

OUT THE DOOR

"Pilot"

by

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TEASER

EXT. LAX - NIGHT

A plane passes over downtown, on approach to LAX.

INT. LAX CUSTOMS AND BAGGAGE AREA - NIGHT

Newly arrived PASSENGERS line up to clear customs. One of them, AIMEE (2-ish), bolts away from her MOM.

MOM

Aimee!

Mom starts to go after her. The sweetest man you'll ever meet, DANIEL BACOLOR (60), kneels and stops her with a smile.

DANIEL

Hi. Where's Mommy?

Aimee stops, turns and points at her Mom, who catches up.

MOM

Thank you. She just turned two -- is getting very bold.

DANIEL

It'll serve her well in life.

MOM

Aimee, say hello.

AIMEE

Hel...

She stops because suddenly Daniel doesn't look right. He puts his hand on his legs, begins to shudder, dry heaving.

MOM

Are you okay? Sir...?

Daniel turns pale, crumples. His body is wracked with HORRIBLE SPASMS and his face contorts into a rictus grin.

MOM (CONT'D)

Help! He needs help!

Then Daniel lets out his last breath and his body goes terribly and finally still. Off the passengers' horror...

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - MORNING

NICK HANNON (late-30's) makes breakfast for a WOMAN. He's sharp, has a smile that hovers between cocky and playful. Right now, he's happy and in love. Nick shows her a REAL ESTATE LISTING.

NICK

Two bedrooms, decent backyard, neighborhood we like.

WOMAN
Can we afford that?

NICK
Rates are low. And I have money saved.

WOMAN
For a boat.

NICK
I can live without one.

WOMAN
Since when?

NICK
Since you.

WOMAN
(smiles, then:)
Give me your hand - hurry...

She takes Nick's hand. Then a PHONE RINGS and the DREAM ENDS.

FIVE YEARS LATER - Nick (early 40's) wakes up alone. The apartment's now empty, just a bed and boxes marked for storage. You sense he's burdened in a way he wasn't, a loneliness he conceals from others. Reaching for the phone--

EXT./INT. LAX CUSTOMS AND BAGGAGE AREA - EARLY MORNING

Nick escorted to the crime scene by fresh faced PATROLMAN REED.

PATROLMAN REED
This way, Detective... How much longer
you have left?

NICK
Sixty-three days, eleven hours and--
(checks the time)
Fourteen minutes.

Said like he's talking about the best chocolate cake.

PATROLMAN REED
So you're looking forward to retiring.

NICK
Like a dog to his dinner. Just ask my
partner - right?

They approach DETECTIVE ROSARIO QUINN (30): woke, justice-seeking and compassionate. She has energy and passion for the job and made Detective a year ago.

ROSARIO
I don't know, we never had a dog.

NICK

They love you unconditionally. And then they die.

ROSARIO

How about telling the Patrolman something helpful. He just joined the force.

NICK

The system's broken, nothing works, nothing's fair, and if you really want to save people's lives, become a fireman.

(to Rosario)

How'd I do?

ROSARIO

You left out "There's no Santa Claus."

Nick smiles and Rosario shakes her head, generally amused but also exasperated by Nick's worldview. Patrolman Reed moves away as they step up to the body. Nick pulls the sheet back.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

Daniel Bacolor. Just came back from Mexico. Coroner's people found a balloon filled with opiates lodged in the back of his throat. Said his stomach must be full of them. Died of a massive overdose when one burst.

NICK

He have a record?

ROSARIO

No. Drove a school bus. Sixty. Not the most obvious drug mule.

NICK

Could've been a user. This is how he paid for his habit.

ROSARIO

Lot of people short on money these days. Could be medical bills. Or the bank took advantage on the mortgage.

Nick is good at analysis, making connections. Rosario has those skills but tends to come at things more from a human angle.

NICK

Married?

ROSARIO

Yes, no kids. The wife's not at home or answering her cell.

NICK
Probable cause for a search.

EXT. LAX TERMINAL - DAY

Nick and Rosario exit the terminal and see LIEUTENANT KOSLOW (Brioni suit, perfect hair) toss a soundbite to a news crew.

KOSLOW
The manner of death is out of character for the victim, and I'll be leading a thorough investigation. I'd also like to announce I've closed the Sullivan murders...

Nick gives Koslow a respectful nod. Once they're past--

NICK
Funny. I thought we solved the Sullivan case while he was busy making dinner reservations for the Chief... Why's Lieutenant Haircut here anyway?

ROSARIO
Thirty years of Daniel Bacolors' students have been posting tributes. They're going viral, the case'll have visibility.

NICK
He's one thing I won't miss.

ROSARIO
You mean along with everything else.

NICK
Am I really that predictable?

ROSARIO
You're a *clock*.

INT. UNMARKED SEDAN - MOVING

Rosario watches social media tributes on her phone:

FORMER STUDENT 1 (ON HER PHONE)
Miss you, Mr. B. You had a problem, you could always sit up front and he'd listen.

FORMER STUDENT 2 (ON HER PHONE)
We were homeless. Mr. B's the only one who cared, got us help. Wouldn't still be on this earth except for him.

ROSARIO
He sounds like a candidate for sainthood.

Perpetually more skeptical:

NICK
Easy to be kind about the dead.

ROSARIO
No, these are heartfelt. Could they
all be wrong?

They pull in front of a modest bedroom home. Uniforms stand by the front door, where neighbors have piled flowers.

INT. THE BACOLORS' MODEST HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Nick studying PAPERWORK he's spread out on the counter:

NICK
Credit cards get paid off every month.
Plenty in the checking account.

Rosario moves from searching drawers to the Bacolor's LAPTOP.

NICK (CONT'D)
I tried, it needs a password.

ROSARIO
The screensaver doesn't.

She's nudged the trackpad, the screensaver is the Bacolors' PHOTOSTREAM. The pics tell her a lot--

ROSARIO (CONT'D)
Deacon at his church, served meals on
Skid Row, ran half marathons for charity.

NICK
Not pulling that off if you're using.

She nods. Looks at A PHOTO OF DANIEL AND TALA BACOLOR, arms around each other, beaming.

ROSARIO
It's sad. They thought they'd spend
the rest of their lives together.

Which affects Nick, but he catches himself before she notices.

NICK
What's her name?

ROSARIO
Tala. Uniforms talked to the neighbors.
No one's seen her since her husband
left for Mexico.

NICK
Itinerary on the counter was just for
him. But she could still be involved.

ROSARIO

Or in trouble. We need to find her.

Nick joins her looking at PHOTOS of the Bacolors with FRIENDS.

NICK

Maybe they'll know where she is. Let's upload these to Facebook and Instagram, try getting face matches on friends and relatives.

EXT. THE BACOLORS' MODEST HOME - DAY

Nick and Rosario exit, she's raring to go:

ROSARIO

...We'll get a warrant for her cellphone - see if the autopsy turns up any surprises - have the house checked for trace evidence.

NICK

Good plan. Too bad I'll be retired before that all happens.

ROSARIO

You have two months left.

NICK

Forensics and the Coroner have longer backlogs than that.

(beat)

Unless the victim's from Brentwood or Bel Air.

He's trying to get a reaction, but she defends the Department--

ROSARIO

Privilege is a problem everywhere, not just the Department.

NICK

I agree. Except we're the ones who are supposed to be keeping the scales of justice balanced. Only in L.A., one side's weighted down by Teslas, juice bars and yoga mats.

ROSARIO

If everyone was that cynical, nothing would ever change.

NICK

Nothing ever does.

ROSARIO

When you started, how many Detectives looked like me? Inequality's moving in the right direction.

NICK

The only place everyone's equal is
the morgue.

She sighs, he's more exasperating than amusing right now.

ROSARIO

Going to the vote tonight? I heard
the union got some real concessions.

NICK

Only because I have to.

EXT./INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - SUNSET

Nick GRILLS A STEAK on his balcony while he reviews BACOLOR CASE NOTES. KNOCKING at the door. He leaves the steak on, passes a TV with the Dodger game, where the POLICE CHIEF, ID'd by a chyron, waves to the camera - *Lieutenant Koslow sits next to him.*

Nick opens the door to see KEELEY and CHAD, a Gen X couple with gray complexions whom Nick despises on sight.

KEELEY

Hi. I'm Keeley, this is Chad, we just
moved in upstairs.

NICK

Uh-huh.

KEELEY

Well. It's just that we're all vegan.
And the smell of cooking flesh is
deeply disturbing. Our son Stuart is
also very sensitive.

Their 14 year-old son STUART wears a NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS T-SHIRT and gives Nick a miserable nod.

KEELEY (CONT'D)

So if there's any way you could not--

Nick closes the door on them.

INT. SHRINE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Cops fill the Shrine Auditorium. Nick shows pictures of his boat to DETECTIVE MILLER, a good, straight edge kind of guy.

NICK

Deck's one coat away - re-laid the
whole thing from scratch.

DETECTIVE MILLER

And you're taking this trip by yourself -
for how long?

NICK

All I know is I'm never coming back.

They see Rosario approaching.

