

COBRA KAI

Episode 306

"King Cobra"

Story by

Josh Heald & Jon Hurwitz & Hayden Schlossberg
& Joe Piarulli & Luan Thomas

Teleplay by

Joe Piarulli & Luan Thomas

SERGEANT (V.O.)
Mail call! Santa's here, fellas!

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FORWARD OPERATING BASE - VIETNAM - 1968 1

Soldiers exit a huddle, holding mail. YOUNG KREESE opens a letter. Tagging along is PONYTAIL (a young Terry Silver?).

Young Kreese takes a photo of Betsy (his love interest from episode 302) out of the envelope. Ponytail grabs it away.

PONYTAIL
Ohhh, Johnny, Johnny. Man, you weren't kidding. She's a beaut!

YOUNG KREESE
Alright, alright. Give it back.

PONYTAIL
Twig! Come look at this.

TWIG (17, gangly, carrying a care package) jogs over.

TWIG
Do ya have to call me that?

PONYTAIL
Maybe get some muscle on those sad little tree branches and we'll talk.

YOUNG KREESE
He's got a point, Twig.

TWIG
(re: picture) Wow, who's that?

PONYTAIL
Johnny's girl back home. Smell that perfume, huh? That's the smell of America. (to Kreese) Tell her to send one for me, would ya?

YOUNG KREESE
In your dreams, pal.

Kreese takes the photo back as the SERGEANT approaches.

SERGEANT
Kreese!

YOUNG KREESE
Yes, Sergeant?

SERGEANT
Command tent. Some Captain in there
asking for you.

2 EXT. COMMAND TENT - MOMENTS LATER

2

Young Kreese walks towards a command tent. Two GRUNTS stand guard. With every step closer, a POUNDING NOISE can be heard.

CAPTAIN TURNER (O.S.)
AI-KYO! AI-KYO!

The grunts stop Kreese, then nod away from the tent entrance. Instead of going inside, Young Kreese walks around the command tent, to an OUTDOOR OCTAGON HOVEL, SURROUNDED BY BAMBOO FENCING. Kreese treads lightly, following the sounds to get his first look at a force of nature in a special forces uniform (including the iconic green beret): CAPTAIN PATRICK TURNER.

Turner decimates a BAMBOO-CONSTRUCTED TRAINING DUMMY with a combo of Cobra Kai-esque strikes - including a blinding downward punch Kreese will eventually add to his own arsenal.

YOUNG KREESE
Captain.

Turner stops and towels off.

CAPTAIN TURNER
So you're Kreese? Your C.O. tells me you're a go-getter. Volunteering to walk point, joining ambush teams. You got a deathwish, kid?

YOUNG KREESE
Not wishing for it, just not afraid of it. Some people can't tell the difference, sir.

CAPTAIN TURNER
Heard you made quite an impression at Fort Bragg too.

YOUNG KREESE
I like to think so.

CAPTAIN TURNER
I didn't say it was a good impression.

Captain Turner lights a cigar.

YOUNG KREESE

I had a little hiccup with the Q-course and Saigon dumped me here.

CAPTAIN TURNER

To do what?

YOUNG KREESE

CIDG mostly. We're training the villagers to defend themselves--

CAPTAIN TURNER

Waste of time. But waste is kind of the M.O. 'round here. You know how many men we got in this hellhole?

YOUNG KREESE

In 'Nam? Probably half a million.

CAPTAIN TURNER

(nods) More Americans here than in Denver. And you know what? Most of 'em don't make a bit of difference. But you. You can make a difference.

YOUNG KREESE

That's why I'm here, sir. To defend my country. Be a hero.

Captain Turner takes a contemplative drag of his cigar and exhales. He smiles. This is the guy he's been looking for.

CAPTAIN TURNER

Good. I'm forming a team. We'll operate out of CCN. Direct action missions into North Vietnam. No more babysitting. This is the real war.

Young Kreese looks ready to take on the challenge.

CAPTAIN TURNER

We'll go sterile into triple canopy jungle. No IDs, no insignias. Team will be you, me, and a few specialists.

YOUNG KREESE

I know a couple guys, sir.

Kreese looks across the field to see Ponytail and Twig eavesdropping.

CAPTAIN TURNER

I'll train you myself. Guerrilla tactics, demolitions, hand-to-hand combat.

YOUNG KREESE

What kind of hand-to-hand are we talking about, sir?

CAPTAIN TURNER

If you want to defeat your enemy, you have to learn to fight like them. I learned Tang Soo Do during the Korean war from Master Kim Sun-Yung. You'll learn the same, along with techniques from the Buddah Kai and a few other things I've picked up in the eastern theater. If you can handle it.

YOUNG KREESE

Goddamn right I can. (catching himself) Sir.

CAPTAIN TURNER

You make it through, you'll get your beret, a few scars, maybe a battlefield commission to boot.

YOUNG KREESE

And if I don't make it through?

CAPTAIN TURNER

You'll show up on some MIA list in thirty years when all this shit gets declassified. (then) I'm asking you to become more than a soldier, understand? If we're gonna do this, we need the absolute best--

3

INT. WEIGHT ROOM - PRESENT DAY - DAY

3

As Turner's recruitment speech continues in V.O., we find present day Kreese watching a group of football players work out. A LINEMAN (BRUCKS from season one) lifts weights on a bench press. After a particularly challenging set, he sets the heavy weights back and jumps up to celebrate - it's his personal best.

CAPTAIN TURNER (V.O.)

We need strength.

