

Executive Producer: Chris Brancato
Executive Producer: Eric Newman
Executive Producer: Jose Padilha

NARCOS

"Descenso"

Episode #101

Written by
Chris Brancato

Directed by
Jose Padilha

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Note to the reader:

The assumption is that you've seen our director Jose Padilha's "Elite Squad" films and that it has painted a picture for you of what a modernist and masculine Latin American cinematic approach feels like: urgent, complex, fast-paced, hard-hitting and epic. And since you get it, you will also get that the voice over you are about to read should not be experienced like anything typical to Hollywood. The level at which the images will confront you visually while Murphy's voice is in your head are the full journey that guides you through this descent from the birth of narco-trafficking into the darkness of what men will do to WIN.

FADE UP ON:

EXT. ANDES MOUNTAIN RANGE - AERIAL VIEW - TWILIGHT

CAMERA SWOOPS over lush inland jungles, snow-capped volcanoes, lush valleys, and alpine lakes.

OPERATOR #1 (O.S.)
Centra Spike is a go, we've reached
twenty thousand feet.

A small BEECHCRAFT AIRPLANE flies into FRAME.

OPERATOR #2 (O.S.)
Commencing intercept operations, we
are at zero-four-two-nine.

OPERATOR #1 (O.S.)
Encryption units, stand-by. Let's
crawl into some heads.

EXT. BOGOTA - AERIAL VIEW - NIGHT

The city twinkles, bounded by the eastern cordillera of the Andes Mountain Range.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Nowadays, the U.S. government can
listen to anything you say. They
know where you are, they know who
you're talking to, they probably
know who you're fucking. Turn on a
cell phone and you're doomed.

A chyron appears: "**Bogota, Colombia 1989**"

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But in Colombia in 1989, it wasn't
that easy. The only people who had
satellite phones were the filthy
rich. The landowners. The
politicians.

INT. FINCA - BOGOTA - NIGHT

CASH is stacked like cordwood.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Lucky for us, the Narcos were richer
than them all.

A couple of Makarov machine pistols lay on the table along with a satellite phone. A HAND comes into FRAME.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Okay, good. He picked up the phone.

WIDENING, to reveal a mustachioed NARCO ("POISON") dialing a number on his phone. A CONFEDERATE counts the cash.

POISON
(in Spanish)
Hello, Blackie? It's Poison. We're going out tonight.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Now we owned him. And he didn't even know it.

INT. BEECHCRAFT - NIGHT

Inside, we SEE a fifty-million-dollar spy plane crammed with state-of-the-art electronic eavesdropping equipment. Two MALE OPERATORS monitor calls on laptops.

MURPHY (V.O.)
We had software that identified the specific voices of our targets. When they talked, we listened.

AN ONBOARD COMPUTER

Providing instantaneous calculations. We HEAR the chatter of intercepted phone calls in Spanish.

OPERATOR #1
We got Poison at 1400 to 1700 megahertz, gentlemen.

He scribbles notes on a pad: "POISON."

OPERATOR #2
Ground units, begin trilateration.

INT. VAN ON THE GROUND - NIGHT

Packed with surveillance gear. A TECHNICIAN in the back of the van (American) checks his laptop.

TECHNICIAN
He's in the Zona Rosa.

OPERATOR #2 (O.S.)
Can you be more specific? Police
units are standing by.

INT. FINCA - BOGOTA - NIGHT

Poison knocks back an aguardiente.

POISON
(in Spanish)
La Dispensaria. I have a table
outside. Midnight.

INT. BEEHCRAFT - NIGHT

OPERATOR #1
Never mind. Negative on the ground
assault. This fuckwad just told us
where he's going.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Poison didn't know it, but he'd made
himself a date.

Operator #1 removes his headset.

OPERATOR #1
Who do we give this to? DEA?

OPERATOR #2
Yeah. Let's give it to Javier Peña.

OPERATOR #1
Peña's an asshole. I'm gonna give
it to the other guy.

INT. MURPHY'S APARTMENT - BOGOTA - NIGHT

STEVE MURPHY, 30s, stands amidst domestic chaos: a baby cries loudly, the phone rings off the hook. He has the physicality and charm of a West Virginia upbringing.

MURPHY (V.O.)
By the "other guy," he meant me. My
name is Steve Murphy. I'm DEA and
as you can see, I'm deeply embedded
in Colombia.

He receives into his arms a beautiful, crying COLOMBIAN BABY,
handed to him by CONNIE MURPHY, 30s.

CONNIE

Honey, can you change her?

Connie is effortlessly sexy, a former ER nurse. She moves off to answer the phone. Murphy places the baby on the changing table as though handling a live hand grenade.

CONNIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's for you!

He grabs the phone, cradles it under his neck.

MURPHY

Hello?

(listens)

Okay. Hold on. Gimme a sec.

He puts the baby in her crib, and grabs a pen and scribbles "Poison" and "La Dispensaria, 12AM" on a notepad.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Got it, thanks.

The baby starts to cry.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Hold on, sweetpea. Daddy's coming.

He dials another number.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Poison will be at La Dispensaria at around midnight with his crew.

Murphy grabs a new diaper from a stack.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I would've loved to go after Poison myself, but DEA is restricted in a foreign country.

Murphy fumbles some talcum into the diaper. He lifts the BABY'S TINY BOTTOM to put it on.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We're not supposed to do ground operations. Our role's to "inform" and "advise." So I did just what you would do. I called the cops.

EXT. CAFE - BOGOTA - NIGHT

HORATIO CARILLO, 30s, a well-dressed Colombian with a cheery demeanor, talks on a clunky cell phone.

CARILLO
La Dispensaria. Copy that.

He clicks off, smiles at his dinner companion.

CARILLO (CONT'D)
Guess who that was? Your partner.

We see JAVIER PEÑA, 30s, Mexican-American, enjoying his scotch. He's casual in a collared shirt and jeans.

CARILLO (CONT'D)
(rising)
Gotta go.

PEÑA
Gonna stick me with the bill, huh?

CARILLO
I have to get the gift your partner just delivered.

PEÑA
No kidding. Who?

CARILLO
Poison.

He starts off, turns back.

CARILLO (CONT'D)
Does your buddy know how I'm gonna package it?

PEÑA
Oh yeah. He's no fool. I'll get the bill, you cheap sonofabitch.

Carillo turns and walks toward CAMERA.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Colonel Carillo was one of the leaders of "Search Bloc," a unit we helped create to capture the bad guys.
(MORE)

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But at heart he was like any Colombian
police officer. He didn't have a
lot of love for the Narcos.

CUT TO:

CHA-CHUCK. A SHOTGUN is cocked.

CARILLO
(in Spanish)
We're on, fellas.

INT. SPECIAL OPS VAN - NIGHT

Carillo addresses six MEN IN BODY ARMOR. The van's an armory:
Browning rifles, H&K small machine guns, etc. The men pull
on ski masks.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Midnight in the Zona Rosa. Party
time.