DETECTIVE MILLER
How's your partner - still trying to
save the world?

NICK
Who knows, maybe she will.

Nick's more positive about Rosario's idealism when he's not
talking to her. He moves to join her, and as they find seats:

NICK (CONT'D)
I put out the missing persons on Tala
Bacolor. Anything on your end?

ROSARIO
Her relatives all live out of town,
have no idea where she is. Think all
I did was worry them.

A Union Rep - PAM MARGOLIS (50's) steps up to the stage.

PAM MARGOLIS
Good evening. For those of you who
don't know, I'm Pam Margolis, head of
the negotiating committee. Our first
achievement was securing significant
wage increases across the board.

Rosario applauds and cheers, like the rest of the audience...
Except for Nick, who's studying a NAUTICAL CHART on his phone.

ROSARIO
Five percent, year one. Good, right?

NICK
I'm thinking about stopping in Puerto
Vallarta on the way to La Paz.

PAM MARGOLIS
The City's agreed to one thousand new
hires over the next three years.

More APPLAUSE. Nick's still on his phone. A beat, then...

PAM MARGOLIS (CONT'D)
As you know our health fund was nearly
insolvent. The City has agreed to
rescue the fund and increase
contributions going forward. But we
had to make a concession in return.

Something in her tone causes Nick to look up...

PAM MARGOLIS (CONT'D)
With frankly no other choice, we agreed
to extend retirement and pension
(MORE)

PAM MARGOLIS (CONT'D)
 eligibility from 20 years of employment
 to 25. This is effective immediately and
 applies to everyone without exception.

Younger cops are mostly unfazed... Older cops shake their heads
 and grouse... Rosario realizes the implications, then looks at
 Nick, who *is frozen in utter shock*.

PAM MARGOLIS (CONT'D)
 By now you should have all received
 an email with more detail, along with
 links to place a yes or no vote...

Cops vote on their phones. The results are projected on the
 screen: almost all yes's.

MOVING IN ON NICK - we see the anger and panic and outrage build
 to the point where he's about to explode... then he bolts.

EXT. SHRINE AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Rosario catches up with him--

ROSARIO
 Where are you going?

NICK
 I don't know - the roof of a tall
 building - railroad tracks - anywhere
 it'll be quick. I can't take this job
 for another five years!

ROSARIO
 I'm sorry.

NICK
 I'm sure - you were looking forward
 to getting rid of me.

ROSARIO SEES - COPS exiting the Shrine stare at Nick.

ROSARIO
 That's not fair. And keep your voice
 down.

NICK
 Why - what are they going to do?
 (louder)
 I have an announcement! The
 Department's run by ass-covering,
 glad-handing, paperwork-humping
 bureaucrats who wouldn't know real
 police work if it smacked them over
 their empty heads and lit them on
 fire! I'm Detective Nicolas Hannon
 and I approved this message!

She's had it up to here with him. Her turn to unload:

ROSARIO

Very helpful - as always. And since you brought it up, two months was one thing, but I can't take your negativity for another five years. If you don't change your attitude, I *will* ask for a new partner... Are you listening?

He isn't - he's lost in thought.

NICK

You told me to keep my voice down...

(beat)

But what *is* the the worst thing the Department can do to me? Seriously.

ROSARIO

If you get far enough out of line... fire you.

Nick's mind races... then--

NICK

See you in the morning... I may be a little late.

He walks away, leaving Rosario to wonder...

EXT. LAPD UNION HEADQUARTERS - NEXT MORNING

Pam Margolis arrives for work bright and early the next morning. Nick intercepts her on her way into the building.

NICK

Ms. Margolis - I'm Nick Hannon. Detective 2nd. I only had two months left before I was supposed to retire and collect my pension.

PAM MARGOLIS

I'm afraid there's nothing I can do about that, Detective.

NICK

What happens to my pension if I get fired?

PAM MARGOLIS

That depends on the circumstances.

NICK

Meaning?

PAM MARGOLIS

Well. If you get fired for having a pound of heroin in your trunk, you'd lose your pension and go to jail.

(MORE)

PAM MARGOLIS (CONT'D)

(beat)

But if you're fired for something short of a prosecutable crime, it would be considered without cause. In which case they'd have to pay you your pension.

NICK

You're sure?

PAM MARGOLIS

Yes, assuming you'd been performing your duties in good faith to that point. You can call our counsel for confirmation, but I assure you I'm correct.

On Nick, absorbing this...

INT. WESTSIDE STATION

Koslow briefs the assembled DETECTIVES in a professional drone.

KOSLOW

Everyone should familiarize themselves with the new booking codes...

Nick enters mid-meeting, sits next to Rosario. Whispering:

ROSARIO

Are you alright?

NICK

I think I might be... *great*.

She misinterprets his new optimism. Still whispering--

ROSARIO

So you're going to have a new attitude about work. You give me your word.

NICK

Just you wait and see.

ROSARIO

(reads a text)

We're due in court to get a warrant for Tala Bacolor's cell phone.

KOSLOW

Finally, a reminder all public statements need to go through my office. Any questions?

Nick raises his hand, and it's *on*.

NICK

Yes, Sir, I have a question.

KOSLOW
Go ahead, Detective.

NICK
Can you name one single case you've actually closed? I mean, as opposed to stealing credit for the work everyone else does while you take the Chief to Dodger Games. And by the way, how can you afford Dugout Club season tickets when they cost a third of your salary?

The other Detectives stare at Nick, can't *believe* it. Neither can Koslow, who is frozen for a moment, then--

KOSLOW
You're out of line. And I'll have everyone know those tickets were donated to the Department as a token of gratitude.

NICK
Then why doesn't everyone in the Department get to use them?

KOSLOW
In my office.

Rosario wonders WTF is going on.

INT. LIEUTENANT KOSLOW'S OFFICE

Koslow closes the door. Nick sits.

KOSLOW
What was that about? And I don't remember asking you to sit.

NICK
Me neither.

Nick puts his feet on Koslow's desk, gives Koslow a smile.

KOSLOW
Your behavior is unacceptable.

NICK
I completely agree, Sir. And if I were you, I wouldn't put up with it one more minute.

KOSLOW
This is about the extension, isn't it.

NICK
You're warm.

KOSLOW
I know you're angry about having to
work five more years.

NICK
Warmer.

KOSLOW
But there's nothing I can do about
that.

NICK
Cold - really cold.

Koslow doesn't understand what Nick's doing, so he ignores him--

KOSLOW
I understand you're unhappy. I'm sure
a lot of people are. But we all have
to play the hand we're dealt.

NICK
Except in this case they switched
decks at the last minute, which is
called cheating.

KOSLOW
I think we've exhausted this metaphor.

NICK
That may be the only thing in this
life we ever agree on.

Koslow studies Nick a beat, then--

KOSLOW
You're clearly trying to make me angry.
I don't know why, and I'm not taking
the bait.

NICK
I'm very disappointed in you.

Koslow takes a breath, determined to avoid provocation--

KOSLOW
Unless there's anything else...

NICK
There will be, I promise.

INT. WESTSIDE STATION - CORRIDOR - DAY

Nick and Rosario on their way out, mid-conversation:

NICK
The union lawyer confirmed it. If
they fire me for basically anything
other than a felony, I get my pension.

ROSARIO
That's very clever. And pathetic.

NICK
Why?

ROSARIO
Because you should care more about people's lives than your *boat*.

NICK
I did, for twenty years. I put in my time, and now I'm done.

ROSARIO
We have a *case*.

NICK
That I'm looking forward to working.

ROSARIO
Why? Because it'll give you opportunities to get fired?

NICK
Taunting Koslow clearly isn't going to be enough. And I need to continue to perform my duties in good faith.

ROSARIO
You're just going to end up doing something you'll regret.

NICK
Just things other people will. But you won't have to put up with me for long.

ROSARIO
You really think it's going to be that easy to get fired?

NICK
I spent my career watching cops not saying what they think or doing what they should because they were afraid of losing their jobs. I just need to do the opposite.

Off Rosario, getting a sinking feeling--

EXT. WESTSIDE STATION - DAY

Nick and Rosario exit the station, see NEWS CREWS laying in wait. Eyeing one reporter in particular, ELIOT WHITAKER.

ROSARIO
Ugh. Whitaker...

WHITAKER

Eliot Whitaker for KLCS. Tributes to Daniel Bacolor have touched people all over the world. What can you tell us about the case?

NICK

No comment - as always.

WHITAKER

Can we take that to mean you've made no progress in the investigation?

NICK

No comment.

Nick and Rosario get into their unmarked sedan. They're BLOCKED IN BY A KLCS NEWS VAN.

NICK (CONT'D)

Move the van.

WHITAKER

First help the public understand what's going on.

(wild stab)

Can you confirm there's a connection between the victim smuggling drugs, and his job working with school children?

ROSARIO

(to Nick)

We can arrest him, but the publicity will work in his favor.

NICK

Two can play that game.