4 INT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY 4

Kreese watches as an aggressive girl (SARAH) pulls down a rebound and starts throwing elbows to secure it.

CAPTAIN TURNER (V.O.)
We need determination.

5 INT. WRESTLING GYM - DAY 5

Kreese watches a WRESTLER in headgear pin an opponent. He continues twisting the opponent's arm after the tap.

CAPTAIN TURNER (V.O.)
We need brutality.

The wrestler removes his headgear. It's KYLER, West Valley's former top bully who we last saw back in season one.

CAPTAIN TURNER (V.O.)
All you have to do is say "yes" and
I will mold you into the ultimate
weapon.

Present-day Kreese now stands across from an intrigued Kyler and finishes the recruiting speech Turner gave him all those years ago...

KREESE
So. Are you in or not?

ON THE REVERSE SHOT: We're back in Vietnam and it's Young Kreese who looks up to answer the question.

YOUNG KREESE
All in, sir!

Captain Turner smiles. As a 50-50 SHOT shows Young Kreese and Turner looking at each other--

SUPER: **COBRA KAI**

6 INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING 6

Johnny sits in front of his laptop. In Johnny's V.O. we hear Ali's Facebook message as Johnny explores her page.

JOHNNY (V.O.)
"Hey Johnny, it really has been a
long time. I don't even want to
think about how many years it's
been.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But I'm still glad we went to high school in the 80s. No question we had the best music..."

Johnny smiles.

JOHNNY
Hell yeah.

PHOTOS: Ali playing golf; drinking wine at sunset; at a podium for a medical convention; with her dogs (we saw on her profile pic in 208); posing with her pediatric team.

JOHNNY (V.O.)
"Life has taken me in all kinds of directions since then. I've been blessed with my family and career. And I can probably still kick your ass in pinball."

Johnny lands on a Throwback Thursday post. It's Ali as he remembers her from 1984. A yearbook photo to go along with a photo of her and her friends on the beach.

JOHNNY (V.O.)
"It's crazy how things change. I remember when we used to see each other every day. Now I don't even know the first thing about you. Who are you now?"

Johnny clicks "like" on the photo, then hits "messages." We see the end of Ali's message...

JOHNNY (V.O.)
"Your profile is pretty bare. What are you up to these days? - Ali."

The message is punctuated by a smiley face emoji. Johnny clicks "reply." The text cursor blinks. His index fingers hover above the keys. He re-reads: "*What are you up to these days?*" Johnny doesn't know how to answer that.

7

INT. LARUSSO RESIDENCE - FRONT SITTING ROOM - MORNING

7

Daniel, fresh off the high of his Okinawa trip, enters and sets down his suitcase.

DANIEL
I'm home! The conquering hero has returned!

He unzips the suitcase and starts taking out gifts. Amanda arrives and tries to put on a smile.

DANIEL

Wait until you hear what happened over there. It was truly amazing.

He kisses Amanda and starts holding up the gifts.

DANIEL

And I come bearing gifts! I got this *randoseru* bag for Sam, these crazy Kit-Kats for Anthony. Soy sauce as a Kit-Kat flavor. It shouldn't work, but it does. Oh, and I was thinking next weekend we could go up to wine country. Just you and me. (calling upstairs) Guys, come down!

But then Daniel notices the look on Amanda's face.

DANIEL

Don't worry, I got stuff for you too...

AMANDA

The kids are at your mother's.

DANIEL

(confused) My mother's? Why?
(reading her face, concerned) What happened?

Amanda takes a deep breath and says the last thing Daniel expects to hear:

AMANDA

John Kreese.

Daniel's face goes pale.

8 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - MORNING

8

CLOSE ON: The LIVE COBRA in its tank. REVEAL the Cobra Kais warming up on the mat.

Hawk is stretching, listening to Mitch telling the other Cobras about the Golf N Stuff fight.

MITCH

... And then Hawk got that Miyagi-
Do beta in an armbar like Chris
Jericho. *CCChhhh!*

Mitch mimes the arm breaking. Hawk winces to himself.

MITCH
Cold blooded. No mercy.

A couple Cobras pass by, patting Hawk on the back. Next to Hawk, Tory stretches.

TORY
You know, I wasn't sure you were actually gonna do it.

HAWK
(conflicted, but covers) They deserved it. For what they did to Miguel.

Tory instinctively looks down at the mention of Miguel's name. Hawk notices.

HAWK
You still haven't seen him yet, have you?

TORY
I don't want to talk about it.

Hawk shakes his head. Just then--

The door to the dojo opens. Hawk's face drops as Kyler marches in, followed by his buddy BRUCKS and six other high school athletes, including Sarah. Hawk stares at Kyler and FLASHES BACK TO:

9 INT. WEST VALLEY HIGH - LIBRARY - FLASHBACK 9

Footage from episode 104 -- Kyler grabs Eli's face in the library, pointing to his lip. Brucks encourages him.

KYLER
Look at this freak! Shit. What kind of girl would ever kiss this shit?

10 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - PRESENT DAY - CONTINUOUS 10

Kreese smiles and motions to Kyler and company.

KREESE
Class! Welcome our new students!

Kyler and Brucks look over at Hawk. Hawk's old Eli insecurity rushes back in. Mitch, on the other hand, is excited to haze them.

MITCH

I'm gonna call you chode-nose and taintbreath.

KYLER

(threatening) What did you just say to me?

Mitch, put in his place, completely changes his tune.

