and gets face to face.

GRAHAM

Thing is, buddy. Maybe we're all just a
bunch of cats, trying not to spend all
those lives at one time. And the only
reason they put us on the calendar is
because it doesn't cost them anything.

Graham squeezes Bosco's hand.

GRAHAM

To us, it's tradition, history, culture.
To them, it's just a fucking calendar.

Graham puts his head against Bosco's.

GRAHAM

Hang in there, buddy. I know you got a
few more lives in there.

Suddenly, MARCUS passes in the hall outside Bosco's
room.

27. INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

He is pushing his wife in a wheelchair. She is very
weak and run down. A doctor is walking with them.

NATALIA

[Russian Accent]

I still feel like shit. Why do I still
feel like shit, Doc?

DOC AMED

It will be a couple of days, Natalia.
These are very powerful chemicals.

MARCUS

You look like a million bucks to me,
baby.

Natalia looks at Marcus and sneers.

NATALIA

Compared to what?

MARCUS

I don't know...
[smiles]
a couple hundred.

They both laugh.

DOC AMED

That's good. Laughter is good.

Natalia winces in pain.

NATALIA

Well, it sure doesn't help with the pain, but at least it's free.

The three stop at a window.

DOC AMED

This is where I get off.

MARCUS

Thanks, doc.

NATALIA

Yes, Doctor Amed, thank you. For everything.

DOC AMED

Where all in this together, right?

Doctor Amed walks off and woman comes to the window.

ADMIN WOMAN

How can I help you?

Marcus hands the woman his insurance card.

MARCUS

Volkov-McKerny. Checking out.

The woman accepts the card.

ADMIN WOMAN

Thank you. Please wait a moment.

She types on the computer, waits, then her face crinkles and she turns back towards Marcus.

ADMIN WOMAN

It says here that your copay request was denied.

MARCUS

Wait? What? That can't be right.

NATALIA

It was denied initially because the treatment is experimental, but we worked that out. Wait, I have it here.

Natalia desperately rummages through her purse.

NATALIA

Ah, here it is.

She waves a piece of paper at the woman, then hands it her. The woman accepts the "Life And Liberty" stamped Document and looks it over.

NATALIA

See here, we have the approval.

The woman looks at the sheet again and hands it back to Natalia.

ADMIN WOMAN

I'm sorry, but if the company approved it, it should show up on the computer.

MARCUS

Maybe it didn't go through yet.

NATALYA

I don't understand, they've already paid for two treatments.

ADMIN WOMAN

I'm sorry, ma'am, this one's not going through.

The woman notices how stressed Marcus and Natalia are becoming and changes her tone.

ADMIN WOMAN

Look, sometimes the computer glitches or the insurance info doesn't get updated. I've seen it happen before. It actually happens a lot with Life and Liberty policies.

MARCUS

What if it's not a glitch?

Natalia grabs Marcus hand tightly.

ADMIN WOMAN

If it's not a glitch, then the hospital will bill you directly.

MARCUS

It's almost \$60,000 a treatment. We don't have that kind of money.

ADMIN WOMAN

The hospital financial aid department can help you with that. They can set you up on a payment plan and sometimes even help with the payments.

MARCUS

She has seven treatments left. That's like half a million dollars.

ADMIN WOMAN

About that.

[beat]

Since your insurance company denied coverage for this treatment, it isn't likely the hospital will give her another one until that is resolved.

NATALIA

[scared]

What if this isn't a mistake? What if there just not going to pay anymore.

MARCUS

Natalia, don't say that.

ADMIN WOMAN

I'm very sorry. There's nothing more I can do.

CUT TO:

28. INT PAYDAY LOAN CAR - DAY

Marcus is driving Natalia home. Madness's "It Must Be Love" is playing on the radio. Marcus and Natalia are silent. After a few seconds, Marcus can't stand it any longer.

MARCUS
Say something.

NATALIA
Something?

MARCUS
That's not funny.

NATALIA
It's a little funny.

Marcus shakes his head and smiles grimly.

MARCUS
So what'd the doctor say? How are the treatments going?

NATALIA
He optimistic.

MARCUS
Optimistic?

NATALIA
Yeah. Optimistic.

MARCUS
What the hell does that mean?

NATALIA
It's means he thinks the treatments are working... Marcus interrupts.

MARCUS
He thinks, or he knows?

Natalia looks at Marcus sympathetically.

NATALIA

Sweetie, all this is experimental. We knew that going in.

MARCUS

I know. I know.

[a beat]

It's just... if this doesn't work... I just don't know...living without you...I just can't imagine it. I refuse to imagine it. I can't.

NATALIA

Hey!

Natalia sees his vulnerability and puts her hand on his arm.

NATALIA

I'm not going anywhere, Marcus.

Natalia coughs and some blood comes out. She sees Marcus's concerned expression.

NATALIA

Relax. Dr. Amed said this was going to happen.

Natalia wipes the blood from her hands and mouth.

NATALIA

I'm good.

Marcus is still staring and horror. Marcus drifts off the road a bit.

NATALIA

Hey!

Marcus corrects the car.

MARCUS

Sorry.

Felix continues driving then remembers...

MARCUS
Felix called.

NATALIA
He did?

MARCUS
Yeah. Right before I came to get you.
He was calling to see how you were.

NATALIA
That's so Felix.
[a beat]
What else did he say? Marcus gets a
little nervous.

MARCUS
Oh, the usual. School's good. Grades are
up. Just wanted to say hi. Oh, and he'd
said he'd call you tomorrow.

NATALIA
I can't wait. I haven't talked to him in
weeks.

29. EXT. MCKERNY DRIVEWAY - DAY

Marcus pulls his PayDay Loan-wrapped car next to his
wife's nice clean Honda and says...

MARCUS
[V.O.]
I have to run to the bank, do you mind
if I take your car?

NATALIA
[V.O.]
What's the matter, honey? The four-door
billboard got you down?

MARCUS
[V.O.]
Ha. Ha. Ha.

NATALYA

[V.O.]

Yeah, go ahead. Somebody should be driving it. We're still paying for it.

MARCUS

[V.O.]

Thanks, baby.

30. INT. LIFE & LIBERTY CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

We see Evelyn through a conference room window. The two bureaucrats are grilling her hard. The woman, Williams, says something, and Evelyn puts her head in her hands. Then man, Patel, speaks and Evelyn looks up at him. Patel continues and she starts crying. Evelyn puts her head back into her hands. Williams says something again then we're in the room. Evelyn looks up at the woman and the tears turn to frustration.

EVELYN

Let's get something straight. You're not here to help us. You're here to take Mia away from me.

WILLIAMS

You live in your car, Ms. Rizzoti.

EVELYN

It's a van. And we're only living there until I save enough to get an apartment.

PATEL

Why not a shelter. There are plenty of family shelters.

