

SPAWN

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Based on the Comic from IMAGE COMICS
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Credit Tile: **SPAWN** (white letters on black)

We stay in black and hear a gunshot, then the sound of someone crashing into furniture.

SMASH CUT:

INT. - APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

A young **ROBBER**, waiting in the hallway, hears a struggle inside an apartment door. Moments later the door flies open and a masked man, carrying an assault rifle, bursts into the hallway, running past his companion.

The young robber looks inside and see an older man over the limp body of his wife. The old man looks at the robber and screams in agony. The robber pulls on a black ski mask.

ROBBER

What'd you do?

(follows his companion)

What the fuck did you do in there!?

They navigate their way through the apartment building as an alarm goes off. They're breathing heavy as they run downstairs and out the...

EXT. - CITY STREET - NIGHT

...front doors to a deserted street somewhere in Los Angeles. They rush to a parked car, throwing their guns in the trunk where dozens of other high-powered weapons lay.

The men jump in their car and pull away. They rip off their masks and we see the driver is covered with blood. The young robber, not driving, nervously looks behind for any traces they're being followed. As they speed down the streets they hear, then see, a police car with its siren blaring heading towards them. They slow the car down as the police car flies by them. The driver looks to his friend. That was close.

The car stops in front of an older house. As the young robber gets out the **DRIVER** grabs his arm...

DRIVER

We did good tonight.

The car screeches away.

INT. - OLD HOUSE - NIGHT

The robber heads to his bathroom to splash water on his face to settle his nerves. He turns on a TV, lights a cigarette then grabs head phones and flops on his bed, which is draped in a bright red quilt. He listens to his music, casually looking at the news images on the television. Music plays over scene as he begins to drift off.

Later, curtains in the room begin to shimmy, posters on the wall vibrate and on the wall behind the bed thick, black oil begins to ooze down the wall. Then a LOUD BANG! The robber wakes, sitting up as a cockroach skitters across his bed and under a pillow. He lifts the pillow where a dozen more roaches crawl. Before he does anything...

...the black film engulfs his face trying to suffocate him. We hear muffled screams as he flails about. Then his body starts to vibrate like he's having a grand mal seizure!

Camera above, he starts to sink into his own bed as if he's laying in quicksand. What's going on!? Blankets are pulled downward too, until the panicked robber is ultimately swallowed into the mattress. The room goes quiet save for the low volume of the TV. Then...

The robber's head snaps out of the mattress! He's gasping for air like a man drowning but a black, taloned hand violently pulls him back under.

We pan to the TV as its volume begins to grow...

TV ANNOUNCER

...police are on the scene of a brutal slaying tonight four blocks north of downtown Los Angeles. The victims were a retired couple, both in their seventies. No motive has yet been given but police have released a photo of this man. Neighbors say he recently lived in the same building...

The TV screen shows an image of the driver we just saw from the car.

Suddenly the TV news report jumps to another violent story on a different channel, then another and another. Faster and faster. They're all stories of sadistic, evil actions told in dozens of languages from all around the world until the sound turns to static.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. - LONELY STREET - DUSK

SUPER: **NEW YORK**

EXT. - SMALL RUNDOWN HOUSE - DUSK

The street is mostly deserted. Only a few cars are seen on this cold day. From the back of a van we get close-ups of guns being grabbed, bullet proof vests being adjusted and other images of police equipment being checked by a handful of detectives and police officers.

DETECTIVE MAX "TWITCH" WILLIAMS, blows on his cold hands then signals a few of his men to start flanking the front door. Detective Williams stands to the side as he knocks on the door.

TWITCH
N.Y.P.D. Open up, Billy.

Nothing. A few police move to better positions. Twitch knocks again. A few silent seconds before...BLAM! A shotgun blast shatters the front door coming from the inside.

Police scramble. Twitch dives to the ground but can't see anyone in the house. He fires a few shots for cover as two officers storm the house. Then two more. Drugs and guns are scattered in one room. Twitch runs down a hall kicking open doors with cover behind him. An assailant takes a shot with his last bullet. Twitch has him dead to right as the criminal tries to reload, but instead of taking the easy 'kill shot' he instead shoots the criminal in the knee.

He hears a shootout on the other side of the house then sees a suspect escapes out a side door. He takes off after him.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
(yelling back)
Danny! Have a suspect on foot. Heading west.

Twitch and his target run through a backyard gate then over a small fence. A shot is fired back at Twitch. He loses his target as the bad guy runs to another neighbor's backyard. Then through a house the occupants scream at what's happening. The **BAD GUY** grabs a dad sitting at a dinner table with his family, shoving a gun to his head. The family terrified.

BAD GUY
Keys! Where's your fucking car keys!

The dad reaches in his pocket and hands them over. Twitch enters but the rest of the family is in the way so Twitch can't get a shot away. The bad guy bolts out the front door.

When Twitch follows out the door he's smashed in the face with a porch chair by the bad guy. Twitch drops and loses his gun before recovering it. The bad guy has now jumped into a car, barreling down the driveway and up the street. Injured, Twitch stumbles to the street as the car gets further and further away. Twitch calmly takes aim. He calculates then takes his shot. We hear the car swerve, hit a tree and the car's horn blare. Twitch wipes blood from his face.

CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S HOUSE - MORNING

Twitch is asleep. His seven year old daughter **LAUREN WILLIAMS** gently climbs on to his bed. She whispers...

LAUREN

Dad. Daddy, wake up. You said we could play ball this morning.

Twitch rolls over and Lauren sees her dad's face has been injured. He's swollen with tape across his nose.

TWITCH

Hey, baby.

She lays on the pillow next to him. Gazing curiously for a moment before gently touching his face.

LAUREN

Does it hurt?

TWITCH

A bit.

She sees it's more than that.

LAUREN

Did you have to go to a hospital?

TWITCH

Yeah. While you were sleeping.

She lays on her dad's chest to comfort him.

*

LAUREN

Does mom know?

TWITCH
Of course she does.

LAUREN
I bet she's kinda sad, right?

Twitch nods in agreement.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Dad?

TWITCH
Yeah, baby.

LAUREN
Did you get the bad guys that did
this?

TWITCH
Your dad always gets the bad guys. You
know that.

LAUREN
Does this mean we don't get to play
any ball?

From behind they hear the voice of her mom, **KATE WILLIAMS...**

KATE
Lauren, what kind of question is that?
Look at your dad. He's not feeling
well.

LAUREN
He said it only hurts a bit.

TWITCH
I promised her, Kate.

LAUREN
(to her mom)
He promised.

KATE
You can barely move.

TWITCH
No. No. I'm Good. I'm good.

LAUREN
Please, mom?

Twitch smiles to his wife. She knows his stubbornness.

KATE
(to Lauren)
Go pick up your room first. Then get
some breakfast. It's on the table.

Lauren jumps off the bed and runs out the door excited.

LAUREN
I'll grab the gloves!

KATE
Clean your room first!
(beat)
You sure you're up for this?

TWITCH
What else am I going to do?

KATE
I'm proud of you. You know that right?

TWITCH
I know. Sorry I scared you. There were
only supposed to be two of them inside
not a whole houseful.

She gives him a loving hug. Then heads for the door.

KATE
I'm just glad you came home.
(beat)
I'll make you some coffee.

Alone, Twitch sits up in bed. Pain racks his body as he
struggles to get up and walk to the bathroom.

CUT TO:

EXT. - HOUSE

Lauren and Twitch play wiffle ball as Kate watches. One of the
itches whacks Twitch in the chest. He falls to the ground
pretending it hurt. Lauren laughs as she runs the bases, which
are the trees. She stops to catch her breath and then coughs.

KATE
You guys need to take it easy.

LAUREN
Mom, you should pitch too.

KATE
Are you crazy? I'm not getting in
front of those hits.

LAUREN
C'mon. Don't be a baby.

Kate looks at her daughter.

An undercover car pulls up front. Out steps Twitch's Detective partner, **DANNY O'CONNOR**. He's in his early 30's. A good looking man with style, confidence and lots of charm. He walks towards them.

KATE
What's he doing here?

TWITCH
Don't know.

DANNY
(kisses Kate on the cheek)
Morning, Kate. You should have seen
your boy in action last night. He was
pretty awesome. Made a shot that was
near impossible.

KATE
I see how awesome he looks this
morning.

DANNY
I know you don't like when this kind
of stuff happens...

KATE
I'll bet Mindy doesn't either.

DANNY
...none of us do. But the guys we got
in that raid, they were bad news. We
had to get them off the streets.

Twitch walks up.

TWITCH
Danny? What're you doing here?

DANNY
I've been trying to text you. You got
a minute?

Kate knows where this is leading. She's been a cop's wife far too long. Frustrated, she turns to Lauren.

KATE
Here, I'll pitch to you. Daddy has to quit.

LAUREN
You're awesome, mom!

Away from Kate and Lauren.

DANNY
You said you wanted to know when Dillon showed up at his club. Well, he must have got up early because he's already there.

TWITCH
Who called it in?

DANNY
Douglas and Hernandez, but I can handle this today.

TWITCH
No.

He heads towards the house.

KATE
You're not seriously thinking about going in today are you? Not today. Look at you. Tell them to get someone else.

Twitch makes eye contact with Kate but continues into the house anyway.

CUT TO:

INT. - CAR - MORNING

TWITCH
(on his phone)
...I sent a list out of some new recruits Dillon's picked up. When you get a chance I need you to run a check on all of them? No, there's no rush. Just whenever. Thanks, Franco.

DANNY
After yesterday I'm surprised you're jumping back into this so quickly.

TWITCH

Don't really have an option do I? Not with that gun shipment we heard coming his way. Something's going to happen.

DANNY

Think it'll be this week?

TWITCH

Pretty sure. I did some digging into his finances and someone pulled a big line of credit from him a few weeks back. So, he's going to be short on cash. That'll force him to make some kind of quick deal.

EXT. - STREET

Danny and Twitch now parked so they're able to see the MONGOOSE NIGHT CLUB across the street. It's a bar and dance hall. Not much activity since it's still morning.

DANNY

Think someone'll try squeezing Dillon?

TWITCH

Don't know. But he's going to have to deal with somebody.

(beat)

Douglas understands he doesn't move without my orders?

DANNY

He's been told.

TWITCH

Good. Then let's get settled in.

EXT. - CAR - EVENING

INT. - CAR - EVENING

Danny nearly asleep. Twitch watching outside intently. Suddenly, he taps Danny on the shoulder.

TWITCH

Danny. Wake up.

He points towards the club where a few men walk outside. One of them is **'SKIFF' RIGGINS**. A slick and confident dude.