MITCH

Oh. N-Nothing, it's... just a thing we do sometimes. Welcome. Welcome aboard.

Hawk approaches Kreese and speaks quietly...

HAWK

Sensei, I'm not sure these new students are Cobra Kai material.

KREESE

Weren't you the one saying we should be getting new recruits?

HAWK

Yeah, but I know some of these kids. They're, uh--

KREESE

Natural athletes. Which is exactly what our dojo has been missing.

Kreese turns his attention back to the full class.

KREESE

EVERYONE-- FALL IN!

Hawk reluctantly takes his place in formation with the other current students. Kyler, Brucks, and the other athletes stand just off the mat, watching.

KREESE

Joining Cobra Kai is a privilege. Not a gift. Which is why our recruits must earn their spot in this dojo. Prepare yourselves for combat. Only the strong will survive.

Kyler nods, sizing up the room and feeling super confident. Hawk doesn't look happy about this new development.

11 INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

11

CLOSE ON: a taut rope. Camera tilts down to reveal Johnny holding it. He looks impatient.

JOHNNY
You ready or what?

CLOSE ON: Miguel.

MIGUEL
I hate this. It's ridiculous.

JOHNNY
What's ridiculous about it?

REVEAL: Miguel wearing a large harness. It's attached to a MAKESHIFT PULLEY SYSTEM in Johnny's apartment. Johnny holds the rope taut, supporting Miguel as he tries to stand.

MIGUEL
I look like a giant baby.

JOHNNY
The way you're whining and not walking, you might as well be a baby.

MIGUEL
Isn't there some... more badass way to do this?

JOHNNY
You think tapping your foot at a concert makes you ready for badass training? Your legs are still pussies. Now are you ready to stand?

Miguel sighs and nods.

JOHNNY
OK. 1...2...3... Go!

Johnny slacks the rope and Miguel collapses.

JOHNNY
Alright, better fall that time. Take five.

Johnny goes over to the fridge. Miguel throws his hands up like: *hello?* He painstakingly wiggles out of the harness.

MIGUEL

Hey, my mom keeps talking about you. She said thank you again for taking me to the concert.

Miguel army crawls over to the coffee table. Johnny perks up and sticks his head out from the fridge.

JOHNNY

Oh yeah? Did she, uh... say anything else?

As Miguel props himself against the couch, he spots Johnny's open laptop.

MIGUEL

Are you writing a novel?

Johnny returns with drinks and sets them down.

JOHNNY

Huh? No, it's a Facebook message.

MIGUEL

That? Who's it for?

JOHNNY

A uh... babe from high school. Ali.

MIGUEL

Ali? THE Ali?! (then) Wait, this is huge! This is HUGE! This is SO... (suddenly) You can't send her that. You cannot send her that message.

JOHNNY

Why not?

MIGUEL

It's like eighty pages! And it's in all caps!

Johnny snatches the computer away.

JOHNNY

I have thirty-five years worth of stuff to say, alright?

MIGUEL

OK, but... short messages are way cooler.

(MORE)

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

This looks desperate and maybe...
creepy? Sending that would be like
"liking" all her photos.

Suddenly, Johnny looks concerned. Miguel sees it.

MIGUEL

Oh no. Oh no.

JOHNNY

Well what the hell, man? I enjoyed
the photos, there's a button for
exactly that. Why would I not click
on it?

MIGUEL

She can see that!

JOHNNY

I got amped up, OK?! She put a
smiley face in the message. It's
even got red cheeks. Does that mean
she's feeling hot? What am I
supposed to do with that?

MIGUEL

I think it's just a smiley face.
(reading) She wants to know what
you've been up to. OK, we can
salvage this. We'll build you a
kickass profile. Then you'll be
sending your message from a
position of strength. First thing
we need are some photos of you...

JOHNNY

Photos... (thinks) OK. Don't move.

Johnny goes off toward the bedroom, then calls out...

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Ha, I said don't move!

Miguel shakes his head, smiling.

12

INT. LARUSSO RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - MORNING

12

Daniel sits across from Amanda, shocked by the recap of her
confrontation with Kreese.

DANIEL

I can't believe you went to that
dojo. Are you OK? Is Sam OK?

AMANDA

She's shaken up. How could she not be? I'm also a little shaken up, considering there's a Cape-Fear-level karate psycho terrorizing our town.

DANIEL

See? It sounds crazy when you say it out loud.

AMANDA

No, it sounded crazy when other people said it. But now *I'm* saying it. The man is sick. He has weapons on his walls. No wonder his students broke Demetri's arm--

DANIEL

Wait, wait, wait... They did WHAT!?
(resolute) I'm going over there.

AMANDA

To do what? Hit him? That's the kind of insanity that got us into this mess, and now *sanity* will get us out. We're going to stop him. We have to. But we're doing it my way.

DANIEL

What's your way?

AMANDA

Going. To. The. Police.

Daniel nods-- that does kinda makes sense.

13 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - DAY

13

The Cobra Kais and Recruits are ready for combat, lining the mat in a square. Kyler and Brucks stand near Hawk and Mitch. Kyler looks at Hawk and--

KYLER

Hooooolyyyyyy shit! I just realized--
you're the kid with the lip!

Kyler points it at. Hawk is mortified.

BRUCKS

Oh shit, Ky, you're right! The hair
really distracts from it.

KYLER

Wow, you went from being lip kid to
dating Moon? Wild! Brucks tried to
nail her all last year.

BRUCKS

(embarrassed, downplaying) It's not
like I tried *that* hard...