EVELYN

We tried that. Mia was sexually assaulted the first night. And my van was vandalized twice. It was a lot of things, but shelter wasn't one of them.

WILLIAMS

We're only here for what's best for Mia, Ms. Rizzoti.

EVELYN

Bullshit!

WILLIAMS

[annoyed]

Excuse me!?

EVELYN

You're here because the police saw my daughter looking out the window of our van the other night and they obviously felt obliged to call you. That's why you're here.

PATEL

Look, you're right, Evelyn. The police told us about your situation and when there's a child involved, we are required to check it out. Does that sound unreasonable?

EVELYN

No. I guess not. But Mia and I are doing fine. She's getting to school on time and her grades have never been better.

WILLIAMS

There is more to life than grades, Ms. Rizzoti.

Evelyn glares at Williams.

EVELYN

Why do I get the feeling if her grades were bad, you'd be throwing that in my face?

Patel looks at Williams with a disapproving look, then looks back at Evelyn.

PATEL

Suppose we let you continue living in your van with your daughter...

Williams immediately interrupts.

WILLIAMS

What!?

PATEL

Hypothetically speaking. If we left you alone, how soon would you have enough money to get a place?

Williams rolls her eyes.

WILLIAMS

You're serious?

PATEL

I said "hypothetically."

EVELYN

Hypothetically?

[a beat]

We need first month, last month and a security deposit and that's around 5 to 7 thousand... so four months. five, tops.

WILLIAMS

Five months?

EVELYN

I pay \$1,800 a month for Mia's school. And I still have gas, insurance, food and school supplies to buy. Plus, the garage is another \$460 a month.

[remembers]

Oh, and a gym membership too.

WILLIAMS

A gym membership? Why?

EVELYN

It's a safe, clean place for Mia and I to take showers and lock up some of our belongings.

PATEL

Six months is a long time, Evelyn.

WILLIAMS

And a parking garage isn't exactly the perfect environment for a child.

EVELYN

I'm her mother. She belongs with me. And this is only temporary.

Williams looks at Patel.

WILLIAMS

None of this even matters until we can evaluate Mia.

PATEL

That's true..

[looks at Evelyn]

But we don't have to take any action in the meantime.

Patel looks at Williams.

PATEL

Right?

WILLIAMS

Fine.

Williams turns to Evelyn and hands her a business card.

WILLIAMS

Make an appointment and bring her to this address within two days. We can talk about what to do after that.

EVELYN

We'll be there tomorrow.

CUT TO:

31. INT. POLICE STATION LOBBY - DAY

Graham walks into the station and past the Sargent at the front desk. He addresses the officer as he passes him.

GRAHAM

Hey, Darnell, what's shaken.

DARNELL

Hey, Graham. How's Bosco? Tell him the boys are pulling for him.

GRAHAM

Thanks. I'll do that.

32. INT. DETECTIVE SQUAD ROOM - DAY

Graham walks into a room full of desks and cops, some in uniforms and some in plain clothes. He walks by a desk with a tough-looking female wearing a shoulder holster. She stands as he approaches.

DET. MICAH

How's Bosco.

GRAHAM

He's not going to win any beauty contests, but the doc thinks he'll pull through.

DET. MICAH

That's good to hear. You look like shit.

[beat]

How's the face?

Graham suddenly remembers his bandages. He touches the one on his cheek.

GRAHAM

It'll probably keep me out of the trenches for a while, but I'll live.

A voice calls from across the room.

DET. GOMEZ

Hey, Graham!

Graham looks over at Det. Gomez.

DET. GOMEZ

Deetz wants to see you.

Graham looks at Det. Micah and smiles.

GRAHAM

Duty calls.

DET. MICAH

Catch you later.

Graham starts walking toward Captain Deetz's door.
There are two detectives sitting outside.

DET. ONE

Hey, Graham. Bosco might be in the hospital, but the scumbags who did this are at in the morg...so good job.

DET. TWO

Captain won't say it, but he's proud as hell.

GRAHAM

Really? Why?

DET. ONE

The attack on you and Bosco gave the D.A. enough to get warrants for the entire warehouse district. They bagged six hundred pounds of ice and over 15 million in cash.

DET. TWO

They made 31 felony arrests, Graham. That's got to be some kind record.

GRAHAM

I'll celebrate when Bosco's back on the job.

DET ONE

Copy that.

DET TWO

Absolutely.

Graham opens the door to Captain Deetz' office. Cut to...

33. INT. CAPTAIN DEETZ' OFFICE - DAY

GRAHAM

Hey, Cap, you wanted to see me?

Deetz motions to a chair in front of his desk.

DEETZ

Sit down, detective. Take a load off.
You and Bosco did some solid work out
there, I have to say.

Deetz points to Graham's wound.

DEETZ

That looks like that hurts.

Graham slides into the chair.

GRAHAM

I'll be fine, Sir.

DEETZ

Nonsense...

[a beat]

You've been through hell and back. What
are you even doing here?

GRAHAM

I'm on the board.

DEETZ

Oh, yeah. I put you on the board. I
thought you could use an easy case.
Something you could work alone.
Something to keep you busy, keep your
mind off the warehouse... and... you know...
Bosco.

GRAHAM

Busy work?

DEETZ

Busy work? No. Easy overtime.

GRAHAM

I'm not following you.

Deetz pushes manila envelope towards Graham.

DEETZ

Everything you need to know is in the file. Just got this today. Like I said before. It's just some easy overtime...

GRAHAM smiles at the captain.

GRAHAM

Alright... what's case.

DEETZ

A girl called in a few hours ago concerned about her boss. Apparently, the guy's looking to hire a hitman.

Graham nods to Deetz.

GRAHAM

Alright, cap. I'll get it done.

DEETZ

I know you will, Detective. All the info and the contact numbers are in the file. Just set up a meeting and see where it goes from there.

34. INT. CITY STREET - DAY

Aretha Franklin's, "Chain of Fools" is playing on the car radio as Marcus heads to the bank. After singing alone for a bit, he glances down at an envelope of money. There are a few bills poking out. Suddenly police lights come on behind him. Marcus realizes that he must've run a stop sign when glanced down at the money. Marcus pulls over. We see a motorcycle cop get off his bike and walk to the car. The window is already down when the cop gets there.

MARCUS

How can I help you, officer?

MOTORCYCLE COP

Do you know why I pulled you over?

MARCUS

Stop sign, right?

MOTORCYCLE COP

That's right, sir. Stop sign.

MARCUS

I must've looked away for a second and missed it.

MOTORCYCLE COP

Sounds like a reasonable explanation, sir. But I still have to write you up. License and registration, please.

Marcus opens the glove box and begins searching for the registration.

MARCUS

Sorry. It's my wife's car. I know she keeps the registration in here.

Marcus finally finds it.