DANNY

Shit. Is that 'Skiff' Riggins?

TWITCH

In the flesh.

DANNY

Thought he moved to Pittsburgh?

TWITCH

He did. Comes back to town though when there's a big scores he likes.

DANNY

Thought those guys hated each other?

TWITCH

Guess that's what a cash crunch will do to you. But if Riggins cozies up to Dillon's gang, that's an army. We won't have the manpower to contain that.

Riggins jumps into an awaiting car and leaves.

DANNY

What now?

TWITCH

Let's wait it out a little longer.

Time passes. Eventually, Twitch gets out of the car and goes into a nearby diner to take a piss.

INT. - DINER

Twitch goes into bathroom.

EXT. - STREET

JUSTIN DILLON, the club boss and a bodyguard head straight towards the undercover car Danny is in. They walk past the car and enter the diner. Danny wonders what his next move should be.

INT. - DINER BATHROOM

Twitch does his thing then washes up. There's a knock at the door.

TWITCH

Be right out.

The door opens. In steps Dillon and the bodyguard. They lock the door behind them.

DILLON

Kind of late to still be up, isn't it detective?

TWITCH

Naw. Just trying to keep pace with you, Dillon.

Dillon steps in close to Twitch.

DILLON

You're wasting your time.

TWITCH

Thanks. Appreciate the tip.

DILLON

You're a smart guy they tell me, so let's see if I can make something clear to you. I don't like complications, see, it messes with my head, you feel me? Because you seem to be confused about who the fuck owns these streets? It ain't you. You got no power here. So, you may want to think about doing you and your family a favor and stay the fuck out of my shit.

TWITCH

I scare you don't I?

The bodyguard slugs Twitch in the stomach, buckling him over. A brief stare down before Dillon leaves. Coming down the hall is Danny. Dillon ignores him as he walks by.

CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S MASTER BEDROOM - DAWN ***

Kate asleep in bed. She rolls over and sees her husband just sitting silently on the edge of the bed half dressed.

KATE

Hey.

TWITCH

Hey.

KATE

Didn't hear you come in last night.
How'd it go?

TWITCH

Long.

KATE

(concerned)
Is something wrong?

TWITCH

I'm just thinking. Trying to figure
out how to balance everything.

She gets on her knees behind him and wraps her arms around him.

KATE

I'm sure you'll close this case soon,
but you can't keep pushing yourself
like this. You need a break. What do
you say we drive up to Vermont this
weekend? Just the two of us. We can
have a little adult fun. I can get my
mom to watch Lauren.

TWITCH

(still solemn)
I'd like that.

She nibbles his ear, kisses his head, then gives him a push.
As she walks to the bathroom her nightgown drops to the floor.

KATE

I'm going to need to see more
enthusiasm than that, Mr. Williams!

He admires his wife.

TWITCH

Do I need to get Lauren up?

KATE

Not yet. Give her a few more minutes.
(turns on the shower)
You remember I have that presentation
tonight so I won't be home for dinner?

He acknowledges her with a "I've got it" wave.

INT. - SMALL DEN

Twitch looking at his computer pouring over data; making notes.

INT. - LAUREN'S BEDROOM

It's dark inside. Lauren, huddled asleep in bed. Twitch gazes at his daughter; contemplating. Then he flicks the light switch on and off like a strobe effect.

TWITCH
(playfully)
Good morning, daughter! Time to get an
education at school.

Lauren ducks under the covers to hide from the annoying light.

LAUREN
Dad! Why do you have to do that every
morning? I hate when you do that.

TWITCH
I love when I do this.

He flicks the lights again.

LAUREN
You're so annoying.

Twitch sits on her bed. Lauren still under the covers.

TWITCH
Come on sweetie, time to get up.

LAUREN
Dad? Did you get the bad guys last
night?

TWITCH
I always get the bad guys. You know
that. Now, come on, and make sure to
take your medicine. I'll get us
breakfast. You move fast enough maybe
we can sneak a little whiffle ball in.

We finally see Lauren's face, as she whips the covers back.

LAUREN
Really!?

TWITCH
And you know what?

LAUREN

What?

TWITCH

I'm going to do pick-up today?

LAUREN

Can we get ice cream then?

TWITCH

Only if you don't tell your mom.

LAUREN

Easy peezy.

She springs out of bed, jumps over her dad and into her bathroom. Water runs as she washes up. She pokes her head out the bathroom door...

LAUREN (CONT'D)

And I don't want any mushrooms in my eggs this time. They're gross!

Twitch gathers a few things off her floor attempting to clean the disaster that's her room. In the background we see some drawings Lauren has done on the wall. They're mostly unicorns.

INT. - KITCHEN

The kitchen is alive as Twitch makes coffee, fries bacon, pours juice and puts eggs on the table. Lauren, at the table, is drawing something. Kate enters and kisses Lauren on the head but she's focused on what she's doing.

KATE

Hey pumpkin. Did you get your homework done last night?

Lauren grunts that she did. Twitch hands Kate a cup of coffee.

KATE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

He walks over to Lauren to dish out her breakfast.

TWITCH

What'cha drawing?

She opens her sketch book.

LAUREN

It's a unicorn I did last night...
(looking at her mom)
(MORE)

LAUREN (CONT'D)
...after I did my homework. You like it?

TWITCH
I do. But you need to eat up right now.
(looking at drawing)
Might look cooler with some wings though.

Twitch checks to see if his wife is paying attention. Then quickly draws a couple wings for her. Lauren looks at her dad's face.

LAUREN
I don't think your face is getting better.

TWITCH
Don't worry mom was kissing it lots better last night.

LAUREN
Dad, that's like so disgusting.

KATE
Alright you two. That's enough.
Lauren, go brush your teeth and grab all your stuff. We need to go.

LAUREN
No baseball then?

TWITCH
No baseball.

She jumps from her chair, gives her dad a fist bump then leaves.

LAUREN
Tomorrow for sure.

INT. - HOUSE

Kate and Twitch standing impatiently near the stairwell.

KATE
(yelling upstairs)
I'm leaving!

Lauren with her backpack scoots downstairs.

KATE (CONT'D)
You have your inhaler?

Lauren, without breaking stride, makes a U-turn and sprints back upstairs. Mom at wits end trying to find the proper words.

LAUREN (O.S.)
Got it!

Lauren dashes back downstairs, by her dad. She's holding up her red inhaler. She sprints out the door. Twitch rolls his eyes at her. Kate notices.

KATE
Don't you dare give me that look.
She's just like you. Now you know how
I feel.

Twitch pulls his wife close.

TWITCH
Oh, I'll feel you alright.

He gives her a tender kiss as she gently pushes him away.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
Good luck today. They'll love the
presentation, I'm sure.

KATE
Thanks, sweetie.

CUT TO:

INT. - PRECINCT - DAY

Lots of activity inside the lobby area. Twitch enters and notices **OFFICER JULIE FRANCO**. She's in a hurry.

OFFICER FRANCO
Hey, Twitch, that background report
you wanted, it's on your desk. Should
have more for you tomorrow. Oh, I
heard about your raid and your shot.
Nice job.

TWITCH
Thanks. You're doing a whiz-bang job
too.

OFFICER FRANCO
(leaving)
You always say that.

TWITCH
Because it's always true.

Twitch heads upstairs to his office stopping at the vending machine for a coffee. Detective **BERNIE DOUGLAS** comes over, while his partner Detective **JESSE HERNANDEZ** looks on.

DOUGLAS
Understand you're still trying to protect your precious little case you stole from me? I busted my ass on this too. Just because I can't shoot my way out of every problem like you, doesn't mean I have to take your orders.

TWITCH
That's not how the Chief sees it.

Twitch, tries to side step him, but Douglas blocks him. Danny comes behind Twitch and pushes Douglas to the side.

DANNY
That's enough, Douglas. I'm sure you have better things to do.

DOUGLAS
Yah? Why don't you go fuck yourself.

Danny and Douglas face each other down. Hernandez gently pulls his partner's arm. They walk away.

DANNY
What's his problem?

TWITCH
Just overly sensitive about a few things.

INT. - TWITCH AND DANNY'S OFFICE

The two of them, at their desks, are caught up in their own work. Twitch intensely reading the file Franco dropped. There are lots of picture of buildings.

TWITCH
Does it strike you as odd that Dillon keeps moving his warehouses every three or four weeks?

DANNY
(he wasn't listening)
What's that?

TWITCH
Dillon. He keep relocating his
warehouses?

DANNY
How do you know that?

TWITCH
I had a friend down at city records
pull some real estate leasing
contracts for me. I traced a couple
back to a two-bit law firm that's
defended Dillon from time to time.

DANNY
Meaning?

TWITCH
Meaning, why does he feel the need to
move so often? How's that make sense
when he's low on cash?

DANNY
Don't know. Maybe he knows you're
sniffing around all the time. I'd be
nervous if I were him too.

TWITCH
It's more than that. There's a pattern
of some kind.

DANNY
I'm sure you'll figure it out.

Franco enters with a file gives it to Twitch.

OFFICER FRANCO
Your latest intel on that gun
shipment.

Twitch looks at it.

TWITCH
Shit.
(to Danny)
We need to go.

EXT. - OUTSIDE THE PRECINCT

DANNY

Does Kate know the hours you'll need
to put in now that Riggins' is
involved?

TWITCH

She'll be fine with it.

DANNY

Bullshit. They never get use to it.
Especially when we come home with our
faces busted up like you.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET - DAY

Inside an unmarked car Twitch eats a sandwich as he scans the
streets. Danny is texting on his phone. Twitch throws his
wrapper at him.

TWITCH

You sexting Mindy again?

DANNY

(head still in his phone)
Sorry, just catching up on some
emails. Anything happening?

TWITCH

Just some local flavor milling about.
You might even get home early today.

He hesitates before changing the topic.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

By the way, how're things going with
you and Mindy these day?

Danny shoots a look at Twitch.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Fine. I know you don't like to talk
about it.

They sit silent for a moment. Then..

DANNY

She's still busting my balls. So,
things are about the same.

TWITCH
You blame her?

DANNY
I just wish...she'd support me a
little more and that I could give her
more nice things when she wanted.

Danny goes back to texting on his cell phone.

TWITCH
She's just looking out for you that's
all.

DANNY
I know. I know.

Danny sullen as Twitch sits up and pokes Danny. He's spotted
someone across the street Riggins, in a ball cap, is saying hi
to some old acquaintances.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Acts like he still owns the streets.
The little prick.

TWITCH
That's fine. In a few days he'll lead
us right to the guns.