KYLER

Hey, if she hooked up with lip,
maybe you still got a shot.

BRUCKS

I don't know if I want to now.
(gestures to his own lip) What if
she caught what he's got?

Kyler and Brucks laugh, and for a brief moment, Hawk is Eli again, covering his lip in embarrassment.

Just then, Kreese steps into the square.

KREESE

Alright class. Let the games begin.

Kreese points to Mitch.

KREESE

You...

Then he points to Kyler.

KREESE

And you.

Both looked pumped up, as they get into the center and square off. Mitch bows. Kyler does not.

KREESE

Ready... (beat) FIGHT!

Mitch springs into action, striking first, landing a blow. A Cobra Kai (Craig) raises the RED CORNER FLAG. Point Mitch. Kyler nods - *so that's what you got?*

Squaring off again, Mitch throws a combo this time. But Kyler dodges and gets in close, where he uses his wrestling technique and strength to bend Mitch back and toss him to the mat hard. The OTHER CORNER FLAG goes up. Point Kyler.

KREESE

Finish him!

Kyler smiles and PUNCHES MITCH twice on the ground. Kreese nods, satisfied, as Kyler returns to his spot in the square.

As Mitch gets to his feet in pain and ambles to his spot--

KREESE

What are you doing?

Mitch looks at his sensei, confused.

KREESE

I told you, only the strong will survive. You lost. You're out.

MITCH

But... I thought that was just for the new students?

KREESE

You lost to an untrained fighter. He's taking your spot on the team.

Mitch looks to Hawk, who clearly feels bad. Hawk defends him to Kreese.

HAWK

But Sensei, Assface has been loyal to the dojo.

KREESE

I'm afraid he's not... Cobra Kai material.

Hawk realizes Kreese is throwing his own words back at him. Kreese looks at Hawk with purpose.

KREESE

Hopefully, the rest of you are.

The Cobras share looks, realizing they're all on thin ice.

KREESE

(to Mitch) What the hell are you waiting for?

Hawk watches as Mitch walks out of the dojo dejected.

CAPTAIN TURNER (PRE-LAP)
Combat! Ready?...

14 EXT. FORWARD OPERATING BASE - FLASHBACK - DAY

14

CAPTAIN TURNER

Fight!

Outside the command tent, Captain Turner employs martial arts, taking on Young Kreese as Ponytail and Twig towel off and watch, exhausted from their own training.

CAPTAIN TURNER

Come on! Come kill me.

Turner looks unstoppable - Young Kreese attacks him, but Turner blocks all his punches.

Just then-- Kreese lands a punch, then hesitates, concerned he may have hurt his commander. Turner plays possum momentarily, and then dispatches Young Kreese in a flash, knocking him to the ground. He goes to punch Kreese in the face, but quickly pulls back (like Kreese did to a student in the original *Karate Kid*).

CAPTAIN TURNER

You lose concentration on the battlefield and you're dead meat. Is that understood?

Young Kreese gets up.

YOUNG KREESE

Yes, Captain-- I just thought--

CAPTAIN TURNER

Don't think! Your enemy wants you dead. You have two choices-- kill or be killed. No hesitation. No second thoughts. *No mercy.*

YOUNG KREESE

But... what if they surrender?

CAPTAIN TURNER

Never trust your enemy. You can leave all that peace and love crap to those college sissies back home. (to all three) We have a mission tomorrow, gentlemen. Are you ready or not?

YOUNG KREESE PONYTAIL & TWIG
Yes Sir! Yes Sir!

CAPTAIN TURNER
You better hope so.

A SOLDIER approaches at a respectful distance. Turner notices.

CAPTAIN TURNER
Get some rest. You're gonna need it.

The guys take a break as we follow Turner over to the soldier.

The soldier hands Turner a red envelope addressed to John Kreese. Turner takes out the letter and reads. It's bad news.

CAPTAIN TURNER
Jesus. (then, to the soldier) Not a word of this to Kreese. Understand? This kind of distraction could get him killed.

The soldier nods. Turner looks back to see Kreese, Ponytail, and Twig cooling down after their training. Turner shakes his head.

Young Kreese walks over to his bag, where he takes a swig of water from his canteen. He then takes out the photo of Betsy and looks at it, lovingly.

YOUNG KREESE
(quietly) I'll be home soon, dollface.

15 INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

15

CLOSE ON: an OLD PHOTO of LATE-TEENS Johnny shirtless and looking like a young beefcake.

Miguel, in wheelchair, drops the photo in a shoe box that has other old photos/polaroids of young Johnny. Johnny is sitting next to him on the couch.

JOHNNY
Those are all the photos I have. Don't have much after high school.

MIGUEL
Do you have any where you're wearing a shirt?

JOHNNY

(flips through photos) Uh... this one... how's that?

He shows a photo of him with a ripped shirt that barely covers his torso.

MIGUEL

That's... (changes subject) You know, I think we'd be better off with some new photos.

JOHNNY

Like present day? (considers, shakes head) I'm not sure I want you to grease me up right now. The baby oil gets on everything.

MIGUEL

(disgusted) I'm not greasing you up. I just thought maybe something a little more... contemporary?

Johnny thinks for a moment and then SNAPS HIS FINGERS with an idea.

JOHNNY

Yes! We'll look at what Ali's into and take pictures of me doing the same stuff!

MIGUEL

That's not *exactly* what I meant...