Nick rolls the window the rest of the way down.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm Detective Hannon, and here's what I can confirm. Actual journalists uncover the truth and take on the powerful, while you just sit out here hoping for bad news and making "no comment" sound like an admission of guilt. I'd call you vultures, but even they have a place in the food chain. You're Ken and Barbie dolls, with fake smiles, hair that doesn't move, a fixed amount of poses, all plastic through and through. Again, it's Hannon. H-a-n-n-o-n. And I'm backing up whether you move your van or not.

Nick revs the engine. One of the crew dives into the van, moves it just as Nick backs out, tires squealing. As they drive away--

NICK (CONT'D)
How was that?

ROSARIO
Rude and antagonistic.

NICK
Good. I'm trying to build a brand.

INT. STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE - DAY

Rosario introduces herself to ASSISTANT D.A. JESSICA SINGER (40), an intense, buttoned down, high-IQ competitor.

ROSARIO
I'm Detective Quinn, I don't think we've met.

JESSICA
We haven't, I just transferred from San Diego -- Jessica Singer.

NICK
I'm Detective Hannon, but there's no point in getting to know me.

JESSICA
I sensed that about you right away.

ROSARIO
Nice.

NICK
I'm about to retire.

ROSARIO
No he's not.

NICK
Actually, I'm getting fired.

ROSARIO
Not necessarily.

JESSICA
I'm glad you two are on the same page.

Nick smiles, likes her comebacks. They walk, Jessica moving and talking quickly, an all-business force of nature.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
So - husband dies muling drugs, house is clean, wife's missing and you need a warrant for her cellphone records. Am I missing anything?

ROSARIO

No. But I am wondering how anyone can walk that fast in heels.

JESSICA

A never ending fear of failure helps.
(smiles)
The warrant should be a formality,
but our Judge is busy in chambers the
rest of the day and tomorrow as well.

ROSARIO

Sounds like Judge Bigelow.

JESSICA

He's famous for making people wait?

NICK

It's a power thing. And he plays golf
with the right people so he knows he
has the job for life.

They reach Bigelow's chambers. His ASSISTANT tells them:

JUDGE'S ASSISTANT

Like I told Assistant D.A. Singer,
the Judge is not to be disturbed.

ROSARIO

(to Nick and Jessica)
If Tala Bacolor knows something, her
life could be in danger...Nick?

She sees he's thinking... planning. Then--

NICK

One sec.

He ducks around the corner. A LOUD PIERCING FIRE ALARM goes
off. People exit their offices as Nick reappears.

JESSICA

He didn't just do that.

ROSARIO

(into phone)
I'm calling to report a false alarm...

JUDGE BIGELOW opens his door. Older, overweight, veinous nose.

NICK

Judge Bigelow!

JUDGE BIGELOW

There's a fire--

NICK

--No there isn't.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)
 (smelling alcohol)
 Which is lucky, because it would ignite
 your breath. Now you're going to sign
 this warrant, or I'll breathalyse you
 and everyone will know that all this
 time you've been in chambers with
 Jack Daniels, and a thousand defense
 attorneys at once will appeal your
 decisions.

Bigelow may be drunk, but he can tell Nick means business.

JUDGE BIGELOW
 I'll sign, but it'll cost you your job.

NICK
 Oh, no. Please. Don't get me fired.

Bigelow signs the warrant, storms into his office. His Assistant
 bursts out with a LAUGH, catches herself. Staring at Nick--

JESSICA
 I don't think I've ever seen an officer
 of the law so blatantly disregard it.

NICK
 Lazy and entitled Judges are a bigger
 threat to the system than me pulling
 a fire alarm. Which I neither confirm
 nor deny.

JESSICA
 You're being extremely unprofessional.

NICK
 I agree and I urge you to report me
 to the appropriate authorities.

EXT. INDUSTRIAL WASTELAND NEAR THE LA RIVER - THAT NIGHT

Nick and Rosario exit their vehicle, sweep their flashes across
 this concrete no man's land. Rosario checks a GPS app:

ROSARIO
 The cell company can't tell if Tala
 Bacolor turned her phone off or it
 ran out of battery. But its last
 location is within 100 yards of here.

NICK
 Which we wouldn't know without my
 "unprofessional" behavior.
 (off her look)
 I challenged Bigelow's privilege.
 Part of you had to enjoy that.

ROSARIO

A part of me I don't like. What you're doing is ridiculous. And honestly, a little shameful.

But all Nick's thinking about is--

NICK

I wonder how many members of the police commission Bigelow's called by now.

Trying to have a serious conversation, Rosario hesitates, then--

ROSARIO

Listen. I know you have your reasons for wanting out, that what happened on the 14K case--

NICK

--I don't see anything, do you?

Nick shuts that down, won't talk about it. So she moves on--

ROSARIO

There's a storm channel over there, leads to the river.

(off Nick's look)

I grew up near here. This was a great place to skate.

BY THE STORM CHANNEL - They shine flashlights into the shaft, which slopes down at a 45 degree angle.

NICK

Can't see anything from here.

IN THE DRAINAGE SHAFT - They walk down slowly, in a crouch. But Rosario slips and slides to the bottom with a small splash.

NICK (CONT'D)

You okay?

ROSARIO

Just wet.

Nick slides down to join her at the bottom of the shaft. Rosario sweeps the light around... Then freezes.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

My God.

THEY SEE - A PILE OF BODIES in various states of decay. Hands and feet stick out of the brown plastic each body's wrapped in.

NICK.

I'm betting we found Tala Bacolor... And at least a dozen others.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. LIEUTENANT KOSLOW'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Koslow instructs his AIDE:

KOSLOW
The Chief's having trouble getting a
table at Firenze, remind me to call
Lorenzo... *Hand me the remote.*

A TV - that's been in the b.g. shows LOCAL NEWS. Koslow raises
the volume just in time to see Nick talking to the Press:

NICK
...I'd call you vultures, but even
they have a place in the food chain...

The clip's bannered: LAPD DETECTIVE ASSAILS FREE PRESS. The
Aide answers a call, then informs--

AIDE TO KOSLOW
Judge Bigelow's calling for you.

KOSLOW
(picking up)
Hello, Judge...

Bigelow begins a tirade. Off Koslow, increasingly stricken...

INT. L.A. CORONER OPERATORY - DAY

Covered bodies lie on stainless steel tables. Coroner ELEANOR
HALSEY is devoid of idiosyncrasies designed to make her
artificially quirky or amusing. She tells Nick and Rosario--

CORONER HALSEY
We worked through the night. Were
able to get autopsies done on Daniel
and Tala Bacolor, and do spot checks
on the others from the storm drain.

ROSARIO
I thought you were backlogged.

CORONER HALSEY
Terribly. But I expedited your case
after I heard about Detective Hannon
calling out Lieutenant Koslow
yesterday. It was inspiring.

NICK
Trust me, that was not my intention.

CORONER HALSEY
And I've always had a soft spot for
Detective Hannon. We've been through
some times.

Halsey and Nick share a quick look as she says that. Then, she gets down to business--

CORONER HALSEY (CONT'D)

The victims were all married couples who'd been reported missing. The husbands were all shot in the head and had their stomachs cut open, one assumes to retrieve drugs they swallowed. In Daniel Bacolor's case, that was a potent, synthetic fentanyl.

ROSARIO

And the wives?

CORONER HALSEY

Also shot in the head, no postmortem mutilation. And they all have ligature marks on their wrists and ankles.

ROSARIO

Okay, so they were held... to force their husbands to mule the drugs. That explains someone like Daniel Bacolor being involved.

CORONER HALSEY

But why would the people behind this go to all that trouble when there never seems to be a shortage of willing drug mules?

NICK

Good question. Let us know if the finals turn up anything.

CORONER HALSEY

Will do. Keep up the good work. There are a lot more Koslow's out there.

ROSARIO

You realize you just gave a pyromaniac one more reason to light a fire.

CORONER HALSEY

I'll bring the marshmallows.

EXT. L.A. CORONER - DAY

Nick and Rosario exit the building. She's looking at the Coroner's notes on her tablet, affected by the human toll:

ROSARIO

Drug traffickers managed to kill sixteen people over the last year, without law enforcement having a clue.

NICK

No surprise. Criminals are better funded, and if someone sucks at their job they get murdered, not promoted.

ROSARIO

I'm not seeing anything the couples have in common... all different ages, ethnicities, lived all over the State.

NICK

Something connects them. We figure out what, and we'll be closer to finding the people behind this.

ROSARIO

We need the missing persons files from all the local police departments. You think RACR can help us out?

INT. LAPD 1ST STREET HEADQUARTERS - RACR FACILITY - DAY

The Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Facility is housed in LAPD's newish headquarters on 1st Street. Workstations face a wall-sized screen. RACR Analyst MILO RIVERS answers the question Rosario posed on the cut--

MILO

The whole point of the RACR facility is we're directly networked with law enforcement agencies all over the country. So yes, we can pull the missing person files, and do it quickly. By the way, I'm Milo Rivers. Since neither of you asked.

ROSARIO

I'm sorry. My partner's probably not.

NICK

Correct.

ROSARIO

Milo, do you have powerful friends you could complain to if you were for instance antagonized by a co-worker?

MILO

No...

NICK

(to Rosario)

You win... Milo, nice to meet you.