EXT. LA DISPENSARIA - NIGHT

The Zona Rosa is alive with music, revelers, excitement.
SEVEN TOUGH MEN are seated at an outdoor table. Poison is
packing his Makarov in a fancy leather holster.

POISON
(in Spanish)
Come join us, beautiful!

He's propositioning a DOE-EYED COLOMBIAN GIRL walking down
the street. His men make catcalls.

ANGLE - THE DOE-EYED COLOMBIAN GIRL

She smiles, pretends she's interested. She knows better
than to ignore these men.

WIDE SHOT - LA DISPENSARIA

The restaurant. The beautiful girl. The dealers.

SURE SHOT
(in Spanish)
Hey, Beauty Queen! We're ugly but
we're rich!

BAM! His head blows off. Everyone goes for their weapons.

CAMERA WHIP PANS

The Men in Body Armor advance, guns blazing as we--

FREEZE FRAME

FADE TO BLACK.

A long beat. Dead silence.

FADE UP ON:

EXT. LA DISPENSARIA - SUNRISE

A SHUTTER clicks, a photo taken. Bodies lay splayed across the outdoor cafe. A bloodbath.

MURPHY (O.S.)
Javi, we hit a home run.

REVERSING, to find Steve Murphy with a camera and a phone. He steps into a cordoned crime scene, with EIGHT CORPSES and a dozen COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE.

MURPHY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Got "Poison." We got "Bad Mouth."
We got "Blackie." Three or four of
them I can't ID.

Colonel Carillo squats over one of the corpses. He turns his face TOWARDS CAMERA.

CARILLO
(in Spanish)
Murphy, you won't believe this.

He gestures to a dead body. Face half blown off.

MURPHY
Javier, we got a bonus. "Sure Shot"
has met his maker.
(another look)
At least I think it's "Sure Shot."

INTERCUT WITH:

CLOSE - ON JAVIER PEÑA

PEÑA
No shit! He was there?! Great.

INT. UNITED STATES EMBASSY - BOGOTA - DAY

Peña stands in the DEA offices of the Embassy, beside a "tree chart" of numerous traffickers and sicarios (hit men).

MURPHY (V.O.)

Peña had wanted that motherfucker off the tree for months.

PEÑA

I'm so happy I'll even forgive those assholes at Centra Spike for giving the intel to you.

MURPHY (O.S.)

Hell, I'm prettier than you are.

Peña removes a MUGSHOT of Juan Corrales Botero, aka "Sure Shot," from the trafficker tree. He thinks of something, stops yanking pictures--

PEÑA

Any humans involved?

MURPHY

Yeah. A bystander caught a stray.

ON MURPHY, walking toward a sprawled body.

CLOSE - ON THE DOE-EYED COLOMBIAN GIRL.

She lays face up, eyes glassy in death, a clean bullet hole in her temple. Murphy's VOICE carries over--

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I wouldn't blame you if you held me responsible for this bloodbath.

CLICK. REVERSING, to find MURPHY, peering through his camera.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Yeah, I pushed the buttons. But don't call me a bad guy just yet.

He lowers the camera as we --

FREEZE FRAME: MURPHY

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Good and bad are relative concepts.

CUT TO:

PRESIDENT NIXON, giving a speech. (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

PRESIDENT NIXON

The more you stay in this kind of job, the more you realize that a public figure, a major public figure, is a lonely man.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Take Richard Nixon, for instance. People forget, but 47 million Americans voted for Nixon. We thought he was one of the good guys.

GENERAL PINOCHET, the dictator of Chile. (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

GENERAL PINOCHET

The rich people are those who create wealth, and you have to treat them well so they continue to give wealth.

MURPHY (V.O.)

And Nixon thought Chilean General Augusto Pinochet was a good guy `cause he hated the commies. So we helped Pinochet seize power.

CHILEAN DEATH SQUADS, slaughter and civilian protest, the March of the Disappeared. (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then Pinochet turned around and killed thousands of people. Maybe not such a good guy after all.

EXT. JUNGLE - CHILE - DAY

Thick, forested northern Chile.

MURPHY (V.O.)

But sometimes bad guys do good things. To kiss Nixon's ass, Pinochet went after the cocaine labs.

EXT. DEEP JUNGLE LAB - CHILE - DAY

A tented jungle lab with white-smocked WORKERS.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Nobody knows this, but back in `73 Chile was on its way to being the
(MORE)

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
world's biggest cocaine processing
and exporting center. They had
jungles to hide the labs and miles
of unpatrolled coastline to send the
product north.

CUT TO:

CHILEAN SOLDIERS crash through the forest.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
But Pinochet spoiled the party. He
shut down 33 labs and arrested 346
drug dealers.

The SOLDIERS invade the lab. DRUG WORKERS quickly give
themselves up, lacing hands behind their heads. One of them
is MATEO MORENO, a low-level manager.

EXT. DEEP JUNGLE LAB - CHILE - LATER

A bunch of DEALERS, hands tied behind them, are lined up in
front of a firing squad.

MURPHY (V.O.)
And then-- being Pinochet-- he had
them all killed.

Moreno is scared shitless. His body quivers.

CHILEAN SOLDIER
(in Spanish)
Ready. Aim. Fire.

A FUSILLADE OF GUNFIRE. The dealers collapse.

EXT. JUNGLE - CHILE - LATER

SOLDIERS toss the bodies in a mass grave.

MURPHY (V.O.)
They say when a nuclear holocaust
destroys the world, only the
cockroaches will survive.

CLOSE - ON A MASS GRAVE

Beneath the corpses, there is movement. A solitary man fights
his way out of the grave, frantically pushing aside the bodies
to emerge, covered in blood.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I guess they were right.

CLOSE - MATEO MORENO, wild-eyed.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The bullets missed Mateo Moreno, aka "Cockroach," and he was smart enough to play dead. He wasn't killed on that day...

INT. SHACK - CHILE - DAY

Cockroach bursts through the door.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Instead, he won the damn lottery.

His WIFE approaches, horrified.

COCKROACH

Start packing. We have to leave the country. Pinochet wants to kill me.

COCKROACH'S WIFE

You're a communist?!

COCKROACH

No, I'm a fucking drug dealer!

CLOSE: ON A DRAWER

Cockroach slides it open to reveal a KILO OF COKE.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Cockroach had been stealing from his bosses for months. Now he was left alone in the world with the perfect product. A product whose offer creates its own demand.

CUT TO:

OVERHEAD SHOT - A MAZE

A RAT scurries through the maze at lightning speed.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Back then, we were just finding out about the effects of cocaine on the human brain. We didn't know much, but we knew it was powerful shit.

INT. LABORATORY - STANFORD UNIVERSITY - DAY

The rat reaches the end of the maze and hits a lever.

WIDER, to reveal a PROFESSOR instructing a STUDENT.

PROFESSOR

Make sure the retractable levers are extended into the box.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Cocaine hijacks pleasure centers in the brain. A rat will choose cocaine over food and water.

PROFESSOR

Record locomotor activity after the subject self-administers.

CLOSE - ON THE RAT

It hits the LEVER again and again.

