

ARMORED

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Palm trees languish in the still air. SHOPPERS push grocery laden carts. A minivan pulls into a spot.

Strange, the backwards LETTERING on the side...

... until we realize we're looking at a REFLECTION in the side mirror of a truck. A silver and black ARMORED CAR, idling in the fire lane outside of a GROCERY STORE.

The DRIVER sits impassive behind his bulletproof glass and mirrored sunglasses.

The back door of the armored car closes, revealing the company name:

"IRON SHIELD TRANSPORT & SECURITY"

An ironclad tank. Riveted steel exterior, with defensive square GUN PORTS.

Two ARMED GUARDS stride into the store. They wear black caps and sport bulletproof vests over their gray uniform shirts.

INT. VONS - DAY

CARLOS (mid-50s), a tall Brazilian-American, takes position by the door.

The second guard, NICHOLAS SHELTON, makes a left. Nicholas is young, bright-eyed and purposeful. An optimistic smile despite the paramilitary outfit and .357 Magnum on his hip. While Carlos moves with the acquired gait of a soldier, Nicholas walks with the natural grace of an athlete.

He approaches a WELLS FARGO BANK KIOSK. Nicholas quickly vanishes into a narrow space between the counter and ATM. The WELLS FARGO MANAGER meets him.

WELLS FARGO MANAGER
Nicholas. Early today.

NICHOLAS
Security measure. We rotated a few stops, moved up a half-hour.

The manager opens a safe door and produces two large TRANSFER BAGS with lead seals. He hands a clipboard to Nicholas.

EXT. VONS PARKING LOT - DAY

Nicholas climbs into the cargo hold of the truck with the bags. Carlos climbs in after him, closes the rear door.

The truck pulls away. Painted in black over silver on the roof is the truck's number: 09.

EXT. UNION BANK - DAY

Truck #09 pulls up near one entrance. Nicholas emerges.

INT. UNION BANK - DAY

Coming through a short corridor, Nicholas sees a terrified MOTHER crouching on the floor with her whimpering TWO YEAR-OLD SON.

Nicholas stops. Beyond are TWO MORE BANK PATRONS, lying on the floor. Someone (O.S.) SHOUTING in frustration.

Backing toward Nicholas comes a BANK ROBBER cloaked in black, with a ski mask and AK-47 assault rifle. And a duffel bag full of CASH.

Nicholas' hand moves to the grip of his gun. The robber doesn't see him yet.

The Mother locks eyes with Nicholas. Desperate.

The robber TURNS AROUND. Distinctive EYES glowering at Nicholas through the mask holes. Revealing age, experience, cunning. The AK-47 barrel levels with Nicholas now...

NICHOLAS

Easy...

Nicholas raises both hands. Too late to draw his weapon. Both men stare at each other...

Nicholas eases toward the wall and sinks to his knees. He shields the mother and son, but keeps his eyes on the robber.

The robber watches Nicholas, intrigued. But a flash of movement catches his eye...

NICHOLAS

(looking back)

Carlos!

Carlos enters, draws his gun...

The robber BLASTS HIM with the rifle. Carlos flies back as the glass door SHATTERS. Patrons SCREAM.

Nicholas pushes the mother and son around the corner, deeper into the bank. He's about to draw his gun now, but...

A SECOND ROBBER runs up to the first. They charge for the door as SIRENS (O.S.) approach.

Nicholas lunges over to Carlos, sees his pock-marked VEST.

NICHOLAS
Are you hit?

CARLOS
(out of breath)
Just bruised.

Now Nicholas draws his gun, looks through the broken door frame to see the robbers turning a corner, out of sight.

EXT. CITY TOWNHOMES - DUSK

A recent subdivision of new condos and townhomes in a trendy Santa Monica neighborhood. Joggers and mothers with strollers pass by.

INT. SHELTON TOWNHOME - NIGHT

Nicholas, now in a grubby t-shirt and jeans, works the stove. Checks the steaming rice, the chicken breasts in the pan. A TELEVISION (O.S.) broadcasts a BASEBALL GAME.

Nicholas pauses, clears his mind. Takes a sip of beer. Listens to the sportscaster.

The DOORBELL RINGS (O.S.) and Nicholas turns down the burners. He crosses the compact living room, opens the door.

A fireplug named LOGAN (6) bursts in.

LOGAN
Dad! Dad! Look what I got.

Nicholas barely has time to register the TOY GUN in Logan's hand as the boy runs in and plays with it on the sofa.

NICHOLAS
Nice.

Nicholas turns back to JOSIE, clearly Logan's mother. Clearly just dropping him off, by her stance outside.

Josie's a knock-out and a fashion chameleon, always impeccably dressed.

NICHOLAS

Hi, Josie. That's different.

He admires her hair.

JOSIE

Are you okay? I saw the news.

NICHOLAS

Yeah. It was a little intense.

JOSIE

You did the right thing.

NICHOLAS

I don't know. I could've stopped them. I had the drop on the first guy...

JOSIE

This is the real world. You did the right thing.

(awkward beat)

I'll see you Sunday, four?

Nicholas nods.

JOSIE

Bye, Logan. Have a good time.

LOGAN

Bye, Mom.

Logan "shoots" sofa cushions as Nicholas closes the door.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - BASEBALL DIAMOND - DAY

Nicholas stands on the pitcher's mound, rolling a BASEBALL across the backs of his fingers. His dexterity is amazing. He rolls the ball down his arm, then back down into his palm.

LOGAN

Come on!

Logan's waiting by the plate, an oversized aluminum bat slung over his shoulder. Nicholas goes into an elaborate wind-up, then launches a soft toss.

BING! Logan nails it. Grounder. Nicholas snatches it, spins, and throws to (vacant) first base. Logan makes a half-hearted trot.

NICHOLAS
What is that?

LOGAN
I'm already out.

NICHOLAS
You still have it give it your all.
Every time. You don't know for
sure how it will play out.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Nicholas and Logan walk across the field with their gear.

LOGAN
If you got another operation, could
you get back into the minors?

NICHOLAS
My knee's had all the operations it
can handle. It isn't strong enough
for the big time.

LOGAN
Is that why you and mom got
divorced?

That stops Nicholas for a moment.

NICHOLAS
No, it was a lot more than that.

LOGAN
(beat)
Mom said your partner got shot
yesterday.

NICHOLAS
She told you that?

LOGAN
It was on the news.

NICHOLAS
You understand what I do is
dangerous? Sometimes bad people
try to steal the valuables we
carry.

Logan nods.

NICHOLAS
It worked out okay. My partner
Carlos was wearing...

LOGAN
A bulletproof vest.

They walk on, Nicholas feeling a silent burden.

INT. SHELTON TOWNHOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Logan stands on a step stool so he can lean over the counter and grate cheese. Lettuce, tortillas and other dinner items are spread around.

Nicholas comes in with a cordless phone. He washes up.

NICHOLAS
I just spoke to my boss. He's
going to give me a new position.
Your dad will be the new vault
manager at headquarters.

LOGAN
Why?

NICHOLAS
The guy who has that job now is
moving to our San Francisco
operation.

LOGAN
Why do you have to do it?

NICHOLAS
This is good thing. A promotion.
I don't have to be on the routes
anymore, riding in the back of a
truck.

Nicholas starts to chop tomatoes and lettuce.

NICHOLAS
Most importantly, I'll make more
money, which means... season passes
to Magic Mountain?

Logan considers, still disappointed. He eats some of his
grated cheese, not realizing his father's true motives.

LOGAN
Do you still get to carry a gun?

NICHOLAS
If they want me to.

Nicholas ruffles Logan's hair and pulls the bowl of cheese away from him.

NICHOLAS
Save some for the burritos, okay?

Nicholas opens the fridge. Stuck with magnets on the refrigerator door are PHOTOS of Logan at various ages. In one, he poses with Nicholas in a Halloween costume -- a plastic sword-carrying NINJA.

EXT. IRON SHIELD FACILITY - DAY

Surrounded by a chain-link fence and razor wire, monitored by a guard booth and gated driveway, the Iron Shield headquarters and terminal is both anonymous and defensive.

The building inside is a bland white industrial block with large cargo doors.

Nicholas drives to the gate in his pick-up truck, shows his company ID badge to the GATE GUARD (TONY).

NICHOLAS
Hey, Tony.

GATE GUARD
Morning.

The gate rolls open.

EXT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Nicholas, still in casual wear, passes the large garage doors. He inserts a key and inputs a code into a special outside entry. A small door opens.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Nicholas strolls past a fleet of ARMORED CARS, parked in formation. At the far wall is a set of stairs and two floors of offices behind glass.

Nicholas moves to the center of the terminal, where an enclosed structure with a 10-foot VAULT DOOR rises above the ground. A loading dock riser meets the edge of the vault door. Nicholas climbs the outside steps.

RON PENA and FRANCISCO wait for him. Pena (late 40s) is the owner, and dressed the part in his dark suit. Francisco (late 30s) wears a uniform similar to the armed guards, minus the cap and vest.

PENA
Are we up to task this morning?

NICHOLAS
Yes, sir.

Francisco eyes Nicholas coldly.

NICHOLAS
Hi, Francisco.

FRANCISCO
You're not in uniform.

NICHOLAS
I'm not on the clock either.

Francisco hands a silver key to Nicholas. Nicholas inserts the key in a special panel next to the vault door. Pena inserts his key in another slot.

FRANCISCO
Keys active, enter your codes.

Pena inputs his code on the keypad. Nicholas enters his own.

PENA
On three. One, two... three.

Pena and Nicholas turn their keys simultaneously. They can hear a HUM inside the vault. The giant door swings open.

NICHOLAS
There's a time-lock?

FRANCISCO
It can only be opened within a
twenty minute window of the
programmed time slots.

NICHOLAS
Who decides the time slots?

PENA
We both do.

NICHOLAS
So, dual accountability.

PENA

The program is set twenty four
hours in advance, based on the
schedule for the following day.

They enter the vault.

INT. VAULT LIFT - DAY

However... this isn't really the vault. That giant door was
merely protecting the wide ELEVATOR LIFT down to the vault.
Two large PALLET LIFTERS await use.

At the interior control panel, Nicholas and Pena once again
insert their keys, enter their codes.

Nicholas feels the weight of his new responsibility. He's
never been inside this lift before. Francisco watches
Nicholas carefully.

FRANCISCO

Our virtual vault holds more than
most banks. We have greater
security.

The elevator descends. Francisco is still eyeballing
Nicholas, who very much notices. The lift stops. Before
them is a short concrete and steel corridor leading to
ANOTHER VAULT DOOR. Nicholas is impressed.

FRANCISCO

Think you can handle it?

NICHOLAS

I'll bet you'll miss being the
resident crypt keeper.

CUT TO:

AN IRON SHIELD ARMORED CAR

Gleaming like a showroom piece. Perfectly polished black and
silver exterior. Beside it, a Cadillac-sized STAPLER.

PENA (O.S.)

We don't give tours of our
facility. Security reasons.

REVEAL -- This truck is just a 1/8 scale MODEL on a credenza.

WE ARE:

INT. PENA'S OFFICE - DAY

Pena sits at his desk, marketing to a VIP over the phone.

PENA

But I can assure you that in terms of our knowledge, tactics, equipment and cargo insurance, we are just as capable as the larger players.

(beat)

We're just a tad more affordable and provide a more personal touch. If that's important to you.

Francisco stands nearby, watching the activity down on the terminal floor through the large windows.

Francisco holds a smooth SILVER DEVICE in his hands. Like a credit card, but thicker.

PENA

Absolutely. I'm available the rest of this week.

Pena hangs up as Francisco turns around.

FRANCISCO

This tracking card isn't working.

Pena takes it from Francisco, examines it.

PENA

How many others do we have?

FRANCISCO

Three.

Pena sets the card on his desk. Beat...

FRANCISCO

I know it isn't my place to choose my successor... but they're saying Nick's lost his nerve.

PENA

Because of last Friday? Nick chose to protect the lives of innocents over the bank's valuables.

(beat)

If that's losing his nerve, then I've hired the wrong staff.

(beat)

(MORE)

PENA (cont'd)
Nick's stable. He's got a kid.
His training is solid... his psych
scores are in the right margins.

FRANCISCO
You're not worried about him
missing days for court?

PENA
That was a year ago. He's over the
custody issue.

FRANCISCO
But aside from being on the trucks
for two years, what credentials
does he really have?

PENA
He has my trust. That's the most
important credential of all.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

The armored car OPERATORS and SECURITY STAFF gear up.
Nicholas buttons up his uniform shirt. He starts to strap on
his Kevlar vest when Carlos arrives. Carlos wears his
graying hair slicked back like Armand Assante.

NICHOLAS
Carlos. How are the bruises?

CARLOS
Blue and purple. How are yours?

Carlos opens his locker, begins to change. Nicholas feels
the guilt again.

NICHOLAS
I should have responded quicker.

CARLOS
Bastards are getting as trigger
happy as the locos in Sao Paulo.

NICHOLAS
Miss your family back home, huh?

Carlos doesn't get the joke.

CARLOS
Congratulations on your...
promotion.

Nicholas isn't sure if he's being sarcastic or not.

NICHOLAS
I came in early. Been training
with Francisco.

CARLOS
Big man sure knows how to lock a
door. He'll teach you well.

Some of the others laugh. Carlos snaps out a METAL BATON.
Everyone goes quiet. Carlos uses it to close Nicholas'
locker door.

Then he collapses it, slips it into his sock.

NICHOLAS
Well... glad you're feeling better.
(then)
I'm going to train my replacement.
Owen will watch your back.

Carlos scoffs, mumbles something in PORTUGUESE.