A patrol car slowly pulls next to Riggins. It continues to
drive as the lone officer in the car seems to be having a
conversation with Riggins. Then the patrol car hits its siren,
pulls over and **OFFICER GAINER** races up to Riggins.

Twitch and Danny give each other a look as officer Gainer and
Riggins get into an angry exchange.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
(Under his breath)
What's he doing?

Riggins pushes the officer hard into a wall then runs away.
Officer Gainer takes off in pursuit.

Danny jumps from the car. Yells to Twitch.

DANNY
Call for back up!

TWITCH
Danny, no!
(Danny keeps running)
Shit.

Twitch grabs the car radio.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
This is detective Williams. I have a
144. Two officers in foot pursuit
heading south near 126th and Hayden.
Request immediate back up.

He looks at his watch, makes a quick text message, then throws his phone on the seat as he sprints across the street in the opposite direction of Danny.

EXT. - STREET

Riggins runs for his life as officer Gainer follows.

CUT TO:

TWITCH
(yelling into his radio)
Danny! Meet me on the north side of
127th.

Cars cut Danny off as he sprints through traffic. Twitch heads into a deli store and out the back into the alley. He spots Rainier and Riggins turning a corner.

CUT TO:

INT. - SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Lauren hears the bell; gets up from class.

INT. - SCHOOL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

At her locker she stuffs her backpack with homework and books. Talks to a few friends.

EXT. - ALLEYWAYS

Riggins, starting to tire, finds a place to hide behind some discarded furniture. A wind starts to build. Cockroaches begin to crawl on him. When he tries swatting them away he loses his ball cap before off running.

CUT TO:

Twitch, having lost visual contact with Riggins and officer Gainer, turns down another alley attempts to call Danny.

TWITCH

Danny! Danny..? Do you read me!?
(under his breath)
Where are you?

He runs deeper into the alleys until the daylight has been blocked out. He stops; hears a sound and races towards it.

EXT. -SCHOOL

Students from the elementary school are everywhere as they head home for the day. Cars pick up some kids, some walk home while others board buses. Lauren waves bye to some friends and checks her cell phone.

EXT. - ALLEYWAY

Officer Gainer, breathing hard, finds Riggins' ball cap. Hiding nearby, Riggins nervously spies the officer. His breathing and heartbeat are both elevated.

Gainer, gets his second-wind then runs further into the alleys. When it appears he's safe, Riggins takes off.

Sprinting, Twitch turns a corner colliding with Riggins, who's knocked to the ground. Twitch flashes his badge and gun.

TWITCH

Police! Don't move.

RIGGINS

I didn't do nothing!

TWITCH

Then why you running?

RIGGINS

Because he told me. And when a fuckin' cop tells a black man to run. You run.

Twitch knows when someone's lying to him. Riggins isn't.

TWITCH

Where's the officer?

RIGGINS

Went that way.
(Pointing)

TWITCH

And he just left you here?

RIGGINS

The guy's a crazy mother-fucker!

INT. - ALLEYWAYS: Cut shot of Officer Riggins running.

INT. - ALLEYWAY: Twitch looks at his watch again. Gets on his radio. This time he gets Danny, though there's lots of static.

TWITCH

Danny!

DANNY (O.C.)

I'm here.

TWITCH

I've got Riggins. Near some graffiti markings. About a block south of you. I've lost contact with the officer.

EXT. - STREET

DANNY

I'm three minutes away.

INT. - ALLEYWAYS: Twitch cuffs Riggins to a nearby pipe.

CUT TO:

We start to intercut here between the alleyway and Lauren's school...

EXT. - SCHOOL - Lauren makes her way to the corner near the bike racks, where she is supposed to meet her dad. She calls him but just gets his voice message

EXT. - ALLEYWAYS: Twitch looking for the officer.

TWITCH

HELLO?

EXT. - ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Officer Gainer, stops running. Exhausted, he leans against a wall to catch his breathe. At his feet a single cockroach scurries up his pant leg. He bats it away, then hears a sound from the darkened alley.

He walks towards the sound as the noise gets louder and louder. Something's there, but he can't make out what it is in the dark.

OFFICER GAINER

Riggins..?

Debris flies everywhere as the wind builds in intensity.

EXT. - SCHOOL: Lauren still waiting as the amount of kids and adults at the school is beginning to thin out.

EXT. - ALLEYWAYS: The force of the wind now buffets officer Gainer, blowing dirt and dust so hard he's barely able to see in front of him. The noises now sound like wailing, wild animals.

Then it stops! No noise. No wind. Nothing.

EXT. - ALLEYWAYS: Twitch comes around corner; it's a dead end. The alley is empty. He begins running out of the alleys.

EXT. - ALLEYWAYS: Gainer clears his eyes, something sinister begins to morph behind him then moves upward off screen.

Gainer tilts his head towards a sound overhead. His eyes widen. Something huge and horrifying descends upon him. It's SPAWN. The officer tries to scream but he doesn't get the chance. Multiple close cuts of the officer horribly being attacked. We can't make it out but it is brutal nonetheless.

EXT. - ALLEYWAYS: Twitch running.

EXT. - SCHOOL: Across the street Lauren waits on the corner. Traffic passes in front of her making her seem small and fragile. Then a truck blocks our view for a moment. It moves away, when it does...

Lauren is gone.

EXT. - ALLEYWAYS: Twitch comes out of alleyway onto the streets.

FADE TO BLACK.

Noises from the schoolyard ebbs away until there's nothing but a silent, black screen.

FADE IN:

Super: **FOUR MONTHS LATER**

INT. - DOCTOR'S LOBBY - DAY

A typical small office, with decoration straight out of the 1990's. The room is empty. Twitch looks tired.

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)
Detective Williams?

He walks down an institutional looking hallway.

Cut to him sitting uncomfortably in a chair. **DOCTOR CANIFF** sits with her file across from him.

DR. CANIFF
As you know this is part of your workforce re-entry program. Your regular sessions will begin next week but for today I'd like to start with a few ground level questions.

Twitch doesn't care about any of this.

DR. CANIFF (CONT'D)
Your file says you're a highly valued presence on the police force and we'd like for that to continue. Let me also say that I'm sorry about the loss of your daughter. I can't imagine how that feels.

TWITCH
It feels exactly like you can imagine.

DR. CANIFF
Your wife? How's she dealing with this?

TWITCH
We're getting divorced.

DR. CANIFF
Sorry to hear that. Are you living together?

TWITCH
No. Because she's been gone anyway.

DR. CANIFF
Oh? Where'd she move to?

TWITCH
(tapping his forehead)
Nowhere. Up here. She's gone up here. And I did that to her.

DR. CANIFF
Do you have a place you're staying at? Where there's some stability?

TWITCH
I'm working on that.

CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S CAR - DUSK

Unmoving, Twitch's face tell us all we need to know about his life these past months.

EXT. - STREET

He crosses the street towards a shitty looking apartment building.

INT. - APARTMENT

Twitch finds a certain apartment door. He knocks. A crusty, old man answers. It's the **LANDLORD** of the building.

TWITCH
I'm looking for Mrs. Stanish? I called earlier.

LANDLORD
She's out.

TWITCH
I spoke to her about coming to see one of the rooms you're renting.

LANDLORD
Let me check her book.

He leaves. Moments later he walks past Twitch and down the hall with a set of keys. Twitch hesitates then follows.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
My wife tell you how much rent was?

TWITCH
She did.

LANDLORD
Come, it's on the fourth floor.

The landlord walks past an old looking elevator. Twitch looks at it curiously.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
It's broke. Been that way for years.
You'll have to walk. You can walk
can't you?

Twitch follows.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
You got a cell phone?

TWITCH
I do.

LANDLORD
Too bad. The reception here ain't
worth shit.

They continue down the hall, up a flight of stairs. The landlord opens an apartment then enters.

Before Twitch joins him he sees someone backlit at the end of the hall standing unmoving. This stranger, who is Spawn in disguise, only stares at Twitch.

LANDLORD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You coming?

Twitch turns for a second. When he looks back the stranger is gone.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)
The walls are thin too, but you'll get
used to it.
(still walking)
This is the bedroom. That's the
toilet. Laundry room and garbage
furnace are in the basement.

TWITCH
It's great.

LANDLORD
No it's not. But it's all we've got.
So?

TWITCH
I'll take it.

He hands keys to Twitch.

LANDLORD
You need to sign some paperwork then.
I'll be downstairs.

He leaves. Twitch walks around then into the bedroom. He pulls out a small photo of his daughter, walks to a huge empty wall and pins it there. Camera pulls back to show a heartbroken father and a small photo swallowed by the emptiness of the wall.

CUT TO:

INT. - PRECINCT - DAY

Twitch enters a bustling precinct carrying a box of his belongings. As he walks, fellow officers take note of his return. He heads upstairs where he runs into Officer Franco.

OFFICER FRANCO

Hey, Twitch. Nice to see you back in these halls again. We missed you.

TWITCH

Thanks.

OFFICER FRANCO

I'm sure you'll need some time but if there's anything you need, let me know. I'll help anyway I can.

TWITCH

I know. I appreciate all your support.

OFFICER FRANCO

Do yourself a favor and take it slow today, okay?

She turns to leave.

OFFICER FRANCO (CONT'D)

We're grabbing lunch sometime this week. Mark it down.

TWITCH

Franco...

OFFICER FRANCO

Yeah?

TWITCH

(Stoic. No joy.)
You're doing a whiz-bang job.

She smiles.

OFFICER FRANCO

You always say that.

Twitch spots Douglas and Hernandez at their desks. They give him a respectful nod.

INT. - TWITCH AND DANNY'S OFFICE

Inside he sees his familiar desk, bare and devoid of any recent use.

DANNY

Hey.

Danny, at his desk, watches in awkward silence as his partner quietly unpacks. He tries to find his words...

DANNY (CONT'D)

How...how you holding up, buddy?

TWITCH

Good.

Danny knows he's lying. Twitch pulls files from a cabinet.

DANNY

Nervous about being back?

TWITCH

A little.

Twitch continues to go through some of those files like he's looking for something.

DANNY

Something wrong?

TWITCH

Not really. Just trying to organize some things. One of these files is missing a photo. It's photo 'F'.

DANNY

Probably got misfiled while you were gone. Or it's in one of the other drawers. I don't know if you saw but I put a couple easy cases on your desk for whenever you feel like diving back into things.

(beat)

You have a place to live yet?

TWITCH

Found something in the Bronx.

DANNY

The Bronx?

TWITCH

Yeah. Forget how I came across it but I didn't have many options after paying all the lawyers.

DANNY

Kate's really going through with it, huh?