MURPHY (V.O.)

It will choose cocaine over sleep, over sex, over life itself.

WIDER, as the Professor walks out--

PROFESSOR

Make sure you refill the Merck containers as needed. Let's see if self-administration leads to starvation.

He exits. The Student examines the vial of flaky-pink Merck cocaine, pours some on the counter.

MURPHY (V.O.)

The human brain isn't quite the same as a rodent's...

The Student SNORTS a line of coke.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Unless we're talking about cocaine.

EXT. BORDER - PERU/COLOMBIA - DAY

Cockroach's Renault pulls to a checkpoint. His wife sits in the passenger seat.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Cockroach knew he had the perfect product. He just needed to smuggle it to the right markets. And the best smugglers in the world were in Colombia.

The sign above the border patrol says: "COLOMBIA."

CUT TO:

A QUARTER HORSE, doing "dainty-steps" in a ring.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Like Goldilocks, he had three options. And pay attention, because all three are important to this story.

EXT. HORSE RIDING RING - MEDELLÍN - DAY

A horse show. FABIO OCHOA rides a "dainty-step" quarter horse as its hooves blur with mincing, cartoon-like speed.

MURPHY (V.O.)

The Ochoa Brothers: Jorge, Juan David, and that's Fabio. The typical Colombian smuggling family: they made a fortune from contraband.

Brothers JUAN DAVID and JORGE, wearing Polo shirts next to their beautiful GIRLFRIENDS, applaud.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They were smart and handsome, but Cockroach felt the high life had made them soft...

The horse is so steady that Fabio balances a teacup on his head without dropping it.

CUT TO:

CLOSE - JOSE RODRIGUEZ GACHA

Steps into FRAME, wearing a sombrero and holding a carbine.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There was Jose Rodriguez Gacha - nicknamed "The Mexican" for his love of tequila and sombreros. He dominated the emerald smuggling routes.

INT. LUXURY FINCA - MEDELLÍN - NIGHT

REVERSING, to find a sophisticated cocktail party.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Emeralds were a pretty rough trade even by Colombian standards. If you make it to the top, it means you've killed your enemies and...

GACHA'S PARTNER

Hey partner, what are you doing here?

Gacha and two GUNMEN mow down the party guests with their machine guns. Smokey, horrible carnage.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Cockroach worried that the emerald trade had made Gacha too hard...

Gacha and his men exit the party.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

So he zeroed in on his third option. A man who Cockroach knew would be "just right..."

TIGHT: ON PABLO ESCOBAR

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Yeah. You guessed it. Pablo Escobar. The man who would change my life forever.

Pablo calmly pops a Chiclet in his mouth. He's driving in the front seat of a jeep.

CAMERA PULLING BACK

To reveal his cousin GUSTAVO, late 20s, as passenger.

CAMERA RISES HIGHER

There's a FOUR-AXLE TRUCK driving behind the jeep.

RISING STILL HIGHER - OVERHEAD SHOT

Thirty TRUCKS behind the jeep, passing through FRAME.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Pablo was making a killing in the smuggling business. Stolen goods, cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, you name it. If there was a market, Pablo would supply it.

CUT TO:

OVER THE SHOULDER: A COP

A police checkpoint. Pablo pulls to a stop. There are ten heavily armed DAS AGENTS.

MURPHY (V.O.)

At that time, Pablo owned every policeman in Medellín. But DAS was Colombia's version of the FBI. They didn't play by the same rules.

A DAS AGENT steps up to the jeep.

PABLO

Good day.

DAS AGENT

Are you Pablo Escobar?

PABLO

Yes. Where's Felipo?

DAS AGENT

He's been arrested.

DAS Agent gestures. Felipo's being dragged to an unmarked sedan in handcuffs. He's been beaten to a pulp.

PABLO

Hey, this is bullshit, man. Felipo works for me.

DAS AGENT

He used to work for you. Now he's going to jail.

GUSTAVO

Do you know who you're talking to?

DAS AGENT

Shut the fuck up.

PABLO

Please, Gustavo. Show respect. Let Mr. Herrera speak.

DAS AGENT

How do you know my name?

PABLO

(pointing)

You're Colonel Jose Luis Herrera. That's Nacho Ibarra. There's Garcia. Lopez. Pinella. Esperanza.

The DAS AGENTS are stunned. *How does he know their names?*

HERRERA

Open the fucking trucks.

CUT TO:

A TRUCK PANEL DOOR ROLLS OPEN.

Pablo and Herrera stand by the truck. Other DAS AGENTS inspect the contents: crates of Johnny Walker, Marlboros, television sets and toys.

HERRERA

Who the fuck do you think you are? You don't even bother to hide your contraband?

PABLO

I pay for the privilege.

NACHO IBARRA peers down at Pablo from inside the truck.

IBARRA

Where are your import papers? You need the papers for these TV sets.

PABLO

Take the television.

IBARRA

Sorry, Escobar. We're not Medellín cops making fifty pesos a week.

PABLO

It's not for you. It's for Carlito. Your son. Wouldn't he like a TV in his room?

Ibarra is shocked. But Pablo's turned his attention to another agent on the truck.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Hey, Pinella. Your daughter just got her driver's license, right? Pioneer makes a nice car stereo.

He turns to yet another guy.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Lopez. Your wife is beautiful. What's she doing with a guy like you? I think she deserves some jewelry. Should I get a couple of my guys to drop it off?

The DAS Agents, at first so tough and sure of themselves, are now soft as jello.

PABLO (CONT'D)

(calmly)

Gentlemen, let me tell you who I am. I am Pablo Fucking Escobar. My eyes are everywhere. You can't do a goddamn thing in Antioquia without me knowing about it. I'm going to be President of Colombia one day.

The DAS Agents are transfixed.

PABLO (CONT'D)

I make deals for a living. You can accept my deal or accept the consequences for not taking it.

From each of the thirty truck cabs, DRIVERS emerge with tire irons, guns, clubs. One of them we recognize as--

POISON

AR-15 assault rifle propped on his arm.

PABLO

pulls a wad of cash.

PABLO (CONT'D)

Silver or lead. Your choice. Now why don't we negotiate a bit and we can all leave happy. Deal?

Over this, the sounds of merriment...

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - MEDELLÍN - NIGHT

Pablo and Gustavo are drinking beer in a raucous bar filled with pretty girls. They're drunk and happy.

PABLO

It's an interesting proposal.

REVERSING, we see Cockroach. His leather bag rests on the table with the KILO OF COKE clearly visible.

COCKROACH

If you're with me, I can take you to Peru. Show you where I buy the paste. You smuggle it here, I teach you how to turn it into powder. Then we sell it all over Colombia.

GUSTAVO

How much does it cost?

COCKROACH

In Chile, we sold it for ten dollars a gram.

PABLO

You sell it by the gram?

Cockroach dumps a line onto the table.

COCKROACH

This much keeps a person flying for twenty minutes. When the effect wears off, you want more.

He sniffs the line with a rolled-up bill. Pablo and Gustavo share a glance.