NICHOLAS
He's riding with us today. Give
him a break.

OWEN (O.S.)
I'm not late, am I?

Nicholas and Carlos look to see OWEN in his uniform. Looks
as young and green as an Army draftee. A CHILI STAIN mars
the front of his uniform shirt.

CARLOS
Forget your bib this morning?

OWEN
My vest will cover it.

NICHOLAS
No. Not while you're on probation.
I have an extra you can borrow.

Nicholas dials his locker combination. Carlos looks at
Nicholas, concerned.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Nicholas and Owen, both in full uniform now, walk past the
fleet of armored cars until they reach Truck #09.

NICHOLAS
You know the exterior check.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

They climb into one of the most secretive places in the world, the back of an armored car. The cab is separated from the cargo hold by a bulkhead.

In this particular truck, there is no access to the cab. Just a bulletproof glass window and an INTERCOM.

Three overhead LIGHTS glow. A bulbous SECURITY CAMERA scrutinizes them from an upper corner.

Lining the wall on each side is a row of SAFES, three per side. Above these are shelves and cabinets, and also clear spaces with seat pads and access to the SIDE GUN PORTS.

Nicholas points to features, allowing Owen to recite his knowledge.

OWEN

We've got the rifle cabinet, first aid... supply cabinet with extra pouches, deposit envelopes.

Nicholas points to the safes. Each DOOR is painted a different color -- yellow, white, red, black, green and blue.

OWEN

Six combination safes, color-coded to correspond with the client circuit...

Owen points to the clipboard hanging on the wall. An ITINERARY in the same multi-colors.

NICHOLAS

And why do we need those?

OWEN

Because this route combines both pick-ups and drop-offs... and we don't want to mix the merchandise.

NICHOLAS

Open them.

OWEN

But they're empty.

NICHOLAS

Don't assume anything.

Owen starts dialing the combination on the yellow safe.

EXT. UNION BANK - DAY

Back at the scene of the crime. A plainclothes detective (GOWER, late 30s), leaves his unmarked blue Caprice and enters the bank.

INT. UNION BANK - DAY

Business has returned to normal. Gower moves through the lobby. He approaches the side offices. The plaque on one open door reads:

"ARNOLD DAVIDSON, VICE PRESIDENT"

Gower knocks, enters.

INT. DAVIDSON'S OFFICE - DAY

ARNOLD DAVIDSON (late 40s) looks up from his desk. Sharply dressed bank exec, eager face.

DAVIDSON
Can I help you?

GOWER
Detective Gower, Robbery-Homicide.
Just wanted to follow up.

Gower takes out his badge. Davidson rises to shake hands.

DAVIDSON
What can I help you with?

Gower takes out a note pad.

GOWER
I have a theory on who these guys
are.

EXT. VONS PARKING LOT - DAY

Truck #09 idles in the fire lane (this is the same location from the opening scene). Carlos is now driving.

Nicholas and Owen emerge from the store with transfer bags. They climb into the back. The truck rolls forward.

A WHITE CARGO VAN pulls out of a parking space and follows it out of the lot.

INT. VAN (MOVING) - DAY

Two guys with SUNGLASSES follow the armored car. WAYNE is driving. ROARKE sits shotgun with a stopwatch and note pad. Roarke is older than his partner, the clear leader. He radiates a dangerous confidence.

The armored car suddenly shifts to the left turn lane at the stoplight ahead. Wayne brakes right beside the truck.

ROARKE
(to someone in the back)
See that, Eddie?
(to Wayne)
Look over once.

Wayne casually glances up at the truck, then back ahead. Carlos turns his head inside the truck.

ROARKE
You don't acknowledge an armored car sitting next to you, you'll seem suspiciously nonchalant.

The light turns GREEN and the armored car pulls away.

WAYNE
Want me to catch them around the block?

ROARKE
No. We'll follow up tomorrow.

INT. SHELTON TOWNHOME - NIGHT

Another Friday night. Logan battles medieval monsters in a video game. Josie lingers in the kitchen with Nicholas.

NICHOLAS
I'll still be on the route for another week while I train.

JOSIE
Sounds great. I'm glad things are finally working out for you.

NICHOLAS
(accepting the dig)
It may not take me to the World Series...

JOSIE
That's not what I meant.

An old issue. Josie checks her watch, uncomfortable.

JOSIE
I gotta go.

NICHOLAS
Big date?

JOSIE
Maybe.

Nicholas smiles. Josie heads for the door.

JOSIE
Bye, tiger.

LOGAN
(still playing)
Bye.

INT. LOGAN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Logan's weekend bedroom. Loaded with outgrown and back-up toys from Logan's collection. As Logan sets up a group of action figures for battle, Nicholas goes through Logan's backpack. He pulls out a black t-shirt, with the word "TROUBLE" across the front.

Nicholas laughs. He pulls out two small, slim CELL PHONES.

NICHOLAS
What are these?

LOGAN
Fireflies.

NICHOLAS
Aren't you a little young to have a cell phone?

LOGAN
They're for kids.

Nicholas examines the Firefly in his hand. There are five large buttons and a simple screen, but no numerals on the keypad. Nicholas punches the buttons.

NICHOLAS
Okay... They're programmable. So you can call your family members, but no one else?
(beat)
No crank calls to Taiwan.

LOGAN
They're cool, watch...

When Logan presses one of the buttons, the other Firefly BUZZES and LIGHTS UP in multi-colors. Nicholas answers.

NICHOLAS
Hello? Who's this?

LOGAN
(into phone)
It's me.

NICHOLAS
I'm not hearing you.

LOGAN
(louder)
It's me!

Nicholas reaches for Logan's phone, tests it. Holds one phone to each ear.

NICHOLAS
Testing... testing...
(beat)
Your microphone isn't working.

Nicholas taps the buttons on Logan's phone. He can hear CLICKING from his phone.

NICHOLAS
Tell mom to take this one back.

Logan looks depressed.

INT. SHELTON TOWNHOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Nicholas and Logan eat pizza from the coffee table. A movie is on the TV. Logan sees the small bills and loose change on the table. He picks up a quarter.

LOGAN
Do you take quarters in your truck?

Nicholas sets down his slice and scoops up all the change. He drops it into Logan's hand.

NICHOLAS
Every penny, nickel, dime, quarter
and bill there spent part of its
lifetime in the back of an armored
car.

Logan appreciates the weight of this.

LOGAN

If mom says it's okay, can I stay with you for a week?

NICHOLAS

You want to spend more time here?

Logan nods.

NICHOLAS

The thing is, I'm still working during the week. I can't take any time off right now.

Logan considers. His Firefly phones sit on the couch between them. He slides one to Nicholas.

LOGAN

We can talk while you're at work.

Nicholas is touched.

NICHOLAS

You know I can't take phone calls while I'm working.

Logan is bummed. Nicholas concedes.

NICHOLAS

Tell you what. Once you get yours fixed, if you need to call me at work, ring me once, and I'll call you back as soon as I can.

LOGAN

You promise?

NICHOLAS

Promise. And I'll see about us maybe taking a vacation in a few months.

Nicholas grabs the last piece of pizza. Logan gives him a look. Nicholas stares him down.

NICHOLAS

Split it? Or duel for it?

LOGAN

(intensely)
Duel.

Logan pulls out his toy gun. Nicholas takes a rubber band from the table, stretches it over his cocked finger like a gun. But he's too slow.

Logan blasts him with the toy's RAY GUN sound effects. Nicholas falls over, drops the pizza slice back in the box.

EXT. IRON SHIELD FACILITY - DAY

The gate opens as an armored car pulls out.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Nicholas dresses for the route. He goes to take off his jacket, when he notices something odd...

He pulls the Firefly phone from the inside pocket, smiles in surprise.

NICHOLAS
(sotto)
Smooth.

Making sure the other guys can't see his kiddie phone, Nicholas discreetly turns it on.

The LIGHTS dance in rainbow colors. Nicholas considers...

INT. PENA'S OFFICE - DAY

Pena stands by the window, watching his fleet prepare for the day's haul. He spots the roof letters of #09 as the truck backs out and turns for the exit.

INT. ARMORED CAR (MOVING) - CAB - DAY

Carlos drives in low gear toward the exit, which is like an air-lock. Owen sits with him, alert, chewing gum.

From the back, Nicholas peers through the bulkhead window. All three are in uniform, including black caps.

Owen toggles the switch on a small BLACK & WHITE MONITOR built into the dash. Various camera angles flash by, covering all four sides of the truck's exterior.

The final view shows the interior CARGO HOLD.

INT. AIR LOCK - DAY

The truck stops. A gate closes behind it. Two SECURITY PERSONNEL inspect the vehicle as the guards open their doors.

Nicholas climbs out and signs a clipboard as the security crew hands him TWO SHOTGUNS and a COMPACT REVOLVER in an ankle holster. He sets them inside the cargo hold.

The WEAPONS CHIEF passes out sidearms from a locker. Owen signs out his sidearm, Carlos as well. Nicholas gets his .357 Magnum, checks the rounds in the cylinder, slides it into his holster.

NICHOLAS
Let's roll, Carlos.

They climb back inside and the front garage door OPENS. Sunlight streams in as Carlos takes Truck #09 across the lot.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

The armored car squeezes through LA morning traffic, dwarfing the SUVs and Hummers.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The filling station and convenience store lies in the shadow of a FREEWAY. An ivy covered ravine separates the steep concrete freeway walls from the gas station lot.

It is near this boundary that the armored car has parked. Owen walks into the convenience mart, counting his own bills.

INT. ARMORED CAR (PARKED) - CAB - DAY

Carlos polishes his sunglasses while listening to the CHATTER over his 2-way RADIO. He's not paying attention to the monitor in the dash, which shows Nicholas in the cargo hold.

EXT. RAVINE - DAY

Something RISES up, taking view of the armored car.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas checks his watch: 8:05. He consults the itinerary clipboard. We SEE the first stop is scheduled for 8:30.

A gentle TAPPING (O.S.) on the back door. Nicholas peers through the rear window. Owen stands with a drink tray and three coffees, head lowered. Nicholas cannot see his face beneath his hat brim.

NICHOLAS
(sotto)
Thought I taught you the knock.

Nicholas grasps the lever and unlocks the rear door.

Owen raises his head...

BUT IT IS NOT OWEN. It is another young man (EDDIE), wearing mirrored sunglasses and a close approximation of the Iron Shield UNIFORM.

His hand emerges from under the drink tray with a STUN GUN.

The spring loaded tip leaps at Nicholas' leg, trailing wires. An electrical current immediately sends his body into convulsions. Nicholas falls.

INT. ARMORED CAR (PARKED) - CAB - DAY

Carlos feels the truck move from the activity in back. He looks through the bulkhead window, can't see anything. He pushes the intercom button.

CARLOS

Nick?

Carlos looks at the monitor, sees the IMAGE of Nicholas lying on the floor.

Suddenly Owen -- the real Owen -- is at the driver side door, staring through the window. He looks spooked.

OWEN

(muffled through glass)

Open the door!

CARLOS

What the hell?

Carlos goes to open his door... but catches sight of ANOTHER MAN (Roarke) in the side mirror, pointing a PISTOL at Owen. Roarke also wears an Iron Shield-style uniform. Cap and sunglasses. Roarke jumps forward, presses his gun against Owen's throat.

ROARKE

(muffled through glass)

Hands in the air!

EXT. ARMORED CAR - DAY

Carlos raises his hands. He slowly unlocks the door. Roarke and Owen back away as Carlos emerges.

Suddenly Eddie arrives from the front of the truck, shoots Carlos with his stun gun. Carlos collapses to the ground, twitching.

Owen's eyes are squeezed shut. Roarke pushes him away, draws from a belt pouch his own stun gun... and fires.

Soon Owen is also shocked into unconsciousness.

The armored car itself blocks the view from the gas station. The freeway provides cover behind them. And now the white cargo van arrives, backing up next to the truck.

The rear doors fly open, and a third accomplice (TERRENCE) scrambles out. He helps Roarke and Eddie drag Carlos and Owen into the van.

Eddie also tosses in the two SHOTGUNS that Nicholas so recently checked out. The van's driver (Wayne, whom we met earlier) leans back to check the progress.

(NOTE: Wayne and Terrence are in street clothes, NOT uniforms.)

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas lies on the floor. He stirs to life, realizing the truck is MOVING again. Nicholas gets to his wobbly knees, reaches for his revolver. It is gone.

He turns to see Roarke in the cargo hold with him, wearing the fake uniform, cap and MİRRORED SUNGLASSES. Roarke sits on a padded seat cushion built over one of the safes.

He's unloading the .357. Pocketing the bullets, Roarke tosses the weapon back to Nicholas.

ROARKE
Holster that side arm. Gotta look official.

Nicholas grabs the gun, gets to his feet.

NICHOLAS
What have you done with them?

ROARKE
We won't need to hurt anyone if all goes as planned. I've got two men keeping your friends company.

Roarke is calm, collected. In control. Nicholas tries to see through the bulkhead window.

ROARKE

And I installed my own driver.

NICHOLAS

We haven't started our route.

ROARKE

Yes. That's why you didn't have your guard up.

Roarke playfully holds his fists up like a boxer.

NICHOLAS

There's no money on this truck.

ROARKE

Take a seat, kid. Don't want you falling down and hurting yourself.

Nicholas leans against one of the safes. He eyeballs Roarke's uniform.

ROARKE

We get to play for the same team today.

Nicholas glances at the CAMERA mounted above. Roarke grins.

ROARKE

Are they watching us now?

Nicholas considers a lie...

ROARKE

Don't strain yourself. I already know it isn't a live feed. We'll take care of that later.

Roarke checks the itinerary clipboard.