MARCUS

Ah! Here it is.

Marcus hands it to the officer, then grabs his wallet off the envelop of money. A few more dollars are pulled from envelop when he grabs it. Marcus pulls his license out and hands it to the officer. The officer notices the money, but grabs the wallet and says nothing.

MOTORCYCLE COP

Thank you.

The officer notices that the last names don't match.

MOTORCYCLE COP

It says here that Natalia Volkov owns this vehicle.

MARCUS

Yes. That's right.

The cop looks at Marcus' license.

MOTORCYCLE COP

And you're Marcus McKerny?

MARCUS

Yes.

[suddenly remembers]

Oh, the names. My wife had her own business when we got married so she kept her name on her the car and some other documents.

[a beat]

And it's a nice tax break for us.

MOTORCYCLE COP

Uh-huh.

MARCUS

Uh-huh? That's the truth. Why would I even lie about something like that?

MOTORCYCLE COP

I noticed an envelope of cash on the passenger seat.

MARCUS

What? The cop motions the envelop.

MARCUS

Oh that. If you must know, I was on my way to the bank to deposit that money into my son's account so he can pay his tuition.

MOTORCYCLE COP

That looks like a lot of money, sir.

MARCUS

It is a lot of money. College is expensive.

MOTORCYCLE COP

No, I mean that's a lot of money to be driving around in someone else's car with.

MARCUS

It's my wife's car. I already told you that.

MOTORCYCLE COP

How much money are we talking about here, sir?

MARCUS

9600 dollars.

MOTORCYCLE COP

[whistles]

9600 dollars. That is a lot of money. Do you have a receipt for it?

MARCUS

A receipt?

MOTORCYCLE COP

Yeah. A bank withdrawal receipt. A check to cash transaction receipt. Something to prove it's yours.

35. INT. MARCUS OFFICE - NIGHT

FLASHBACK. We see Marcus open the safe, pull the money from a bundle, stuff it into an envelope, then closes the safe.

36. INT. HONDA - DAY

MARCUS

It's a loan from a friend, so no.. I don't have a receipt.

MOTORCYCLE COP

So you have nine grand with no receipt
and you're driving someone else's car.
You can see how this must look from my
end?

MARCUS

Yes, but if my son doesn't get this
money, he'll be kicked out of college.

MOTORCYCLE COP

Here's what I can do. I can arrest and
hold you until we figure out where the
money came from.

[a beat]

Or, you can just sign the money over to
the police department and I'll let you
go... no questions asked.

[smiles]

I won't even ticket you for the stop
sign.

37. INT. MARCUS OFFICE - NIGHT

Flashback: we see Marcus pulling the money out of the
safe.

38. INT. HONDA - DAY

MARCUS

[V.O.]

Fine.

Marcus reluctantly signs over the cash to the officer.
As the officer pulls away, Marcus starts crying.
Suddenly his phone rings. The number is unknown, but he
answers it anyway.

MARCUS

Oh, what the hell. Hello.

VOICE

Is this Marcus?

MARCUS

Yeah, this is Marcus.

Who wants to know?

VOICE

I'm a friend of Dawn Fontinno. She said you need help with a problem.

Marcus suddenly realizes that Dawn found him a hitman.

MARCUS

Oh. Okay.

[a beat]

I do. I do. Where can we meet?

VOICE

Riverside Bar and Grill. 8:00 O'Clock.

CUT TO:

39. INT DEGARD HOUSE - NIGHT

We see a woman carrying a tray with two drinks and a bowl of chips. It's Vicky DeGard. She sets the plate in front of Mia and Kevin.

MIA

Thanks, Mrs. D.

VICKY

You're very welcome, dear. Kevin tells me you're the smartest girl in school.

Mia looks at Kevin, embarrassed.

MIA

I don't know about that.

KEVIN

She's totally being modest, mom. Everybody wants her as a study partner.

VICKY

Really?

KEVIN

Yeah, but she lives too far for anyone to partner with.

Kevin looks at Mia.

KEVIN

Right?

MIA

Yeah. I live in midtown. Closer to where my mom works. And she works a couple of jobs, so it's just easier for us that way.

VICKY

Interesting. How'd you end up at Donnelly Academy?

MIA

I used to live in the neighborhood, but after my dad died, my mom and I couldn't afford to live here anymore. But, seven years later, mom was making enough to send me back. Mia smiles.

MIA

So, here I am...again.

KEVIN

We were actually in second grade together.

Vicky looks at Kevin and smiles, then back at Mia.

VICKY

I'm so sorry about your father. I didn't mean to pry.

MIA

Oh, that's okay. I barely knew him. He was a major in the army and I only saw him a couple times a year... he died in Afghanistan 10 years ago.

VICKY

So now it's just you and your mom?

MIA

Yep.

VICKY

She must be an incredible woman.

Mia smiles at Vicky.

MIA

And then some.

KEVIN

Hey, mom. Where's dad?

VICKY

He's working late on a case.

KEVIN

Again?

VICKY

He said it was some easy over-time

KEVIN

Ugh!

VICKY

That's how we pay for vacation around here, Kev.

KEVIN

It's not that. I told Mia someone would drop her off in midtown around 10:00.

Vicky looks at Mia.

VICKY

It's no problem. I'll drop you, sweetie.

MIA

Thank, Mrs. D. You're awesome.

VICKY

Us ladies got to stick together, right?

Vicky winks then leaves.

MIA

Your mom is so nice.

KEVIN
Yeah, she's pretty cool.

MIA
So, what's the plan?

KEVIN
I thought we could watch a movie.

MIA
Sounds awesome. What movie?

KEVIN
I don't know. What do you like? Horror,
comedy, anime, action... We've got a
little of everything.

MIA
Comedy sounds good.
[a beat]
Besides, I think we both need a good
laugh after that test.

Kevin presses the TV remote.

KEVIN
Comedy it is.

CUT TO:
40. EXT. SEASIDE BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

We see a full moon behind a flickering neon sign, which reads "Seaside Bar and Grill". Marcus's PayDay Loan wrapped car pulls into the parking lot. He steps out and looks at the building.

MARCUS
[V.O.]
Thank you for meeting me on such short
notice.

GRAHAM
[V.O.]
Everything in this business is short
notice, pal.

41. INT. SEASIDE BAR & GRILL - NIGHT

We see Graham and Marcus, face to face at a high-top in the corner, next to the bar.

MARCUS

I'm not sure where to begin. I've never done this before.

GRAHAM

Why don't you start by telling me who the problem is. Then we can decide on a price.

MARCUS

Who the problem is?

[beat]

I'm afraid it's a bit more complicated than that.

Graham gives Marcus an annoyed look.

GRAHAM

That's fine. I'm used to complicated... enlighten me.

MARCUS

Currently, I am worth a more dead than alive.