GUSTAVO

(to Pablo)

If this shit is so good, we could find room on our trucks.

COCKROACH

We move it to all the major cities: Bogota, Cartegna, Baranquilla. We'll make a fortune.

PABLO

You think small, my friend.

(then)

If it costs ten dollars a gram here,
how much do you think it will cost
in Miami?

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUTH BEACH - MIAMI - DAY

A wide expanse of white sand beach and pearl blue ocean.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Back then, Miami was a paradise.
I'd signed up for the sand, surf and
women.

A chyron appears:

"Miami, 1979."

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In '79, the bad guys I was chasing
wore flip-flops--

CLOSE: ON FLIP-FLOPS

Slapping across the pavement. TILT UP to reveal TWO SURFERS
(one with a backpack) racing PAST CAMERA.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I was a young DEA agent, partnered
with my buddy Kevin Samms.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Stop, DEA!

Murphy sprints past CAMERA.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Kevin had a few pounds to lose.

NEW ANGLE: KEVIN SAMMS

Overweight, huffing for breath.

WIDER

Murphy (younger) and Kevin, 20s, chase the Surfers down on
the promenade. One of the Surfers trips over his flip-flops,
smashes to the ground.

The other Surfer tumbles over the prone body of his friend.

CLOSE - ON MURPHY

Gun out, ultra-serious, pouncing on the Surfers.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Face down. Gimme hands!

Murphy cuffs the Surfer. Kevin arrives, huffing.

KEVIN

He told you to stop, you sonsabitches!

He grabs the backpack off the ground.

MURPHY

What do we got?

Kevin opens the backpack and extracts a large pillow of MARIJUANA wrapped in plastic.

KEVIN

We got ourselves a promotion, my man. Let's celebrate.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - MIAMI - NIGHT

Thumping music, filled with partyers. Kevin sits with other DEA GUYS, celebrating their bust. In the background, Murphy is getting another pitcher at the bar.

DEA #1

Who do we pick?

DEA #2

How about her?

DEA #2 points to a BLONDE GIRL at another table.

KEVIN

No, no. Let's fuck him up.

DEA GUY #1

Let's mess with his head.

KEVIN

Yeah, let's go for her.

THEIR P.O.V. - CONNIE

Connie - seen at the top of the script - sits at the bar with a FRIEND.

DEA #1 (O.S.)

She's hot.

MURPHY

returns with a cold pitcher of beer. Unaware that he's about to be the subject of a prank.

KEVIN

Hey, Murph, Sparrow 3 o'clock,
checking you out.

Kevin chin nods to Connie. Murphy steals a glance.

DEA #1

You were walking back from the bar,
she was checking out your ass.

MURPHY

Get the fuck outta here.

KEVIN

She wasn't checking out your ass,
but she eye-fucked you all the way
back to the table. I'm not kidding,
man. For real.

MURPHY

The tan one?

KEVIN

She had eyes on you, man.

The DEA GUYS egg him on: Go for it/C'mon, Pussy/Man up!

MURPHY

You serious?

KEVIN

If I'm lying, I'm dying.

MURPHY

(a beat)

Fuck it. I'm going in...

DEA GUYS

Murph's flying in/Get another pitcher
while you're up there.

AT THE BAR - CONNIE AND HER PRETTY FRIEND

They're watching the Miami/Florida State game on the television. Murphy approaches with a smile.

MURPHY

Hey, how are you?

CONNIE

(barely a glance)

Busy.

He looks back at his table.

HIS P.O.V. - THE DEA GUYS

They're busting a gut laughing. *Gotcha sucker!*

MURPHY

starts back toward his table.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Those bastards got me. But I couldn't let it end like that.

He turns and goes back to Connie and her friend.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Listen. I'm sorry. See those guys over there? They're fucking with me. They said you were checking out my ass. Who checks out a cop's ass?

CONNIE

You're a cop? Strike two.

MURPHY

Not a cop, actually. I'm D-E-A.

CONNIE

A narc. Strike three.

Connie's Pretty Friend chimes in--

PRETTY FRIEND

Drug Enforcement? So you're the one making pot more expensive.

MURPHY

(lightly)

It's against the law, ma'am.

CONNIE

(laughing)

Be careful. He'll arrest you.

MURPHY

Help me out here. I wanna show those assholes up. C'mon. Give me your phone number.

CONNIE

How about a fake phone number?

MURPHY

That'll work.

Connie digs a pen and a scrap of paper from her purse. She scrawls "Connie" and a phone number.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Sorry for the bother.

AT THE TABLE

Murphy returns, flapping the scrap of paper.

MURPHY

Read it and weep, assholes.

The DEA Guys are suitably impressed.

INT. MURPHY'S APARTMENT - MIAMI - NIGHT

Murphy sits on his bed in a messy bachelor apartment. He stares at the scrap of paper.

MURPHY (V.O.)

I figured what the hell. Worst that could happen was I'd wake up some grandmother in Boca.

He dials the number.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ANOTHER APARTMENT - MIAMI - NIGHT

Someone grabs the ringing phone off the receiver.

CONNIE

Hello?

MURPHY (O.S.)
So it wasn't a fake.

CONNIE
Thought you might figure it out.
After all, you're D-E-A.

Murphy smiles.

MURPHY (V.O.)
And just like that, she had me.

CUT TO:

PABLO ESCOBAR

eyes shining.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The minute Pablo laid his eyes on
the paste-processing lab in Peru,
cocaine had him.

EXT. JUNGLE PROCESSING LAB - PERU - DAY

Thickly forested. A half dozen WORKERS (men and children)
trample coca leaves in a large plastic-lined VAT filled with
water and bleach.

COCKROACH, PABLO AND GUSTAVO

are shown around by the LAB MANAGER. He gestures to another
large VAT being filled with KEROSENE.

LAB MANAGER
The kerosene separates the drug from
the leaf.

A worker scoops a PLASTIC BUCKET of the brownish kerosene
mixture and adds Ammonium from a bottle. The liquid in the
bucket blooms WHITE like cream in coffee.

GUSTAVO
Look at that.

LAB MANAGER
Ammonium is added to make the paste.

CLOSE - ON THE BUCKET

Now containing a gummy, yellowish solid. The solid is dumped
onto a bed sheet.

WIDER, as a WORKER squeezes the bed sheet to remove the excess kerosene, leaving a one-kilo chunk of paste.

GUSTAVO
We'll take a kilo.

LAB MANAGER
A whole kilo. Great.

PABLO
No.

LAB MANAGER
(to Cockroach)
You said one kilo.

PABLO
We'll take five.

COCKROACH
How do we get five across the border?

PABLO
Gustavo will figure it out. Always does.

CUT TO:

EXT. RENAULT CAR LOT - PERU - DAY

Gustavo shows Pablo and Cockroach a yellow Renault 4S.

GUSTAVO
Check the wheel-well. It's huge.

A CAR SALESMAN approaches them.

CAR SALESMAN
It's a great choice. 22.5 horsepower.
More than the Citroen 2CV. It's
comfortable and the gasoline
consumption --

PABLO
(to Salesman)
Is it easy to remove the wheel?