ROARKE

Busy day. Twelve stops.

NICHOLAS

There's no way you can pull this off. We don't work like Loomis or Brink's. It's not straight cash pick-ups or deliveries.

ROARKE

Yes, I know...

NICHOLAS
Everything we pick up has to be
accounted for within a few hours.

ROARKE
Nicholas! I am fully aware of your
procedures. You think a guy like
me would just blunder into a job
like this?

NICHOLAS
(beat)
So what is it you want me to do?

ROARKE
Your job. Like any other day.
You've got two new partners on the
route is all.

Nicholas scoffs.

ROARKE
You're the front man. You see
these bank supervisors and store
managers every day. You have the
keys and codes to the dual-
verification safes.
(beat)
Right?

Nicholas looks sicker each passing second.

ROARKE
Be your usual, professional self,
and you will get through this.
(beat)
But there are consequences if you
fail.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

The white van rolls through traffic, following the truck.

ROARKE (V.O.)
Your two other players on the
bench, Carlos... Owen....

INT. VAN (MOVING) - DAY

As Wayne drives, nervous and jumpy, Terrence sits casually in
back with the dazed hostages. He has taped their mouths and
wrists, removed their sidearms. Carlos and Owen stare at
each other.

ROARKE (V.O.)
One wrong move by you or anyone
else, and they'll be out of the
game forever.

BACK TO ROARKE

And Nicholas in the cargo hold of the armored car.

ROARKE
We understand each other?

Nicholas nods grimly. Roarke takes out his own CELL PHONE.

ROARKE
Now... I know you have code words
for when all is clear... and panic
words for when it is not.
(beat)
My driver needs to know these
words. So do I.

Nicholas sees a possible advantage here. He looks down.

NICHOLAS
Sure.

ROARKE
Before you tell me... understand
this. My colleague is asking your
two partners the very same
question. I am going to call him
when you are done. If there are
any discrepancies in the code
words...
(beat)
Your friends will suffer.

Nicholas swallows hard.

ROARKE
So do them a favor and get it right
the first time.

Nicholas clenches his fists. No way out.

NICHOLAS
When we're talking to dispatch
after a successful stop, we'll say
'proceeding to such-and-such, as
directed.'
(beat)
(MORE)

NICHOLAS (cont'd)
But if something has gone wrong and
we need to secretly communicate
that...

INT. VAN (MOVING) - DAY

Terrence is on his cell phone as he secures the tape back
over Carlos' mouth.

TERRENCE
(into phone)
Then he says 'right on schedule.'

Carlos nods, his eyes wide. Owen nods in assent.

TERRENCE
(listening to Roarke)
That's what Carlos here says.
As in, Truck Nine is right on
schedule. That means it really
ain't.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke listens to his phone, a grin spreading.

ROARKE
That's what Nick said too. Clever.

Roarke hangs up. Fixes Nicholas with an approving look.

ROARKE
Good boy.

Roarke looks through the bulkhead window.

ROARKE
First stop. You're on deck.

Roarke steps closer and grabs Nicholas by the Kevlar vest.
Nicholas tries to find his eyes behind the sunglasses.

ROARKE
I almost forgot the best part.

NICHOLAS
(smoldering)
What?

ROARKE
(checks his watch)
We've got another hitter on the
team. Good friend of mine, we call
Harlan. Used to be in the Marines.
(MORE)

ROARKE (cont'd)

(beat)

Right now Harlan is baby-sitting
your son Logan... and his mother.
But don't worry...

(beat)

I'm sure you'll pull this off and
we won't need Harlan's particular
skills.

Nicholas knocks Roarke's hands off his vest and lunges with
his own... a stranglehold on Roarke's neck. He smashes
Roarke into the wall.

NICHOLAS

He hurts either one of them, I will
kill you!

A moment later, Roarke's loaded pistol is pressed up under
Nicholas' vest, into his belly.

ROARKE

Relax, big guy. Nobody wants that
to happen. This is a professional
job.

(beat)

But something goes wrong...
something happens to me... and
Harlan doesn't get his phone calls
when he expects them...

(beat)

We got a problem.

Nicholas releases his grip. Roarke pushes him back with the
gun extended.

NICHOLAS

Where are they?

(off the silence)

I want to talk to them. Now.

ROARKE

You will. I understand how you
feel. This is what they call an
emotional stressor. You're trained
to deal with those, right?

NICHOLAS

You'll never get away with this.

ROARKE

I think the odds are fair, with
your help. And then I'll be headed
out of the country...

(MORE)

ROARKE (cont'd)
and your boy and his mom will be
unharm'd, free to go.
(beat)
But for the time being, you are
their only hope, Nicholas.
Remember that.

Nicholas turns and SLAMS a cabinet with his hand.

ROARKE
Let's get to work.

Nicholas closes his eyes and slows his breathing. Focus...

EXT. HOLLYWOOD ALLEY - DAY

When Nicholas opens his eyes, he is standing in the back of a NIGHTCLUB. The truck idles in the alley. Roarke stands by the back entrance, sunglasses on, hand on his pistol grip. Nicholas enters.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - DAY

Nicholas stiffly follows the sleepy eyed CLUB MANAGER through the back hall, into a cramped office. Band flyers plaster the interior walls. Post-it notes everywhere.

A cigarette smolders in an overflowing ashtray. Nicholas turns a sour eye on the ARMY COT squatting against the wall, draped with ratty blankets.

CLUB MANAGER
(sheepish)
Rough night.

The club manager produces a key. Nicholas produces a ring of 10 various keys, selects the right one. The counterpart. They unlock the safe in tandem.

Inside are two DEPOSIT ENVELOPES and a bulging TRANSFER BAG. The club manager hands them to Nicholas. He spots Roarke lingering in the hall.

NICHOLAS
(quickly)
My new guy. We're training him.

Nicholas swiftly exits with the items.

CLUB MANAGER
Hey.
(coughs)
Your keys.

Nicholas turns back as the club manager removes Nicholas' key from the safe. Nicholas takes the key ring from him and signs the man's clipboard. His hand SHAKES as he signs.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas stows the cash and deposit envelopes in the yellow safe while the truck idles.

NICHOLAS

Your driver. He knows where he's going?

Nicholas starts dialing the combination to the BLACK safe. Roarke stops him.

ROARKE

Why are you opening that now?
(re: itinerary)
Our next stop is Rite-Aid, Mr. Shelton. As directed.

NICHOLAS

How do I know you haven't already done something to them?

Roarke lifts his cell, speed-dials.

ROARKE

Get me a good picture of the boy.

Roarke hangs up. They wait. Nicholas slides his fingers underneath his vest, like he's checking for something in a shirt pocket.

Roarke's phone BEEPS. Roarke snaps it open, shows the image:

INSERT - CELL PHONE SCREEN

A shot taken by another camera phone -- looking down at Logan. The boy sits on a couch with a wary expression, looking up.

NICHOLAS

Shudders. This is all real. Too real.

INT. RITE-AID DRUGSTORE - DAY

Nicholas moves behind the photo counter, to a battered old SAFE bolted to the floor. The RITE-AID MANAGER opens the safe, takes out sealed deposit bags.

Nicholas signs the clipboard and the manager moves off to help a PHOTO CUSTOMER.

Nicholas looks back through the front doors. Roarke stands next to the truck, scanning the parking lot.

Nicholas slides out of Roarke's view. He reaches under his vest, slides the FIREFLY out of his shirt pocket. He presses one of the speed-dial buttons.

Nicholas waits as it RINGS... watching the store entrance.

The RINGING STOPS. Only SILENCE NOW...

NICHOLAS
(sotto)
Hello? Logan?

Silence.

NICHOLAS
Can you hear me, Logan? Remember
our code?

Nothing. Nicholas begins to worry.

NICHOLAS
Is this Logan? Click the button
once for yes, two for no.

Nothing...

Then... CLICK-CLICK.

Nicholas freezes. Dread. Harlan might be on the other end.

NICHOLAS
Is this Josie?

CLICK.

Nicholas smiles with relief. But reconsiders.

NICHOLAS
I need to know it is really you,
Josie.
(thinks)
Logan's favorite color. Is it
blue?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Green?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Purple?

CLICK.

Nicholas smiles. It IS her.

NICHOLAS

Josie. Are you okay?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Have they hurt you or Logan?

CLICK-CLICK.

Nicholas is relieved, but still anxious.

NICHOLAS

Is that Harlan guy in the room with you?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS

What about Logan?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Hang tight, Josie. I'm going to get us through this, okay?

A long pause. Then...

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

I hear you. I gotta go for now.

Nicholas hangs up. The Rite-Aid Manager looks back, surprised that Nicholas is still behind the photo counter.

EXT. RITE-AID DRUGSTORE - DAY

From above, we see Truck #09 as Nicholas climbs into the back with new deposit bags. He pulls the door shut and the truck moves on.

EXT. WELLS FARGO BANK BUILDING - DAY

A main branch located on the ground floor of a mirrored office building. The armored car pulls up in the fire lane.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas dials the combination on the yellow safe. He removes the deposit bags, shows them to Roarke.

NICHOLAS
You don't want any of this?

ROARKE
You know as well as I that to tamper with that deposit so early on the route would raise flags.

NICHOLAS
So what's the point?

Roarke just stares at him through the mirrored sunglasses. Nicholas reaches out and SNATCHES them off Roarke's face...

... finally revealing those FAMILIAR EYES. Bright with wolf-like cunning. Nicholas stares into them. Not afraid, but with realization.

NICHOLAS
It was you. Union Bank.

ROARKE
Why do you think I picked you, Nick?
(beat)
Your priorities are in the right place. You'd protect human life over possessions any day, right?
(beat)
Ironie line of work you're in.

NICHOLAS
I spent the last two weeks wishing I'd shot you.

ROARKE
Now's your chance.

Nicholas touches his gun handle, remembers it is unloaded.

ROARKE

No, that's not your style, is it?

EXT. WELLS FARGO BANK BUILDING - DAY

Nicholas walks briskly into the bank with the deposit bags. Roarke follows. Passing OFFICE WORKERS and BANK CUSTOMERS steer clear, but pay no special attention to the guards.

INT. WELLS FARGO MAIN BRANCH - DAY

The Branch Manager (DANA) admits Nicholas around the counter. Dana is 50-ish with severely short hair. All business.

NICHOLAS

Dana.

DANA

Nick.

They move behind a low set of cabinets, near the vault door. Roarke edges closer, trying to keep a line of sight on Nicholas. Nicholas sets the deposit bags in a metal bin, signs Dana's clipboard.

DANA

Wait here. I'll get the ATM pack.

Dana vanishes into the vault. Nicholas sees Roarke watching him from behind the line of BANK CUSTOMERS.

Dana returns with a young MALE TELLER. They carry four bulky TRANSFER BAGS. Strong gray fabric with lead seals and key locks. After setting the bags down, Dana presents the clipboard for Nicholas to sign once more.

But Nicholas pauses, deciding...

He stares at the SIGNATURE LINE. His pen hovers... Space enough to scrawl a message...

DANA

Nick?

He turns back, sees Roarke staring at him impatiently. Roarke shifts his hand to his gun handle.

Nicholas whips off a signature, grabs two bags in each hand.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke and Nicholas ride in back as the truck moves on.

NICHOLAS
I want to speak with my family.

ROARKE
In a bit. I have to keep us on
schedule.

NICHOLAS
How do you know so much about the
route?

ROARKE
I made it my business to know.
(then)
I like you, kid. I know you're
smart. But for today, try not to
be clever.
(then)
It's just a job. Definitely not
worth losing a loved one over.

They both hear the faint sound of SIRENS (O.S.).

EXT. WILSHIRE BLVD. - DAY

Mid-morning traffic still pulsing through the main city
artery. Truck #09 glides in the right lane. POLICE SIRENS
(O.S.) grow louder.

INT. ARMORED CAR (MOVING) - CAB - DAY

Eddie spots the activity in his side mirror. Traffic pulling
over on the right as SEVERAL POLICE CARS speed forward.
Eddie pulls the truck over, panicked.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke peers through the small side window. He takes out his
pistol. Nicholas looks through the rear window.

ROARKE
Get back!

The SIRENS SCREAM (O.S.), just outside these steel walls.
Relief spreads across Nicholas' face...

Until the sirens FADE. Nicholas' hopes dashed.

EXT. WILSHIRE BLVD. - DAY

The caravan of four police cars passes the truck, continues toward some other emergency.

Traffic resumes. Truck #09 pulls out.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke holsters his gun. His CELL PHONE rings. He answers.

ROARKE

Yes.

(listens)

No, they moved on.

Roarke turns to the bulkhead window as he listens to his caller. Nicholas sees a chance. He kneels down and silently dials the combination on that BLACK safe again. He opens the door...

With his back to the overhead camera...

He reaches into the safe. It appears empty, except...

Nicholas reaches up and pulls down the COMPACT REVOLVER in the ankle holster. The one he checked out with the shotguns. It was Velcro-strapped to the inside of the safe.

ROARKE

(into phone)

We'll proceed. Nothing changes.

Nicholas quickly stuffs the gun and holster between his belly and his vest. He turns, closes the safe door. As he stands up, Roarke hangs up, turns around.

Roarke stares at Nicholas, deciding...

NICHOLAS

Problem?

ROARKE

No.

But Nicholas can see that something disturbs Roarke.

NICHOLAS

I want to talk to my partners.

ROARKE

Not now.

NICHOLAS
Then I want to talk to my son!

Roarke dials his phone.

ROARKE
(into phone)
Put the mother on.

Roarke hands the phone to Nicholas.

NICHOLAS
Josie?

JOSIE (V.O.)
(through phone)
Nick!