MILO

Can someone please tell me what's going on right now?

Nick's cell rings.

NICK
Hannon... Understood, be right over.
(to Rosario)
Koslow wants to see me. His Aide warned
he was furious. This could be great news.

ROSARIO
I'll get started.

INT. LIEUTENANT KOSLOW'S OFFICE - DAY

Nick enters Koslow's office.

KOSLOW
I assume you know what this is about.

NICK
I've been busy, so it's kind of
multiple choice.

KOSLOW
You're only embarrassing yourself
with this behavior.

NICK
That's not strictly true, Sir. I'm
also embarrassing you.

KOSLOW
I asked the Department's lawyers about
firing you, they explained it triggers
your pension. So I realize what you're
up to.

NICK
Took you long enough.

KOSLOW
There are alternatives. I could knock
you back down to street patrol.

NICK
So I can be exposed to more of the
public? Good, that'll just speed the
whole process up.

KOSLOW
I can also put you on a desk.

NICK
And I'd be at the Station all day? It
would give us the chance to get so
much closer.
(leans forward)
Just man up and fire me. It's in both
our interests.

KOSLOW
Only the Chief can make that decision.

NICK

Okay, then just withdraw your nose from between his butt cheeks long enough to ask him.

KOSLOW

Managing my superiors is a necessary part of my job. And if I have to take the Chief and members of the Commission to ballgames to get the dollars or the political cover that this Station needs, then so be it. Even if it means people like you think less of me.

It's an honest and humanizing answer. Nick turns dead serious--

NICK

I'd feel better about that if the Department actually did its job and protected people who actually needed it. Instead of their own asses.

KOSLOW

(a beat; quietly:)
I've been wondering if this was about your witness. You know how sorry I am--

Cutting this right off, like he did with Rosario--

NICK

--My guess is you haven't gone to the Chief because you don't want to admit you have a problem. But you do, and it's not going away until I'm on my boat, far away from here.

Nick exits. Koslow looks in his drawer for aspirin.

INT. LAPD 1ST STREET HEADQUARTERS - RACR FACILITY - LATER

Nick and Milo pour over the murdered couples' case files--

MILO

I've looked at the data every way I know. The victims have zero in common. None of them are even interesting. No criminal records or black marks of any kind.

NICK

Maybe *that's* what they have in common. They're picked because they don't have anything on file that'll get them pulled over by customs.

MILO

Hm. Right. While your typical drug mule is statistically an addict who's committed crimes to feed their habit.

NICK

A lot of people have clean records.
The question's why *these* people. It
can't be random.

ROSARIO

It isn't.

They turn to look at Rosario, who's got dozens of photographs
open on the monitors in front of her.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

I've been going through the
photographic evidence. Trying to get
a sense of the *people*.

She puts a PHOTO on the main screen: Daniel and Tala Bacolor
clinking glasses in a toast.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

One of the pictures from the Bacolors'
screensaver. I wondered what they
were celebrating. And noticed *this*.

She ZOOMS IN on a PRINTED EMAIL on the table in front of the
Bacolors. Zooms closer so we can see:

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

An email they printed out, informing
them they'd won a free vacation.

NICK

To Mexico...

ROSARIO

And, I just found this in the file
for the couple from Riverside. They'd
left this on the kitchen table...

She puts another photo up on the big screen - zooms in one of
the items on their kitchen table. *It's the same email.*

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

They won the same trip. Can't be a
coincidence.

NICK

Good work. Milo, can you find out if
the other couples got that email?
And, who sent it?

MILO

As long as I can get into the victims'
email accounts. There should be
subpoenas on file.

Milo looks at the blowups of the emails on screen.

MILO (CONT'D)

Graphics are professional, so it was probably sent by one of the big spammers. The headers should tell us--
(zooms in on email)
Yep - it's Meadows.

EXT. INSANELY EXTRAVAGANT BEL-AIR MANSION - EVENING

Nick and Rosario park in the motor court of a Bel Air mansion. Walking toward the outrageous mansion--

NICK

How's there this much money in sending junk mail?

ROSARIO

From what I understand, spammers like Meadows somehow get their hands on millions of addresses--

NICK

--"Somehow" meaning illegally--

ROSARIO

--And companies that do mass mailings have to pay what he asks. Meadows is a big campaign fundraiser, so lawmakers aren't rushing to regulate his business.

NICK

He sounds like someone who *does* have powerful friends he can complain to.

ROSARIO

You'd better not screw up our best lead.

NICK

I have to continue to perform my duties in good faith, remember?

ROSARIO

(reads a text)
It's Milo. At least five of the couples got the "you won" email, and an earlier one offering them a chance to enter the contest for the trip. He's still looking at the remaining couples.

They ring the bell, a HOUSEKEEPER opens the door.

INT. INSANELY EXTRAVAGANT BEL-AIR MANSION

The library has been turned into an office with an antique desk and an incredible art collection: showy objet d'art and paintings.

Nick and Rosario have been waiting a while when ARNOLD MEADOWS enters. He's silver-haired, slick and wears high end L.A. COUNTRY CLUB sweats. Well, he would if we could clear it.

MEADOWS

Arnold Meadows. Sorry to keep you waiting, I was finishing a workout.

NICK

At least it was something important.

MEADOWS

Human beings are hunter gatherers, Detective. We evolved to always be on the move.

NICK

Then maybe you should start answering your own door.

ROSARIO

We're investigating the murder of sixteen people, all married couples.

MEADOWS

That's terrible.

NICK

At least five of the couples received emails sent by your company about a free vacation. We don't know exactly how the emails are connected to their deaths. But knowing who paid you to send them will help us figure it out.

MEADOWS

I don't release information about my customers.

ROSARIO

Other couples lives may be at risk. And we can get a subpoena.

MEADOWS

I'll fight it.

ROSARIO

Don't you care that innocent people were murdered with your company's involvement?

MEADOWS

There's something more important at risk here. *Privacy*. The right of an individual to keep the government out of their affairs.

(on a roll)

And believe me, the taxes I'm forced to pay to finance the handout state are all the tyranny I can handle.

ROSARIO

There are a lot of things I can say right now, but I won't for the sake of the case.

NICK

I will. And you know what I hate? Hypocrites. I mean, what about the privacy of the people you send spam, which they don't want and never asked for. Deleting it's ten minutes out of my day - do you know how much time you're costing everyone? Actually, looking at your collection, I can guess.

Nick lifts an ORNATE VASE off its display pedestal.

MEADOWS

Detective. That is a Ming Dynasty vase and it's worth more than you can imagine.

NICK

I'm impressed. But that's really the point of your collection, isn't it?

MEADOWS

Just please, put it down.

NICK

Okay.

Nick drops the vase on the hard marble floor. It SHATTERS into a GAZILLION SMALL PIECES. Rosario actually gasps.

NICK (CONT'D)

Oops.

MEADOWS

Do you realize what you've done!!!

ROSARIO

Nick--

NICK

This looks nice. And old.

Nick picks up a prerevolutionary French clock and shakes it.

MEADOWS

Alright! I'll tell you.

Meadows goes to his desk with printouts of the emails that Rosario gave him, signs into his laptop...

MEADOWS (CONT'D)

A man named Raymond Shaw paid to send the emails. Here's his information.

Rosario snaps a photo of his screen, nods stiffly to Nick.

MEADOWS (CONT'D)

I hope you enjoyed that, Detective.

NICK

I did.

MEADOWS

Because my next call is to the Mayor,
and you will not have a job by the
end of the day.

NICK

Promise?

EXT. INSANELY EXTRAVAGANT BEL-AIR MANSION

Nick and Rosario are shown out, he's on a call--

NICK

(into phone)

Just checked with the Station - the
address LAPD has for Raymond Shaw is
fake. Can you RACR into the other
agencies and see if they have anything?

INT. LAPD 1ST STREET HEADQUARTERS - RACR FACILITY - **INTERCUT**

Milo on his headset, looking at his screen--

MILO

Cross-linking now, and by the way,
RACR's not a verb. Found Shaw... drug
convictions going back, Fed and State.
(then)

None of the other agencies have an
address for him either. We can search
secondary systems, but you're looking
at an all-nighter.

NICK

I'll be there soon.

Nick ends the call, sees Rosario glaring at him.

ROSARIO

You look very pleased with yourself.

NICK

We made progress on all fronts - got
a break on the case, and Meadows is
calling the Mayor.

(an eye on his phone)

It looks like Ming vases go for seven
figures, so this could do it.

ROSARIO

Don't you realize when he calls the Mayor I could get the blame, too? Do you know how many women in my class have made Detective so far? *Me*. Do you have any idea how hard I worked for this?

Nick takes a beat, his mood sobered by this.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

Seriously - what were you thinking?!

NICK

I think the haves have convinced themselves they're the victims and that the have nots are the ones taking advantage, lies are the new truth, the people trying to enforce the law are the criminals and criminals like him are heroes. Everything's upside down.

ROSARIO

Koslow won't let me change partners in the middle of a case. But as soon as we close this or you get fired, whichever happens first, I am *done*.