The Salesman never heard that one.

CAR SALESMAN
What?

GUSTAVO

(to Pablo)

We only have to do it once. Trust me - I can fit 5K in there.

PABLO

Ok. I will take it. Three cars, please.

The Salesman can't believe his ears.

SALESMAN

Did you say three?

GUSTAVO

(to Cockroach)

I guess we're going back to the lab...

COCKROACH

Why?

GUSTAVO

(to Cockroach)

Five kilos per wheel-well, equals twenty kilos per car. Three cars, sixty kilos.

Pablo claps Cockroach on the back.

PABLO

At nine dollars profit per gram...

EXT. PERUVIAN MOUNTAIN ROAD - AERIAL VIEW - SUNRISE

The beautiful panorama of the lush Peruvian mountains.

MURPHY (V.O.)

That's five hundred thousand dollars per trip - using the same smuggling routes he always used.

A paved road cuts a ribbon through the dense foliage. THREE RENAULT R4S appear from FRAME LEFT, snaking through the pass.

LOW ANGLE

Pablo drives the one up front.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Easiest money he ever made.

CUT TO:

INT. COCAINE KITCHEN - BELEN, COLOMBIA - NIGHT

A cramped kitchen with three COOKS in smocks. Cockroach teaches Pablo and Gustavo the next part of the process.

COCKROACH

The hydrochloric acid turns the base into crystal.

GUSTAVO

It smells in here.

COCKROACH

That's the acetone.

Cockroach presses a button. A DOZEN LAMPS light up on top of the damp cocaine crystals.

PABLO

And what's with all those lights?

COCKROACH

Drying.

EXT. COCAINE KITCHEN - BELEN, COLOMBIA - NIGHT

Light floods from the windows, illuminating the house like a Christmas tree. Pablo and Gustavo watch PAINTERS close the windows and start to apply a black coat of paint to the glass. Sulfurous smoke pours from the window cracks.

GUSTAVO

Isn't this going to suffocate the workers?

PABLO

Let's build a chimney.

CUT TO:

A WOMAN'S HANDS, with a sewing needle.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Like her son, Pablo's mother Hermilda was very resourceful.

INT. HERMILDA'S HOUSE - MEDELLÍN - NIGHT

HERMILDA ESCOBAR, 50s, places down the needle and holds up what she's been sewing.

A JACKET

Lined with secret compartments.

PABLO

Mama, I love it. How much do you think I can fit in there?

Hermilda inspects the jacket.

MURPHY (V.O.)

In Colombia, even the women have a tradition of smuggling.

HERMILDA

I guess about 5 kilos. Just make sure someone else is wearing it.

CUT TO:

THE LION, a regal Colombian with a healthy mane of hair.

MURPHY (V.O.)

That someone would be "The Lion," a friend of Pablo's who'd spent his childhood in the United States.

INT. EL DORADO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - BOGOTA - DAY

WIDENING, as the Lion (wearing Hermilda's jacket) walks toward a line that reads "Customs." Lion easily passes through the customs line.

INT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Lion emerges from the arrival gate, behind someone in a Dolphins jersey. He looks around.

A VOICE (O.S.)

Yo man, what's up?!

Lion grins.

REVERSING, to find CARLOS LEHDER, 30s, a deep tan, a "John Lennon" t-shirt, and a swastika tattooed on his arm.

MURPHY (V.O.)

And that's Carlos Lehder. Half Colombian, half German, one hundred percent playboy. Big fan of John Lennon and Adolf Hitler. Go figure.

The two men hug. Lehder eyes Lion.

LEHDER

It's hot man. Why the fuck are you wearing a jacket?

MURPHY (V.O.)

Back in '79 Lehder was flying bales of grass up from Colombia on a fleet of small planes.

INT. CAR - LONG TERM PARKING LOT - DAY

Lehder sits behind the wheel of a boat Cadillac. Lion pulls a bag of COCAINE from inside his "secret" jacket.

LION

It's the perfect product.

LEHDER

I did a bit in jail, remember? I saw this stuff. It's poison.

LION

Pablo thinks the gringos will love it.

LEHDER

It will fuck their brains up - that's for sure.

The Lion opens the car door and steps outside.

LEHDER (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Lion shows Lehder a plane ticket.

LION

Back home. Pick me up tomorrow.

EXT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

A PLANE takes off.

MURPHY (V.O.)

The Lion made more than twenty flights between Medellín and Miami - drugs in, cash out. And the rich and famous in Miami snorted every single gram of it. In no time, Pablo had to replace his cars with trucks...

EXT. PERUVIAN MOUNTAIN ROAD - AERIAL VIEW - SUNRISE

A paved road cuts a ribbon through the forest.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Gustavo had the trucks filled to the brim with potatoes, the major item Colombia imported from Peru. Didn't even have to bribe the cops.

Several TRUCKS filled to the brim with potatoes appear from FRAME LEFT, snaking their way through the pass.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The coke paste was hidden in the spare tires. Each tire could fit about 20 kilos. Ten trucks, twenty kilos each, going back and forth everyday. You do the math. It's more money than you can imagine. No way the Lion could transport it all.

LOW ANGLE

One of the trucks passes by Colombian customs, a spare tire attached to it.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Pretty soon, the Lion had to come up with new ways to smuggle the drug to Miami.

INT. COCAINE KITCHEN - BELEN, COLOMBIA - DAY

The Lion teaches several YOUNG WOMEN how to eat condoms filled up with cocaine. Three of them are pregnant.

LION

Wait a second - we got a problem here. You three, step this way.

The three PREGNANT WOMEN step to the right. They're disappointed they can't share in this bonanza.

LION (CONT'D)

U.S. Customs doesn't search pregnant women. I think you can swallow sixty pellets instead of fifty.

The women nod.

INT. COCAINE KITCHEN - BELEN, COLOMBIA - LATER

The Lion teaches a COMMERCIAL PILOT and a STEWARD how to hide cocaine in their luggage.

MURPHY (V.O.)

During the early 80s most AVIANCA flights out of Bogota had several mules on them - they didn't even know about each other.

INT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

COMMERCIAL AIRPLANE PILOTS, YOUNG WOMEN and STEWARDS walk right through the U.S. CUSTOMS.

MURPHY (V.O.)

And you know what? Getting in was easy, because nobody was worried about cocaine in America. All we cared about was grass.

Everyone walks right in.

MONTAGE: VARIOUS LOCATIONS (PER PRODUCTION)

FISHERMEN put COCAINE bags inside fish and take to the sea. COCAINE bags are inserted into OLIVE OIL cans and coffee packages.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Pretty soon cocaine was hidden in almost every legit Colombian export. Fish, coffee, olive oil, rubber hoses... You name it. But even that didn't do it. The real game-changer was filling Lehder's planes with coke instead of weed.

EXT. MEDELLÍN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Pablo and Gustavo negotiate with Carlos Lehder in front of a KING AIR airplane.

GUSTAVO

How much weight can you carry?

LEHDER

Where to?