NICHOLAS
Have they hurt you?

Silence.

NICHOLAS
Hello? Josie?

Roarke snatches the phone back from Nicholas.

INT. BANK OF AMERICA MAIN BRANCH - DAY

Nicholas carries the deposit bags from Rite-Aid around the counter. The BANK OF AMERICA MANAGER (WES, balding, mid-40s), accepts the deposit bags. Nicholas signs another clipboard.

WES
And we have cash for the Highland
ATM and EZ Check Cashing.

Nicholas moves with Wes into the VAULT ROOM. They approach a dual-verification safe. Nicholas inserts his key. Wes inserts his own. After Wes punches in a short code, Nicholas stares at the keypad.

WES
Your code.

Nicholas blinks, trying to remember.

WES
You have to enter your access code.

NICHOLAS
I know. Sorry...

Too many thoughts racing through his head.

ROARKE

Waits in the lobby, eyeing the CUSTOMERS. He nods to a YOUNG WOMAN passing by.

NICHOLAS

Clears his throat and inputs his code. The display FLASHES.

WES
(concerned)
You want to try again?

NICHOLAS
I'm sorry.

Nicholas inputs the code a second time. They turn their keys successfully.

WES
You okay?

NICHOLAS
Fine.

Wes opens the safe. Four large cash transfer bags wait inside. Nicholas pulls them out.

WES
Let me get the release.

Wes seems uneasy as he leaves Nicholas standing there with the cash. Nicholas looks past the teller counter. Can't see Roarke.

Nicholas kneels down, pulls out the gun and holster from under his vest. He straps it above his ankle, yanks down his trouser leg.

He stands up, eyes the vault opening. No one has seen him.

The seconds go by. Wes is taking too long. Nicholas checks his watch.

ROARKE

Watches Wes behind another counter, looking through binders and papers.

NICHOLAS

Pulls out the Firefly, hits the button. Waits as it RINGS... then CLICKS.

NICHOLAS
(into phone)
Josie?

CLICK-CLICK.

Nicholas pauses. What does this mean?

NICHOLAS
Logan?

CLICK.

Nicholas smiles, suddenly flush with emotion.

NICHOLAS
Thank God. Are you okay?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
Did mom give you the phone?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS
You snuck it from her?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
Are you alone right now?

CLICK.

Nicholas has so many questions...

NICHOLAS
Are you guys at home right now?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS
They took you somewhere?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
Do you know where?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS
Are you in a building?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
An apartment?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS
A house?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
Was it a long ride?

CLICK-CLICK.

Nicholas looks through the vault opening. No one is looking.

NICHOLAS
I have to go, Logan. I promise
I'll call back. Hang in there.
Everything's going to be okay.

CLICK.

Wes returns as Nicholas hides the Firefly in his palm. Using that practiced dexterity. Nicholas signs another clipboard. As Wes looks away, Nicholas slips the Firefly under his vest.

Nicholas then storms out of the vault room, lugging the heavy bags. Wes watches him leave.

EXT. BANK OF AMERICA MAIN BRANCH - DAY

The armored car drives across the parking lot, pulls into traffic. Eddie steers with capable hands.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas stows the heavy cash bags in another safe, closes the GREEN door. He glances out through the rear window, sees the WHITE VAN pulling into traffic behind them. Nicholas moves closer.

NICHOLAS

What is it you want? How long do I have to play this game?

ROARKE

Did you ever hear about the big move in 1924, Manhattan?

Nicholas turns around, baffled.

ROARKE

They don't teach you history in armored car school?

Nicholas smolders.

ROARKE

The Federal Reserve Bank moved four billion dollars. Seven hundred tons of gold and silver in two days.

(beat)

I hear it took forty five armored cars to do the job and hundreds of police and Secret Service to barricade the route.

(beat)

Snipers on the rooftops, Wall Street shut down... beautiful. Wish I could have been there.

NICHOLAS

Would have been suicide.

ROARKE

Not with the right plan.

NICHOLAS

How do you know so much about the truck?

ROARKE

I have an experienced crew.

NICHOLAS

One of them worked for Iron Shield?

ROARKE

One of your competitors, perhaps.

NICHOLAS

You know an awful lot about me too. You've got an insider?

ROARKE
You're my inside man.

NICHOLAS
But you used somebody to get to me.
(beat)
Was it Owen?

Roarke just stares back.

NICHOLAS
I want to talk to him.

ROARKE
We'll call them after the next
stop.

INT. PENA'S OFFICE - DAY

Pena enters with a soda can. After dusting off the lid, he pops it open and sips. His SPEAKER PHONE RINGS.

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
We've got a problem with one of the
trucks.

PENA
You need me down there?

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
No. One of the trucks on route.
(beat)
Just wanted you to be aware. Truck
Eleven has a low front tire. I've
recalled them. We have Truck Three
on standby.

PENA
Sounds like you made the right
call.

EXT. DRIVE-THRU ATM - DAY

A stand-alone ATM kiosk in the center of a parking lot.
Truck #09 pulls up on the outside.

EXT. DRIVE-THRU ATM - DAY

Roarke stands beside the idling truck as Nicholas services the ATM via an open panel on the opposite side of the brick wall. The panel blocks Nicholas from Roarke's view.

Nicholas transfers bundles of \$20 bills into the spring loaded trays. He is kneeling down, realizes that the ANKLE HOLSTER is showing.

Nicholas shifts his weight to tug his trouser leg back down.

Inside the ATM compartment, Nicholas finds a GREASE PENCIL left behind by the last technician. He picks it up, an idea forming...

MOMENTS LATER...

Nicholas locks the access panel. As he heads for the truck, Roarke stops him.

ROARKE

You didn't run the test bill.

NICHOLAS

(withering)

Right.

Roarke walks him around to the front of the ATM. Nicholas takes out a special ATM card, slips it into the machine. He enters a code at the prompt.

The ATM WHIRS. Nicholas looks nervous. As a paper bill slides out, Nicholas reaches for it...

But Roarke is faster. He holds up the test bill, a blank slip of paper with the bank logo...

And reads the MESSAGE in BLACK GREASE PENCIL:

"CALL 911 - 2 HOSTAGES IN WHITE VAN #4PUY443"

Roarke folds the slip, tucks it into his pocket. Nicholas holds his ground. They are in a public parking lot. Roarke can't touch him out here.

ROARKE

Get in the truck.

NICHOLAS

No.

Nicholas unconsciously pivots his right foot, feeling the weight of the hidden gun. But now Eddie is behind Nicholas.

ROARKE

Get in or I'll bring Logan into this too.

Nicholas looks at Eddie. He marches back to the truck, beaten. Once Nicholas climbs in, Eddie closes the door on him. Roarke takes out his cell phone.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke opens the door and climbs in. Nicholas has been waiting. Roarke slams the door shut. The truck begins to move again.

ROARKE
Your partner Owen is dead.

NICHOLAS
What?!

ROARKE
You see how it works? You did this.

NICHOLAS
(seething)
I thought Owen was your informant.

ROARKE
Maybe he was. Not anymore.

NICHOLAS
Then why did you need me?

ROARKE
Owen was on probation. You're a trusted employee.

Nicholas thinks for a moment.

NICHOLAS
They didn't kill him. This is a bluff.

ROARKE
No bluff. I called and ordered it.

NICHOLAS
(snarling)
Can I talk to Carlos? Or did they kill him too?

Roarke considers. He dials his cell again.

ROARKE
(into phone)
Put Carlos on. Briefly.

Roarke hands the phone to Nicholas.

INT. VAN (MOVING) - DAY

Terrence rips the gag tape from Carlos' mouth, puts the phone near him. Owen lies on the floor, his uniform stained with blood.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)
(through phone)
Carlos?

CARLOS
(into phone)
Nick! They killed Owen!

Terrence pulls the phone away. He replaces the gag tape.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas holds the phone tightly. Eyes wide with horror. Finally, he throws the phone back to Roarke.

NICHOLAS
It's over.

ROARKE
Far from it. We're down at the top
of the second, but there's plenty
of time to catch up.

Nicholas looks away, enraged.

ROARKE
I thought you liked baseball. Been
studying your resume.

NICHOLAS
You're in so far over your fucking
head, you don't even realize it.

EXT. SUNSET BOULEVARD - DAY

Truck #09 glides past the restaurants and music stores.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke checks the itinerary. Nicholas stares into space.

ROARKE
Piper's Pawn Shop?

Nicholas does not reply.

ROARKE

(reading)

Picking up deposits for Washington Mutual.

(then)

They've got you spread pretty thin, Nick-o. Bopping all over this town.

(then)

Ever think about making your way up... or out? Maybe I could cut you in on the action.

Nicholas reveals nothing. He takes the itinerary, checks the listings. He takes out his key ring, examines the many keys there, some with color tabs.

Something bothers him. Nicholas drops down and dials the combination for the BLACK safe again. Roarke allows it.

ROARKE

What's the problem?

NICHOLAS

Piper's has a dual-key safe. I'm missing my key.

ROARKE

Bullshit.

Nicholas slams his ring of keys on the safe top.

NICHOLAS

It has a black rubber tab! You see one like that?

Roarke makes a casual inspection.

ROARKE

So where is it?

NICHOLAS

I must have lost it.

ROARKE

Lost it? You don't lose things. That's the whole purpose of your job.

NICHOLAS

One of the other guys might have the key.

ROARKE
I'm not changing course.

NICHOLAS
Then you'll have to call ahead,
pretend to be from dispatch.

ROARKE
And warn the client about a
security breach? No, I think
you'll have to either come up with
this magic key...
(beat)
Or improvise something.

EXT. PIPER'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

A building on the corner. Could have been a house at one time. Dead neon tubes encircle the sign. Iron bars cover the windows.

Truck #09 idles on the side street as Nicholas and Roarke approach the front door. An OPEN sign assures them of life inside, along with terrible PERCUSSION SOUNDS (O.S.).

INT. PIPER'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

A decidedly amateur DRUMMER (early 20s) sits behind a used DRUM KIT, facing away from the door. He seems to be testing the durability of the drums and cymbals above all else.

BOOM-BOOM-WHACK-WHACK-CRASH!

Every unexpected CYMBAL CRASH should push our sense of unease closer to the edge.

Surrounding the drummer are all sorts of amplifiers, musical instruments, bicycles, exercise equipment, etc.

As Nicholas crosses the room, the PONYTAILED MANAGER watches from behind a counter and a cage of CHAIN-LINK FENCE.

On the counter, several glass display cases of JEWELRY and KNIVES. Dangling from the wall behind him, an arsenal of GUNS and RIFLES.

Nicholas approaches the cage. Ponytail nods.

NICHOLAS
There's a slight problem.

PONYTAIL
What?

Nicholas shouts over the DRUMMING.

NICHOLAS
I DON'T HAVE MY KEY!

Nicholas makes a key gesture. Ponytail darts a look to Roarke, waiting by the front door.

NICHOLAS
Do you have a second one here?

PONYTAIL
Thought I wasn't supposed to keep
an extra on the premises.

BA-DA-DA-CRASH!

The drummer knocks over a cymbal stand, bends to right it.

NICHOLAS
We could delay the pick-up.

Ponytail notices the SWEAT under Nicholas' cap, the way Nick keeps his hands gripped around his belt. Coiled tension.

Ponytail picks up his telephone.

PONYTAIL
Something ain't right. I'm calling
your office.

Nicholas flits his eyes back toward Roarke for a split second. And in that moment, Ponytail KNOWS something's rotten. His other hand RISES from behind the counter with an UZI SUBMACHINE GUN!

NICHOLAS
Hey-hey...

As Ponytail points the gun through the cage, Roarke locks the front door, turns the sign around to CLOSED.

BAP-BAP-BAP...

The drummer keeps whacking the snare, oblivious.

Nicholas holds his hands in the air, backs away from the cage as Ponytail covers him with the Uzi and dials the phone with his other hand.

BLAM-BLAM!

Ponytail takes two rounds in the chest. He slams against the wall, knocking merchandise down.

Nicholas drops to the floor, draws his .357 on instinct...

Roarke charges forward, his gun outstretched.

Ponytail lies on the floor, sees Nicholas kneeling around the counter with the .357.

He points the Uzi and FIRES a quick burst.

Nicholas is blown on his back.

Roarke aims through the cage, over the counter...

BLAM!

Ponytail is finally dead.

HUGE SILENCE. Dead air. The drummer jumps off the drum stool, stares up at Roarke. Roarke turns.

NICHOLAS
(faintly)
No... don't...

Roarke PLUGS the drummer with a single shot. Then he SLAMS the gun barrel against the cymbal in rage.

Nicholas slides to a sitting position.

ROARKE
Are you injured?

NICHOLAS
Fuck you.

Roarke points his gun at Nicholas' face.

ROARKE
That vest saved your life. Your
mouth may not.

EXT. PIPER'S PAWN SHOP - DAY

Roarke and Nicholas emerge from a back door. The street seems normal, traffic passing. No pedestrians or gawking neighbors. Roarke pushes Nicholas back to the truck.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

The armored car cools in the shade of city buildings. Eddie walks to the back door.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Eddie and Roarke watch as Nicholas painfully slips out of his battered Kevlar vest. He puts a hand over his SHIRT POCKET and groans.

EDDIE
Took a few, huh?

But Nicholas is actually exaggerating so as to PALM the Firefly phone. He slips it into his back trouser pocket.

ROARKE
(to Eddie)
Give him yours.

Eddie unstraps his vest and they trade.

EDDIE
Police will be on it soon.

ROARKE
I don't think so. No one on the outside heard us.

NICHOLAS
You expect me to continue like this? All shot up? Missing keys? You'll get us all killed.