She walks ahead to the car. On Nick, sobered by her reaction--

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - THAT NIGHT

Nick finishes pulling on fresh clothes and throws some SANDWICHES into a bag on his way back out. He opens his apartment door to find Stuart, the new neighbor's 14 year-old standing there.

STUART

Dude. You gotta help me.

NICK

With what?

STUART

A cheeseburger. A steak. Anything with meat. I'm dyin' here.

NICK

I'm on my way out.

STUART

Then tell me when. Please.

NICK

You had a Nick Cave shirt on the other night. What's your favorite song?

STUART

Into My Arms.

Nick has a reaction, covers.

NICK

Why?

STUART

I don't know, I like it. I'm trying to learn how to play it.

Nick reaches into his bag and hands Stuart one of the sandwiches--

NICK

Start with a ham sandwich, and then we'll talk.

INT. GRAND CENTRAL MARKET - THAT NIGHT

Rosario dines with her father, the dignified, old school ALESSANDRO at this collection of food stalls. A vendor hands him a plate of food--

VENDOR

Here you go, Councilman.

ALESSANDRO

Thank you.

Rosario has food from another place. They sit.

ALESSANDRO (CONT'D)

Every time I'm here another one of the old places is gone. Now there's gourmet pizza and ice cream and pastries... But if Tino's ever closes, then the city as we know it will have taken its last breath.

ROSARIO

You should still take a bite.

He takes a bite of her gourmet pizza. Smiles.

ALESSANDRO

Very good. You're like your mother. Open-hearted, more accepting of change. You know how proud she'd be if she could see you now, so brave and so smart?

Rosario squeezes his hand. A beat, then--

ALESSANDRO (CONT'D)

I know I'm not supposed to ask. But is there anyone new... Since Ben?

"Ben" said delicately. There's a bad breakup in her past.

ROSARIO

I've had dates... Most guys are intimidated by me being a cop. The rest go overboard the other way, and try too hard being *macho*.

ALESSANDRO

You'll meet someone who deserves you, it's just a matter of time. How's the job going?

ROSARIO

It was going great, until they pushed my partner's retirement out five years. Now he's trying to get fired by pissing people off.

ALESSANDRO

Like who?

ROSARIO

For starters? Reporters, Judge Bigelow, and a rich creep named Andrew Meadows.

ALESSANDRO

I know Meadows. Half of City Hall's feeding at his trough. At least your partner's taking on the right people.

ROSARIO

For the wrong reasons.

ALESSANDRO

So it's all an act?

ROSARIO

He's felt this way since I've known him, just never... Acted on it. He has a point - a lot of things are broken - but he has no hope... I thought it was because of something that went wrong for him on a case. But it's got to be more than that.

ALESSANDRO

How's the investigation going?

In some ways admitting this to herself for the first time:

ROSARIO

Actually, we're making a lot of progress.... I just hope we crack it before there are any more victims.

INT. A FREE CLINIC IN SOUTH L.A. - NIGHT

DR. CABE (60) tells a young BOY and his MOTHER:

DR. CABE
It's allergies. We'll start you on a
nasal spray.

MOTHER
Is the medication expensive?

DR. CABE
Melinda will give you samples on the
way out. We always have them in stock.

MOTHER
Thank you.

They exit as Cabe's phone rings, his wife Facetiming. Answering--

DR. CABE
Hi, I'm just wrapping up.

ON THE DOCTOR'S PHONE - the Facetime image resolves, and the
Doctor sees his wife EMILY CABE tied up in a dark place.

DR. CABE (CONT'D)
Emily!

MAN'S VOICE FROM PHONE (O.S.)
Shutup and listen. You're going to
take that vacation and do what you're
told or she dies. You go to the police,
she dies. Tell me you understand.

DR. CABE
(reeling)
Yes... Just please, don't hurt her...

Off both Cables, utterly terrified...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - MORNING - **FIVE YEARS AGO**

Nick and the Woman at breakfast, real estate listing on the table. We repeat the end of the earlier dream, then continue:

WOMAN

Give me your hand - hurry...

She takes Nick's hand... Places it on what we now see is her pregnant belly.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

You feel it?

NICK

...Yes.

Nick has a look of pure *wonder*. We've never seen it before.

INT. LAPD 1ST STREET HEADQUARTERS - RACR FACILITY - DAWN

Nick's nodded off for a moment, Milo wakes him. Both have worked through the night--

MILO

Looking at traffic cameras was a good idea. We just got a facial recognition match on Shaw.

Nick shakes off the dream. Texts: "Found him. Pick u up in 20."

EXT. ROSARIO'S APARTMENT - DAY / INT. UNMARKED SEDAN

Nick pulls up outside an old Spanish courtyard apartment. High rises are going up on either side. Rosario hands out stacks of FLIERS to RESIDENTS assembled in the courtyard. She sees Nick. Walking to his car, she tells the residents in subtitled Spanish:

ROSARIO

Put them in everybody's mailbox! Two blocks in every direction!

Rosario gets in the sedan.

NICK

Let me guess. You're organizing a protest against fur coats, plastic straws and gluten.

ROSARIO

The landlord's raising the rent beyond what people can afford because he has to pay for a new roof. I'm seeing if the neighborhood can help us fix it ourselves.

NICK

In my experience, you can always count on people not to rise to the occasion.

ROSARIO

It's like getting into a car with a big, dark raincloud.

NICK

And the roof's an excuse. The neighborhood's gentrifying and the landlord wants to cash in.

ROSARIO

There are more genuinely good souls in this world than you think.

NICK

Unicorns and leprechauns, too.

INT. POLICE CHIEF HAWLEY'S OFFICE

Koslow sits with POLICE CHIEF RICHARD HAWLEY, an older man who radiates wisdom, patience and integrity.

KOSLOW

The complaints are getting worse. Hannon's escalating. Like a serial killer. I hate to give him what he wants, Chief. But it's our only choice.

CHIEF HAWLEY

The problem is there are 382 other cops who were also about to retire and now have to stay on. Fire Detective Hannon for bad behavior and the very next day every one of those cops will be trying to top him. It would be untenable. I hope you understand.

Koslow is deflated, but puts on a front for the Chief.

KOSLOW

Of course, Sir.

CHIEF HAWLEY

You'll just have to hope you can catch him committing an actual felony, or circumstances otherwise change.
(beat)

And, Bob. Keep in mind that people eventually do get what they deserve.

Said with a twinkle in his eye, and we wonder in that moment if the Chief has Koslow's number. Koslow wonders the same.

EXT. SOUTH L.A. STREET / INT. SEDAN - DAY

Nick and Rosario park in front of red-tagged apartment buildings:

NICK

We tracked Shaw to this block but we couldn't determine which building he's in... What do we know about him?

ROSARIO

(looking at tablet)
He's a programmer, self-taught. DEA thinks he freelances for the cartels. Still waiting for the complete file, but he has no history of violent crime. I doubt he's actually committing the murders.

NICK

Won't be a problem making an ID.

Nick is looking at the PICTURE OF SHAW she's scrolled to. He's covered in tattoos, including one that SPANS HIS ENTIRE FACE.

NICK (CONT'D)

Guess no one ever explained the concept of "permanent decisions."

As they get out of the car--

ROSARIO

People like Shaw don't think about the long term. He's a heavy user, probably has friends who died young. Assumes the same'll happen to him.

Nick nods, appreciating her point. Then--

NICK

Last night - you were right. I haven't been thinking about how hard you worked to get here. I know how much the job means to do you, and I'll do my best to make sure I'm the only one who gets the blame.

She doesn't answer. Nick approaches a HOMELESS MAN sitting in the opening of his tent. Hands him a FIVE--

NICK (CONT'D)

Sir. Have you seen this man going in or around any of these buildings?

He shows Shaw's photo to the Homeless Man, who takes the five bucks but shakes his head. Nick stands. Rosario kneels.

ROSARIO

I can help you get to a shelter.

HOMELESS MAN

I don't know who you're looking for.

ROSARIO

That doesn't matter, I'm happy to make some calls.

HOMELESS MAN

Safer out here than in a shelter. Mostly I could use some food.

Rosario rummages in her bag, holds out a couple protein bars.

ROSARIO

I'll see if I can get Meals on Wheels here. Check on you in a couple days.

He takes the bars, nods his thanks. She stands, joins Nick.

NICK

Let's find a vantage point up the block. See if Shaw shows.

HOMELESS MAN

--Brick building over there. That's where your man's squatting.

ROSARIO

Thank you.

NICK

Nicely done - the compassionate angle.

ROSARIO

It wasn't an *angle*.

INT. RED-TAGGED BUILDING

Nick and Rosario move past doorless one room apartments. The uneven floor creaks, alerting RAYMOND SHAW, who bolts out of an apartment and up a stairwell. They give chase - Nick gets a hand on Shaw's shirt - but A DECREPIT STAIR crumbles under him and Shaw runs off, shirt ripped away.

Nick yanks his foot out of the hole in the stair and continues the chase with Rosario. They see FOOTPRINTS in the dust leading out of the stairwell, so they know what floor he's on. They also see the FIRE AXE has been removed from its mounting.