GRAHAM

What!? Wait? Are you a wanted man?

MARCUS

Shhhhh!!! No! Nothing like that.

[beat]

Insurance.

GRAHAM

Insurance?

MARCUS

Yeah. If you have any, you're probably worth more dead too.

GRAHAM

Wait. Wait. Wait. You want me to kill you for the insurance money?

MARCUS

[quiet]

Exactly.

GRAHAM

That's fraud.

MARCUS

Says the guy who kills people for a living.

[gives a funny look]

Last I checked, murder was worse than fraud.

GRAHAM

What I meant is, you're right. This is not what I'm used to.

MARCUS

Fair enough, but a murder is a murder, right. And this would be a guilt-free murder because the victim is the contractor.

GRAHAM

Why do you want to do this?

MARCUS

What do you care?

GRAHAM

I'm just curious. Nobody's ever asked me to kill them before.

MARCUS

Okay? If it helps motivate you...

GRAHAM

It might...

MARCUS

If you must know, my wife has an incurable disease that is costing me \$60,000 dollars a treatment.

GRAHAM

That's a lot of money.

MARCUS

Yeah, and she need 9 more treatments. Graham whistles at the amount, then Marcus leans into and quiets his voice.

MARCUS

Currently, my debt is somewhere north of \$130,000. I have a couple thousand in the bank, but I'm basically living paycheck to paycheck and I'm already two payments behind on my son's tuition. Eventually, they're going expel my him, take my house and my wife will just die.

Graham looks at Marcus sympathetically.

MARCUS

Unless.

GRAHAM

You die.

MARCUS

Bingo.

[beat]

A million dollars would save my family from all that financial pain. My wife's treatments. My son's tuition. The house payments. The car payments. Food and rent until Felix is done with school.

Marcus snaps his fingers.

MARCUS

Like magic. It would fix everything.

GRAHAM

Felix? That's your son?

MARCUS

Yes.

GRAHAM

How much money are we talking about here?

MARCUS

One million, two hundred and fifty thousand, but it'll be one million after I pay you.

GRAHAM

Wait. You wanna pay me \$250,000? That's a lot of money - ten times what I normally charge.

MARCUS

All yours, if you make it look an accident or botched robbery.

GRAHAM

\$250,000? Marcus smiles at him.

MARCUS

Well, you will be committing Murder, and fraud, so...

Graham can't stand it any longer. He grabs Marcus by the arm.

GRAHAM

Come on. Let's take a walk.

Graham starts dragging Marcus to the door.

MARCUS

Wait, we haven't paid yet.

The hostess hears Marcus and looks at them. Graham flashes a badge at her behind Marcus's back as they leave.

Graham still has Marcus by the arm as they exit the restaurant.

MARCRUS

Ouch. You're hurting me.

Graham releases Marcus.

MARCUS

What the hell, man?

Graham shows Marcus his badge.

GRAHAM

I'm a cop.

MARCUS

Oh, that's just great.

GRAHAM

Relax, I'm not gonna bust you.

[beat]

but I can't help you either.

MARCUS

Jesus, you guys are unbelievable. I'm not going to arrest you, I'm just going to take your money. I'm not going to bust you, I'm just not going to fuck up your insurance plans.

GRAHAM

What are you talking about? I'm not taking your money.

Marcus starts to walk away.

MARCUS

Not you. Another cop took me for 9,000 grand earlier. It was the money I was going to deposit it in my son's account so he could pay his back tuition.

Marcus throws his arms up in frustration and starts walking away.

MARCUS

Not going to bust me? Ha!

[a beat]

Do you think I give a shit if you arrest me!? I'm already dead. I have no choice at this point.

Marcus slips into his Payday Loan wrapped car and drives past Graham and out of the parking lot.

FADE TO BLACK:

43. EXT. MIDTOWN PLAZA - NIGHT

A nice Suburban pulls up to the main sidewalk at the midtown plaza.

MIA

[V.O.]

This is fine, Mrs. DeGard. And thank you so much for everything. It was really fun.

44. INT. SUBURBAN - NIGHT

VICKY

Oh, you're so welcome, my dear. Are you sure you'll be alright?

Mia points to a minivan on the corner.

MIA

Yep! That's our van, right over there.

Mia pulls a key FOB from her bag.

MIA

I even have a key.

She shows Vicki the key.

MIA

See?

VICKY

So you're just going to wait in the van until your mom is off work? Vicky seems agitated.

VICKY

I don't know if I'm comfortable with that, sweetie. Leaving you here alone.

MIA

Oh. It's okay. I do this all the time. Besides, I have homework.

Mia gives Vicky a sympathetic look.

MIA

You can wait and watch until I get into the van if it makes you feel more comfortable.

45. EXT. MIDTOWN PLAZA - NIGHT

Mia jumps out of the suburban and walks towards the van. Halfway there she presses the key FOB and the van flashes and beeps. Mia opens the front passenger side door and waves back to Vicky before getting in. Vicky waves and drives off. Fade to black:

46. EXT. PAYDAY LOAN STORE - MORNING

The sun rises on the payday loan office. Marcus PayDay Loan wrapped car is parked out front.

47. INT. PAYDAY LOAN STORE - MORNING

Marcus is sleeping on his couch. He is still dressed and there is an empty liquor bottle on the floor. The phone rings. He doesn't even twitch. It keeps ringing and ringing. Finally, he opens his eyes. As he slowly wakes, he wipes a string of drool off his mouth and feels around for the phone. He finally finds it and pulls it to his face. It's still ringing. It's Felix. He immediately sits up and looks at the phone in horror. He puts his hand on his head and starts crying. The phone keeps ringing. Marcus keeps crying. The ringing stops and the call goes to voice mail. Marcus

wipes the tears and snot from his cheeks. He swipes the phone open and sees a dozen messages... all from Felix. He presses the last one.

Felix sounds frantic.

FELIX

[V.O.]

Dad, I've been calling all night. The money isn't in there and I'm out of time. If they don't...

Marcus presses the next message. It's a little less frantic.

FELIX

[V.O.]

Still waiting on that money, dad. Please call me.

Marcus presses the first message.

FELIX

[V.O.]

Hi, dad. It's me. Just checked my account and the money's not in there, so I just thought I'd call you to see what's up. Call when you get...

Marcus stops the message. His tears become frustration and then anger. He screams and throws his phone across the room, smashing it to pieces against the mirror. The mirror explodes in impact.

CUT TO:

48. EXT. DEGARD HOME - MORNING

We see the DeGard home in the morning.

VICKEY

[V.O.]

Mia was over last night.

GRAHAM
[V.O.]
Kevin's friend Mia?

49. INT. DEGARD - MORNING

Graham sitting at the table drinking his coffee and checking his messages. Vicky is preparing Kevin's lunch.

VICKEY
That's the one.