Twitch gives a "what are you going to do" shrug then continues setting up his desk. Danny gets back to his work, keeping an eye on his partner who seems a bit lost.

TWITCH

What are you hearing about Lauren's case?

Danny hesitant to open this wound again.

DANNY

Same as you. That they've been working it hard, checking a ton of leads, but still don't have anything concrete to show for it.

TWITCH

Did they cross reference all of Dillon's people?

DANNY

I think they've put a wide net over everyone.

TWITCH

Then why haven't they found anything?

DANNY

They're just being thorough.

Danny sees his partner is disappointed by this revelation.

DANNY (CONT'D)

If it'll make you feel better why we can just go talk to them ourselves. See what they say.

CUT TO:

INT. - OFFICE OF INVESTIGATOR

They enter the office of detective **TOM GABRIEL**.

DANNY

Hey, Tom. Thanks for taking the time for this.

DETECTIVE GABRIEL

Absolutely. So, what's on your mind?

DANNY

You know this Twitch's first day back...

Tom and Twitch acknowledge that return with smiles.

DANNY (CONT'D)

...and he just had a few questions about Dillon and his connection to Lauren's disappearance.

TWITCH

I guess, I'm trying understand why there hasn't been more progress. That's it. That's my simple question.

DETECTIVE GABRIEL

Got it. And I'd be asking the same question if I were you. So, let me see if I can frame this in a satisfying way for you, given that I'm limited to what I can tell you.

DANNY

He knows the rules.

DETECTIVE GABRIEL

The problem I'm having is placing a credible suspect near your daughter that day. Justin Dillon has a rock solid alibi, which we knew he would, and we haven't been able to tie any of his inner circle to this either.

TWITCH

Maybe your circle isn't big enough.

DETECTIVE GABRIEL

Well, with all due respect, detective, my staff and I have been looking under every possible rock we can. Dillon's not the only lead we have.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE GABRIEL (CONT'D)
You've made plenty of enemies through
the years. We need to check them all
out.

INT. - PRECINCT HALLWAY

Twitch walking fast. Danny tries to keep pace. Eventually they
get back to their office. Twitch pulls binders from a row of
file cabinets.

DANNY
C'mon, Twitch, cut the guy some slack.
What do you want him to do?

TWITCH
What do I want!? I want him to stop
wasting time. This isn't about anyone
else but Dillon and his gang. No one
else.

DANNY
They can't tie anything to him. You
understand that? And he's been a model
citizen since that day.

Twitch gathers a stack of files.

TWITCH
And why do you think that is?

DANNY
Because a cop, remember Gainer, went
missing near his doorstep.

TWITCH
That's bullshit.

Disgusted, Twitch walks away leaving Danny alone.

DANNY
(to himself)
Nice to have you back.

CUT TO:

EXT. - SMALL PRINT SHOP - DAY

Twitch enters.

INT. - SMALL PRINT SHOP

At the front desk he slides a receipt to a cashier who leaves then comes back with a box.

TWITCH

How much?

CASHIER

Fifty-eight dollars. You get a discount for ordering more than a hundred.

He leaves.

EXT. - STREET - DAY

Grabbing more boxes from his car, Twitch turns without looking and accidentally knocks some lady's grocery bags to the ground. This is, **MARIA LOPEZ**, she's in her 30's. She struggles to pick everything up as Twitch attempts to assist. Maria brushes him off.

MARIA

It's fine. I've got this. I'm good.

He respects her wishes and backs away. When she's done, she takes a few more steps but her bag rips open again. Twitch grabs an empty box from his car.

TWITCH

Here, let me help.

MARIA

I'm okay. Really.

Twitch ignores her this time, continuing to gather things up.

He hands her the box of food. She tries, but can't seem to balance everything. Twitch catches something that's about to fall.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

TWITCH

Let me at least carry this to your car.

MARIA

(motioning head)

That's alright, I'm just going across the street.

Twitch looks to where she's gesturing.

TWITCH

I know this is going to sound creepy
but I just moved in the same building.
Apartment 4B. I can carry this with
some of my other things.

She sees the boxes of files and knick knacks by his car.
Figuring he really is moving in, she nods her approval.

INT. - APARTMENT HALLWAY

Before they get to her place a door pops open spilling out a
four year old boy running towards Maria. The mother, **CHARLENE**,
who looks Haitian, holds an infant. Behind her is another
child, a four year old girl. She never acknowledges Twitch nor
Maria as she scolds her little boy.

CHARLENE

Joe-Joe, come! Leave these people
alone. You hear me?

The young boy romps around then heeds his mother as his father
steps into the doorway. He glares at Maria and Twitch, then
signals his family to come inside. Maria waves to the young
child with a big smile.

MARIA

Bye.

(to Twitch)

I watch her kids from time to time.

Moments later Maria stops at her own door, searching her purse
for keys.

Inside, her apartment is filled with bright colors and lots of
children's items. The place is a bit of a mess, but in a good
way. Twitch puts the food down on the kitchen counter. Maria
starts to unpack.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Thanks. I can do the rest. You've done
enough.

TWITCH

Take care then.

He leaves. Maria is surprised by that.

EXT. - STREET

Twitch grabs more of his stuff from the back of his car.

INT. - APARTMENT

Carrying boxes of files he gets to a staircase where a drug-addicted young man huddles against the wall. He's smoking a joint. This is **STEWIE**.

STEWIE
You ever had a dog?

TWITCH
Excuse me?

STEWIE
A dog. Like a pet. You ever had one?

TWITCH
Sure.

STEWIE
Know why they're so loyal? 'Cause they
can't count.
(Takes a puff)
That's what makes them better than us.
Animals don't care how much money's in
your pocket. That's not how they judge
us.

The front door opens behind Twitch. In comes **T.J.**, a 20-something hard-ass. When he gets to the stairs he kicks Stewie on the way by.

T.J.
Why the fuck you always blocking this
place?

Stewie pushes back with his arms and legs in a feeble attempt to defend himself. T.J. turns to Stewie then Twitch.

T.J. (CONT'D)
What'cha looking at?

Twitch doesn't blink. A moment, then T.J. goes upstairs.

INT. - TWITCH'S BEDROOM - LATER

We see several shots of Twitch moving and pinning things to an unseen wall. He steps back to inspect his work.

CUT TO:

INT. - OFFICE OF INVESTIGATOR - DAY

A knock at the door as Detective Gabriel does his work. There are two other members of his staff in the room.

DETECTIVE GABRIEL

Come in.

Twitch enters and lays a file on the detective's desk.

DETECTIVE GABRIEL (CONT'D)

What's this?

TWITCH

I spent a year tracking Dillon's operation and all his connections. Here's some names of his inner circle that aren't in the files you're looking at.

DETECTIVE GABRIEL

I can't take this. Especially not from you and not on this case.

TWITCH

Then I'll give to someone else to give to you. Would that work better?

Gabriel won't dignify that with an answer. Twitch leaves with the file. Gabriel goes back to doing his work. A few beats later the door flies open and Officer Franco walks in and drops the same file on his desk then walks out.

The three investigators glance at each other wondering what to do. One of them takes the file and opens it.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

Twitch, waits and watches, staring at the Mongoose Club across the street.

INT. - TWITCH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Twitch asleep. Tribal music is heard through the walls. He wakes with a start. He'd fallen asleep at the foot of his bed with files, photos, and paperwork strewn across the floor. He grabs a photo and pins it to a wall we can't see.

There's a loud crash off screen. Twitch goes to investigate out in the hall. Music and chanting comes from the apartment across from his. He leans in to listen. From behind, he's startled by **MORRIS**, another tenant, in the hall drinking a beer.

MORRIS

Don't worry, he does this all the time. Sits around doing some kind of voodoo shit. Drives the landlord crazy.

Gets ready to leave.

MORRIS (CONT'D)

But he's stuck in this shit hole. So it sure ain't working.

Morris walks away. As Twitch returns to his apartment a voice comes from behind. It's a **SHAMAN**, an elderly man dressed in a tribal robe. His door barely opened.

SHAMAN

You do not belong here.

TWITCH

I heard a noise. Thought that maybe you...

SHAMAN

No. I mean you do not belong in this building. You're not broken. Not like the rest of us.

That's an odd thing to say, Twitch thinks.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

I will show you.

The old man opens his door then retreats. Twitch enters. The entire room is lit with dozens of candles as incense burn.

On the walls are shelves filled with books, tokens and mystic ornaments. A half dozen medieval swords hang on the wall along with a handful of ceremonial tribal masks.

The old man picks up a bowl containing small shards of glass. He swirls his hand around in the bowl.

SHAMAN (CONT'D)

This bowl represents those of us in this building. The children. The women. Everyone. I see all their reflections here. Everyones. But I cannot see yours.

TWITCH

You know, I'm sorry I bothered you, really. I was just checking to make sure you were okay. Obviously, you are.

SHAMAN

He wants you here doesn't he? That is why I don't see your reflection. Maybe, you're a ghost like him.

TWITCH

It's getting late.

Heads back to the hallway.

SHAMAN

The one you seek is very close to you.

The Shaman slams his door shut. Twitch leans back against a wall..."who are these people?" He thinks.

CUT TO:

INT. - APARTMENT - NIGHT

Twitch sits at a kitchen table in the dark. A drink and cigarette by him. His phone rings.

TWITCH

Hello? Hang on, Danny you're breaking up.

(He walks to a window)

What was that you were saying?

INT. - UNMARKED POLICE CAR

DANNY

I said, they found Gainer's body in a field a few hours ago. Maybe twenty miles out of town.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)
Coroner said it was a fucking mess
like some animal tore it apart. The
chief's making this his top priority.

Twitch silent.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Did you hear me?

TWITCH
I heard.

DANNY
And, I got another call; you're not
going to like this one. They've pulled
everyone off of Lauren's case.

TWITCH
What?

DANNY
You knew when you gave Gabriel that
file, through Franco, it was breaking
protocol. Well, someone found out he
got it. They've assigned a new team
and told them to make their own
independent findings. Basically
they're starting her entire
investigation all over.

Silence.

DANNY (CONT'D)
You still there? Twitch?

Twitch has closed his phone. Several shots of him angered.

Needing air, he grabs a pack of cigarettes and heads for the rooftop. Up a flight of stairs he opens a door but it's another floor. He hasn't gone up far enough.

The hall is dark but someone stands at the far end, backlit. It's the same stranger he saw earlier. The stranger walks into an apartment without saying a word.

Twitch turns, but standing behind him is **AL**, a man in his late 30's, unshaven, old clothes, looking like he's led a tough life. He is also the Spawn creature in human form.

AL
They're getting to you, aren't they?
You give them the chance and they'll
kill you too.