But Johnny is already on his laptop, browsing Ali's Facebook photos. On Johnny, commenting aloud, as he scrolls:

JOHNNY

I'm not doing yoga... I will pet a dog... Definitely wanna meet Jon Cryer... (scrolls more, then looks to Miguel) You think the aquarium will let me get in there with the dolphins?

MIGUEL

I-- don't know.

JOHNNY

We can Foto-Mat it. Let's go.

Johnny grabs his van keys and heads for the door, with Miguel rolling behind, a little unsure of the plan.

16 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

16

As a coffee mug sets down on a desk, camera rises to meet OFFICER CODY, who looks over some paperwork.

OFFICER CODY

Alright, so you're looking to file a complaint against a... John Kreese?

Daniel and Amanda sit across from him.

AMANDA

A restraining order. That's right.

He types something into his computer. Then looks perplexed.

DANIEL

Something wrong?

OFFICER CODY

Actually, an emergency protective order has already been placed.

AMANDA

Really? Oh. Uh, good.

OFFICER CODY

It's against you, ma'am.

DANIEL AND AMANDA

What?!

OFFICER CODY

Looks like Mister Kreese came in and gave a statement. Says here you came to his place of business after hours, enraged...

AMANDA

I was not "enraged." It was a measured response to a man inciting violence--

OFFICER CODY

(reading) And you struck him?

DANIEL

That's ridiculous! He's a liar!

Amanda has a guilty look on her face. Daniel clocks it.

DANIEL

Honey?

AMANDA

This is missing a lot of context.

DANIEL

(shocked) You hit him?

AMANDA

(nods, owning it) Yes I did. The man is a menace. He's deranged.

OFFICER CODY

Says here he's a Vietnam veteran. Green Beret, Silver Star... (turns back to them) Those guys went through a lot of turmoil. The mental health stigma is real. You oughta be more considerate.

AMANDA

I don't care if he has fifty purple hearts-- I still want to file a restraining-emergency-protective-thing against *him*.

OFFICER CODY

OK. But it would just be the same. You can't be within five hundred yards of him either way, so...

Amanda looks down, shaking her head in disbelief.

DANIEL

This is a joke. You're just gonna take this guy's word for everything?

OFFICER CODY

It's up to a judge to sort it out. Sign here to acknowledge that you've been served these papers.

Amanda begrudgingly signs.

OFFICER CODY

Thanks for coming in. That makes it a lot easier.

AMANDA

I'm glad it was convenient for you.

As Daniel and Amanda get up and walk away...

AMANDA

I have another idea. But it's the nuclear option. And I hate it with every fiber of my being.

Daniel looks at her, curiously, as they exit.

17 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - DAY

17

In mid-fight, Tory circles Sarah. As Sarah attacks with a flurry of punches, Tory blocks them all, sweeps her to the ground, and then kicks her in the face.

SARAH

You chipped my tooth, bitch!

TORY

You needed braces anyway.

KREESE

Good job, Nichols. (to Sarah) You know the drill. Off the mat!

Sarah shakes her head and leaves the dojo. Kreese then looks around for his next matchup.

KREESE

You. Big boy...

Kreese points to Brucks. Brucks steps forward, pounding his chest like a gorilla.

BRUCKS

Aw yeah! Who's going down next?

Hawk looks at him with disgust. Kreese scans the class for an opponent, but before he can pick anyone, Hawk enters the mat.

HAWK

He's mine.

KYLER

(laughing, jeering) Get 'em, Lip!

Brucks smiles. But Hawk is pure menace. He takes his gi top off, revealing: the Moon tattoo over his heart has been transformed into a scythe, which is held by a Grim Reaper.

BRUCKS
(a little freaked out) Dude...

As Hawk circles Brucks, a corner student prepares a scoring flag... but Kreese motions for him to put it down.

Brucks has the size advantage. If we didn't recognize this look on Hawk's face, we might expect an even fight. It's not. Hawk attacks, smacking Brucks around like a rag doll. Brucks never has a chance. He drops hard.

KREESE

Finish h--

Hawk doesn't need to hear it. On the floor, he mounts Brucks and starts raining down punches, bullying PTSD anguish in his eyes. Instead of seeing the carnage, we see the reactions -- kids turn away in horror. Even Tory lowers her eyes.

Finally, Hawk stands. There's blood on his fists. It's not his. He marches up to a gobsmacked Kyler and stares him in the eye. Kyler trembles. Then Hawk continues past him, back to his place. Kreese smiles to him.

KREESE

Well done. (to students) I think we can call it a day. (dismissively, re: Brucks) Someone pick him up.

Super-cheap current/trendy song kicks in as we start a production-friendly montage...

18 INT. ART MUSEUM - DAY 18

An abstract painting hangs on a wall. Johnny approaches it, holding his fingers to his chin as if he's analyzing it. Reveal Miguel with his phone, taking a photo of Johnny.

We then see QUICK FLASHES with STILLS OF JOHNNY in front of two other paintings.

19 EXT. TRENDY STOREFRONT - BENCH - DAY 19

Johnny is on a bench reading *The Queen of Hearts* by Kimberly Martin. He looks deeply invested in the book. Miguel is nearby taking another photo.

JOHNNY

Got it?

MIGUEL

Yep.

JOHNNY

Good.

Johnny tosses the book in a TRASHCAN as they both exit frame.

20 EXT. SIDE OF A BUILDING - DAY 20

Johnny steps in front of ANGEL WINGS and looks at them skeptically. Miguel motions him to get in position. Johnny does. We see a FLASH and STILL SHOT of unhappy Johnny with angel wings behind him.