GRAHAM
She's a good kid...smart too, I hear.

VICKY
Yeah, she's smart. Probably the smartest kid in that school.

GRAHAM
I guess Kevin really knows how to pick'em.

Vicky's voice become a little hesitant.

VICKY
He's definitely sweet on her.

GRAHAM
...but.

VICKY
No buts. I like her too.

GRAHAM
It still sounds like there's a but.

VICKY stops packing the lunch and turns to Warren.

VICKY
Well...
[beat]
I dropped her off in midtown at 10:30 last night.

GRAHAM

Midtown? Jesus?

VICKY

Yeah, that's what I was thinking too.
But that isn't the weird thing.

Graham looks up from his phone.

VICKY

I dropped her off at a van parked in the
street.

GRAHAM

At 10:30 at night?

VICKY

Yeah, no parents. No house. Just a
minivan. She said her mom was working
the last shift at Starbucks and that she
did this all the time.

GRAHAM

I don't understand, Vicky, what are you
saying?

VICKY

There were curtains on the back window
and the van was riding very low to the
ground, like it was loaded.

GRAHAM

Curtans? Riding low to ground? Who's the
detective here anyway?

VICKY

I'm serous, Graham. I think Mia and her
mom live in their van.

GRAHAM

If that's true, how could she afford to
send Mia to Donnelly Academy? It's over
\$10,000 a year.

VICKY

That's the first thing I thought of too. But then, I was thinking. What if that's how she can afford it... by living in her van. Graham raises an eyebrow.

GRAHAM

Okay, suppose you're right. What can we do about it?

VICKY

Well, we do have that room over the garage. It's not a luxury sweet, but it's bigger than a van, it has a bathroom and shower...

GRAHAM

You can't be serious.

VICKY

I am serious. In fact, I was out there cleaning it up this morning.

GRAHAM

Jesus, Vicky, what time did you get up. Aren't you due in court today?

VICKY

Yes, but it just a preliminary hearing. Victor and Selena can handle it fine without me. Besides, but this is important.

GRAHAM

Okay, I agree, we should help Mia and her mom, but first, shouldn't we find out if they are actually homeless?

Vicky smiles sweetly at Graham. He rolls his eyes.

GRAHAM

So much for my day off.

VICKY

Thank you, sweetie. I owe you one.

CUT TO:

50. INT. DOWNTOWN GYM MORNING

We hear gym sounds. Scene fades in on a downtown gym. It is early morning and people are working out. The sounds of the gym are drowned out by sound of showers. Evelyn and Mia are in the locker room getting dressed.

EVELYN

[V.O.]

So how'd the test go.

MIA

[V.O.]

It was easier than I thought. I think I over-prepared.

EVELYN

[V.O.]

That's great. It's always better to over prepare than under prepare. I'm so proud of you, Mia. You're going to be somebody important someday. I just know it.

51. INT. LOCKER ROOM MORNING

Evelyn and Mia are sitting on a bench in the locker room. Mia is dressed and Evelyn is just pulling her shirt over her head.

MIA

Thanks, mom. I couldn't do any of this without you.

Mia hugs her.

EVELYN

Awe, sweetie. I would do anything for you.

[beat]

So, how was Kevin's last night?

MIA

So much fun. His mom is so nice. You'd like her. I know you would.

EVELYN

I'd love to meet her. She sounds nice.

[beat]

But first, you and I have to go downtown and meet with some people.

EVELYN

What kind of people? What about school?

MIA

People who are concerned about our situation. And I called my office and your school to let them know we were going to be a little late, so don't worry.

MIA

You mean people who want to take me away from you.

EVELYN

Sometimes, I wish you weren't so smart.

MIA

Is this about what happened the other night.

EVELYN

What!?

[beat]

No. God no. But CPS did find out about us because of the other night.

MIA

Are they going to take me away from you?

Evelyn sees that Mia is scared. She grabs her daughter by the shoulders and pulls her close.

EVELYN

I'm not going to let that happen. I promise.

MIA
How can you promise that, mom?

EVELYN
Because I have a backup plan. You have to trust me. We just have to make a couple of stops on the way.

52. EXT. DOWNTOWN GYM MORNING

Evelyn and Mia walk out of the gym, around the corner just as Graham steps onto the sidewalk. He shows a woman at the front desk a picture and she points toward the door, indicating that he just missed them. Graham runs back out through doors and looks both ways down the sidewalk. Evelyn and Mia are gone.

CUT TO:

53. INT. MARCUS OFFICE MID-MORNING

Marcus is picking up the pieces of broken I-phone, and the mirror that it shattered. He cuts his finger on a piece of glass and grimaces.

CUT TO:

54. EXT. PAYDAY PARKING LOT DAY

Evelyn pulls into the parking lot and parks in the closest spot.

55. INT. EVELYN'S VAN DAY

Evelyn turns to Mia.

EVELYN
I'll be back in a few minutes.

Mia grabs her mother's arm in concern.

MIA

You said never to come to these places.
You said they were a trap you could
never get out of. Please don't go in
there, mom. Please.

Evelyn grabs Mia with both hands.

EVELYN

Hey!

Mia takes a deep breath and calms down.

EVELYN

I think I have a way to use this trap to
our advantage.

MIA

How

EVELYN

It's complicated.

Mia tilts her head, "as if".

EVELYN

Okay, you're right.

[beat]

There's a loophole in the law.

MIA

I'm listening.

EVELYN

If I return this money within 24 hours,
there is no interest or penalties.

MIA

Are you sure?

EVELYN

No. But I can't think of anything else.

Mia sits quietly for few seconds, then smiles.

MIA

Alright. I trust you. Let's do it.

EVELYN

Okay, sit tight. I'll be right back.

Evelyn leaves and Mia watches her enter the PayDay Loan store.

CUT TO:

56. EXT. PARKING GARAGE DAY

Graham's car is parked in-front of the attendant's booth at Evelyn's parking garage. We see him standing next to the booth and handing the attendant a picture.

GRAHAM

Have you seen this girl?

The picture is a page out of the Donnelly School yearbook.

CARLOS

Who wants to know?

Graham pulls out his badge.

CARLOS

Are they in trouble?

GRAHAM nods negatively.

GRAHAM

No, nothing like that. She goes to school with my son. I'm just trying to find them.

CARLOS looks the detective over.

CARLOS

They live here. Have been for around three months. Sweet girl that Mia. And smart too.

GRAHAM

Do you know where they went?

CARLOS

No. I'm sorry, they don't tell me much, but they did leave earlier than usual today. If that helps.

GRAHAM

Anything helps.

CARLOS

Sorry I wasn't more help.

GRAHAM

No. You were helpful. Thanks.

GRAHAM turns around and immediately calls Vicky.

VICKY

[V.O.]

Hey, Graham. What'd you find out?

GRAHAM

They are definitely living in their van.