There's a long moment between the two men.

TWITCH
Who wants to kill me?

AL
Those cigarettes in your hand.

Twitch, glances at the pack he's holding. The two men continue to size each other up, then Al heads towards his apartment.

TWITCH
(sarcastically)
Have a good night.

He continues to the rooftop.

EXT. - APARTMENT ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Outside he lights a cigarette embracing it like it's oxygen. He stares out over the city. Then he notices that Al is also on the rooftop on the other side. Twitch hadn't heard him come up. They make eye contact. Al nods to him then leaves down the stairwell door.

A moment later the door opens and out bursts Stewie. He seems to be quite hyper.

STEWIE
You got ten bucks?

TWITCH
Jesus.

STEWIE
Just call me Stewie. So, can you spot me a twenty?

TWITCH
You just said ten.

STEWIE
Ten. Twenty. Either one will work.

TWITCH
Is that right?

STEWIE
Yep. And I keep my mouth shut if you do. People around here wouldn't be too comfortable knowing there's a cop in the building. So, for a tiny fee this becomes our little secret.

(MORE)

STEWIE (CONT'D)
Twenty bucks. I cover your back.
What'd'ya say?

Not wanting more complications, Twitch hands Stewie twenty bucks. Begins to walk away then turns...

TWITCH
How'd you know I was a cop?

STEWIE
Didn't. I just say that to everybody.
Finally got it right. You got a badge
and a gun too?

TWITCH
Go get some food.

Stewie not bothered by Twitch's lack of conversation, is quite proud of himself. Pumps his fist once Twitch is gone.

CUT TO:

EXT. - INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUILDING - DAY

Coming out of the building, Twitch sees Danny finishing up a conversation with Detective Douglas.

TWITCH
What're you doing here?

DANNY
Thought you could use some company.

They walk and talk. Twitch nodding back towards Douglas.

TWITCH
What was that about?

DANNY
I got dragged onto some case with him.
Guy busts my balls more than he did
yours.

TWITCH
Lucky you.

DANNY
How'd it go with the shrink today?

TWITCH
I'm getting bored of psycho-analyzing
myself.

DANNY

Just because they have some bullshit degrees they all think they get to torture us. It's ridiculous.

(beat)

You hungry? Want to grab a bite?

TWITCH

Don't know if I can.

DANNY

Why not?

TWITCH

The doctor showed me your file. It said you're a killer and I need be careful around you.

Danny is shaken by this statement.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Especially if I'm female.

DANNY

You're a dick.

TWITCH

It was right there in the files. Says you're a lady killer. You're not going to deny that are you?

DANNY

Get in.

CUT TO:

INT. - UNDERCOVER CAR - DAY

DANNY

Didn't mean to ruin your evening last night. I probably should have waited until this morning.

TWITCH

Don't worry about it. It's not your fault.

DANNY

I don't understand how the department's just going to wipe their ass with months of work on Lauren's case. I'd be pissed.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)
Especially since everyone's going to
now be focused on Gainer's case
instead.

TWITCH
What's getting mad going to do?
Nothing. You know that. We're just
cogs in a machine and so is everyone
else.

DANNY
Maybe. Shit, who knows?

They drive some more before their car pulls to the curb.
Twitch gets out. Danny curious.

TWITCH
Sit tight. I need to run a quick
errand. Be right back.

INT. - ZEEK'S BARBER SHOP - DAY

A huge man lays back in one of the barber chairs. **RANDALL** is
enjoying a warm towel and shave as he converses with the
BARBER.

RANDALL
...you wouldn't believe the horsepower
in that thing. And everything was
fucking chromed and customized. Jesus,
what a thing of beauty. You should
have been there, man. You would have
shit yourself.

BARBER
Sorry I missed it. What year was it?

RANDALL
A seventy-two or seventy-three, I
think. Shit, you're old enough you
probably had one yourself when you was
a kid.

BARBER
I'm not that old, Randall.

Barber cleans his blade in a sink.

RANDALL
I'm just messin' with you. You're
still a baby I know.
(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)

But next time there's a show in town
I'm going to come get you and bring
you there myself. What'cha say?

Randall's throat gets nicked. Begins to bleed. Twitch behind
the chair holds the blade to Randall's throat and whispers.

TWITCH

July twenty-seventh. Where were you
that day?

RANDALL

Who the fuck are you?

Twitch cuts him a little more.

TWITCH

I account for nearly everyone from
Dillon's gang that day. You're not one
of them. So, I'm going to ask again.
Where were you the day my daughter
disappeared?

Another customer, getting a shave, reaches for a hidden gun.
Twitch has his revolver trained on him before he can get it.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

Danny runs into the shop just as things are about to get out
of control . He pulls his gun. So do two other **CUSTOMERS** in
the room.

DANNY

Twitch!? What the fuck are you doing?
Are you crazy?

CUSTOMER

Tell your boy to put his gun away.

TWITCH

There's only a handful of people that
could have taken her that day. And
three of them are here in this room.

RANDALL

I was in Florida you dumb fuck. Do
your homework!

DANNY

Twitch, I want this as bad as you do,
but not this way. Not like this. You
want to cross this line you have to be
a hundred percent sure.

Tense moments pass then Twitch lowers his gun. As he walks out the door Randall shouts one last thought...

RANDALL

You're dead. You're fucking dead!

Danny waits as the customers lower their guns. He leaves to join Twitch.

INT. - UNDERCOVER CAR

Danny gets in. Twitch already waiting. They drive away.

DANNY

What the hell were you thinking? You almost got us killed back there. This is getting way out of hand. I don't know what's happening but you've got to talk to me, please. Tell me what's going through your head?

TWITCH

They killed Lauren. That's what's going through my head. And until I see someone else give a shit about that as much as I do, I'm on my own.

DANNY

Then what's that make me? I've been fighting for you through all of this. All of it. But I can't help you if you won't let me in.

TWITCH

I was trying to keep you uninvolved...

DANNY

While I'm sitting in the car!?

TWITCH

...trying to keep you clean.

DANNY

I don't want to be clean. I want to be your partner.

Twitch stops talking, closes his eyes and lays his head back.

CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's late. Twitch in the shower soaking his tortured soul.

He sits on his bed looking at a wall in his room, though we're not privy to it. His bed is covered with files and photos. He walks to the wall and pulls a photo of Randall from it, dropping it to the floor, leaning his head against the wall.

There's a knock at his door. Twitch grabs his gun and peeks through the eyehole, then cautiously opens the door a few inches. It's Maria, from downstairs. She's carrying food.

MARIA

Hope I'm not intruding, but I saw a light beneath your door and thought you might be hungry.

Twitch sees the food offering.

TWITCH

Sorry. Please, come in.

He hides his gun behind his back.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Just put it in the kitchen. I'll be right with you.

He goes to the bedroom to put away his gun. Maria, in the kitchen, keeps talking.

MARIA

I wanted to thank you for helping me the other day and to apologize for being so rude to you. I don't run into many gentlemen around here so I'm a little out of practice when one actually does show up.

Coming from his bedroom he closes the door behind him.

TWITCH

You were fine.

MARIA

Can I ask something? You're, I don't know, you seem like an odd fit for this place. Like you deserve better. So why live here?

TWITCH

It's nothing worth telling.

Twitch isn't willing to expose himself. Maria walks around as Twitch put the food away.

MARIA

I like how you've decorated the place.
Very...minimalistic.

TWITCH

I haven't had much time to shop for
things.

MARIA

I'm teasing. I like it.

On a coffee table amongst some files and liquor bottles, she notices some photos. She picks one up.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Cool photos. I love taking pictures
too. I've got a camera I'm kinda
obsessed with it. Always pointing it
at people, especially the kids I
babysit. They're so cute. You have any
kids?

TWITCH

No.

She picks something up from the table.

MARIA

This is a case file? You're a cop?

TWITCH

A detective.

MARIA

You're kidding, right? No detective in
his right mind lives in this shitty
neighborhood that's for sure.

Twitch comes over and shows her a photo of T.J.

TWITCH

You know much about this guy? He lives
in this building?

MARIA

(apprehensive)

I don't talk to too many people here.
But I've seen him. He part of your
case?

Nothing from Twitch.

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Alright, alright. I can take a hint.
 I'm sure you have work to do.

She heads to the door then turns...

MARIA (CONT'D)
 Thanks again for your help.

CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S OFFICE - DAY

Various scenes of Twitch alone pouring over his work.

INT. - PRECINCT - DAY

Twitch walks to Officer Franco in the kitchen area.

TWITCH
 Mind if I join you?

OFFICER FRANCO
 Of course. Heard what they did to
 Lauren's investigators. I'm sorry.
 That's pretty shitty.

TWITCH
 I shouldn't have involved you.

OFFICER FRANCO
 I'm a big girl. You mind if I ask you
 something?

TWITCH
 Go ahead.

OFFICER FRANCO
 How you holding up? And I don't mean
 your polite bullshit "I'm fine"
 answer. I mean honestly, how're you
 doing?

TWITCH
 I'm angry. All the time. And that
 anger's buried so deep inside I can't
 find it so I can let it go. But,
 unlike my wife, it gives me something
 to focus on.

OFFICER FRANCO
 That doesn't sound healthy.

TWITCH

Not for the those who killed my daughter.

OFFICER FRANCO

What was she like? Your daughter.

TWITCH

She humbled me. Every day, no matter what. She just took everything thrown at her and just kept doing her own thing. It drove her mom crazy at times, that wreck less attitude but she...she was something to behold. We had to move her to a different school because she was getting bullied and she was so mad at us. Told us she could handle it on her own. And then having to deal with health issues at the same time, her mental toughness was so...

He's unable to finish his thought.

OFFICER FRANCO

She sounds amazing.

He gathers himself. He gives Franco a folder. She opens it: looks at a picture of a man.

TWITCH

I need a favor. This guy, his name is Tyrone James. Everyone calls him T.J.

OFFICER FRANCO

What's special about him?

TWITCH

He's one of Dillon's men. I'm trying to find out if he's been part of his group longer than four months. He also lives in the same building I do.

OFFICER FRANCO

That a coincidence?

TWITCH

Haven't figured that out. I could really use some help with this. With the chief's eyes all over me I can't do it myself.

OFFICER FRANCO

Sure. I'll see what I can find out.

Twitch gets ready to leave.

TWITCH

There's one other thing. I was going over Dillon's files, the ones from the past few month when I was gone, there's a photo missing in one of the surveillance reports. A photo 'F'.

OFFICER FRANCO

I'll check the paperwork. See if I can trace it for you.

TWITCH

Thanks. You're doing a whiz-bang job.