GUSTAVO

Miami.

LEHDER

About a thousand kilos, including
the fuel.

GUSTAVO

What if we take out all the seats,
and leave room just for the pilot?

Lehder stares at Gustavo, puzzled.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Six months after meeting with
Cockroach, Pablo was establishing
the first dedicated Narco route from
Colombia to America.

AERIAL SHOT - a KING AIR plane flies really low over the
ocean, approaching the Bahamas. (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A real milestone in the story of
narcotics.

INSIDE THE PLANE - Lehder flies the plane. Behind him,
several loads of coke.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Then Pablo closed the kitchen and
started opening cocaine labs in the
middle of the jungle -

EXT. DEEP JUNGLE LAB - COLOMBIA - DAY

A tented jungle lab with white-smocked WORKERS. Ten times
bigger than the one Cockroach managed in Chile.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Under the canopy cover of the
Colombian rainforest, he could expand
his production capacity indefinitely
without anyone noticing it.

Cockroach trains the workers in the arts and sciences of
cocaine production - he's sweating, mosquitoes all over his
face as a CESSNA AIRPLANE lands in an airstrip next to the
lab - Gustavo and Pablo step outside - followed by two
beautiful HOOKERS.

Cockroach approaches them.

GUSTAVO

Hello, Moreno.

PABLO

(re: hookers)

We brought you a gift. Brazilians -
best asses in the world.

Cockroach eyes the women.

COCKROACH

How come you guys are flying about
in planes and I am stuck here in the
fucking jungle - living in a fucking
shack - among fucking mosquitoes and
cobras?

Gustavo notices the shacks where the workers live.

GUSTAVO

You are right, Moreno. I'm sorry.

PABLO

From now on I'll build a big air-
conditioned house in all my labs -
just for you.

Cockroach looks at Pablo, pissed.

COCKROACH

Those are my labs, Pablo. My labs.

GUSTAVO

Of course they are, partner.
(tapping Cockroach)
Now show us what you got.

INT. HACIENDA NAPOLES - ANTIOQUIA - NIGHT

It's a huge party. UNIFORMED WAITERS walk around with food
and beverages. BEAUTIFUL WOMEN everywhere. Cockroach is
alone in a corner - drinking by himself.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Pablo couldn't hide his success from
his friends. They were violent,
crazy and filthy rich. Guys used to
getting what they want, one way or
another.

Pablo, Gustavo, Gacha and Jorge Ochoa are drinking at a table.

GACHA

I heard the potato business is very
profitable these days.

Gacha picks up a French fry.

GACHA (CONT'D)

Who would think you could make so much money off this? I am asking myself if I should invest in it. What do you think, Pablo?

JORGE OCHOA

I took a good look at the market. Importing potatoes from Peru is easy. Old smuggling routes.

GUSTAVO

If everyone starts buying potatoes at one time, the Peruvians will raise the price. Our margins will go down.

GACHA

They also grow potatoes in Bolivia. We can reduce the cost of the refining process if we buy together.

GUSTAVO

The hard part is getting the merchandise to Miami. You need a lot of creativity for that.

GACHA

How much would you charge to help us be creative?

PABLO

You deliver the product to me, labeled. I take it to Miami, and deliver to your contact there. I charge 35% of the sales value. But I insure the safety of your load up to 50% of the value.

(then)

Deal?

JORGE OCHOA

Deal.

GACHA

I will create my own routes and stop using your services as soon as possible. That okay with you?

Pablo stares at Gacha.

GUSTAVO
We expect nothing less.

Gacha extends his glass for a toast--

GACHA
Partners?

For a beat, no one moves.

PABLO
We know your policy toward partners.
Let's just call us... "friendly
associates."

The men laugh and toast.

GACHA
To Miami...

CUT TO:

EXT. PORT OF MIAMI - DAY

Colorful cargo crates line the port. Shipments of everything from everywhere in the world.

MURPHY (V.O.)
When I started, a one-kilo grass
bust was cause for celebration.

INT. CARGO CONTAINER - DAY

Kevin holds up a crate of ORCHIDS with a false bottom. There are KILOS packed beneath the flowers.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Before long, we were seizing sixty
kilos of coke a day.

EXT. CARGO SHIP - DECK - DAY

SIXTY KILOS of cocaine are removed from the ship on a dolly, along with the handcuffed Crew.

MURPHY (V.O.)
We thought we were making a huge
difference.

Murphy and the agents clear FRAME as we--

CUT TO:

A SCUBA DIVER

drops into the water beside a CARGO BOAT.

EXT. PORT OF MIAMI - LATER

UNDERWATER

The Diver swims to the hull of the boat, where four metal pipes are magnetically attached.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Truth is, we weren't even making a dent...

CUT TO:

THE METAL PIPES - ON THE DOCK

Now unsealed at one end. A WORKER dumps a HUNDRED KILOS from the pipe onto the ground.

CLOSE - ON CARLOS LEHDER, smiling...

MURPHY (V.O.)
They let us have sixty, so they could bring in six hundred.

CUT TO:

A WHITE LAB RAT

scurrying at a frantic pace past CAMERA.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Pablo's coke flooded in.

EXT. MIAMI STREET/ALLEY - NIGHT

CAMERA TRACKS the RAT as it races through the alley.

MURPHY (V.O.)
It didn't take long for Miami to get addicted. And I mean that.

The RAT stops. Nose wriggling.

LOW ANGLE - A STREET CORNER DRUG DEAL

A handoff between dealer and client.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It was like the whole city was running around to get this shit. And with the money, came the violence.

The RAT charges past--

A FOOT, as we TILT UP to reveal Murphy.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The surfers had been replaced by Colombians. And these guys didn't wear flip-flops.

HIS P.O.V. - TWO COLOMBIANS

Armed with Mac-10s. Their guns spit fire--

MURPHY AND KEVIN

dive for cover. They peek from behind a dumpster. One Colombian flees. Murphy sees the other Colombian running behind a car from left to right.

MURPHY FIRES THROUGH THE CAR. No one comes out from the other side.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The Miami Coroner said Colombians were like Dixie Cups. Use `em once, then throw `em away.

MURPHY AND KEVIN

advance on the sprawled body behind the car. Kevin kneels beside the dead shooter, turns back to Murphy.

KEVIN

Dude, he's just a kid.

The dead COLOMBIAN is about seventeen.

TIGHT - ON MURPHY

Stunned. And upset.

MURPHY (V.O.)

That was the first person I ever shot. A teenager not old enough to buy a six-pack.

CUT TO:

EXT. MIAMI STREET/ALLEY - LATER

PARAMEDICS load the Colombian teen's corpse onto a refrigerated truck. Murphy stands nearby.

MURPHY (V.O.)

The Dade County morgue couldn't fit all the bodies from the drug war. They had to rent a refrigerated truck from a local company to hold all the extra corpses.

PULLING BACK to see the logo: "BURGER KING."

CUT TO:

INT. MURPHY'S APARTMENT - MIAMI - NIGHT

Murphy swings open the door. He's exhausted, crestfallen, and strangely guilty. Connie rises from the couch.