VICKY

[V.O.]

That was quick.

57. INT COURTHOUSE HALLWAY DAY

GRAHAM

[V.O.]

I'm a detective, remember. Give Kevin a call so I can and get Mia's mom's number and go talk to her about your offer.

VICKY

I will. And, Graham, thank you. I love you for doing this.

GRAHAM

[V.O.]

Love you too, babe.

Vicky hangs up. And calls Kevin.

58. EXT DONNELLY SWIMMING POOL DAY

Kevin's phone is wrapped in a towel on the bench. It rings and vibrates but he and the swim team are swimming laps as their coach is blowing his whistle and shouting.

59. INT COURTHOUSE HALLWAY DAY

Vicky waits for the phone to go to voice mail.

VICKY

Hi sweetie, it's mom. Could you give Mia a call and get her mother's number for me. Nothing is wrong. Your father and I just want to invite her to dinner this evening. Thanks. See you tonight.

60. INT. LOBBY PAYDAY LOAN DAY

Mia is the next person in line. She is nervous and feels like she's in enemy territory. Mia notices the cameras, the 4-inch plexiglass and the poor souls that are waiting to push themselves further into debt. The man ahead finishes up and it's Evelyn turn. She steps up to the window and plops down a modest diamond ring and the title to her van.

EVELYN

In need 10,000 dollars. I have these as collateral.

CUT TO:

61. INT. MARCUS OFFICE DAY

Marcus is just finishing his clean up when he looks at the safe. He stares at it intensely for a few seconds. His hand spins the dial to the last number and it clicks. He opens the safe, pulls out the gun and stuffs it in his pants. He stands, straitens himself up and heads for the door.

62. INT. PAY DAY BULLPEN DAY

Marcus walks into the bullpen and past Dawn who is still helping Evelyn.

MARCUS

I'm going to lunch, the store's yours,
Dawn.

Dawn looks over her shoulder at Marcus.

DAWN

Whatever.

She turns back to Evelyn.

EVELYN

Now I want to make sure I've got this
right. If I bring this money back within
24 hours, there's no interest or
penalty, right?

Dawn rolls her eyes because she's heard that a million
times.

DAWN

That's the law lady.
[mumbles]
Pretty much the only good one.

EVELYN

Excuse me.

DAWN

Yes, you have 24 hours before any
interest starts. Or as I like to say,
you have 24 hours to come to your
senses.

Dawn puts the \$10,000 in an envelope and passes it to
Evelyn. Evelyn grabs the envelope and heads for the
door.

63. EXT. PAYDAY LOAN STORE DAY

Evelyn is walking out the PayDay loan store just as Marcus is driving buy. They lock eyes for a second, then Evelyn exits and walks to the van.

64. INT. EVELYN'S VAN DAY

Evelyn slides into the van.

MIA
How'd it go?

Evelyn holds up the envelope.

EVELYN
We got it.

She hands the envelope to Mia.

EVELYN
Here, take it.

MIA
Now what?

EVELYN
Now we go put it in the bank and get a receipt showing the balance.

CUT TO:

65. EXT. PAYDAY PARKING LOT DAY

Evelyn starts the van.

MIA
[V.O.]
To show those people it's in our account, right?

EVELYN
[V.O.]
Yep.

MIA
[V.O.]
To show them that we can afford a place.

EVELYN
[V.O.]
That's the idea.

MIA
[V.O.]
You mean lie.

EVELYN
[V.O.]
I mean stay together.

Evelyn pulls out of the PayDay Loan store.

CUT TO:

66. EXT. BANK PARKING LOT DAY

We see Marcus's conspicuous pay/day loan car in a spot under a tree in the bank parking lot.

CUT TO:

67. INT. MARCUS'S CAR DAY

Marcus is sitting in his car, psyching himself up. He is breathing in and out with his eyes closed, trying to relax. We see Evelyn pull into the parking lot through Marcus's back window. She parks and her and Mia get out and walk into the bank. Marcus keeps breathing and getting more psyched for his big moment.

68, INT. BANK LOBBY DAY

Evelyn gets in line and Mia checks her phone.

MIA
I'm going to wait here, mom.

EVELYN
Okay.

68. EXT. DONNELLY SWIMMING POOL DAY

Kevin pulls himself out of the pool and goes over the to the bench to check his phone. He listens to his mom's message and immediately calls Mia.

69. INT. BANK LOBBY DAY

Mia is still checking her messages when her phone rings. She sees it's Kevin.

MIA

Hey, Kevin, how's it going?

KEVIN

Where are you? I missed you in school today.

MIA

I'm at the bank with my mom.

We see Evelyn at the teller window in the background.

MIA

We had some errands to run. I'll be in school later today.

KEVIN

That's good to hear, but that's not why I'm calling.

MIA

Oh, okay. What's up?

KEVIN

My parents want get your mom's number so they could invite you guys to dinner tonight.

MIA

Oh my gosh. That's so sweet. She's coming over now. I'll ask.

Evelyn walks up to Mia with a receipt and gives her a thumbs up.

EVELYN

Okay it's in. Who you talking to?

MIA

It's Kevin. His parents wanted to know of you and I cou...

BANG! A gun shot rings out as Mia is interrupted by Marcus's robbery.

MARCUS

I'm not here for the bank's money. I'm here for yours. Now line up and make this easy so I don't have to shoot anybody.

CUT TO:

70. INT. CROWN VICTORIA DAY

Graham presses a number on his phone. It rings through the car speakers. Finally, Vicky picks up.

VICKY

[V.O.]

What's up, Graham?

GRAHAM

I still haven't heard from Kevin.

VICKY

[V.O.]

I think he was at swim practice. He'll call eventually.

GRAHAM

Okay. I'm getting kind of hungry. I'm going to stop for lunch and wait for his...

GRAHAM drives by the bank and sees Marcus's PayDay Loan car.

GRAHAM
Hum...that's interesting.

VICKY
[V.O.]
What's interesting?

GRAHAM
The guy from the case I..

Suddenly three squad cars go screaming by Graham, sirens blaring. He can see them turning into the bank through his rearview mirror.

GRAHAM
Honey, I gotta go.

Graham ends the call and flips a switch on the dash.

71. EXT. CITY STREET DAY

Graham's car comes alive with lights in the window and grill. His siren sounds as he spins a 180 and starts speeding back towards the bank.

72. EXT. BANK DAY

When he arrives, the other cops are already out of their vehicles and covering behind their car doors. Graham pulls in behind them just as Marcus comes walking out of the bank with his gun drawn. He fires a shot and the cops cut him down with a hail of bullets.

Graham jumps out of his car and pushes his way through the other cops to get to Marcus, who is coughing up blood and close to death. Graham shades Marcus, then kneels down. Marcus puts his bloody hand on Graham's face.