21 EXT. KITADA SUSHI - AFTERNOON 21

CLOSE ON: A pair of chopsticks struggling to pick up a colorful Dragon roll. The chopsticks stab into the sushi, and Johnny awkwardly brings it up to his face like a pair of forceps.

JOHNNY

Ugh-- what the hell is this shit?

Miguel puts down his phone, which he was using to take a photo.

MIGUEL

It's a Dragon roll. Fresh cucumber, snow crab, shredded avocado and grilled unagi. (off Johnny's look) Freshwater eel.

JOHNNY

Eel!? People don't actually eat this crap, do they?

MIGUEL

It's very popular. Have an open mind.

Johnny takes an awkward bite of the sushi, trying to enjoy it but clearly not. He tries to make his best happy face as Miguel snaps the photo.

MIGUEL

(examines photo) Got it.

Johnny spits out everything from his mouth onto the plate.

JOHNNY

I'm gonna hit the john and wash my mouth out. (offers sushi plate) You want this?

MIGUEL

Not anymore.

Johnny exits inside.

Miguel looks at his phone, smiling, as he scrolls through some of the photos he took of Johnny today. Just then--

TORY (O.S.)

Miguel?

He looks up to see Tory approaching. She's wearing a Kitada Sushi server outfit and carrying her gym bag.

MIGUEL

Tory...

He's a little gobsmacked to see her.

TORY

How did you know I worked here?

MIGUEL

I didn't. I was, uh-- Wait, I thought you worked at the roller rink?

TORY

That's at night. Gotta work two jobs now. My mom's not doing well.

MIGUEL

I'm sorry.

Tory sits down across from him.

TORY

No-- I'm sorry. I know I should've come to see you. I just... I didn't know how to help...

MIGUEL

So you did nothing.

Tory looks down, ashamed.

TORY

I felt guilty about everything.
(looks up) But we're getting Miyagi-Do back for what they did to you.

MIGUEL

What?

TORY

It's like Sensei Kreese says. One of us gets hurt, we all get hurt!

MIGUEL

I'm the only one who got hurt. I'm the one in a wheelchair.

TORY

I just meant--

MIGUEL

I know what you meant. Look... I don't care about Miyagi-Do. I never did. I cared about us.

TORY

Did you? Or did you just go out with me to get Sam's attention?

MIGUEL

You really think that's it?

TORY

I saw you with her... (gets emotional) I didn't have a choice.

MIGUEL

Yes you did! Tory, I know you're helping your mom, but you need help. Maybe see a therapist, or--

TORY

(laughs sadly) You think I'm crazy.

MIGUEL

That's not what I meant.

TORY

It's OK. Everyone does. But I don't give a shit. All that matters is who wins in the end.

Miguel looks caught off guard by her doomsday outlook.

TORY

Nice seeing you.

With that, Tory storms inside, leaving Miguel alone.

We see the sun setting in the valley.

23

INT. LARUSSO RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

23

At the LaRusso family table, we see an exquisite-looking Italian feast-- chicken cacciatore, baked ziti, broccoli rabe, tri-colore salad, rustic bread, sausage and peppers, red wine.

As we TILT UP, we reveal Daniel and Amanda on opposite sides of the table, with ARMAND ZARKARIAN sitting at the head between them, using both of his hands to eat.

AMANDA

We're really glad you could make it over for dinner, Armand.

DANIEL

Yeah. We're sorry your wife couldn't come.

Daniel and Amanda look pained with every word they utter.

ARMAND

Eh-- she had Zuma class or some bullshit. Mmm... this is good!

AMANDA

It's Daniel's mother's famous chicken cacciatore. You should try dipping the bread in the...

Before she can finish, Armand rips into a baguette and dunks it in the casserole dish, submerging it in the juices.

AMANDA

Sauce...

He shoves the soaked bread into his mouth.

ARMAND

(mouth full) So-- why am I here?

DANIEL

We just want to talk a little business.

ARMAND

I told you before. I don't trust car salesmen. I can't make deal with you.

Amanda leans in, putting on her charm.

AMANDA

How about a deal with me?

ARMAND
(intrigued) Ah, you have some sort
of a... proposal for me?

Armand winks.

AMANDA
The business kind. Not the indecent
kind.

ARMAND
(disappointed) Eh, fine.

AMANDA
I want you to evict a tenant at
your Reseda strip mall.

ARMAND
This is about snake karate? Why
would I evict? Excellent tenant.
Much better than last one.

AMANDA
He's a danger to the community.
He's unstable. Unpredictable.

ARMAND
So what? His rent is predictable.
Always pays on time.

AMANDA
And how much is that rent exactly?

ARMAND
Ohh, I can't say this. Would not be
ethical.

AMANDA
We'll double it.

DANIEL
(shocked) Amanda...

AMANDA
(to Daniel) Nuclear. Option.

ARMAND
I want triple.

AMANDA
All we want is Kreese out. That
means you can rent the space to
another tenant.

ARMAND

Ah, the double dip? (smiles) I like the double dip.

As he says this, he dips the bread he's been chewing back into the cacciatore juices and takes a bite.

ARMAND

Deal.

He reaches out a greasy hand. Amanda sucks it up and shakes.

DANIEL

We want him out by tomorrow.

ARMAND

Not a problem.

Daniel and Amanda look at each other -- they did it!

ARMAND

It's a pleasure doing business with you. (pointed) With one of you.

Amanda takes a sip of wine, tasting victory.