CONNIE

It was self-defense.

MURPHY

How'd you know?

CONNIE

Kevin called. He's worried about you.

MURPHY

The kid was seventeen.

CONNIE

He sells drugs, right?

MURPHY

Yeah.

CONNIE

Then fuck him.

MURPHY

What?

CONNIE

Do you know what's going on here? This city's upside down.

Murphy looks at her in surprise. It's only now he realizes her mascara's streaked.

CUT TO:

A GURNEY

Rolls past with an unconscious PREGNANT WOMAN. She's one of the Colombian girls we saw with Lion.

CONNIE (O.S.)

I was about to finish my shift when we got hit with lights and sirens.

INT. MIAMI GENERAL - EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Connie quickly evaluates the unconscious GIRL.

CONNIE (O.S.)

Paramedics said she collapsed after she got off her flight. By the time she got to us, she was barely breathing.

Everything in this sequence is frantic--

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Tachycardia! We need an EKG, stat!

Connie coils a blood pressure cuff on her arm at lightning speed. NURSE #2 clips on a pulse oximeter.

CONNIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Dilated pupils, rapid pulse. I knew she'd overdosed on cocaine.

Connie and NURSE #2 put the GIRL on her left side.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

180cc of benzodiazepine! She's going into arrest!

CONNIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But she had no residue on her nostrils, no injection marks.

The girl's convulsing. Connie grabs the defibrillators and administers three high-voltage shocks.

CONNIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

We did everything we could. She died in the ER.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
(checking clock)
TOD, eleven hundred and twenty-two
minutes.

Connie puts a stethoscope to the girl's abdomen.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
The baby's still alive. I need a
surgeon for an emergency C-section!
Get a prenatal unit down here now!

INT. MURPHY'S APARTMENT - MIAMI - NIGHT

Murphy stares at Connie, shocked.

MURPHY
What happened?

CONNIE
The baby died in my hands.

MURPHY
I'm sorry.

CLOSE - ON THE X-RAY

It's the pregnant woman, post-mortem. We SEE her ribs, spine,
and fifty-five condoms of coke on the X-ray.

CONNIE (O.S.)
She was body-packing eleven ounces
of cocaine. Two of the pellets split
open.

INT. MIAMI GENERAL - HALLWAY - DAY

Connie, splattered with blood, stands numbly in front of a
light board, looking at the X-ray.

CONNIE (O.S.)
Twelve grams in her bloodstream.

INT. MURPHY'S APARTMENT - MIAMI - NIGHT

WIDER, ON CONNIE and MURPHY

CONNIE
No one survives that.

CUT TO:

EXT. HACIENDA NAPOLES - ANTIOQUIA - NIGHT

A HIPPOPOTAMUS wanders through FRAME. One of the many animals who roam the luxurious grounds of Napoles. Gustavo stands out in the yard with Cockroach. He indicates Cockroach's gold-plated Mercedes.

GUSTAVO

You're ten times richer than you ever thought you could be.

COCKROACH

I just want my fair cut. If it wasn't for me, you two would still be smuggling cigarettes.

Gustavo goes stone-cold serious.

GUSTAVO

Let me give you a piece of advice. Don't talk like this to Pablo. He's not as forgiving as I am.

CUT TO:

OVERHEAD SHOT

Thirty TRUCKS behind the jeep, passing through FRAME (same as earlier shot in the script).

MURPHY (V.O.)

Cockroach should have listened to Gustavo. Instead, he found another way to get his fair share.

OVER THE SHOULDER: A COP

A police checkpoint. The LEAD TRUCK pulls to a stop. The DRIVER rolls down his window to find Colonel Herrera and a group of other DAS Agents, seen earlier.

HERRERA

What's in those spare tires?

CUT TO:

INT. HACIENDA NAPOLES - ANTIOQUIA - DAY

GUSTAVO hangs up the phone and approaches PABLO, who watches a soccer game on television.

GUSTAVO
390 kilos. We lost it.

PABLO
What do you mean we lost it?

GUSTAVO
What I said. We lost it.

PABLO
It just disappeared? Into thin air?

GUSTAVO
Don't bust my balls. Cops must've followed them from Ipsalia.

PABLO
We've paid every cop from here to Ipsalia. How'd we lose a load?

GUSTAVO
Somewhere in Colombia there exists an honest cop.

PABLO
How much is he asking for?

GUSTAVO
Too much.

PABLO
I'm going down there.

Gustavo knows Pablo too well.

GUSTAVO
Why risk it? It's only 390 keys.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - MEDELLÍN - DAY

Pablo strolls in to find Colonel Herrera and Nacho Ibarra.

PABLO
What's going on?

HERRERA
We need to renegotiate.

PABLO
Fuck you.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - LINE-UP ROOM - MEDELLÍN - DAY

Now handcuffed, Pablo stands with an ID placard with the day and date of his arrest.

TWO SHOT - HERRERA AND IBARRA

Through the one-way glass, they watch a photographer preparing to take the mugshot of Pablo.

IBARRA

Are you sure about this? He hasn't said a word since you arrested him.

HERRERA

We're DAS. What's he gonna do about it?

CUT TO:

OVER THE SHOULDER: THE POLICE PHOTOGRAPHER

Pablo smiles for the camera. CLICK.

MATCH CUT TO:

PABLO'S MUGSHOT (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

The famous one. Inmate Number: 128482

MURPHY (V.O.)

Pablo didn't know it then, but this mugshot was gonna cause him a lotta grief down the line.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - INTERROGATION - MEDELLÍN - DAY

Pablo sits calmly at a table. Herrera enters with Ibarra.

HERRERA

We count over three hundred kilos on those trucks. That's a street value of over four million in American currency. But you only pay us a hundred fifty thousand.

PABLO

That's what we agreed on.

HERRERA

(enjoying this)

I make deals for a living. You can accept my deal or accept the consequences for not taking it. Now why don't we renegotiate a bit and we can all leave happy.

Pablo mulls this, then--

PABLO

I'll give you a million dollars, U.S., on one condition.

HERRERA

What's that?

PABLO

Somebody in my organization told you the street price of my cocaine. Otherwise how would you know? Tell me who it is and you won't have to split the money with him.

CUT TO:

EXT. PORT OF MIAMI - DAY

A PLUMBING VAN drives past the cargo crates.

MURPHY (V.O.)

It turns out Cockroach was a real cockroach. Not only did he sell Pablo to the authorities, he was stealing from him all along and selling coke in Miami, too.

The VAN pulls up to a MERCEDES. GERMAN ZAPATA, 40s, sleek as a greyhound, gets out. He's accompanied by TWO BODYGUARDS.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Cockroach's dealer was German Zapata, a Colombian with a plumbing business that served as a front for his cocaine operation. He had twelve hundred keys in the van. And guess who was buying the load?

THE MERCEDES DOORS OPEN

Murphy and Kevin get out, wearing guayabera shirts.

ZAPATA

Gentlemen.

MURPHY

Mr. Zapata. A pleasure.