EDDIE
(to Roarke)
He's damaged goods.

NICHOLAS
You may as well cut your losses, take what's in the truck.

ROARKE
No, I'm not finished.

NICHOLAS
Three people are dead! You can't walk away from this.
(beat)
Let us all go.

Eddie looks at Roarke, waiting.

ROARKE
 (to Eddie)
 I thought you were a professional.
 We all suffer losses on the job.

Eddie seems less than inspired.

NICHOLAS
 (to Eddie)
 You trust him with your life?

ROARKE
 (quickly)
 Put your vest on. We're behind
 schedule.

NICHOLAS
 Why are you so concerned with the
 goddamned schedule? We've got
 three more banks... is that what
 you're waiting on?
 (looking at the itinerary)
 The check cashing place. A credit
 union, then...

Nicholas gets a chill. Finally realizes...

NICHOLAS
 You're even crazier than I thought.
 (then)
 This isn't about the stops, is it?
 This is a Trojan Horse move.

ROARKE
 Your virtual vault back home is
 where the big bucks are.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Truck #09 continues on the route.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas and Roarke ride in the back. Eddie is up front,
 driving. Nicholas seems anguished.

NICHOLAS
 So why did you hijack us before the
 route? Why not on the way back to
 the terminal for the afternoon pick-
 up?

ROARKE

Like I said, your guard was down.
I've been following your route.
The coffee pit stop was your only
blind spot.

NICHOLAS

But we don't have to continue this
charade. I can call in an engine
malfunction. We can return to base
right now.

ROARKE

I'm not an idiot. Your vault is
programmed on a time-lock.

Roarke refers to the itinerary.

ROARKE

And the window for the next time-
lock is when Truck Nine returns to
the terminal at three.

(beat)

So until then... we're just making
the rounds.

Nicholas stretches his leg out. Before Roarke realizes what
is happening, Nicholas draws the compact revolver from the
ankle holster. He lunges forward, planting the barrel in
Roarke's forehead.

ROARKE

You forgetting something?

INT. ARMORED CAR (MOVING) - CAB - TRUCK 09 - DAY

Eddie glances at OWEN'S ID BADGE resting on the seat next to
him. He freaks out when he sees the image of Nicholas and
Roarke on the MONITOR. He hits the intercom.

EDDIE

Roarke!

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke reaches a hand to the intercom. Nicholas pushes the
gun harder against his head.

ROARKE

Stand down, Eddie. Keep us on
course.

NICHOLAS
Call Harlan. Have him release
Logan and Josie.
(beat)
Call him!

ROARKE
That isn't going to fly, Nick.
Harlan won't deviate from the plan,
even if I call.

Nicholas pulls the hammer back.

NICHOLAS
Then he must not give a fuck about
you.

ROARKE
He'll fall back on his training.
(then)
Pull that trigger, it's your loss.

Nicholas wrestles with his temptation. Finally, he moves the
gun away...

And puts it against HIS OWN HEAD.

ROARKE
Go ahead.

NICHOLAS
You can't do this without me.

ROARKE
So you're going to end your life?

NICHOLAS
It's what we call a sacrifice play.
If I'm dead, there's no reason for
you to hurt anyone else.

ROARKE
Except out of spite.

Nicholas grabs the door handle. Like he's going to jump out,
AND shoot himself.

Now Roarke thinks he might be serious. He pulls out his
phone again.

ROARKE
Wait...

Roarke speed dials. Nicholas thinks he has a chance.

NICHOLAS
You calling Harlan?

ROARKE
(into phone)
Put Carlos on again. And take his
fingers off, one at a time, until I
tell you to stop.

NICHOLAS
What?!

Roarke tosses the phone to Nicholas.

NICHOLAS
(into phone)
Carlos?

INT. VAN (STOPPED) - DAY

Terrence holds the phone to Carlos' ear while he rips the gag
tape away.

CARLOS
What's happening there, Nick?

NICHOLAS (V.O.)
(through phone)
Carlos, I'm sorry! I'm sorry about
Owen.

CARLOS
He was stupid. He tried to escape.

Carlos looks at Owen's body. The HANDS are no longer bound.
Owen managed to cut the tape free before his death.

BACK TO NICHOLAS

Listening, surprised. He stares at Roarke, realizing
something... yet still holding the gun to his own head.

BACK TO CARLOS

Staring with wide eyes as Terrence unfolds a WICKED UTILITY
KNIFE.

CARLOS
(to Terrence)
No! Please...

Terrence reaches behind Carlos' back, where his bound hands strain to escape.

BACK TO NICHOLAS

Listening in shared anxiety. A SCREAM distorts in the phone's speaker. Nicholas pulls the phone away. He throws it back to Roarke.

NICHOLAS
(to Roarke)
Stop him! You can stop him!

ROARKE
No, kid. Only you can stop this.

Nicholas lowers the gun. He tosses it on the counter. Roarke grabs it, lifts the phone.

ROARKE
(into phone)
Terrence! That's enough!

TERRENCE

Hangs up. He wipes his bloody knife clean on Carlos' shirt. Folds it while Carlos lies on the floor, moaning.

ROARKE

Tucks the small revolver under his belt. He folds the phone away. Nicholas kneels down in shock.

ROARKE
You knew perfectly well the
consequences of breaking my rules.
So don't cry over Carlos.
(then)
You don't really care about him
anyway.

NICHOLAS
What the fuck do you know?!

ROARKE
I saw you in that bank. You
protected the mother and child, at
the expense of your partner.
(beat)
Now there's another mother and
child in the balance. And the same
partner.
(beat)
(MORE)

ROARKE (cont'd)
When push comes to shove, I know
what path you'll choose.

NICHOLAS
You didn't kill Owen because of me.
He tried to escape.

Roarke shrugs. Nicholas stares at Roarke, his mind turning.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Pena strolls across the floor. Most of the armored fleet is gone, except for three trucks. MAINTENANCE STAFF replace the front tire on one. The recalled truck.

Pena climbs the stairs to a raised platform near the "air lock" exit. This is Francisco's nerve center, equipped with telephones, radios and computers. Like Pena's office across the way, it affords a view of the entire facility.

Francisco has a STREET MAP of the city on one monitor.

PENA
What's the trouble now?

FRANCISCO
I show a deviation. Truck Nine.
Here's the route...

Francisco types a command. A series of ORANGE DOTS populate the city grid, connected by yellow lines.

FRANCISCO
And here's five minutes ago.

Francisco switches views. An almost identical route appears, except for the BLINKING RED DOT a few blocks west of the yellow lines.

FRANCISCO
They turned down this alley,
hovered for ten minutes.

PENA
They're back on track now?

FRANCISCO
Yeah. Just made the Washington
Mutual stop.

PENA
This is Nick's truck. You're not
leading a witch hunt, are you?

FRANCISCO
The GPS doesn't lie.

PENA
Can you get their radio log from
dispatch?

Francisco hands him the print-out.

FRANCISCO
Dispatch made contact five minutes
ago. Said all was fine.

PENA
Call them yourself.

Pena stands by while Francisco reaches for his radio mic.

FRANCISCO
Truck Nine, this is base, over.

EDDIE (V.O.)
(through radio)
Roger. Truck Nine idle at stop
number eight. Washington Mutual.

PENA
(grabbing the mic)
Who am I speaking to?

EDDIE (V.O.)
This is Owen, sir. ID five-five
seven oh-one. Is there a problem?

Pena and Francisco look at each other.

PENA
Have Nicholas radio in at the next
stop.

Pena hands the mic to Francisco.

PENA
I'll wait here.

Francisco wears a smug smile.

EXT. WASHINGTON MUTUAL MAIN BRANCH - DAY

Roarke and Nicholas march toward the door. The illusion
intact once more. Nicholas now wears Eddie's vest.

NICHOLAS
They're going to ask about the
Piper deposit.

ROARKE
Tell 'em the truth. The pawn shop
is closed today. Owner's feeling a
little down.

Nicholas bites his tongue.

INT. VONS - DAY

As Nicholas leaves the Wells Fargo kiosk with the transfer
bags, he sees a YOUNG BOY pushing a KID'S SHOPPING CART. The
boy resembles Logan. He stares at Nicholas.

Nicholas looks away, troubled.

EXT. VONS PARKING LOT - DAY

The armored car waits in the fire lane. Nicholas and Roarke
emerge from the store.

ROARKE
You've got a call to make.

INT. ARMORED CAR (PARKED) - CAB - DAY

Nicholas sits next to Eddie, takes the radio mic. Roarke
waits in the open passenger doorway, his gun discreetly
pushed under Nicholas' vest.

NICHOLAS
This is Truck Nine, prepared to
roll...
(looking at Roarke)
As directed.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - FRANCISCO'S STATION - DAY

Pena and Francisco huddle around the radio.

PENA
Nicholas. Everything alright?

BACK TO NICHOLAS

All too aware of the gun in his gut.

NICHOLAS
Roger.

WE INTERCUT AS NECESSARY

PENA
We noticed a deviation on the
route.

NICHOLAS
There was trouble at Piper's Pawn.

Roarke jams the gun into Nicholas, who barely recovers:

NICHOLAS
The store was closed. We stopped
to try reaching them by phone.

PENA
Very well. You know you are to
call in any deviations.

NICHOLAS
Yes sir. I apologize.

Nicholas sets the mic down, takes a breath.

ROARKE
You'd better hope he bought that.

BACK TO PENA AND FRANCISCO

Pena thinks for a moment.

PENA
(to Francisco)
Did you hear any panic words?

FRANCISCO
(relenting)
No...

PENA
If Nick or Carlos need help, they
know how to ask. But you see
anything else out of place, you let
me know.

EXT. UNION BANK - DAY

Truck #09 pulls up outside the Union Bank. The scene of the
first robbery. After Nicholas and Roarke enter, we notice...

Gower's unmarked sedan. Gower sits inside. He checks his
watch, observes the Iron Shield truck.

INT. UNION BANK - DAY

Roarke follows Nicholas through the entryway. Both of them tense with recent memories. Nicholas turns to Roarke.

ROARKE
(sotto)
Don't say a word.

Arnold Davidson, the VP, passes by. Gives a subtle nod to Nicholas. Nicholas doesn't risk acknowledging.

Nicholas feels something strange. Without turning his head, he pulls the BUZZING FIREFLY from his trouser pocket. COLORED LIGHTS blink until his thumb finds the button.

He tucks it away again as Roarke turns.

EXT. UNION BANK - DAY

Gower stands by his car, watches with great interest as Roarke and Nicholas climb into the armored car.

EXT. GUTTED STREET - DAY

Truck #09 squeezes through a CONSTRUCTION DETOUR. They're in an inner city area now.

EXT. EZ CHECK CASHING - DAY

The armored car parks at the curb. Nicholas emerges from the back with two large cash bags. This time he draws his (unloaded) revolver. Roarke follows him, gun out in the same manner. The rules are different in this zip code.

While Roarke covers both the truck and the entrance, Nicholas enters a revolving door made of bulletproof glass.

Inside, he passes through another "air lock" of sorts, waiting in the glass-walled chamber until an EMPLOYEE recognizes him, buzzes him through the inner door.

INT. EZ CHECK CASHING - DAY

Nicholas passes through a cutaway in the counter, waits to be buzzed through a steel door.

INT. MONEY ROOM - DAY

Nicholas sets the cash bags into an open safe. He's alone at the moment, takes the Firefly from his back pocket. Dials.

NICHOLAS
(into phone)
Logan?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
Are you alone?

CLICK.

INT. TV ROOM - DAY

Logan sits on the floor with the phone pressed to his ear. The controls of a PlayStation sit on his lap, a video game paused on the TV. The surroundings seem normal, to keep the boy calm.

But the curtains are all drawn, the doors all closed. Logan looks tired.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)
Is your mom in another room?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)
Is there more than one man in the house?

CLICK-CLICK.

WE INTERCUT AS NECESSARY

NICHOLAS
If he comes back, hang up the phone and hide it okay?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
Can you move around, Logan?

Logan doesn't quite get the question, but responds.

CLICK.

NICHOLAS
You remember Halloween last year?
You dressed like a ninja?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Today I want you to be a ninja again. Silent and sneaky.

(beat)

Do you think you could get out of that room, out of that house, without anyone noticing?

Beat...

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

I want you to try it right now. Be a ninja. Can you do that? Run out of that house and hide?

Logan turns back to the closed door. Torn. He looks back at his Firefly, presses the button once.

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Then go. Right now. Once you're safe, call me and send me three clicks... then another three clicks. Okay?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Don't worry about Mom. I'll make sure she's okay. Just go now. If you can, find a woman with kids and have her call the police, okay?

CLICK.

Nicholas hangs up, closes his eyes. He tucks the phone away, takes a deep breath. Maybe a silent prayer.

INT. TV ROOM - DAY

Logan turns the video game back on and restarts at the main menu. Music and gaming SOUNDS play.

But it is just a cover. He gets up, moves toward the front door, eyes never leaving that other door to the back room.

Logan reaches for the deadbolt. The lever CLICKS back too loudly. He cringes, steps away. He looks at the other door. Nothing.

Logan moves back, unlocks the door handle. He pulls the door open... two inches...

Until it STOPS. Held fast by the CHAIN.

LOGAN
(sotto)
No...

Logan closes the door, tries to reach up for the chain lock. He can't reach it. Logan's face reveals his stress.

He locks the deadbolt again and crosses into the kitchen.

INT. SMALL KITCHEN - DAY

Logan climbs up on the counter and pulls the blinds open. He then slides the aluminum window open, cringing as it SQUEALS. He steps across the sink, crawls through the window...

Knocks over a CUP. It hits the floor, dances around LOUDLY.

Logan scampers through the window.