OFFICER FRANCO

(Twitch leaving)

You always say that.

EXT. - PRECINCT STREET - CONTINUOUS

He heads out the building towards where his car is parked.

EXT. - POLICE PARKING FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

Gets in his car and starts it. A couple **Internal Affairs Agents** walk up; one knocks on his window. Twitch rolls it down.

AGENT ELLIS

Detective Williams?

The agent flashes his badge.

AGENT ELLIS (CONT'D)

I'm agent Ellis. Internal Affairs.
Please turn off your car. You need to come with us.

Twitch weighs his options then does what he asks.

CUT TO:

INT. - PRECINCT HALLWAY - DAY

Danny races up a flight of stairs, past Douglas, down a hall.

INT. - CHIEF'S OFFICE

He passes an assistant as he gets to the chief's door.

DANNY

They start already?

The assistant nods an emphatic "yes". Danny enters. Inside Twitch sits, arms folded along with the **POLICE CHIEF** who is flanked by the two I.A. agents.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm late.

CHIEF

(to Danny)

Close the door.

He moves behind Twitch. Playing on a TV screen is the security tape from Zeek's barber shop

CHIEF (CONT'D)

Maybe you can tell me, Danny, since your partner seems to have lost the ability to speak, exactly what the hell am I watching?

DANNY

Where'd you get that?

CHIEF

Who gives a shit! I've got it. Now what am I watching?

Danny looks to Twitch. He looks back at him. Both men remain quiet.

AGENT ELLIS

This shows an illegal entrance, undue force and threats to use a deadly weapon. All provoked by your actions.

TWITCH

A gun was already drawn when Danny came in. He was just giving back up to his partner. This isn't on him.

CHIEF

(to Twitch)

Okay. Then why were **you** there?

AGENT ELLIS

Your desk sergeant doesn't have a record of you being called anywhere near that area.

CHIEF

Do you know what happens if this tape gets to a media outlet? Which it may already have. It means we're all fucked, especially you Twitch. We have rules and I won't tolerate insubordination. And though I'm not insensitive to the personal situation you're going through, I'll be damned if I'm going to allow you to go rogue. Because by the looks of it you dragged your partner into something he didn't have a clue he was getting into.

DANNY

Sir, I...

CHIEF

Shut up.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

(back to Twitch)

So, with this new shit storm, you tell me why I shouldn't fire your ass instead of just suspending you?

The room goes quiet. Then Twitch mutters to himself.

TWITCH

This is a joke.

CHIEF

You have something to say now?

TWITCH

I've got lots to say. And I've been trying to say it but no one around here wants to listen. Or they just don't give a shit.

(gets out of his chair)

You've had four months to find my girl's killer and you've got nothing. Even after I shoved you in the right direction.

CHIEF

You're the one that got them transferred!

(MORE)

CHIEF (CONT'D)

And if you think doing the shit that's on this tape helps your daughter you're out of your mind.

TWITCH

I get it, you've got other priorities now. It's too bad my daughter wasn't wearing a badge and a blue shirt when she was killed too.

CHIEF

Get the hell out of my office.

Twitch storms out. The Chief approaches Danny.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

There'll be a full investigation while he's suspended. And though he's one of my best, you're partner's wrong on this one. Way wrong. So, I'm putting this on you to make sure he understands that. You capable of doing that?

DANNY

Yes, sir.

CHIEF

Good. Then get started.

CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Music plays on screen as we see short scenes of:

Twitch hunched on the edge of his bed.

Looking at his wall.

Kicking stuff on the floor and sweeping files off his bed.

Screaming at himself in the bathroom mirror.

INT. - BASEMENT OF APARTMENT

In the bowels of the basement, Twitch takes a box of files and papers and tosses them into the furnace. A few pages fall to the ground. There's a noise at end of the dark hall. He turns toward it.

It's the Spawn stranger. The same one he's seen before. They're a hundred feet apart. A dim light flickers as we see quick cuts of Spawn and the stranger flashing back and forth.

TWITCH

Can I help you?

The Spawn stranger says nothing. He steps back into the shadows. Twitch distracted by the open flame from the furnace door turns for a moment as Al steps forward from those same shadows.

AL

People don't come down here too often. Say it's too cold. Even with the furnace.

TWITCH

It's not too bad. You're the guy from upstairs, right?

AL

Yeah. Fifth floor.

Some awkward silence.

TWITCH

That tattoo on your arm. You were in the military?

AL

A long time ago. What about you?

TWITCH

Naw. My eyes were too bad.

AL

That's a shame. You'd make a good soldier. I can tell by the way you move. And the way you think. Like now, you're sizing me up wondering if you can let your guard down or whether you need to get ready for another battle.

TWITCH

Just an occupational reflex.

AL

Must be a serious job coming from the size of that gun under your jacket. Don't look surprised. I've got the same reflex as you.

He bends over and picks up one of the papers Twitch dropped.

AL (CONT'D)

Looks like you're fighting a war too.
Bet it feels like you're losing ground
most of the time, and that's
frustrating given that there's more of
us than them.

TWITCH

I don't understand what you're saying.

AL

The bad guys. They're not afraid of
that fact that they're in the slim
minority. I think it thrills them to
know they can dominate so many of us.
(beat)
So? What do you think of this place so
far?

TWITCH

It's...unique. I'm hoping it grows on
me.

Al turns to leave.

AL

Good luck with that.

TWITCH

(calls out)

Hey...My name's Twitch by the way.

AL

Strange name. My friends used to call
me Al.

Getting into the shadows.

AL (CONT'D)

You're going to need help fighting
your war. But first you need to
prepare yourself because you're not
ready for the storm coming your way.
When you are, I'll be back.

As Al nears the shadows the light above goes dark. When it
pops back on Al is gone. Twitch finds this curious, checks
around the corner. Nothing. Then he hears a loud banging
sound! One of the dryers has come to life. Something inside is
making a banging sound. He opens the dryer door and pulls out
a wooden box. Inside, written on a piece of paper, is the
message:

PHOTO 'F'

Over his shoulder Spawn emerges from the shadows. As Spawn approaches, Twitch's cell phone rings. Twitch turns as he answers, but Spawn has vanished.

TWITCH
Hello? Hello? Danny, that you?
(Beat)
Hang on, I need to go outside.

EXT. - STREET - DAY

Outside his apartment, we intercut between Danny at home and Twitch on the street; his apartment behind him.

TWITCH
What were you saying? Sure. What time?
Alright, see you then.

CUT TO:

EXT. - SLEAZY RESTAURANT - EVENING

DANNY
Look, Twitch, we both know this is all bullshit but the way you're going about it you're not doing yourself any favors. Those guys from I.A. are going to be all over you. You need to stay clear of them. Hell, you need to stay clear all of everything. You understand what I'm saying? Just lay low. If there's something you need let me handle it.

Waitress brings their food.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Thanks.

TWITCH
That tape? Who do you think sent it? And why hasn't the media gotten it? Because whoever did it doesn't want this going public, that's the point.

DANNY
The point of what? Twitch, you were the one that went into that barber shop. No one made you. You fucked up.

TWITCH
He doesn't like me poking him.

DANNY
Who's doesn't?

TWITCH
Dillon.

DANNY
Damn it, Twitch, I'm trying to help
you here. I've got my neck stuck out.

TWITCH
I don't want your help.

Stunned by this, Danny gets up in disgust. He throws money
down on the table to pay for his food.

DANNY
You're not even smart enough to be
afraid of what can happen to you. I
hope you have a good life.

Twitch grabs his arm preventing him from walking away.

TWITCH
I'm afraid alright. But I'm afraid for
them...because none of this will stop
me. I'm going to make it my life's
mission to make sure that anyone that
had anything to do with making Lauren
scream...I'm going to make them
scream. And scream and scream until
they all go silent like her.

He lets go of Danny's arm.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
So, before you say you want to help
me, you think long and hard about what
that actually means.

A moment as Danny gathers himself.

DANNY
You're my partner.

Twitch reaches inside his coat and slides a note across the
table.

DANNY (CONT'D)
What's that?

TWITCH
Motivation.

A close-up on the note. It reads: **PHOTO 'F'**

CUT TO:

INT. - APARTMENT - NIGHT

Stewie stoned out of his mind sits with Morris on some stairs.

MORRIS

Whoa. Whoa, Stewie slow down, dude.
You're not making sense.

STEWIE

I'm just saying it's pretty cool,
right? Being a cop and having a badass
name like that? "Hey, Twitch. Let's go
get 'em, Twitch. I'd so like to get
naked and fuck you, Twitch." Makes
everything sound so fucking awesome.

MORRIS

So, 'Stew-pid' ain't a good enough
nickname for you?

STEWIE

You know what I'm talking about.
C'mon. It's like those one named TV
stars. Beyonce'. Or Drake.

MORRIS

Those are singers.

In the middle of their conversation, T.J. walks between them
kicking Stewie as he passes.

STEWIE

Why you such a dick?

T.J. stops. Turns.

T.J.

What'd you say to me?

Morris gestures to Stewie not to start anything.

STEWIE

You don't own this place.

MORRIS

(to T.J.)
Ignore him. He's tweaked.

STEWIE

A cop's living here now. Means we all gotta behave ourselves, Mr. T.J. And my initials are also T.J. Stands for Twitch Junior.

A tense moment, then T.J. leaves. Morris slaps Stewie.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET - NIGHT

A long line stretches near the entrance of the Mongoose Club. Crowds waiting for the doors to open this Friday night. T.J. walks across the street. Sauntering to the head of the line. He greets two bouncers. They nod and let him through.

CUT TO:

INT. - MONGOOSE CLUB - NIGHT

Down a hall, past staff preparing for the evening, T.J. heads to a backroom. A GUARD, protecting a curtained doorway, pats T.J. down before letting him in.

Inside is a dimly lit, mid-sized room. Shelves stocked with everything needed to keep a nightclub running. Sitting at a table full of weapons is Dillon. His back is turned. He's counting cash. Without looking up...

DILLON

So, I got me a detective in one of my buildings. Do you know who that is?

T.J. shakes his head no. Dillon turns in his chair.

DILLON (CONT'D)

He's a dog. A dog that keeps chewing on the same bone, over and over, until his gums bleed. Then he chews it even harder. This past year, I've been his bone. So, what do you have for me?

T.J.

I've been asking and mostly he just sleeps there. Never has outside visitors. Talks to the odd tenant but for the most part he keeps to himself.

DILLON

That doesn't tell me why. Why he's there. That's the piece that matters.