ANOTHER FLOOR - IN A DOORLESS APARTMENT

Shaw waits by the door, holding the axe. He hears footsteps. Raises the axe. When he hears Nick and Rosario almost upon him, he steps out and swings the axe as hard as he can--

--Into the metal fire extinguisher Nick took off the wall for this purpose. The axe rips open a hole in the extinguisher, Shaw is sprayed with the white foam that spews out. As they cuff him, he manages to croak:

SHAW

Lawyer.

INT. WESTSIDE STATION - OUTSIDE INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Nick, Rosario and Jessica look into the interview room, where a PUBLIC DEFENDER (P.D.) hands Shaw a new shirt. As Shaw puts it on, we see a TATTOO OF A WOMAN covering his back, labeled "MOM."

JESSICA

We know that five of the murdered couples being offered free vacations can't be a coincidence.

ROSARIO

RACR just found the emails in the remaining three couples' accounts.

JESSICA

Okay, but that's still not proof, especially when the emails may have gone to millions of people. Which is probably what Shaw's Public Defender is telling him.

ROSARIO

So Shaw has no reason to cooperate.

NICK

Not unless we give him one.

JESSICA

I don't know what that means, but coming from you it worries me.

ROSARIO

That's a good instinct.

JESSICA

If I could, I'd bar you from the interview.

NICK

If I could, I'd bar myself from my job.

JESSICA

Threatening Shaw like you did with Bigelow won't work. We have no leverage.

NICK

He swung an axe at us. Assault on a cop is five years, automatic.

JESSICA

Not when there are no other witnesses, and he can claim self defense.

Then the interview room opens, and the P.D. gestures to Jessica. She moves to talk to him, as--

ROSARIO

Got the rest of Shaw's file. He's actually a trust fund kid. Dad died when he was three, his Mom raised him on her own. Then he ran away at fifteen and there's no sign he's talked to her since. I can't imagine how that would feel as a Mom...

(beat)

You ever think about it? Getting married, having kids?

NICK

Came close on both.

ROSARIO

What happened?

NICK

It didn't work out.

Which Nick says after a beat, with great difficulty. Rosario wonders about this, as Jessica returns from talking to the P.D.

JESSICA

Shaw's P.D. needs half an hour.

Nick checks the time, then leaves without saying anything. Unsure what's going on with him, Rosario tells Jessica--

ROSARIO

He'll be back.

JESSICA

That's unfortunate.

EXT. DOWNTOWN L.A. STREET

Nick exits the courthouse, crosses the street to the--

EXT. L.A. COUNTY CORONER'S BUILDING - ROOF

Coroner Halsey eats her lunch, looking out at the city. She hears the door clang open, smiles when she sees Nick.

NICK

Was hoping you'd be here.

CORONER HALSEY

Creature of habit. It's been a while.

NICK

I'm... dreaming about it lately. I'm not sure why.

She thinks. Then, speaking from what you sense is her own experience--

CORONER HALSEY
I've found the more you try to run
from the past, the more it keeps pace.
Until you really are ready to let go.

A beat.

NICK
I'm going to sit for a while.

CORONER HALSEY
Please.

He sits next to her, looks at the city, lost in his own thoughts.

INT. WESTSIDE STATION - OUTSIDE INTERVIEW ROOM

Jessica exits the interview room, tells Rosario--

JESSICA
He's ready for us to talk to Shaw.

ROSARIO
(texting...)
Nick's on his way.

JESSICA
I've never met anyone so sick of the
job. Do you have any idea why?

Rosario takes a beat, then--

ROSARIO
We've only worked together a year,
since I made detective. But I asked
around.
(beat)
Five years ago Nick built a case
against the 14K Triad. I don't know
the details, but one of his witnesses,
someone who'd seen a drive-by, was
murdered before they could testify.

JESSICA
They weren't under police protection?

ROSARIO
They were, but something went wrong,
and the Department may have covered
it up. Up to that point, Nick had
been a rising star - was offered the
Lieutenant job. But he turned it down
after what happened, Koslow got the
promotion and Nick's been counting
the days.
(beat)
Why are you asking?

JESSICA
Not for personal reasons, if that's
where you were going.

ROSARIO
(she was)
I wasn't.

JESSICA
I have a great kid and a great job
which leaves no time for anything or
anyone else. Especially someone like
him.

Nick enters, looks between them and senses he just missed
something. His mood's shifted, he looks like a man with a plan.

NICK
I'm ready.

INT. WESTSIDE STATION - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Shaw sits next to his P.D., arms folded. Nick, Rosario and
Jessica are on the opposite side of the table.

ROSARIO
Sixteen people are dead. All of them
received emails you paid Arnold Meadows
to send: an initial one offering a
chance at a trip, then a subsequent
email informing them they'd won.

SHAW
I got nothing to do with that.

ROSARIO
The murders are related to a drug
smuggling operation. Opiates, which
you have personal experience with.

SHAW
Don't know nothing about that either.
(to the P.D.)
We done?

PUBLIC DEFENDER
You don't have genuinely actionable
evidence against my client. So unless
there's anything else...

Nick's been quiet, thinking... He decides on a course of action:

NICK
I'd like to make a comment. That Mr.
Shaw is stupid and useless.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
Excuse me?

JESSICA
What did I tell you...

ROSARIO

What are you doing--

NICK

You're a programmer, you can get a job anywhere. But you're holed up in a squat - born with a silver spoon, and all that you could think to do with it was cook heroin. I bet your mother's real proud.

SHAW

Don't talk about my mother.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

This conversation's over.

NICK

I wonder what it's like going through childbirth and having a kid turn out like *you*.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

This is unacceptable.

ROSARIO

Nick, *stop*.

SHAW

I said don't talk about--

NICK

I'm going to track her down, and let her know her son's an addict who helps murder innocent people. Maybe she'll be too ashamed to admit you're hers...

SHAW

Bastard!

Shaw launches himself out of his chair, SLUGS Nick in the jaw, knocking him back. Rosario gets Shaw in a lock as Nick gets up off the floor, looks at the CAMERA in the ceiling recording this and *smiles*. Jessica realizes the opening he created--

JESSICA

Your client just assaulted an officer of the law.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

He was provoked.

JESSICA

But he's the one who got physical. That's five years, no parole.

SHAW

Is that true?

PUBLIC DEFENDER

(glaring)
Yes.

JESSICA

However if we get convictions based on information your client shares, the Detective will forget about the assault and I'll recommend leniency. He might even avoid jail, which he won't for assaulting an officer.

NICK

Doubt you'll even get bail. So cold turkey starts now. Ouch.

That really panics Shaw. He and the P.D. confer in whispers.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

He'll cooperate.

ON SHAW - MOMENTS LATER

SHAW

Barrio 19 kept losing product because their mules fit, y'know, a profile, so they asked me for help. I came up with the contest, wrote up an email with questions you had to answer for a chance at a free trip. Then I filtered the responses.

NICK

For couples who'd never had a problem with the law, or anything else that might get them flagged by customs.

ROSARIO

And whose relatives or kids live out of town.

Both of them take those intuitive leaps, and they're right--

SHAW

Uh-huh. Then I'd send the couple an email they won and give Barrio 19 their info. I never knew what happened after.

ROSARIO

Because you didn't want to know.

NICK

We want a list of the names you sent Barrio 19.

Shaw looks to the P.D., who nods.

SHAW

I didn't keep a list. But I remember the last couple I gave them. A doctor and his wife in Encino. Name's Cabe.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
I'll see if I can jog my client's
memory further. As soon as I'm done
filing a formal complaint against
Detective Hannon.

NICK
H-a-n-n-o-n.

INT. LIEUTENANT KOSLOW'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Later, Nick and Rosario report to Koslow:

NICK
Dr. Jonathan Cabe left for Mexico
yesterday and is booked on a return
flight arriving tomorrow at Noon.
We're trying to find his wife Emily,
but it doesn't look good.

KOSLOW
So Barrio 19 already has them in play.

ROSARIO
We're assuming they'll keep Emily
alive until her husband returns. But
we don't know that for certain.

KOSLOW
What do you propose?

Rosario nods to Nick - they've discussed this.

NICK
We take Dr. Cabe aside before customs.
He tells us where he's supposed to
rendezvous with the people who did
this. Then we arrest them and get
Cabe to a hospital.

KOSLOW
Barrio 19 might go to ground when the
Doctor doesn't show up on time. And
then we've lost our shot at them.

ROSARIO
What's the alternative?

KOSLOW
We wait for the Doctor to lead us to
the suspects before arresting them.

ROSARIO
That puts the Cabes at much greater
risk.

KOSLOW
Possibly.
(MORE)

KOSLOW (CONT'D)

But it definitely increases our chance of apprehending the suspects. If we don't, they'll just find another Raymond Shaw and keep going.

NICK

Which won't look good for your career.

KOSLOW

I'm trying to protect the Department.

ROSARIO

I thought our job's to protect the *Cabes*.

Nick and Rosario are united on this... but it doesn't matter.

KOSLOW

I've made my decision. Meet SWAT at the airport in the morning.