24 EXT. VALLEY - STOCK SHOT - SUNRISE 24

It's a beautiful new day in the valley.

25 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - OFFICE - MORNING 25

In street clothes, Kreese walks in and turns on the lights. He puts down his workout bag and opens a box of cigars. He picks one up, then notices a picture frame on the table. He puts the cigar down and picks up the frame.

CLOSE ON: a black and white PHOTO of YOUNG KREESE, PONYTAIL, AND TWIG, in fatigues, arms around each other. Kreese looks at it with wistfulness and pain as we DISSOLVE TO:

26 EXT. JUNGLE - FLASHBACK - DAY 26

We're with Young Kreese and Twig. Turner is at a vantage point nearby (along with two other soldiers) staking out an NVA hut.

YOUNG KREESE (INTO WALKIE)

I have eyes on the target.

The NVA leader (PHAM MINH THAO) enters the hut. Just outside it, Ponytail is planting C4. Young Kreese watches, holding the detonator.

CAPTAIN TURNER (ON WALKIE)
What's the status on air support?

Twig wears a large comms pack. He's turning dials, but nothing is coming through.

TWIG (INTO WALKIE)
No response.

CAPTAIN TURNER (ON WALKIE)
Goddammit, if this goes south and they don't know where we are--

TWIG
(re: dials) Come on, come on...

BY THE HUT, Ponytail finishes planting the C4. He signals to Turner, at the vantage point.

CAPTAIN TURNER (ON WALKIE)
We're live. Kreeese, when he clears, light them up.

Suddenly, a LOUD RADIO CRACKLE from Twig's comms. Their position has been revealed. NVA GUARDS SHOUT. They're fucked.

TWIG
Oh shit, oh shit!

CAPTAIN TURNER (ON WALKIE)
Blow it! Now!

YOUNG KREEESE (INTO WALKIE)
I can't...

CAPTAIN TURNER (ON WALKIE)
What are you doing?! Take them out so we can get the hell out of here!

YOUNG KREEESE (INTO WALKIE)
He's still in there--

CAPTAIN TURNER (ON WALKIE)
He's dead! Blow it!

Kreeese hesitates. He watches Ponytail running towards them... and he gets hit in the back of his head with the butt of a rifle. NVA GUARDS stream out of the hut.

YOUNG KREEESE
No...

Kreeese looks toward Turner. It's too late. Kreeese and Twig are surrounded. The NVAs dump Turner next to them.

CAPTAIN TURNER

You son of a bitch, Kreese. We had them. You killed us.

YOUNG KREESE

I didn't... I couldn't--

Pham Minh Thao arrives, pushing Ponytail onto his knees in front of them. Ponytail looks to Kreese--

PONYTAIL

Johnny...

Pham Minh Thao pulls out a pistol. We stay on Kreese's face as the GUNSHOT rings out over the jungle. Ponytail is dead.

TWIG

Oh God. It's my fault! He's dead because of me! Oh God--

The NVA guards shout, unnerved by Twig's panic.

CAPTAIN TURNER

Shut your goddamn mouth, Silver!

Twig is YOUNG TERRY SILVER. A guard pushes Kreese face-down into the dirt next to Turner.

CAPTAIN TURNER

I told you not to hesitate! Now look what you've done! Look!

The reality of it hits Kreese all at once -- the death of his friend, the horror of their situation, the fault on his shoulders. He'll never be the same.

27 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - OFFICE - MORNING 27

Captain Turner's "Look!" echoes as Kreese continues looking at the picture of him, Ponytail, and Young Terry Silver. He hardens, upset. Just then--

He hears THE DOOR CHIME. He puts the photo down and exits.

28 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - CONTINUOUS 28

Kreese enters the main dojo to find Armand by the entrance, holding papers.

KREESE

What do you want?

ARMAND

Look, my friend, you pay on time--
but I have higher offer on this
space. So unfortunately-- you can't
rent here anymore.

KREESE

What about our contract?

ARMAND

All my contracts have escape
clause. I have eviction papers
here. You need to leave today.

KREESE

(folds arms) That's not happening.

ARMAND

(calling outside) Grigor! Erik!

Two HUGE THUGS (GRIGOR and ERIK) enter the dojo, walking past
Armand and stepping onto the mat.

ARMAND

My nephews will help you leave.

Grigor and Erik both put on BRASS KNUCKLES, staring down
Kreese.

ARMAND

Whether you like it or not.

Kreese shakes his head, upset.

KREESE

I just cleaned blood off that mat.
Oh well.

Kreese makes a fist and cracks his knuckles.

29 INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - MORNING

29

Miguel is back in the harness. He's quiet and distracted.
Johnny eases the rope, but Miguel collapses.

JOHNNY

Come on, focus. This is worse than
yesterday.

Johnny pulls the rope, then slacks it, but Miguel buckles.

JOHNNY

You're not even trying. What's the problem? You saw your ex. Big deal.

MIGUEL

Big deal? Dude, look at you! We spent all day doing bullshit for your ex, trying to make you look like someone you aren't. At least when I talked to my ex, I told her how things really were.

Johnny pulls the rope back and holds it tight. Miguel won't even look at him.

JOHNNY

You done with your little temper tantrum? Or are you giving up?

MIGUEL

(sotto) You are.

JOHNNY

What'd you say?

MIGUEL

You're the one giving up.

JOHNNY

I don't know what you--

MIGUEL

QUIET!

Johnny shuts up, taken aback.