(MORE)

DILLON (CONT'D)

Because Detective Williams is either the unluckiest fuck I know, living in a building I control...or he's playing me. I'd like to know which it is. Keep asking questions and make sure that also includes Maria.

CUT TO:

EXT. - DANNY'S HOUSE - DAY

Twitch walks to a side porch door. He hears the sound of children inside. He hesitates before knocking on the screen door.

DANNY (O.S.)

C'mon in. Door's open.

In the kitchen Danny arranges candles on a birthday cake. He's surprised and happy to see Twitch.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What? I didn't know you were coming today. Mindy said she wasn't going to send you an invite.

He grabs some cups.

TWITCH

She didn't. You said you had some files I should look at. Thought I'd save you a trip and come get them myself.

DANNY

(disappointed)

Well, you're welcome to stay. Think about it. I'll go gather what I have.

MINDY, Danny's wife, comes into the kitchen.

MINDY

Danny, for God's sake, the kids are waiting.

She sees Twitch.

TWITCH

Hey, Mindy.

As the wife of a cop, she knows something is up. She scolds Danny with her eyes.

MINDY

You two can't do whatever you're doing
another time? We can't have one day to
ourselves?

She grabs the cake and heads back to where the kids are.

TWITCH

Go see your kid. I'll be outside.

EXT. - DANNY'S HOUSE

Twitch pulls up a chair on the porch. We hear the birthday
song being sung. Twitch seems distant. As he sits, he notices
two young girls playing across the street.

He watches one of them chase an errant ball towards Danny's
yard. As the little girl picks up the ball, she pauses to look
at Twitch. All we hear now is Twitch's internal breathing and
the beating of his heart.

This girl reminds him of his daughter and the pain of that
thought begins to overwhelm him. He's snapped back to reality
when a screen door slams shut. Danny has a small stack of
files in hand. He drops them on a table next to Twitch.

DANNY

I don't have a lot. I'm waiting on a
few more things.

TWITCH

I'll take whatever you have.

DANNY

Getting people to cooperate with
everything that's going on, is getting
tough.

TWITCH

I know. Thanks for bending the rules.

Twitch begins to leave.

DANNY

Twitch? You okay?

TWITCH

Just fighting for some sanity.

Just then, Mindy comes out onto the porch.

MINDY

Danny, you're missing the presents now.

TWITCH

I'm going. Just came by to say hi.

She notices the files under Twitch's arm and the body language of the two men.

MINDY

No. No! You're not going to stand there and lie to me.

DANNY

Mindy.

MINDY

I'm sorry for your loss, Twitch, I really am. We loved Lauren with all our hearts, and I'm sorry about what's happening to you and Kate. But when it comes to work, you want to ruin your career that's your choice. Have at it. But don't you dare try and drag this family down with you again. What you did at the barber's. You don't have that right and you didn't give Danny a choice. So, it'd be really nice if you didn't ruin today's party either.

She glares at Danny; goes back inside. Danny follows.

DANNY

I'll call you.

CUT TO:

INT. - APARTMENT HALLWAY - EVENING

Twitch comes to his door. There's a note taped on it:

MAKING EXTRA DINNER TOMORROW. STOP BY IF YOU CAN. -- MARIA

He enters his apartment and throws down his keys. Then flops on his bed.

CUT TO:

INT. - HALLWAY - NIGHT

He knocks at Maria's door. A huge man answers. This **BIG DUDE** is deadly serious with muscles and tattoos everywhere. Twitch sizes him up.

TWITCH
Is Maria here?

BIG DUDE
She's busy.

TWITCH
Tell her it's Twitch?

BIG DUDE
I said she's busy.

The dude tries shutting the door but Twitch jams his foot inside to stop it from closing.

TWITCH
Busy with what?

Twitch peers over the big dude's shoulder as another man comes to the door. He sees Maria sitting on her couch. Nervous. Twitch reaches behind his waist for his gun. Maria looks at Twitch, pleading with her eyes for him to go away.

It's a standoff. Then against his better judgement Twitch removes his foot from the door jam. He walks away. The Big Dude makes sure he's gone. His partner grabs Maria as the door shuts and we hear a muffled scream.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. - FAST FOOD PLACE - NIGHT

The big dude and partner walk out of the restaurant with a bag of food. Partner tries to eat out of it.

BIG DUDE
Get your hands out of there!

Partner ignores and continues to eat his food.

PARTNER
You ever worry you're being kinda rough on some of the ladies you talk to.

BIG DUDE

What the fuck you talkin' about?
Bitches step out of line my job is to
make sure they get back in line.
That's it.

T.J. walks up while he's on his cell phone.

T.J.

How'd things go?

BIG DUDE

Like they're supposed to. Tell Dillon
not to worry.

T.J.

Tell him yourself.

He hands the Big Dude his phone.

BIG DUDE

Hey, boss. Yeah, she got the message.
Her cop friend showed up but he left
pretty quick.

(Beat)

Tomorrow? No problem. I'm on it.

He hangs up. Gives the phone back to T.J. Who leaves.

T.J.

See you boys.

CUT TO:

INT. - BATHROOM

The big dude turns on the shower and takes off his shirt. We see tattoos all over his arms, back and neck.

As he washes in the shower he notices the water getting dirty near the drain. It's coming from his tattoos as they smear and run down his arm. Each time he tries cleaning them, another tattoo appears on his arm; each one an alphabet letter. He's freaked out as he keeps scrubbing himself. Then he sees hundreds of bugs at his feet. The lights go out. He turns to see the black skeletal ghost of Spawn inches from his face.

He jumps from the shower as lights return and looks in the mirror, it shows his entire body, including his face, covered with tattoos spelling the words:

I HATE WOMEN

The lights flicker off and on again. Now his body and tattoos are normal once again. He takes a deep breath trying to relax. It doesn't last: the light goes out and the shower turns on. Spawn is behind him. Chains snap and wrap his throat. A few jump cuts of the horrific Spawn creature and his bestial sounds torturing the big guy as water pours over him.

CUT TO BLACK:

INT. - MARIA'S APARTMENT - DAWN

Maria huddled on her couch, balled up with a cup of tea. She looks like shit. There's a knock at the door. She doesn't want to answer.

TWITCH (O.C.)

Maria? It's Twitch. Please...I know you're there.

She wipes her tears, then collects herself before opening the door, though she keeps the chain on.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Can I come in?

He can tell something is wrong.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Please.

She lets him in.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

You alright?

MARIA

Yeah.

She puts on a brave face.

MARIA (CONT'D)

About last night, I don't want you to worry about any of that stuff. It was just some people from my past, when I was young and did a bunch of stupid stuff. They show up uninvited at times. But really, I'm fine. Anyway, how was your day? Catch any crooks?

Twitch knows Maria is trying hard to change the subject. Maria, ashamed, turns away.

TWITCH

Maria, look at me. Every day millions of good people, with grace and kind hearts, they get taken for granted.

MARIA

I don't understand.

TWITCH

Those men last night, I shouldn't have left you with them. I've seen their kind a thousand times. They don't make life better, they shit on it. They push people around for sport because they can. People like you who show us every day how to be a positive example while some of us blindly wallow in our self-pity until we can't even see what's in front of us.

Maria approaches, a tear running down her face.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

I didn't mean to upset you.

MARIA

No one's ever said anything like that to me before. Ever. Do you know what it means to hear I'm not worthless. Or a loser.

(wipes her tears)

Oh, look at me? I'm sorry. I'm getting all dramatic like a little school girl. I need a drink. How about you?

She walks into the kitchen.

TWITCH

Sure.

She goes to the fridge for a bottle of wine then pours Twitch a drink on the kitchen island. A box of polaroid photos filled with children's pictures are among the various items. Twitch casually looks at a few.

MARIA

Cute aren't they?

He puts the pictures down. Maria having gone silent.

TWITCH

I don't mean to pry, but do you mind if I ask you something?

MARIA

Go ahead.

TWITCH

Why did those men do this to you?

Maria goes sullen. She turns away from him.

MARIA

I...I can't tell you.

TWITCH

I get it. But if it's because I'm a cop. I'm currently out of that job, so you and I are just having a private conversation. That's all.

MARIA

I think you should, you should go. I'm really not feeling that well. I'm sorry.

Twitch surprised at her emotional shift.

TWITCH

I hope you can get some rest.

They go to the door. Twitch turns to her in the doorway.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry what happened to you. I should have done more.

As he begins to walk away...

MARIA

Those men. They asked me about you. That's why they came here. They didn't like that I didn't know anything.

She closes her door. The pain on Twitch's face is obvious. He rushes away bumping into Stewie along the way.

INT. - TWITCH'S APARTMENT

He crashes into his apartment, chest heaving. He rips his tie off as he heads to the bedroom. Anger washes over him. He bangs the wall then slumps on the edge of his bed. His mind flashing images of Maria's face and his daughters. Then both images turn to them screaming. He jolts his eyes open and sees...his daughter!

TWITCH
 (whisper)
 Lauren?...baby?

Then Lauren appearance shifts as she screams then vanishes. He feels like he's going mad as he gets up looking for her.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
 LAUREN!

Unable to take anymore he collapses back against a wall, slowly sliding down it. He sees a 'selfie' photo of him and his daughter next to his bed. More images of his daughter screaming play in his mind.

Then a black raven flies out of the shadows landing on some furniture. Then another raven. And another, and another. Soon the room is filled with over a dozen black birds. This is crazy! He's losing his sanity.

His cell phone goes off! It's on the bed. It rings louder and louder. Why can't he have any peace? He grabs his phone. Before he says a word the voice on the other end speaks...

AL (O.C.)
 She's not here.

TWITCH
 (yelling)
 Who is this?

AL (O.C.)
 They took her from you.

The voice on the phone goes silent. Suddenly, Al is standing in the room with Twitch but instead of looking old and haggard, Al now appears younger. Stronger. More vibrant.

TWITCH
 How'd you get in here?

AL
 It doesn't matter. The only thing that does is your next move. Are you finally ready to do what has to be done?

TWITCH
 How do you know about my daughter?

AL
 Through your anger. Why do you think you're here? In this building.

TWITCH

What're you talking about?

AL

Why are you here? What did you do to get here?

Twitch confused.

AL (CONT'D)

What happened to you? What did you do?

(beat)

What did YOU do?!

Twitch lunges at him...but Al steps back into the shadows, disappears, as Twitch hits the wall. The black birds scatter. Al appears on the other side of the room.

AL (CONT'D)

That's right, you got mad. Mad at everything and everyone.

TWITCH

Who are you?

AL

So, use that anger, godammit. Make it a weapon. Let them know what it feels like to be the ones who are afraid. Who are terrified. Make them feel just like Lauren did.