MARCUS
I know you.

GRAHAM
I'm sorry. I didn't know it would come to this.

MARCUS

I thought it would hurt more.

Marcus puts his index finger in front of his lips, then looks into the empathetic officer's eyes and says...

MARCUS

Shhhh.

Marcus's lifeless hand slides off the officer's face, leaving a bloody handprint. The officer looks at Marcus, then gently closes his dead eyes.

Suddenly a woman shouts off screen. It's Evelyn.

EVELYN

Help!

Graham runs through the shattered doors and sees Mia lying on the floor. She been shot.

GRAHAM

Stay with me Mia.

Chicago's "If you leave me now" is still playing on the bank speakers. Evelyn is surprised that the detective recognizes her daughter, but before she has a chance to question it, Graham points to nearby officer.

GRAHAM

Simmons, call for an ambulance.

Someone groans in background.

GRAHAM

Better make it two.

Officer Simmons looks at him, nods, then gets on the radio. Graham looks back down at Mia.

GRAHAM

Help is on the way, Mia. Hang in there.

Graham looks at Evelyn. She is still curious how he knows Mia, but is still too stunned to say anything.

73. INT. BANK DAY

As bank scenes fades to an ariel of the ambulance, the song "If you leave me now" goes from the background bank speakers to over the scene. The scenes fades to black.

74. EXT DEGARD RESIDENCE DAY

A hand knocks on the DeGard's front door. Vicky answers.

VICKY
May I help you?

It is Williams and Patel, the officers from Child Protective Services.

WILLIAMS
I'm Agent Williams and this is Agent Patel. Where from child protective services. We're here to see Mia Rizzoti.

Graham comes from behind Vicky.

GRAHAM
It's okay, Vicky. I called them.

Graham walks out the door and past the agents.

GRAHAM
Follow me.

CUT TO:

75. INT LIFE & LIBERTY DAY

Natalia sits across from Ms. Orlando as she looks through the paperwork making "hums" and "uh-huh" sounds as she reads. Natalia looks broken.

MS ORLANDO
Oh dear.

After a few more mouthy quarks, Ms. Orland looks up from the papers with a stone-cold face.

MS OLANDO

Here's the thing Mrs. Volkov.

[beat]

Your husband was killed by the police during the commission of a crime.

NATALIA

He was desperate. We're broke from my treatments... why does that even matter?

Ms. Orlando grimaces.

MS ORLAND

We amended the policy two months ago. It's right here.

Ms. Orlando looks at her screen.

MS ORLANDO

"...in the event that the signers death is caused by, or takes place during, the commission of Illegal activities, this policy shall void and all claims forfeit therein..."

We see that there are no documents open in Ms. Orlando's computer screen. She's is making it up as she goes.

NATALIA

That's not in the policy. I read it last night.

MS ORLANDO

As I said before it was an amendment to the original policy. You should have received an email...

Ms. Orlando looks at her computer.

MS ORLANDO

Ah yes, here it is. Your husband opened the email on the 15th.

NATALIA

Okay, say he opened the email. So what.

Ms. Orlando holds up the paper.

MS ORLANDO

I'm holding the actual contract that he signed with your company.

MS ORLANDO

I'm sorry, Mrs. Volkov, but opening the email is acknowledgement of the new terms.

NATALIA

How is this even legal?

MS ORLANDO

Are you a lawyer, Mrs. Volkov?

NATALIA

No.

MS ORLANDO

Do you have a lawyer?

Natalia rolls her eyes.

NATALIA

A lawyer? I don't have enough money to bury my husband.

Ms Orlando stands up.

MS ORLANDO

I'm sorry to hear than, and I'm sorry for your loss, Mrs. Volkov. I wish there was something more that I could do, but my hands are tied.

NALALIA

It's McKerny. And go fuck yourself.

Natalia stands up, looks into Ms Orlando's eyes and stares. She breaks the stare, turns, walks out of the door and slams it as she leaves. She slumps down just outside the door, defeated, almost crying. She puts her hands on her head for a second or two. Her world is spinning. Then, she finally looks up through the cracks in her fingers and sees Evelyn.

EVELYN

Are you okay?

Natalia pulls her hands away from face. It's red and shiny from the tears. As she stands up, Felix walks in. He rushes to help her.

FELIX

Mom! Are you okay?

Natalia puts her hands on Felix face and takes a deep breath. She snuffles, then looks at Evelyn for a moment, then turns back to Felix.

NATALIA

There's nothing for us here.

Natalia looks back at Evelyn, then leaves with Felix.

NATALIA

Come on, Felix...
Let's go bury your father.

Evelyn looks after them, horrified by what she hears.

CUT TO:

76. INT DEGARD GARAGE APARTMENT DAY

Graham and the two social workers open the stair door.

GRAHAM

I think you'll find these accommodations acceptable.

WILLIAMS

We'll be the judge of that Mr. DeGard.

GRAHAM

It's detective DeGard.

Patel grimaces at Williams.

PATEL

She means that we are looking forward to seeing Mia in a better place.

Graham reaches the top of the stairs and turns to the social workers.

GRAHAM

Now, Mia's been through some heavy shit in the past few weeks, so don't upset her or tire her out.

Graham opens the door and Evelyn and Bosco are sitting at the dining table playing Go. Evelyn's shoulder is bandaged and her arm in a sling and Bosco's arm is still in a cast and his face is half bandaged, with a patch over his eye.

BOSCO

You can't just build a block in the edge of the board and expect I wouldn't notice.

Mia smiles at BOSCO.

MIA

Oh that. That was a decoy.

She lays a black stone down and picks up a three whites stones.

BOSCO

Oh, you are good. Very sneaky.

[beat]

What were we talking about again.

Mia laughs and points to his patch.

MIA

Pirates. I think we were talking about pirates.

BOSCO

Ha. Ha. Ha. Very funny, princess.

GRAHAM

[clears throat]

Uh-hum.

Mia and Bosco turn to the door.

GRAHAM

Having fun?

MIA

Bosco was just teaching me Go.

[looks at Bosco]

And telling me about pirates.

Bosco looks at Mia and growls like a pirate.

BOSCO

Argh!

Mia and Bosco laugh until they realize that Graham and the agents aren't laughing.

BOSCO & MIA

Sorry.

GRAHAM

Mia, these fine people are here from CPS to speak with you.

WILLIAMS

Thank you, Detective DeGard.

Graham nods at Williams, then turns to Bosco.

GRAHAM

Come on, Bosco. You can give me and Vicky a hand with dinner.

It takes Bosco a few sways to get up and he is slow moving to the door. He turns to Mia.

BOSCO
This game ain't over, princess.

BOSCO
Alright, Black Beard.

Bosco leaves then ducks his head back into the doorway.

BOSCO
Argh.

GRAHAM
[O.S.]
Come on, you scallywag.