Off Nick and Rosario, not happy with the plan...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. LAX TERMINAL - NEXT DAY

A utility "box" van is parked in front of the terminal.

INT. UTILITY BOX VAN

Armed LAPD SWAT guys are crammed into bench seats on both sides of the van. A SWAT Commander up front scans monitors.

SWAT COMMANDER
(into headset)
Detective Quinn. Anything?

INT. LAX CUSTOMS AND BAGGAGE AREA - DAY

Rosario loiters by the gate, pretending to read something. Quietly, into her earpiece:

ROSARIO
Passengers are lining up... I have a
visual on the subject.

DOCTOR CABE - steps up to a CUSTOMS OFFICER. Hiding nerves, he watches his passport scanned, then he's waved through.

The Customs Officer throws a sideways look to Rosario, confirming she sees Cabe. She nods, discreetly follows.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)
He's heading out. I'm on him.

SWAT COMMANDER (O.S.)
Detective Hannon, anything?

EXT. LAX TERMINAL

Nick outside the terminal. He looks like he's waiting for a shuttle but he's really scanning passing cars.

NICK
(into earpiece)
Nothing. But they've pulled this off
enough times they won't be obvious.

EXT. LAX PARKING LOT / INT. SUV - DAY

An SUV with tinted windows is full of GANG MEMBERS. They're in a lot with a view of the terminal. The driver is SPIDER.

SPIDER
(into bluetooth)
Doc should be out any minute.

INT. ABANDONED REPAIR GARAGE SOMEWHERE - **INTERCUT**

The extravagantly-muscled BENCH is on the other end of the call. He's the one who called Dr. Cabe earlier. Emily Cabe is restrained in a chair. Black plastic is laid out on the garage floor just out of her sight. Never a good sign.

BENCH

Call when you're on your way back.
And remember. There was ever gonna be
trouble, it's after what happened
with the last one.

INT. SUV - MOVING - DAY

Staying on this side of the call:

BENCH (O.S.)

Anyone gets in your way, don't hold
nothing back. We lose a second
shipment, we're done anyway.

SPIDER

(to his men)
Cock it and lock it. Could be war.

The Gang Members reach for SERIOUS WEAPONRY at their feet as--

EXT. LAX TERMINAL

Cabe emerges, Nick picks up the tail, Rosario drops back. Cabe gets a text. As Cabe reads it, Nick walks past and gets a look.

NICK

(into earpiece)
Subject was just directed to Parking C.

INT. UTILITY BOX VAN

The SWAT COMMANDER tells the Driver and his men.

SWAT COMMANDER

(to his men)
Redeploy to parking C. Subject is on
the move, white shirt, tan jacket.

The Van pulls away from the front of the terminal, on its way to the parking area.

EXT. LAX PARKING LOT

Dr. Cabe wipes a sheen of sweat off his forehead, enters the lot and looks around. The tinted SUV FLASHES its headlights. Cabe walks toward it. Nick, still following, sees it too.

NICK

(into earpiece)
SUV, third row in.

SWAT COMMANDER (O.S.)
We see it. We're entering the lot.

INT. SUV

Spider relieved to see Doctor Cabe walking toward them. Then he registers the VAN speeding toward them.

SPIDER
Gray van! Take it out!

EXT. LAX PARKING LOT

Cabe is walking to the SUV when its doors fly open and the Gang Members spill out, raising their weapons at:

THE VAN - turns and brakes. The SWAT Guys roll out and engage.

BOTH SIDES FIRE - the windows of parked cars explode, hoods and fenders SPARK and DENT as gunfire punches the vehicles.

A LINE OF BULLETS - from a Gang Member's automatic weapon chews across a car and is about to hit Doctor Cabe when...

NICK - leaps and throws Cabe to the ground, covering him with his body. Nick manages to fire at the shooter and disable him.

NICK
Get behind the car and stay there.

DR. CABE
Please - they have my wife.

NICK
Now, Doctor.

Cabe registers Nick knows who he is, follows instructions. Nick joins the battle as--

THE SWAT GUYS - continue to exchange fire with the Gang Members, but the tide of battle is turning in our favor.

ROSARIO - has been engaging the gang members but right now she's pinned down behind a column and can't get shots off.

ANOTHER GANG MEMBER - goes down, which inspires the second to last Gang Member to drop his gun and surrender.

SPIDER - exchanges fire with Nick and advances at an angle that'll neutralize Nick's cover. Nick realizes that, and--

NICK MOVES - for new cover but Spider shoots him in the chest. Nick's vest takes the round but it knocks him back on the ground.

SPIDER - moves in for the kill shot. Nick levers himself up to fire at Spider - but the SLIDE ON HIS GUN LOCKS OPEN, he's out. Spider raises his weapon, about to finish Nick off, then there's--

A SHOT - blood sprays from Spider's shoulder, the impact spins him around and sends him to the ground in pain.

REVEAL ROSARIO - gun aimed at Spider as she calls to Nick--

ROSARIO
You alright?

NICK
Good!

A SWAT GUY - grabs Spider as Nick and Rosario run to DR. CABE, who is in shock and terrified.

ROSARIO
We're getting you to a hospital.

DR. CABE
They - they said they'd kill Emily if
I went to the police...

ROSARIO
We'll find her.

An AMBULANCE pulls up, PARAMEDICS hop out. Rosario moves to update them. And when she's out of earshot...

NICK LEANS AND WHISPERS - in Dr. Cabe's ear. Cabe meets Nick's eyes and nods.

Then, the Paramedics whisk Cabe away. Looking at the cars whizzing past the parking lot--

NICK
Chances are someone shot this with
their phone and will post it.

ROSARIO
And if Barrio 19 has someone guarding
Emily Cabe, and I bet they do--

NICK
--It's only a matter of time before
they find out about this.

They reach the Gang Members who are being cuffed and treated under the watchful eyes of the SWAT Guys. To all of them:

NICK (CONT'D)
We know you took the Doctor's wife.
Whoever tells us where she is gets a
chance at not being locked up the
rest of their life. First one to talk
gets the prize. Come on. *Now.*

They glare at Nick and stay silent. Omerta.

NICK (CONT'D)
We need their phones!

A SWAT Guy runs up with an evidence bag with their phones. Nick and Rosario glove up, grab phones.

NICK (CONT'D)
We're looking for one that unlocks
with face ID, not a PIN.

They work through the phones. Get down to the last one. Rosario taps and yes - it asks for Face ID. A Gang Member turns his head away, his defiance a tell.

ROSARIO
Him.

Nick yanks that guy's head up, Rosario aims the phone, it unlocks.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)
Checking the nav app... They visited
an address near the Arts District a
dozen times over the last year. It's
our best bet, but that's all it is.

NICK
Possible location on the hostage!
Whoever you can spare!

Nick and Rosario run, commandeering an unmarked sedan.

NICK (CONT'D)
Hang on.

They're pressed back into their seats as Nick peels out.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - DAY

The sedan, siren wailing and grill lights flashing, races through an intersection so fast cars barely have time to pull over.

INT. UNMARKED SEDAN

Rosario holds on for dear life as she scans social media sites on a laptop, looking for signs of the shootout.

ROSARIO

Looking under the most obvious
hashtags, nothing about the airport
yet.

NICK

By the way. Thanks for saving my life.

ROSARIO

Try not to repay the favor by killing
us.

She braces herself as Nick takes a turn, fast. Looking in the rearview, he sees a SWAT vehicle getting more distant--

NICK

They're falling behind.

ROSARIO

Because you're going ninety--

Nick turns again, cutting the wheel sharply. He *almost* makes a perfect turn. He scrapes a line of parked cars, sheers off mirrors and shreds the side of their car.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

--And they don't want *that* to happen.
(looks at laptop)
Someone posted a clip of us making
arrests. KLCS already tagged it...

NICK

Only a matter of time before they put
it out live...

ROSARIO

It's up and Whitaker's reporting on it.
Hope whoever's holding Emily Cabe isn't
checking the news.

NICK

If you were supposed to hear from the
guys at the airport by now, isn't
that exactly what you'd be doing?

INT. ABANDONED REPAIR GARAGE SOMEWHERE - DAY

Bench is pacing, trying Spider's cell for the nth time.

BENCH

Where are you...

Bench lowers the phone and glares at Emily as if this is her fault. Then, he starts checking his phone.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS / INT. UNMARKED SEDAN - DAY.

Nick white knuckles the wheel, not taking his eyes off the road. Rosario keeps scanning and reports:

ROSARIO

(*shit*)

The clip's everywhere.

INT. ABANDONED REPAIR GARAGE SOMEWHERE - DAY

Bench sees, on his phone, the CLIP of his guys getting arrested. Furious, he stuffs cash that's laying around into his pockets. Then he picks up his gun and walks to Emily.

BENCH

Look away.

Emily finds her strength, defiantly refuses to look away.

EMILY

Go to hell.

Bench raises his gun to kill her, when outside we hear an ENGINE REVVING high. Bench frowns - WTF? Then--

THE UNMARKED SEDAN PUNCHES RIGHT THROUGH the garage door, metal TEARING and SHRIEKING. Nick brakes into a controlled 90° skid that ends with the car facing Bench as he and Rosario roll out of the sedan and aim their guns at Bench.