EXT. SMALL HOUSE - DAY

Logan races out of the low bushes below the open kitchen window. He runs down the street, turning back once, plagued with confusion and worry.

It is a middle class neighborhood. Nothing overtly threatening. But Logan is a small boy in unfamiliar terrain.

INT. TV ROOM - DAY

Harlan emerges from the back room. Does a double-take. Logan is gone. Harlan runs to the adjacent kitchen, sees the open window.

HARLAN
Shit!

Harlan runs back to the TV room.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Truck #09 moves confidently through traffic.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas opens the safe with the black door. Roarke speaks into the intercom.

ROARKE
Pull over when it's convenient.

NICHOLAS
Why? What are you doing?

ROARKE
I need you to unlock the safes.
All of them.

Nicholas feels uneasy. Maybe the plan is shifting.

EXT. FREEWAY ONRAMP - DAY

Gower's car speeds past in the diamond lane.

INT. UNMARKED CAR (MOVING) - DAY

Gower is behind the wheel, on a cell phone.

GOWER
I need to speak with the owner, Ron
Pena.
(listens)
No. Tell him I'll be there in a
few minutes. This is Detective
Gower, LAPD.

Gower merges his car into freeway traffic.

INT. ARMORED CAR (MOVING) - CAB - DAY

Nicholas rides with Eddie as they maneuver through mid-afternoon traffic. Neither wear seatbelts. Nicholas looks through the partition window, tries to see what Roarke is up to in the back.

He toggles the monitor switch, until Eddie stops him.

NICHOLAS
Why am I up here?

EDDIE
We need you to radio dispatch, tell
them we're about to make a
deviation.

NICHOLAS
What kind of deviation?

EDDIE
Just a slight detour to save time.

Nicholas notes the GUN in Eddie's holster. He views the instruments in the dash... the radio... a hollow compartment for storage...

Lying in that open hollow is the compressed BATON Carlos usually carries in his sock.

EXT. DEMOLITION SITE - DAY

The foundation of a demolished RETAIL STORE sits in dusty disarray in a parking lot. Abandoned here and there are giant dumpster bins filled with debris.

The white cargo van drifts across the lot, parks behind one of the dumpsters, out of view from the street. Wayne is still behind the wheel.

INT. ARMORED CAR (MOVING) - CAB - DAY

Nicholas looks at the traffic ahead. Eddie makes a left turn. Nicholas hears a faint BUZZING SOUND (O.S.). He discreetly slips the Firefly from his back trouser pocket, clicks it on.

EDDIE

Make the call now.

Nicholas lifts the mic. From his PHONE:

CLICK-CLICK-CLICK... CLICK-CLICK-CLICK...

Nicholas stifles a grin. Eddie looks over. Nicholas radios dispatch to mask the Firefly sounds.

NICHOLAS

Dispatch, this is Truck Nine.
We're making a route deviation to
bypass a traffic hazard.

They wait, tense. Finally:

DISPATCHER (V.O.)

Roger, Truck Nine. Proceed.

Nicholas stares at Eddie as he makes an unusual turn into the closed parking lot of the demolition site. The chain link fence gate is UNLOCKED and left open for them.

Eddie sees that Nicholas is still holding the mic. He gestures to the radio.

Nicholas can see the van ahead, parked beside a dumpster. As they approach, Nicholas goes to set the mic on its clip...

Then he snatches the baton, grabs it with two hands...

And extends it.

As Eddie reacts, Nicholas RAMS THE BATON INTO EDDIE'S THROAT!

Eddie's hands instinctively move to pull the baton away. Nicholas grabs the PISTOL from Eddie's holster and allows Eddie to claim the baton.

Eddie swings the baton back at him, but Nicholas now JAMS the gun barrel under Eddie's jaw. Eddie goes still.

The truck keeps rumbling toward the van. Nicholas stretches his leg over and stomps on Eddie's gas pedal foot, ACCELERATING the truck.

Eddie WHEEZES for breath. Nicholas yanks the wheel...

The armored car SMASHES into the passenger door of the van. Nicholas and Eddie lurch forward.

EXT. DEMOLITION SITE - DAY

The van has been crushed against the dumpster, one side caved in from the truck. The rear van doors burst open as Terrence jumps out with his knife.

But suddenly he's KICKED OVER by Carlos, who falls out of the van, lands on his feet. His hands are still bound behind him, but Carlos makes a run for it, away from the vehicles.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke picks himself off the floor, dazed. He screams into the intercom.

ROARKE
What the fuck was that?!

Roarke can see Nicholas, forcing Eddie out the door.

ROARKE
Shit!

Roarke jumps for the rear door, opens it.

INT. ARMORED CAR - CAB - DAY

Nicholas is now behind the wheel with Eddie's gun. Eddie falls to the ground, clutching his throat.

Nicholas throws the truck into reverse, spins the wheel, and accelerates forward. Eddie rolls out of the way. Nicholas drives straight for Carlos, who is fleeing from the scene...

But Terrence is in the way, running after Carlos with his knife. Nicholas revs the engine and MOWS TERRENCE DOWN!

EXT. DEMOLITION SITE - DAY

Roarke and Wayne run after the truck. Wayne carries one of the shotguns. They pass Terrence, lying crushed on the ground. Ahead, the truck swerves to a stop, blocking them from Carlos.

INT. ARMORED CAR (STOPPED) - CAB - DAY

Nicholas opens his door as Carlos turns around.

NICHOLAS

Get in!

Carlos still has the tape across his mouth. His clothes bloodied. He runs back to the truck.

Carlos tries to climb in beside Nicholas, but Wayne appears behind him. Wayne swings the shotgun in a vicious blow that strikes Carlos in the back of his head.

Carlos falls, unconscious.

Nicholas points Eddie's gun at Wayne, but suddenly Roarke climbs through the passenger door, jams his own pistol in Nicholas' ear.

ROARKE

Drop it!

Nicholas slowly lowers the gun, lets it fall outside the truck. Wayne rolls Carlos over.

BLOOD soaks the back of his head. Nicholas now sees the bloody mess of Carlos' bound hands.

NICHOLAS

(sotto)

Is he dead?

Wayne checks for a pulse, looks up at Roarke.

WAYNE

Not yet. Should I finish it?

ROARKE
No. No gunfire.

Roarke studies the empty lot, making sure no one is watching.

ROARKE
Get him back to the van. Terrence
too.

Nicholas keeps staring at Carlos, watching the life slowly
seep out of him.

NICHOLAS
He's going to die if you don't get
him to a hospital.

ROARKE
I'm sorry!? Are you making a
request!?

Roarke pushes his gun barrel so hard under Nick's jaw,
Nicholas can only gag.

ROARKE
Don't you get it? Every time you
screw up, someone has to pay!

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - DAY

Harlan scans the street, looking for Logan. He hears a
FURTIVE SOUND (O.S.). He spots three TRASH CANS pulled up to
a side fence. Harlan looks behind them.

He throws back the lid of the can on the right. Empty. He
tries the one on the left. Grass and mulch.

Harlan waits... then flips back the middle lid.

Logan SCREAMS. Harlan tries to lift him out.

HARLAN
(hissing)
Get outta there!

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Nicholas watches Roarke, anxious. Roarke has his STUN GUN
ready. He's on the phone. A SMILE spreads across his face.

ROARKE
(to Nicholas)
Good news. He found the boy.

Nicholas TREMBLES, about to lose his mind. He shakes his head, pleading.

NICHOLAS
Don't do this! He's all I have.

ROARKE
(into phone)
Leave him in the bathroom. Let me hear the mother now.

Roarke holds the phone out toward Nicholas. He puts it to his ear. Whatever Nicholas hears twists something inside.

NICHOLAS
Josie!

Roarke snatches the phone back.

ROARKE
(into phone)
Harlan! That's enough. I'll call you back.

Roarke hangs up. Nicholas is backed into the corner, literally. Looking coiled and ready to spring.

ROARKE
Your boy got too clever. One more foul ball and he's going to get what Josie just tasted.

NICHOLAS
He's only a kid!

Roarke shrugs. That does it. Nicholas SNAPS...

He flies across the cargo hold... right into Roarke...

But Roarke pivots at the last moment. Nicholas suddenly SPASMS. Roarke has the stun gun jammed below Nicholas' arm. It CRACKLES with hideous energy.

Nicholas twitches and falls. Unconscious.

EXT. DEMOLITION SITE - DAY

Eddie and Wayne stuff Carlos into the back of the smashed van. Terrence's dead body now lies inside, next to Owen.

Carlos remains unconscious as they close the rear doors.

EXT. IRON SHIELD FACILITY - DAY

Gower's car pulls up to the guard gate. Gower rolls his window down.

GOWER
(shows his badge)
Mr. Pena should be expecting me.

Tony checks his computer. The gate rolls open.

INT. OFFICE ENTRANCE - DAY

Gower walks through a corridor to a barred door. Like a prison entrance. Ron Pena waits on the other side.

PENA
Detective Gower?

Pena operates a switch and the gate buzzes open. Gower passes through and they shake hands.

PENA
Is this about Union Bank?

INT. PENA'S OFFICE - DAY

Gower and Pena look down through the windows at the terminal.

GOWER
Like I told your operator, we think we may have found a ring of criminals who are targeting your company. And it's possible they're working with someone on the inside.

PENA
One of my men?

GOWER
Conceivably. According to Arnold Davidson, your guard Nicholas Shelton was there during the Union Bank hit.

PENA
That's right.

GOWER
I think the same crew that hit Union is plotting something else.

Pena shakes his head.

PENA
Nick is one of my best men. He's
being promoted.

GOWER
So you haven't noticed anything out
of the ordinary with your crews?

Pena shakes his head. But then his SPEAKER PHONE rings.

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
Sir, I show another deviation with
Truck Nine.

Pena and Gower share a look.

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
They hovered at a spot off the
route for ten minutes.

PENA
Did they radio in?

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
Yes. Cited a traffic hazard.

PENA
Thank you.

Pena hangs up.

PENA
Nick's on Truck Nine.

GOWER
I'd like to question him and his
partners, if you don't mind.

Pena opens a binder on his desk, flips through the pages.

PENA
They're scheduled to come back here
in twenty-five minutes.

Gower checks his watch.

GOWER
You mind if I wait?

PENA
Not at all.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

Roarke looks through the bulkhead window, watching Eddie take the truck back out on the street. He turns around.

Nicholas lies on the floor, just waking up. His hands bound with duct tape.

Wayne stands over Nicholas. As he comes to, Wayne KICKS him in the back. Roarke shoots Wayne a warning look.

WAYNE

He killed Terrence.

ROARKE

Nothing we can do about that. We leave the dead weight behind and move on.

A large metal CASE lies at Roarke's feet, next to a duffel bag. Roarke tucks these into one of the empty safes, leaves the door cracked.

Nicholas glares up at Roarke from the floor.

EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

Truck #09 idles outside a shopping center. Nail salons, fast food franchises, and a CREDIT UNION.

Nicholas emerges, quickly closes the rear door. Though his hands are free again and his uniform tucked into place, he looks like hell.

Nicholas stares at the glass doors of the credit union. Roarke drops down, follows him inside.

ROARKE

One more stop, kid.

INT. CREDIT UNION - DAY

Nicholas waits on the inner side of the counter while the CREDIT UNION MANAGER approaches with a large transfer bag. Nicholas stares at the clipboard that he is supposed to sign.

He darts a look back at Roarke, who stands by the doors, as usual. Nicholas shifts his body slightly, to block Roarke's view. He signs the log and sets the pen back on the desk.

As the manager takes the clipboard away, Nicholas grabs the LETTER OPENER on the desk. He palms it against his wrist.

CREDIT UNION MANAGER
(turning back)
Does that do it?

NICHOLAS
(measured)
Yes. You have a nice evening.

EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

As Roarke approaches the rear truck door, Nicholas deftly slides the letter opener into his belt, behind his HOLSTER.

The rear door opens. Nicholas climbs in. Roarke follows.

INT. CARGO HOLD - DAY

The truck rolls along city streets again. Roarke, Nicholas and Wayne wait with anticipation as the truck slows.

ROARKE
Bottom of the ninth, Nicholas.
We're moving up front. You're
going to take us through security.

Nicholas stands. Sluggish, defeated.

EXT. CITY ALLEY - DAY

Wayne runs down the alley as Eddie emerges from the cab. Nicholas and Roarke pass him, climb into the cab.

INT. ARMORED CAR (MOVING) - CAB - DAY

Nicholas drives the truck through the alley. Roarke sits shotgun. As he pulls into the street, he sees Wayne unlocking the door of a PICK-UP TRUCK with a STORAGE TRAILER.

Nicholas turns away, taking the armored car back home. He picks up the radio.

NICHOLAS
Dispatch, this is Truck Nine. En
route to base, as directed.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Roger, Truck Nine. See you soon.

Nicholas hangs up the mic. He takes a deep breath.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Nicholas takes Truck #09 through traffic. Neither slow nor fast, just inevitably toward fate.

EXT. IRON SHIELD FACILITY - DAY

Nicholas rolls in by the guard booth. Tony sees Nicholas hold his ID card to the window. Tony opens the gate.

The truck pulls forward, but suddenly STOPS.

Tony sees the rear door FLY OPEN. There's Eddie, pointing a gun at him!

INT. ARMORED CAR (MOVING) - CAB - DAY

Nicholas drives slowly toward the garage entrance. The garage door RISES.

ROARKE

A man could wait all his life for
something that beautiful.

INT. AIR LOCK - DAY

The armored car eases into the garage as the outside door closes. The gate to the interior terminal remains closed.

Nicholas opens his door as the weapons chief approaches. Nicholas turns over his .357 with a grim look.