MIGUEL

You let Kreese take your dojo! You let Tory and Hawk and everyone else think you're weak!

Johnny steps over to Miguel, angrily--

JOHNNY

Because it was a mistake to begin with. I should've never brought back Cobra Kai. Look what happened!

MIGUEL

What happened is you helped a lot of people. But then you walked away from karate like a pussy!

This hits Johnny hard.

MIGUEL

You're a sensei. That's who you are. And if you can't see that, then you're blind--

JOHNNY

(realizing) Miguel...!

Miguel stops and looks at Johnny. He's not holding the rope. Miguel is standing on his own for the first time.

MIGUEL

Am I doing it?!

JOHNNY

You're doing it! You're doing it!

MIGUEL

Holy shit!

Johnny puts his arm around Miguel. Miguel does the same, tears forming in his eyes.

MIGUEL

Thank you so much!

JOHNNY

No-- thank you.

They hug it out-- both so grateful to have one another.

30 INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - LATER

30

CLOSE ON Johnny's laptop. We see his new Facebook profile taking shape. It's all trendy staged photos from the day.

Johnny sits and studies it. In a mirror of the first scene, we hear him reading his message in V.O.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

"Ali. You're right - it's crazy how things change. For a long time, I didn't have much direction in my life. But then things got better."

He hates his new profile. Miguel's right. This isn't him at all. He starts deleting all of it.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

"I met a kid who needed some help. So I got back into karate and became a sensei."

On the desktop, Johnny clicks on a VIDEO. It's Miguel, still in the harness, taking a few steps.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

"There were ups and downs. I even gave up for a while. But I can't give up any more."

Next to the video file, we see PHOTOS of Johnny and his students from the tournament... from the cement yard... from the junkyard. Photos with Miguel. Photos of who he really is.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

"I have a long way to go to be a better man, a better father, a better teacher. But I can make a difference in these kids' lives. It's a tough world out there, and I can help them be ready for it."

Johnny UPLOADS THE VIDEO AND PHOTOS. This is his new profile.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

"That's what I've been up to. That's who I am. I'm a sensei."

Johnny looks over the message. Then he thinks twice.

JOHNNY

Nah. Too long.

He deletes the entire message and types: "Not much, u?" Much cooler. He hits send and leans back, satisfied.

31 INT. LARUSSO VAN NUYS - DAY

31

There's a buzz around the dealership - customers are checking out cars and signing papers. LOUIE and ANOUSH help out a FEMALE CUSTOMER in front of the ENTERPRISE KIOSK.

LOUIE

Thank you again for your business, Mrs. Carroll. While your car's being serviced, we're gonna hook you up with an Enterprise rental from the Exotic Car Collection. Very classy. My man Anoush will help you pick out something special. (faux whispers) He's new here, so forgive him if he's not quite as polished as me.

ANOUSH

(annoyed) I trained you. You were
the garbage man for the break room.

LOUIE

(rolls eyes, to customer) See what
I mean?

Anoush directs the customer over to an ENTERPRISE REP holding
a launchpad tablet.

FROM THE UPSTAIRS BALCONY: Daniel and Amanda look down at the
dealership from the customer lounge.

DANIEL

Looks like our ducks are finally in
a row. Dealership is back on its
feet, Kreese is out of our lives.
How should we celebrate?

*
*
*
*

AMANDA

I'm thinking maybe I'll get a
banner-- (gesturing) "I told you
so."

*

DANIEL

Uh-huh. Go ahead, get it all out of
your system.

AMANDA

You know, if I had been around in '84, I don't think you'd have any stories to tell. I mean, I beat Cobra Kai in what... one afternoon?

DANIEL

Alright, alright... I did save the dealership though. Don't I get a little credit?

AMANDA

More than a little.

She gives Daniel a kiss.

DANIEL

I still can't believe you actually hit Kreese? How'd that feel?

AMANDA

Pretty darn good.

DANIEL

I'm so jealous.

They share a laugh. Just then, his PHONE rings. It says ARMAND ZARKARIAN.

DANIEL

Here it is.

AMANDA

(excited) Put it on speaker.

Daniel does.

DANIEL

Hey Armand!

ARMAND (ON PHONE)

(panicked) LaRusso-- the deal is off!

Daniel and Amanda look at each other, confused.

AMANDA

What? We had an agreement!

COMMOTION on the other side of the phone.

INTERCUT WITH:

32 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - OFFICE - SAME TIME

32

Armand, hair frazzled and shirt tousled, sits on a folding chair.

ARMAND

I can't get out of contract...

Just then, Kreese GRABS THE PHONE from Armand.

KREESE

Hello, Danny boy.

Daniel and Amanda hear his voice and are freaked out.

KREESE

Nice try-- but you can't end a war
with diplomacy.

(MORE)

KREESE (CONT'D)

I suggest you prepare your students
for battle. Because now it's open
season. On them... And you.

Click. Daniel and Amanda look at each other, disturbed. Just then-- A SCREAM FROM DOWN BELOW. Daniel and Amanda look down over the railing and see...

Customers backing away from a showroom car, terrified, as A LIVE COBRA slithers out of the car and through the dealership. Customers run for the doors, screaming. Anoush jumps up on the Enterprise kiosk, terrified.

ANOUSH

I hate snakes!

Louie is holding a chair over his head like a baseball bat.

LOUIE

You see where it went!?
(threatening) C'mon out, you rat
bastard!!

HIGH ANGLE: Daniel and Amanda look below, then at each other, in total fear.

ENDSNAKE