NICK

You're thinking suicide by cop, I've got other ideas.

Nick lowers the gun and aims it at Bench's crotch.... Bench caves immediately, drops the gun and puts his hands in the air. Nick secures Bench while Rosario rushes to Emily.

ROSARIO

Everything's alright, we've got your husband, he's okay...

Rosario cuts Emily's restraints. Looks over at Nick, who is frisking Bench. Their eyes meet.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)

Nice job.

They hold their look a moment longer, then Nick clicks the cuffs.

NICK
Now take a wild guess about who has
the right to remain silent...

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Cheeseburgers half-eaten on paper plates, Nick teaches Stuart to play Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds' "Into My Arms." Stuart has his own battered guitar, Nick's came from an opened moving box.

NICK
It starts with an F, a C, then repeat.

STUART
How long you been playing?

NICK
High school. I thought it would help
with girls. But I just ended up
spending more time alone, practicing.

Stuart watches Nick's fingers as he talks/sings-

NICK (CONT'D)
*I don't believe in the existence of
angels, but looking at you I wonder
if that's true. But if I did I would
summon them together, and ask them to
watch over you...*

INT. ROSARIO'S APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

Rosario woken up by a knock at her door. She opens it to see
GABRIEL - a handsome guy her age holding a toolkit.

GABRIEL
Hey. I live down the street - got
some people together to help.
(off her look)
With the roof. I've got an hour or
two before I have to go to work.

ROSARIO
Me, too.

GABRIEL
I'm Gabriel.

INT. JESSICA'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Jessica on a call about the Barrio 19 guys:

JESSICA
 (into phone)
 They all had the chance to save Emily
 Cabe's life and they all declined. No
 deals, no bail, I'm taking every one
 of the cases all the way.

She ends the call as her Assistant pokes her head in:

ASSITANT TO JESSICA
 Tracked down that file - got a hard
 copy from the archive.

Jessica takes the file. As Jessica pages through it, we realize it's NICK'S 14K TRIAD CASE, the one Rosario told her about.

Jessica reaches a section about the witness who was murdered before they could testify. Jessica flips a page and--

PHOTOS REVEAL - *the murdered witness was the pregnant woman from Nick's dream.* Her name was Blake Campbell. In the first photo she has a great smile. In the second she's been shot dead.

ON JESSICA - more curious about Nick than she admitted...

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - **FIVE YEARS AGO**

Nick Cave's rendition of "Into My Arms" plays on a stereo as our Nick and the Woman/Blake, lie in bed, listening.

NICK CAVE
*I believe in some kind of path that
 we can walk down, me and you. So keep
 your candles burning... and guide me
 into your arms.*

The song plays on as--

INT. L.A. CORONER OPERATORY - DAY - **FIVE YEARS AGO**

Nick with Coroner Halsey, who pulls back the sheet covering a body. We don't get a good look at the body, but can tell it's Blake. Nick grits his teeth.

CORONER HALSEY
 She your witness?

Nick clenches his jaw. Manages a nod. Halsey looks between the body and Nick, feels the emotion pouring off him. She realizes the dead woman had become much more than a witness to Nick.

CORONER HALSEY (CONT'D)
 Nick. I'm so sorry.

EXT. WESTSIDE STATION - **NOW**

Nick opens his eyes. The song ends. He's in his car and Rosario's tapping on his window. He gets out.

ROSARIO
How long you been here?

NICK
A while. Couldn't sleep... Let's do it.

Rosario takes off a Carhartt jacket, brushes dust off herself.

NICK (CONT'D)
What've you been up to?

ROSARIO
People are donating time and materials, and we started fixing the roof this morning. The landlord confirmed he'd hold rents where they are. Sorry, I know you're disappointed.

NICK
Devastated.

INT. WESTSIDE STATION - OUTSIDE KOSLOW'S OFFICE - DAY

Nick and Rosario approach Koslow's office. To the Aide:

NICK
Lieutenant Koslow wants to see us.

AIDE TO KOSLOW
Especially you, Detective. He'll be a minute.

NICK
Thanks. Been nice working with you.

Nick sits next to Rosario.

ROSARIO
You're sure you're getting fired?

NICK
I just got a formal email listing all the complaints. And the unmarked car I drove through the garage door'll cost sixty grand to replace. On top of all the other cars I damaged.

ROSARIO
(dryly)
Hooray.

NICK
Listen. It's obvious, but I was too wrapped up in wanting off the force to notice.

(MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)

You have instincts for people that'll make you a better cop than I ever was. Hang in there and you'll go all the way to the top, if that's what you want.

She smiles. Touched. Then--

AIDE TO KOSLOW

He's ready.

INT. LIEUTENANT KOSLOW'S OFFICE - DAY

Nick and Rosario enter. Koslow has a dead serious expression. Nick can barely contain his excitement. He takes off his gun and badge, puts them on Koslow's desk.

NICK

Here you go, Sir.

Koslow gives Nick a long, inscrutable look... Nick tries hard not to smile... Rosario watches it all... Then--

KOSLOW

Take them back.

NICK

I'm sorry, what?

KOSLOW

You're keeping your badge and gun.

NICK

I don't understand. How is that possible?

Koslow doesn't look any happier than Nick--

KOSLOW

Rescuing the Cabes and taking down Barrio 19 generated some of the best press the Department's had in years. Information recovered from the gang members' homes is expected to put a serious dent in drug trafficking well beyond this case. The Chief's pleased.

ROSARIO

That's good news, Sir.

KOSLOW

Yes. Isn't it.

Koslow looks miserable. Nick can't hold back anymore--

NICK

What about all the damage I did?

KOSLOW
Insurance covered the cars.

NICK
Okay, fine. But that Ming Vase was
worth a fortune.

KOSLOW
It turned out to be a fake, something
that was only obvious after you broke
it. Meadows got his money back and
made a generous donation to the Mayor's
reelection campaign. So the Mayor's
happy, too.

Koslow takes a beat. Then, not able to conceal his displeasure--

KOSLOW (CONT'D)
So he and the Chief are issuing
official commendations to you both.

ROSARIO
Thank you, Lieutenant.

NICK
A commendation! That's ridiculous!

KOSLOW
I agree. And it brings to mind a
comment someone recently made about
people ultimately getting what they
deserve. Upon reflection I'm not clear
which one of us it was meant for.

Koslow revealing just a bit more self knowledge than we expect.

KOSLOW (CONT'D)
Now, can I assume you're going to
continue trying to get fired?

NICK
My work has just begun.

Koslow turns to Rosario--

KOSLOW
I'm stuck with Detective Hannon for
now but there's no reason you should
be. I approved your request for a new
partner. You'll work with Detective
Miller. He's responsible and buttoned-
down.

ROSARIO
Actually, Sir, after giving it some
thought, I'd like to continue working
with Detective Hannon.

Koslow and Nick, who momentarily emerges from wallowing in his disappointment, are both surprised.

NICK

What?

KOSLOW

Are you sure?

ROSARIO

Positive.

EXT. MARINA DEL RAY / NICK'S BOAT - EVENING

Nick and Rosario on the deck of his 30 foot sailboat, named "See Ya." They sip iced tea, or whatever the amber liquid is.

NICK

I don't understand you. Koslow gave you an out.

ROSARIO

We saved lives - because of everything you did. You went after the system. Stood up to the people in power.

NICK

Because it was the best way to get fired.

ROSARIO

It'll always be that. And with them obviously not rushing to fire you, it's a kind of superpower. You're an agent of change, whether you like it or not. So I'm along for the ride, even it means sometimes I'll have to hang on tight. Until you do something that blows up in your face, which I'm sure one day you will.

(beat)

And you can tell me what you did to rescue Emily Cabe - speeding, risking your life - was about breaking rules. But I know it was because you *do* care.

NICK

About raising anchor, that's it.

ROSARIO

Then what did you whisper to Dr. Cabe at the airport? I saw you comfort him.

NICK

No idea what you're talking about.

ROSARIO

Why can't you just admit saving them felt good and getting fired
(MORE)

ROSARIO (CONT'D)
isn't the most important thing in
the world. I understand you want to
move on from what happened to your
witness, but that doesn't mean you
have to leave everything else behind,
too.

Rosario's hit on something, but doesn't know the full story.

NICK
It's not that simple.

ROSARIO
Then explain it to me.

He takes a sip of his drink and look out at the water. He's not
about to do that. Then, he gets a TEXT... and a smile forms.

ROSARIO (CONT'D)
What?

NICK
This is good. Looks like an
"influencer" killed his girlfriend.
And now the time-wasting, empty-headed
social parasite is barricaded in his
McMansion and streaming live on his
"channel."

ROSARIO
Imagine what you can do with that.

NICK
Exactly.

ROSARIO
And, nice job making assumptions about
someone you've never met.

NICK
Thank you.
(he stands)
Ready?

ROSARIO
The question is, are you?

NICK
Oh yeah.

As they move off the boat and to their sedan...

END OF SHOW