The rear door opens, allowing the SECURITY STAFF to see Eddie, holding his gun to Tony's head. Roarke jumps out from the cab, aims his gun at the weapons chief.

ROARKE

We won't be surrendering our
weapons!

The security staff look at Tony, helpless... and Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

I'm sorry. They've got my son too.

The weapons chief goes pale.

WEAPONS CHIEF

Let 'em through.

The heavy steel gate swings to the side.

ROARKE
(to Nicholas)
Back it up to the vault platform.
(to weapons chief)
Tell your men to stand down. Keep
these gates open.

The outer garage door RISES again. Nicholas climbs back inside, drives the truck into the terminal.

Roarke follows the truck, his gun sweeping the terminal.

WEAPONS CHIEF
(shouting)
Stand down, everyone!

INT. PENA'S OFFICE - DAY

As Pena works on his computer and Gower waits in a visitor chair, a PINGING SOUND comes from Pena's desk. Some kind of alarm. Pena bolts to his feet, runs to the window.

Gower follows. Pena looks down:

IRON SHIELD EMPLOYEES stand by and helplessly watch as Truck #09 drives past three parked armored cars. Roarke and Eddie are visible, along with their hostage.

PENA
Jesus.

As Pena crosses to a row of SWITCHES behind his credenza, Gower draws a GUN from his concealed holster... and points it at him!

GOWER
Turn around!

PENA
What are you doing?

GOWER
Step away from the desk.

Pena holds his hands up. Francisco suddenly rushes in... then FREEZES when he sees Gower and his weapon. Gower turns the gun on Francisco now.

GOWER
Let's join the party.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Nicholas backs the truck to the loading platform by the vault door. He shuts off the engine and climbs out.

Pena and Francisco approach, Gower keeping his gun on them. The sight deflates the other employees.

NICHOLAS
(to Francisco and Pena)
They have my son. They killed
Owen.

PENA
(ashen)
It's okay, Nick.

Francisco looks furious.

Roarke and Eddie step up on the loading platform. They point their guns at Tony. Roarke lifts his phone, speed-dials.

ROARKE
(to all the staff)
I'm keeping this phone on! If my
associate hears anything wrong...
(pointing to Nicholas)
This man loses a son.
(beat)
I want everyone lined up down here!
On your knees!

Eight security staff members line up below the platform, sink to their knees. Eddie pushes Tony down with them.

Roarke pushes Nicholas with Pena and Francisco.

Eddie climbs back into the cargo hold of Truck #09. He emerges moments later with Roarke's duffel bag and metal case. He pulls out two rolls of DUCT TAPE from the duffel.

MOMENTS LATER...

The Iron Shield employees are still kneeling, but their wrists and ankles are now bound with tape. Eddie stands above them on the platform.

Roarke checks his watch.

ROARKE
(to Pena)
When does that window close?

PENA
Ten minutes.

ROARKE
You can get it open by then.

NICHOLAS
No. You've got ten minutes to open
and seal the vault again, or the
police are automatically notified.

Roarke and Gower trade nervous looks.

ROARKE
Then get moving!

Pena takes out his vault key. Nicholas does the same.

Tony is bound with the other employees, closest to the
platform. He shuffles backwards on his knees...

Until his fingers grope for a plate of SWITCHES built into
the platform.

Eddie sees this and SHOOTS Tony in the head. He flops over.
The other guards tremble with fear. They are just as
vulnerable, lined up, execution style.

FRANCISCO
No!

Roarke looks over.

ROARKE
(to Eddie)
Zero tolerance. You're learning.

Nicholas closes his eyes. Pena stares at Tony, frozen.

ROARKE
Move it, people!

Nicholas and Pena move to the panels on the vault, insert
their keys, enter their codes.

PENA
(shaky)
On three. One... two... three.

Click. They turn their keys. The vault door opens outward
with a HUM.

ROARKE
You three are going to help me.

NICHOLAS
(growling)
When do I get my son back?

ROARKE
First the vault! Move fast or
you're not going home tonight.

Roarke and Gower usher Nicholas, Pena and Francisco inside the lift. Eddie remains on the platform, his gun trained on the bound employees. He is shaking too.

INT. VAULT LIFT - DAY

As the lift sinks underground, Nicholas turns to Pena. Pena just stares back, sweating. Francisco glares at Roarke.

ROARKE
How much is in this vault?

PENA
In the main, about eighty. And
another thirteen in the diamond
safe...

NICHOLAS
(nodding)
Ninety three million.

Gower and Roarke share a proud look.

INT. UNDERGROUND VAULT CORRIDOR - DAY

Pena and Nicholas complete their codes. The inner sanctum is breached with a HUM. The vault door opens.

Roarke and Gower stare past them at the virtual vault. Stacks of money blocks, sealed in plastic, rest on metal pallets. A row of SAFES along the wall promise smaller riches.

ROARKE
Bring the hand trucks! We're
taking everything.

MONTAGE

NICHOLAS, PENA & FRANCISCO do the heavy lifting, rolling cash pallets to the lift.

EDDIE supervises as they load up Truck #09.

ROARKE and GOWER bark orders, check their watches.

PENA opens the DIAMOND SAFE inside the vault, removes several jewel boxes and pouches. Clear bags GLITTERING with ice.

ROARKE places the diamonds into the metal case he brought.

MORE CASH leaves the vault in various forms and denominations. Transfer bags and locked cases.

TRUCK 09# is loaded to the bursting point.

NICHOLAS backs TRUCK #11 to the platform. The process continues.

EDDIE unscrews a panel under the radio of Truck #09, removes the entire radio rack.

INT. VIRTUAL VAULT - LATER

The chamber has been ransacked. Only a few bags spilling COINS remain. Nicholas lugs one last block of bound currency, shrink-wrapped in plastic.

He's alone in the vault.

ROARKE (O.S.)
One minute warning!

Nicholas is sweating from the labor and stress. He touches a metal strip along the wall. It slides open. Three of those silver TRACKING CARDS Francisco had earlier stick out of slots in a recessed bank.

Nicholas pulls out one of the credit card-sized devices. The green light next to its vacant slot BLINKS. Nicholas closes the secret flap.

He pulls the LETTER OPENER from behind his empty holster. He makes a small cut in the plastic of the cash block and stuffs the tracking card deep within the bundles of currency.

Gower arrives, flashes his gun.

GOWER
Out!

Nicholas palms the letter opener just in time.

INT. VAULT LIFT - DAY

Nicholas and Gower ride up for the last time. Nicholas clutches the final cash block. He studies Gower out of the corner of his eye. Sees the gun in Gower's hand...

The CELL PHONE clipped to his belt.

INT. TERMINAL BUILDING - DAY

Gower and Nicholas emerge. Pena swings the vault door shut.

EDDIE

Why don't we lock them in?

ROARKE

There's no time.

(to Nicholas)

Seal it!

Nicholas shifts the cash block under one arm. He and Pena insert their keys, enter the codes once more. A HUM verifies the locking of the vault.

Roarke checks his watch, satisfied. He looks to Eddie.

ROARKE

All GPS tracking devices removed?

Eddie nods, standing over the two radio components he tore out of the trucks. Nicholas notes them with interest. He looks again at the cell phone on Gower's belt.

Gower points to the cash block under Nicholas' arm. Nicholas passes it over, STUMBLING into Gower. Gower grabs the block with one hand, steps back and points his gun with the other.

NICHOLAS

Hope you don't live to count it.

Nicholas waits... expecting the worst. But Gower only glances at the block before tossing it into the cargo hold of Truck #11.

Gower doesn't notice the empty space on his belt...

And no one else notices the CELL PHONE that Nicholas has palmed during the brush-up. He tucks it into his pocket.

Roarke points Nicholas, Pena and Francisco toward the others.

Gower and Eddie drag Pena and Francisco to the floor.

NICHOLAS
What about Logan!?

ROARKE
Logan is my cargo insurance. We'll
release him at the rendezvous.

Eddie binds Francisco's hands with tape. Gower binds
Pena's... but Nicholas advances on Roarke.

NICHOLAS
You got what you wanted! Let them
go! Take me instead!

Roarke SLAMS Nicholas in the face with his gun barrel.
Nicholas stumbles, but doesn't fall. Instead, he stares back
at Roarke with defiance.

Eddie and Gower grab Nicholas from behind, bind his wrists
like the others. He struggles, but they overpower him.

ROARKE
We see any police on the road, we
kill the hostages. Understood?

The bound employees stare back bitterly. Eddie dumps
Nicholas down on the ground with Francisco.

Roarke lifts the transfer case of DIAMONDS and climbs into
the cab of Truck #09. Eddie climbs into the cab of Truck
#11, while Gower climbs into the cargo hold.

The Iron Shield employees look to Nicholas and Pena. They
stare back, defeated.

The armored cars start their engines. Roarke pulls out.
Eddie follows. The two trucks rumble through the open air
lock, into the waning afternoon.

NICHOLAS
(to Francisco)
My belt. Behind the holster.
There's a blade.

Francisco turns around, feels blindly with his hands. His
fingers find the letter opener. Now back-to-back, Francisco
starts to cut through Nicholas' wrist tape.

NICHOLAS
(to Pena)
I have the location where they
dumped their van. Carlos may still
be alive.

Nicholas feels something. Hears that BUZZING SOUND.

NICHOLAS

Hurry!

Francisco cuts the tape free. Nicholas pulls his hands free, grabs the Firefly from his back pocket.

NICHOLAS

Hello?! Logan?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Are you okay?

CLICK-CLICK.

Nicholas freezes.

NICHOLAS

What happened?

Beat. That won't work. Francisco and the other guards stare at Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

Are you hurt, Logan?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Are you scared?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Are you still at the house?

CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Does it look like that man is
getting ready to take you guys in
his car?

CLICK-CLICK.

NICHOLAS

Stay calm, Logan. Daddy's coming
to get you. Okay?

CLICK.

Nicholas tucks the Firefly away. He grabs the letter opener from Francisco, begins cutting him free.

FRANCISCO
That was Logan?

NICHOLAS
Help the others.

Francisco is now free. Nicholas gives him the opener.

PENA
Nick...

NICHOLAS
I'm going after them.

Nicholas runs toward the trucks. Francisco cuts Pena free.

PENA
Nick!

INT. AIR LOCK - DAY

TRUCK #03 sits in the lock. The freed weapons chief throws guns, rifles and ammo into the cargo hold. Francisco and Nicholas can hardly keep up.

Nicholas takes his .357 back, along with two boxes of ammo. Pena runs over.

PENA
I can't let you do this.

NICHOLAS
This isn't your decision.

PENA
It's my truck.

NICHOLAS
It's my son! They're not going to let him go!

Nicholas begins loading his .357. Pena sighs.

PENA
You don't know where Logan is. You don't know where these guys are going. They removed the trucks' locators.

NICHOLAS

You can follow the money. I stuck
a tracking card in the last pack.

PENA

So we wait until they stop to
transfer the money. We make one
call to FBI and end it.

NICHOLAS

Not until I know where Logan is.

(beat)

If I can stop Roarke, I can get him
to tell me.

PENA

You need more firepower.

NICHOLAS

No cops until I can see my son with
my own eyes. Okay? Then you send
in the swarm.

PENA

(resigned)

I'll call you with the location.
Be careful, Nick. Don't make me
regret this.

NICHOLAS

You won't.

Pena moves off. Francisco climbs into the cargo hold.

NICHOLAS

What are you doing?

FRANCISCO

Going with you.

Nicholas nods, moved. He jumps back in the cab. Truck #03
hauls ass out of the garage.

EXT. CITY BOULEVARD - DAY

Truck #03 tears through traffic.

PENA (V.O.)

(through radio)

You should see it at the freeway.

After crossing an intersection, the truck approaches a FREEWAY ONRAMP. Pena is right -- one of the other armored cars is moving up the ramp.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)
Got it.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (MOVING) - DAY

Nicholas follows the truck ahead, but stays behind a BUS. Francisco speaks through the intercom:

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
(through intercom)
That's Truck Eleven. Where's Nine?

NICHOLAS
(into intercom)
They split up.

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
The leader's in Nine.

NICHOLAS
Exactly.

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
If they see you...

NICHOLAS
I'm going to engage. Take a few
players out of the game.

FRANCISCO (V.O.)
Are you crazy? If they call...

NICHOLAS
Truck Eleven has no contact with
Nine. They tore out their own
radios to disable the GPS.

Nicholas holds up Gower's cell phone to the window.

NICHOLAS
Only one of them had a phone.

Nicholas merges the truck with freeway traffic. He stays behind the bus, edges out just enough to glimpse Truck #11, cruising along in the right lane.

Nicholas breaks off at the last second to catch the next OFFRAMP. He accelerates down the offramp, muscles past the slow-moving cars ahead...

And punches across the intersection, blazing right up the ONRAMP on the far side. Nicholas guns the engine.

As they rise up to meet the freeway, Nicholas sees Eddie at the wheel of Truck #11 -- just even with him!

Nicholas CRANKS the wheel, SMASHING his truck into Eddie's. Eddie recovers, SMASHES BACK into Nicholas.

INT. TRUCK 03 CARGO HOLD - DAY

Francisco plugs his pistol into the side gun port and BLASTS the other truck.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

The two armored tanks jostle each other, trading gunfire like battleships. Bullets RICOCHET off the steel flanks.

Gunmen on each side try to swivel their barrels. Shots now volley back and forth, aiming low, sideways. Trying to punch through tires.

Other CARS swerve or brake like mad to get away.

INT. TRUCK 11 CARGO HOLD - DAY

Gower returns fire through the gun port. Transfer bags and money packs spilling everywhere.