CUT TO:

76. ENT DEGARD DRIVEWAY DAY

Just as Bosco and Graham exit the garage, Evelyn pulls into the driveway. She gets out and walks towards the guys.

BOSCO
Hey, Evelyn.

EVELYN
Hey Bosco, how's the face.

BOSCO
The bandages are so scratchy.

EVELYN
Sorry to hear that. You could try some Vaseline.

Bosco nods and Evelyn notices a beat-up car with city plates.

EVELYN
They're here?

Graham motions to the garage apartment.

GRAHAM

Yeah, they're interviewing right her now.

Graham notices Evelyn looking nervous.

GRAHAM

You can relax, Evelyn. Mia will do Great. She's smarter than any of us.

BOSCO

That's for sure.

Graham and Evelyn give Bosco a strange look.

BOSCO

I'm just saying.

Evelyn turns to Graham.

EVELYN

Did they say how long the interview it would be?

GRAHAM

No, but Mia will give them the full treatment, so it might be a while.

EVELYN

That's fine because I need to talk to you about something.

Graham shouts to Bosco, who is halfway to the house.

GRAHAM

Tell Vicky we'll be there in a minute.

BOSCO

You got it, partner.

Graham turns back to Evelyn.

EVELYN

My boss lied to Mr. McKerny's widow to keep the insurance company from paying her claim.

GRAHAM

Are you sure?

EVELYN

Yeah. She lied about an email. It was easy to check because I'm the one who sends out the emails, so I have a log with times and dates for each one.

GRAHAM

So she lied about the date.

EVELYN

She lied about the email altogether. It doesn't exist. She was just bluffing because she knows they don't have the money to challenge the company. I looked it up. There have never been any changes to Mr. McKerny's policy.

GRAHAM

What can I do about it? I'm just a detective.

EVELYN

Honestly

[beat]

I don't even know why I care. The guy got my daughter shot.

GRAHAM

That's true...but.

EVELYN

But...it just doesn't seem right lying to that poor family and leaving them with nothing. Especially if that's why he did it.

GRAHAM

If that's why he did it?

[beat]

Wouldn't that be fraud?

EVELYN

Depends on how you look at it... Mr. McKerny was a desperate man who had a mountain of debt and was failing to pay his mortgage and son's tuition. He was killed while running out of a bank with a bag full of money and wallets. It's a loophole, not fraud.

GRAHAM

So you could never prove it was suicide.

EVELYN

Not even close...And our investigators learned that, right before the incident, he had borrowed \$9,000 from his employer... with the employer's consent.

GRAHAM

\$9,000?

Graham remembers MARCUS telling him about forfeiting \$9,000 to the police.

GRAHAM

Oh shit.

EVELYN

What?

GRAHAM

Nothing.

[beat]

How do you know all this?

EVELYN

Our investigators are very thorough.

Suddenly, the garage side-door opens, and Mia and the two agents walk out. Evelyn looks at Mia and smiles.

EVELYN

How was it?

MIA

These guys are so cool. Williams here, was a sergeant in the Army. She even knew Colonel Humphries.

Williams looked at Evelyn, slightly embarrassed to have lost her edge.

WILLIAMS

He was my first CO. He spoke often, and very highly of your husband. Evelyn nods to Williams, trying not to cry.

EVELYN

So how'd she do?

WILLIAMS

She did great. Just like you said she would.

PATEL

Mia is an extraordinary girl. I think we'll all be working for her someday.

Greata smiles, then turns to Evelyn.

MIA

Mom, they said if I had time after school, I could help council other kids like me.

PATEL

See what I mean.

Graham steps in front of the group.

GRAHAM

Why don't you two stay for dinner.

WILLIAMS

What? Here? Now?

Graham looks at his watch.

GRAHAM

Yeah, it's after 5:00, so I know you're off the clock and I'm sure you're hungry.

PATEL

I'm definitely hungry.

Williams rolls hers eyes.

MIA

Come on...it'll be fun.

WILLLIAM

Oh, alright, let's eat.

GRAHAM

Alright. Let's eat.

Mia sees Kevin in the kitchen and starts running towards the house.

EVELYN

See you guys there. I'm going to to say hi to Kevin.

Graham and the others walk behind her.

PATEL

Isn't your wife the D.A.

GRAHAM

Yeah, but we don't talk shop at the dinner table.

WILLIAMS

Sounds good to me.

FADE OUT:

77. INT LIFE & LIBERTY DAY

A hand is watering an office plant. It wets the roots and tears the dead leaves away. It is Ms. Orlando, clipping and tending to her office plants as she looks

out the window. Suddenly, there is a commotion in the background. Ms. Orland turns around just as Vicky DeGard throws a piece of paper on her desk.

VICKY
Angela Orlando?

MS ORLAND
Yes?

VICKY
You're under arrest for fraud and insurance securities violations.

Bosco walks into the room and handcuffs Ms. Orlando, who is crying as he takes her away. He's reading her rights as they walk past Evelyn's desk. Vicky steps out of Ms. Orlando's office and shouts to the entire floor.

VICKY
All Life and Liberty computers and files related to claims and reclamations are hereby seized with this court order.

Vicky waves a piece of paper in the air.

CUT TO:

78. ENT MCKERNY DRIVEWAY DAY

Natalia opens the mailbox and slowly flips through the envelopes. She sees a Life & Liberty envelope and pulls it from the pack. She looks it over suspiciously and cautiously.

NATALIA
Now what?!

Natalie tears the envelope open and slowly pulls out a letter. As she opens the letter, a check falls to the ground. She picks it up and is stunned to see it's a check for \$1,250,000. Natalia falls to the ground weeping. She clutches the check as the other mail spills all around her.

CUT TO:

79. INT PAYDAY LOAN STORE DAY

CCTV view of the lobby of The PayDay Loan Store. Graham walks in and past the customers right to the front of the line. He flashes his badge at the person next in line. They step back. Now we're looking over Graham's shoulder. Dawn steps to the window.

DAWN

Can I help you officer?

GRAHAM

Here's the money Marcus took.

Graham says nothing more and leaves quickly.

79. INT DAWN'S OFFICE DAY

DAWN opens the envelop and eyes the cash. We see that her badge now reads "Manager". As turns, we see a money machine counting money. It stops, a hand wraps a money in a band which reads \$10,000. Dawn grabs the six bundles of cash, and throws the envelop on the uncounted pile of money. As the safe comes into view, a cat crosses in front of it. A hand slowly twists the dial to its last number, then turns the handle. The safe opens. There's a gun and stacks of cash. The hands place the fat stacks of cash inside where another 50 or 60 stacks are already sitting. There's at least 400k - 500k in the safe. The safe door slams closed...the screen GOES BLACK.

Al Stewart's "Year of the Cat" starts playing. Fade to black...roll credits.