Kevin walks to the back of the Mercedes and opens--

THE TRUNK

It's packed with two duffel bags of CASH.

MURPHY, KEVIN AND ZAPATA

walk to the back of the plumbing van.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The plan was to trade vehicles and Zapata would be arrested once he left the Port.

Zapata opens the back to reveal--

A HUGE AMOUNT OF COCAINE

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Twelve hundred kilos - that would get us on the cover of the Miami Herald.

Murphy exchanges car keys with Zapata.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Everything was going perfect, except that Pablo was onto Cockroach.

EXT. PORT OF MIAMI - DAY

CAMERA FOLLOWS over the shoulder of two ASSASSINS on a Kawasaki, heading into the long term parking. On the back of the cycle is--

LA QUICA, a hitman who works for Pablo.

He pulls out his Mac-10 and fires.

BOOM! - ZAPATA AND KEVIN

drop like stones.

ZAPATA'S BODYGUARD

returns fire.

The DRIVER gets blown off the cycle. It spins out on the concrete pavement.

LA QUICA

scrambles to his feet, raising his Mac-10.

MURPHY

steps forward, about to fire--

LA QUICA

drops his Mac-10 and raises his hands.

LA QUICA
(accented)
I give up! Arrest me.

Hands high, he drops to his knees.

MURPHY

lowers his weapon as--

A SWARM OF DEA AGENTS

arrive to arrest La Quica.

CLOSE - ON KEVIN

Dead from a bullet wound to the skull.

CUT TO:

AN AMERICAN FLAG

Flapping in the wind above the Miami-Dade Courthouse.

MURPHY (V.O.)
I got to the courthouse early on the day of La Quica's trial.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - MIAMI - DAY

Murphy climbs the steps to enter the courthouse.

MURPHY (V.O.)
My testimony was gonna put that bastard on death row.

He's buttonholed by a U.S. PROSECUTOR.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The U.S. District Attorney caught me on the courthouse steps, said La Quica met his bail of two million dollars, paid by a wire transfer from-- well, why don't you take a guess?

CUT TO:

BOARDING GATE - "MEDELLÍN, COLOMBIA"

INT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

La Quica walks onto a plane.

MURPHY (V.O.)

La Quica boarded and was back in Medellín by midnight.

INT. MURPHY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MIAMI - NIGHT

Connie sleeps in Murphy's arms. He stares at the ceiling.

MURPHY (V.O.)

From '79 through '84, there were 3245 murders in Miami.

MONTAGE: MIAMI AND MEDELLÍN (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

This sequence will be built from archival footage: Murders, mayhem, boat-lifts and coke seizures.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But outside of the Florida Tourist Bureau and the cops, no one much cared about that.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - WASHINGTON, DC - DAY (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

Establishing.

MURPHY (V.O.)

What got the U.S. government to take notice was the money. Billions of dollars a year, all of it flowing from the U.S. to Colombia. And that, America could not take.

INT. OVAL OFFICE ANTEROOM - DAY

FOUR BUSINESSMEN are seated on a couch.

MURPHY (V.O.)

See these guys? That's Gerald Ottman from General Electric. Jack Rogers from Miami National Bank. Paul Griggs, Goldman Sachs. And Bill Taub from the City Workers Pension Fund. They were terrified the narco-economy would sink the real economy of Miami.

A SECRETARY enters the room.

SECRETARY

The President will see you now.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Or maybe they were pissed off they weren't getting a cut.

Inside the Oval Office, a Reaganesque figure can be seen sitting behind his desk (not identifiable).

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The Businessmen enter. The President stands and shakes hands with his guests.

BUSINESS

Mr. President. Thank you for having us.

MURPHY (V.O.)

Whatever it was, the businessmen came at just the right time. The Berlin Wall was about to fall. The Soviet Union was dissolving. It was time for America to suit up against a new enemy.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY (ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE)

RONALD and NANCY REAGAN sit on the couch.

RONALD REAGAN

Tonight, from our family to yours, from our home to yours.

CLOSE - ON RONALD REAGAN

RONALD REAGAN (CONT'D)
Drugs are menacing our society.
They're threatening our values and
undercutting our institutions.
(then)
They're killing our children.

MURPHY (V.O.)
It was classic Reagan. Folksy,
direct, and tough. He vowed to go
after drugs at the source. But it
was Nancy who stole the show.

CLOSE - ON NANCY REAGAN

NANCY REAGAN
So to my young friends out there,
life can be great. But not when you
can't see it. So open your eyes to
life, to see it in the vivid colors
that God gave us as a precious gift
to His children. Say yes to your
life. And when it comes to drugs
and alcohol, just say no.

CUT TO:

TIGHT - ON COCKROACH: BEATEN AND BLOODY

COCKROACH
No, no, no!!!

A BULLET blasts him in the forehead.

INT. HACIENDA NAPOLES - ANTIOQUIA - DAY

Cockroach topples to the ground.

MURPHY (V.O.)
They say when a nuclear holocaust
comes, only the cockroaches will
survive.

CAMERA SWIVELS to find Pablo. Gun outstretched.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I guess they were wrong.

Pablo turns to Poison.

PABLO
Clean this up.

EXT. COLOMBIAN ROAD - MEDELLÍN - NIGHT

Misty night.

MURPHY (V.O.)
Over his career, Pablo would kill
over a thousand cops. But I wouldn't
learn that till later.

WIDE SHOT - COLONEL HERRERA AND NACHO IBARRA

The DAS Agents lie sprawled on the ground. They've been
tortured and shot in the head.

CUT TO:

PEOPLE CROSS THROUGH FRAME

Revealing airport departing gates.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
My dad volunteered to fight in World
War II because of Pearl Harbor.

INT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NIGHT

The international departure terminal.

MURPHY (V.O.)
But you think he knew anybody in
Hawaii? No way.

WIDE SHOT

Two tiny figures walk toward CAMERA.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
He was a West Virginia farmboy. But
these fuckers stepped on our soil.

The figures get closer.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
So he laced up his Army boots and
went to fight. It was his duty.

It's Murphy and Connie, walking into a TWO SHOT.

MURPHY (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Cocaine in Miami? Powder from
Colombia? This was my war.

REVERSING, OVER SHOULDER as they board a plane. TILT UP to see the departure sign: "Bogota, Colombia."

EXT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

The PLANE races down the runway.

MURPHY (V.O.)

This was my duty. And I was ready to fight.

The airplane lifts off into the sky.

INT. HACIENDA NAPOLES - ANTIOQUIA - DAY

La Quica reports to Pablo.

PABLO

They killed Poison? Where?

LA QUICA

La Dispensaria.

PABLO

Who did it?

LA QUICA

I think it was Carillo. He got there early the next day. But that DEA guy was there taking pictures.

Pablo smolders for a beat.

PABLO

Raise the bounty.

LA QUICA

On Carillo?

PABLO

No. I'll pay half a million for the head of a DEA agent.

(then)

Fucking gringos.

Off Pablo--

FADE OUT.

(TO BE CONTINUED)