EDDIE (V.O.)
(through intercom)
I can't call Roarke! Get him on
your phone!

Gower reaches for his belt... sees his phone is gone. His eyes scan the mess of spilled money.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

Eddie's truck veers left, then swings right in a vicious swerve. With a leading edge over Nicholas, Eddie's truck GRINDS Truck #03 into the right concrete divider.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (MOVING) - DAY

Nicholas fights for control as he watches the brick and concrete barrier DISSOLVE through the passenger window. Trees and rooftops appear below the drop.

NICHOLAS
Shit!

The muffled sound of GUNFIRE (O.S.) continues.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

Truck #03 pushes back into the right lane as Truck #11 gains a solid lead. It breaks off at the next exit.

Truck #03 follows.

INT. TRUCK 11 CAB (MOVING) - DAY

Eddie just makes the left turn light at the exit ramp. He powers into surface streets. He checks his mirrors.

EDDIE
(into intercom)
They still back there?

INT. TRUCK 11 CARGO HOLD - DAY

Gower looks through the rear window. He crosses to the intercom.

GOWER
I don't see him.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (MOVING) - DAY

But Nicholas is still following, staying to the left of a FREIGHT TRUCK.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET - DAY

Truck #11 speeds through a yellow light, backlit by a similar colored SETTING SUN.

Truck #03 breaks cover and plows through the red, just as CROSS-TRAFFIC starts to move.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (MOVING) - DAY

Nicholas SLAMS on the brakes as a station wagon screeches to a halt just in front of his grille. Three CHILDREN and a GRANDMOTHER stare up at him from their car windows.

Nicholas waves them across. He waits in agony for traffic to yield, then continues. Ahead, he sees the first truck make a sudden RIGHT TURN toward a set of train tracks.

Nicholas makes a hard right at a different street.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL ROW - DAY

Truck #03 roars past forklifts and WORK MEN, skids left around a corner between two warehouses.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (MOVING) - DAY

Nicholas revs the engine, flying blind down the alley. The opening to the street ahead is blocked by a low CHAIN-LINK FENCE. Nicholas speeds ahead on faith...

His truck blows the fence down just as Truck #11 crosses into view...

Nicholas RAMS THE TRUCK.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET - DAY

Like a demolition derby, Truck #03 shoves Truck #11 off the street, into a lower gutter, where Truck #11 then TOPPLES on its side.

Francisco jumps out of Truck #03, holding an M-16 RIFLE. He races to the front end of the toppled beast, while Nicholas jumps out and draws his pistol.

Nicholas runs around his truck to take cover, watching the rear door of Truck #11.

Francisco aims his rifle at the (now sideways) windshield of Truck #11. He FIRES a constant barrage. The bulletproof windshield blossoms with cracks, but holds.

Eddie stares out behind the windshield. He tries to get free from his seat belt.

Francisco fires another burst, this time cutting THROUGH the weakened blossom points. The cracks widen... slugs finally TEAR HOLES in the glass.

Eddie is cut to pieces.

Nicholas aims at the rear door as it flops open. Gower leans out with his pistol.

Nicholas SHOOTs a round just left of Gower's head.

Gower drops his gun, raises his hands. Nicholas runs at him, YANKS him down to the cement.

NICHOLAS
Where's my son?!

GOWER
The rendezvous point.

NICHOLAS
Are you sure?

GOWER
Everyone's going there.

Francisco comes around the back.

NICHOLAS
Then you can take me.

Gower tries to struggle, but Francisco's rifle is aimed at his eye. Nicholas tightens his grip on Gower's neck.

GOWER
Okay! But Roarke's not going to
roll over. He'll die first.

NICHOLAS
Fine by me.

MOMENTS LATER...

Truck #11 lies toppled, abandoned. Truck #03 continues down the street. SIRENS (O.S.) approach.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (MOVING) - DAY

The setting sun glares through the windshield above the warehouse rooftops. Nicholas drives.

His hands bound together with ZIP TIES, Gower points to a gray warehouse at the end of the row. One garage door open.

Nicholas cuts a glance at Francisco in the bulkhead window.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Five PICK-UP TRUCKS with STORAGE TRAILERS are lined up inside. Parked nearby is Truck #09. Roarke and Wayne transfer cash from the armored car into a series of FOOTLOCKERS. Wayne hefts a loaded one into an open trailer.

Roarke has shed his Iron Shield cap and glasses. He wears a loose jacket over his Kevlar vest. He removes the diamond case from the truck cab, sets it down near his trailer.

He comes back to help Wayne. They move cash. Endless stacks of money. Surreal.

Roarke turns as he hears a TRUCK entering. The HEADLIGHTS of the armored car blaze in the dim warehouse.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (STOPPED) - DAY

Behind his sunglasses, Nicholas surveys the scene. Roarke and Wayne transfer the money. Nicholas studies the five pick-up trucks.

NICHOLAS
You said Logan would be here.

GOWER
I guess they're late.

PENA (V.O.)
(through radio)
I've got your position.

NICHOLAS
(into radio)
Don't call it in yet!

PENA (V.O.)
Already done. They're on the way.

Nicholas silently curses. Time is running out.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Roarke waves the truck forward, but it remains several yards away. The DRIVER is indistinguishable. Just a cap and sunglasses. Gower sits in the passenger seat, completing the illusion that this is Truck #11.

ROARKE
The hell is Eddie doing?

Roarke makes a spinning gesture to "Eddie" behind the wheel. Nicholas turns the truck in a circle. Roarke notices the DAMAGE to the front and sides of the armored car.

It backs up close to Roarke and Truck #09.

INT. TRUCK 03 CAB (PARKED) - DAY

Nicholas draws his pistol. Into the intercom:

NICHOLAS
Don't kill Roarke.

Nicholas pushes his door open. Gower can't get out -- he's strapped to the seat.

GOWER

Roarke!

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Roarke and Wayne are moving money again, but hearing Gower yell, Roarke looks over. Something is wrong...

As the back door of Nicholas' truck BURSTS OPEN, Roarke jumps behind his pick-up trailer...

Francisco emerges from the cargo hold of Truck #03 with his M-16. Surprised, Wayne goes for his pistol...

Francisco OBLITERATES him in a spray of bullets.

NICHOLAS

Spills out of the cab, gun ready, eyes hunting for Roarke.

ROARKE

Slides around the front of his pick-up, staying low.

FRANCISCO

Jumps out of the cargo hold, circles around the front of Truck #09. Looking for Roarke.

NICHOLAS

Crosses around the far pick-up, glances inside. He moves to a cover position behind the next pick-up. He can see the KEYS resting on the dash inside.

ROARKE

Steps over the hitch of another trailer. He can't see Nicholas yet, but looking back...

He sees Francisco. Roarke aims his pistol...

SHOOTS Francisco in the neck, felling him instantly.

NICHOLAS

Crosses around the front of another pick-up. He looks below the trucks, trying to find Roarke.

ROARKE

Jumps from one truck bed into another, points his pistol over the side.

NICHOLAS

Pops up between two trailers. Roarke is gone. As Nicholas steps out behind the open trailers, Roarke does the same.

They meet in the open and BLAST EACH OTHER in the vests. Each is blown five feet back, landing hard on the ground.

Nicholas recovers faster, crawls to his feet. Roarke has lost his gun. Nicholas bears down on him.

NICHOLAS

Where are they!?

ROARKE

You shoot me, you'll never know.

But now ANOTHER VEHICLE enters the garage. SUV with tinted windows. Josie jumps out of the back, sees Roarke on his knees... his gun lying nearby.

From her angle, she doesn't see Nicholas yet.

JOSIE

Roarke!

And then she stops as she sees Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

Josie?

He looks at her... at Roarke... understanding...

NICHOLAS

You're part of this?!

JOSIE

Just for...

NICHOLAS

The money.

JOSIE

You owe me this, Nick. When you married me, you were supposed to...

NICHOLAS

You're insane.

Logan jumps out of the SUV now, runs toward Nicholas. But Harlan leaps out from the driver's seat and snatches him.

LOGAN

Daddy!

Harlan pulls out his own pistol, holds it to Logan's head.

NICHOLAS

Don't move, Logan!

Nicholas keeps his gun on Roarke as he backs up. He reaches down with one hand, grabs the M-16 that Francisco dropped. Nicholas drops his .357 and aims the rifle at unarmed Roarke.

JOSIE

Nick. Don't shoot.

Nick blinks, reeling with betrayal.

ROARKE

Put the rifle down, Nick. He's got your boy.

Harlan looks serious enough to follow through. Logan looks more afraid than ever. Josie sees the money everywhere... the dead bodies.

JOSIE

(to Roarke)

You promised me no one would get hurt.

NICHOLAS

(to Roarke)

You're not going to hurt Logan. Or Josie. You never were.

He's called Roarke's bluff. POLICE SIRENS (O.S.) grow louder. The outside world is closing in fast.

HARLAN

(to Nicholas)

I'm calling the shots now.

(to Roarke)

We have to go!

Harlan drags Logan behind Roarke, toward the pick-up trucks.

NICHOLAS

You're going to let him do this, Josie?!

JOSIE

No! It wasn't supposed to be like this! Logan wasn't...

Suddenly Roarke lunges at Josie, grabbing her roughly. He holds her like a shield as he follows Harlan. Josie struggles. Nicholas wavers.

JOSIE

Let me go!

NICHOLAS

You were going to leave the country
with that dirt bag? And take Logan
away from me?!

Josie's eyes well with tears. Nicholas keeps aiming the rifle. Maybe at Josie now, as much as Roarke.

Harlan reaches Roarke's half-loaded trailer. He kicks the diamond case toward Roarke.

ROARKE

What are you doing?

HARLAN

Keep the ice. I'm taking the rest.

ROARKE

Like hell you are!

Harlan glares at Nicholas and holds Logan close. Daring Nicholas to make a move. He reaches the pick-up door. Logan's eyes plead with Nicholas.

LOGAN

Dad...

JOSIE

(crying)

Stop him, Nick!

NICHOLAS

SHUT UP!!

As Roarke holds Josie, his other hand plucks something from behind his back...

Nicholas' small REVOLVER (from the ankle holster)...

Roarke FIRES at Nicholas, spinning him with a shoulder shot.

Roarke pivots, FIRES at Harlan. Nails him in the forehead.

Josie SCREAMS.

NICHOLAS
Logan! Get down!

LOGAN

Crawls away from Harlan's body. He slides under Roarke's pickup. Crawls under the trailer, where he can see Nicholas kneeling behind the back of Truck #09.

ROARKE

Aims at Nicholas again, but Josie knocks his hand away and SMACKS HIM.

JOSIE
(screaming)
I trusted you!

She runs behind the SUV. Roarke spins around in a rage, aims the gun at her now...

NICHOLAS (O.S.)
Josie!!

NICHOLAS

Steps forward, rifle held low... and BLASTS Roarke with a long series of shots. Empties the magazine. Roarke's hit in the torso and face. He falls as a few stray shots POP the diamond case open.

Glittering jewels scatter across the cement, rolling like marbles around Roarke's lifeless body.

Nicholas drops the rifle. He looks to the open garage door, but Josie is gone. He turns back.

NICHOLAS
Logan!?

Logan climbs out and runs into his father's arms.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET - NIGHT

Josie runs into the night, but sees the army of RED AND BLUE LIGHTS advancing. She turns back to the warehouse... torn.

A SPOTLIGHT pins her from above. Police helicopter.

PILOT (V.O.)
(through loudspeaker)
Stop and kneel on the ground!

Josie turns in a circle, eyes streaming with tears. Police cars edge closer. Officers jumping out now with guns drawn.

Josie kneels, puts her hands on her head.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT

Nicholas sits with Logan in the back. Close quarters, like the cargo hold of an armored car. Nicholas wears a field dressing on his shoulder. Logan cries as Nicholas holds him with a blanket.

LOGAN

Why did mom help him?

NICHOLAS

Your mom... sometimes she thinks that having a lot of money is the most important thing in life.

(then)

I never wanted to have to say that to you, but that is one reason we broke up.

Nicholas pulls out his Firefly, sets it in Logan's hands. They both stare at it.

NICHOLAS

I was so proud of you today.

A familiar face approaches the open doors. Pena.

PENA

Nick. Wanted you to know first. They found Carlos.

Nicholas looks over, somber.

PENA

He's alive. Should pull through.

NICHOLAS

(shocked)

Oh, thank God.

They are too numb to feel the loss of the others.

PENA

You two okay?

Nicholas nods. Pena pats Logan on the knee. He puts a hand on Nicholas' shoulder, then leaves.

Logan and Nicholas watch the circus outside on the street.
MEDIA CREWS arriving now. Cops everywhere.

NICHOLAS
You'll see your mom again, but it
will be different.

Nicholas holds Logan tightly.

NICHOLAS
I'm going to take that vacation
time, starting tomorrow. You and I
can hang out for a while.

LOGAN
How long?

NICHOLAS
I'm never going to let you go. No
matter what.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL STREET - NIGHT

A police car cuts through the media frenzy. Gower's in the
back, staring down.

A second squad car passes. Josie stares out from the back
window, but turns away as CAMERAS FLASH.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

The place is now a crime scene. Sealed off. Frozen in time.
A few CSI TECHS step gingerly around the bodies, the
footlockers of money, snapping pictures.

The dozens and dozens of diamonds surrounding Roarke's body
GLITTER with tiny red and blue reflections of the strobing
emergency lights outside the open doors.

EXT. OTHER INDUSTRIAL STREET - NIGHT - HELICOPTER SHOT

A ring of BROKEN GLASS and RED FLARES surround Truck #11. It
lies on its side like a defeated battlefield tank.

FADE OUT.

THE END