TWITCH

How do you know?

AL

Let me be that weapon. Let me be your wrath...

Twitch getting pissed.

AL (CONT'D)

...your vengeance. Give me your anger. For Lauren's sake, RELEASE IT!

Reaching a boiling point; Twitch screams at Al like some insane savage. He tosses a chair as he grabs his gun from its holster. Al steps back into the shadows and we see a glimpse of the Spawn creature. When Twitch turns, Al is gone.

Frantic, Twitch runs for the front door. When he opens it, a fist flies forward. Everything goes black.

FADE TO:

INT. - APARTMENT

Maria, scared, crying; is crumpled against the inside of her front door.

FADE TO:

EXT. - CAR - EVENING

A sedan drives down a seedy street.

INT. - CAR

Twitch in the back seat, begins to wake. He's slumped sideways, hands tied with rope. Next to him sits a mean looking **THUG**. There's a **DRIVER** and passenger in the front.

THUG 1

We're getting tired of you and your
cop friends messing with our business.

Thug throws Twitch's wallet up front where we hear...

RANDALL (O.C.)

Sit him up.

The big guy in the back manhandles Twitch. Pulls him up. The passenger turns and we see it's Randall from the barber shop!

RANDALL (CONT'D)

We're all just trying to make a
living, all got jobs to do but it gets
real hard when someone's always in
your shit. You get what I'm sayin'?
And guys like you...you don't know
when to leave things alone. Why you
like that?

TWITCH

Go to hell.

Thug in the back elbows Twitch as hard as he can.

RANDALL

A tough guy too, unh? I respect that.
I do...

He pulls a big-ass gun.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

...but attitude at the wrong time?
That can get you hurt.

They have a stare down.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
But before we say our goodbyes I want
to know something. Your name? Why they
call you that? Why Twitch?

Twitch intentionally leans forward pushing his forehead
against the barrel of Randall's gun.

TWITCH
Because I don't.

A moment, then Randall breaks out laughing.

RANDALL
They call you Twitch 'cause you don't
twitch. What kind of fuckin' shit is
that? Don't make no sense.
(turns and slaps driver)
Am I right?

DRIVER
Don't make sense to me.

RANDALL
That's what I'm saying.

Turns his attention back to Twitch.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
You white-ass motherfuckers are crazy.

Twitch, unamused, realizes they've driven into an alleyway.

DRIVER
How deep you want me to go in here?

RANDALL
A little further.

EXT. - ALLEYWAY

Finally, the car stops in the dark recess of the alley. The
driver stays inside. Randall reaches into the glove
compartment. Pulls out a hammer. The other thug pulls Twitch
from the car. Randall picks up a flat piece of wood and lays
it on the hood of the car.

RANDALL
Another of our boys went missing last
night.

(MORE)

RANDALL (CONT'D)
You know the guy I'm talking about?
The big, tattooed guy you saw at
Maria's.

Twitch snarls.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Cut him loose.

The ropes around Twitch's hands get sliced.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
They say you're a crack shot. Don't
ever miss nothing. That true?

TWITCH
I'd be glad to demonstrate on you.

RANDALL
Ya? Well, let's see this 'magical'
hand of yours.

The thug forces Twitch's right hand onto the piece of wood.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Don't look so special to me.

Randall savagely smashes Twitch's hand with the hammer. Twitch
screams in pain.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Again...why are you guys messing with
Dillon's crew? We had a deal.

He shatters Twitch's fingers as he hammers twice more. Twitch
slumps to his knees, clutching his mangled hand, nearly
passing out from the pain.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
Get on your feet.

Randall picks Twitch up and pushes him forward to the front of
the car. The other thug remains back at the car.

RANDALL (CONT'D)
That's far enough.

The car's headlights blind Twitch when he turns.

TWITCH
(angry and defiant)
Eight! She was just eight years old!
That's what makes you guys tough?
Killing little girls?

RANDALL

What the fuck you smoking? This ain't about girls. This is about you guys breaking your promise.

We see a cockroach scurry by his foot.

Winds begin to pick up and grow stronger. Dirt and debris flies everywhere. Twitch sees something above though it's hard to tell what it is because it's beginning to feel like a hurricane as its winds lash at him. Twitch lunges at Randall. They struggle. Randall kicks him to the ground. Then suddenly the hurricane completely stops!

Randall, gun pointed at Twitch, brushes himself off. Looks to his friend about what just happened.

RANDALL (CONT'D)

You see that?

His friend shrugs, doesn't have a clue. There's a loud THUNDER CLAP and Randall is violently sucked under the front of the car in the blink of an eye!

The driver jumps out of the car as the other thug sprints to the front of the car looking underneath it. Nothing's there! Impossibly, Randall has vanished. He turns his anger towards Twitch.

THUG 1

Where is he?

A sound from above. They look up as a body comes hurtling down from the sky, smashing onto the front hood of the car shattering the windshield. The driver turns the body over. It's Randall.

THUG 1 (CONT'D)

(to the Driver)

Get your gun!

The Driver goes back to the car; opens his door. Out pours millions of insects, rats, and snakes which have somehow filled the entire interior of the car.

Twitch attacks. The driver of the car trips, he's instantly covered with bugs and rats. He tries swatting them away. He gets most of them. When he turns, Spawn is there!

Spawn grabs the driver, shaking him like a rag doll. His black clawed hand covers the driver's face with black, oozing goo.

Meanwhile, Twitch fights the thug but the guy is too big. He slams Twitch into a wall then clubbed him across the face.

Bleeding, Twitch falls to the ground losing his glasses. There's a gun nearby but before Twitch is able to grab it the thug steps on his broken hand. Twitch rolls to his back looks up at the thug. Through bleeding eyes, he sees a flock of ravens flying above and something massive and crimson flying above descending.

The hurricane returns.

The thug kicks Twitch, who rolls to his side. He only sees the feet of his assailant. In the background rushing towards them, like some black and red tidal wave is Spawn.

The thug's feet lift from the ground as he's thrashed back and forth. Red and black images swirl near Twitch's face. He's unable to get a clear look at what's happening. The hurricane sounds pops his eardrums. Lightning flashes. Twitch passes out.

SMASH CUT TO:

Black. Silent.

CUT TO:

EXT. - RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Detective Douglas eats alone at a small patio table. Dillon approaches from behind. It looks like he might get the jump on Douglas. Instead, he pulls up a chair at Douglas' table.

DILLON

You enjoying some down time?

DOUGLAS

Christ! What're you doing? We can't be seen together.

DILLON

Riggins. He didn't come here to take part of my weapons business, he came to take all of it. So, you're going to fucking kill him. Because if I have to clean up this shit, then I'm taking everyone out. And I mean every last one of you.

DOUGLAS

You need to calm down.

Dillon angrily swats Douglas' food off the table.

DILLON

Don't you tell me what to do!

DOUGLAS

Why? Why would Riggins mess with you?
He knows how you'd react. It'd kill
any partnership.

DILLON

He doesn't want a fuckin' partnership!

DOUGLAS

No. You're wrong. Something else is
going on here.

DILLON

I can't find six of my men. Six.
You're supposed to be protecting them.

DOUGLAS

I am.

DILLON

Well, there's one of them that
wouldn't agree with that.

EXT. - ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Douglas follows Dillon who's holding a flashlight. Dillon
turns a corner. Seconds later a flock of ravens burst out from
the corner towards Douglas.

He comes around the corner seeing the same thing Dillon does.
Camera pulls back to show the full scale of the horrific
sight. Crucified on the wall, covered in blood, is the dead
body of Randall. Above him in huge, blood-soaked letters, is
scrawled the cryptic message:

I'M COMING

CUT TO:

EXT. - NEW YORK STREETS - NIGHT

Maria, a backpack slung over a shoulder, crosses the street
looking apprehensive.

EXT. - BUS STATION - CONTINUOUS

She sees the bus station but she's suspicious of everyone as she walks with her head down. As she gets closer someone bumps into her then grabs her arm.

DOUGLAS

What's your rush, Maria?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S APARTMENT - DAWN

Twitch gasps for air! He bolts straight up finding himself in his own bed. Face bruised from his fight in the alley. His broken hand wrapped in a makeshift cast. How did he get here? Was he dreaming?

A bang at the door. Twitch grits his teeth as he painfully makes his way to answer it, gun in his left hand. He stands to the side of the door.

TWITCH

Who's there?

STEWIE (O.C.)

Stewie.

He opens the door.

STEWIE (CONT'D)

Hey, why'd you...

Notices Twitch isn't looking great.

STEWIE (CONT'D)

Whoa! Dude, you look like shit. That why you ran by me last night?

TWITCH

Last night?

STEWIE

In the hall, when you flew by.

Twitch slams Stewie against the wall.

TWITCH

What time was that?

STEWIE

Shit, I don't know...nine, ten hours ago. You figure it out.

Twitch rushes out.

INT. - MARIA'S APARTMENT

He bursts into Maria's apartment, scouring the place looking for her.

MORRIS (O.S.)
She's not here.

Morris stands in the front doorway.

TWITCH
Where is she?

MORRIS
No clue. But she had a backpack with her.

Twitch blasts out the door...

MORRIS (CONT'D)
What's going on?

...nearly knocking Charlene and her kids over in the hall. He rushes up the stairs to Al's apartment, bangs on the door.

TWITCH
AL!...Al!

No answer. He races downstairs. Banging even harder on the landlord's door.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
Open up!

The landlord opens the door holding a shotgun pointed at Twitch's head.

LANDLORD
Touch my door again you'll lose that arm.

TWITCH
I need your help.

LANDLORD
I don't give a shit what you need. Now step back.

Twitch flashes his badge.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)

Big deal, you're a cop. That don't give you the right to be acting all crazy.

TWITCH

I'm sorry.

LANDLORD

So, what's so damn important?

TWITCH

One of your tenants, I think he's involved in something illegal. I need to get inside his apartment.

LANDLORD

Got a warrant?

TWITCH

No. I think he's inside, he's just not answering. I need you to unlock his door. That's all.

The landlord, considers his options then lowers his shotgun.

LANDLORD

You're lucky. My wife's brother is a cop.

He grabs some keys. Twitch follows him down the hall.

LANDLORD (CONT'D)

Which room we talking about?

They begin walking towards the stairs.

TWITCH

5C.

The landlord stops dead in his tracks. He turns around, pushes back past Twitch towards his own apartment.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Where you going?

LANDLORD

I don't like being jerked with.

TWITCH

What'd I do?

LANDLORD

There isn't a 5C.

TWITCH

Okay. Maybe it's 5D or E. It's the one on the right at the end of the hall.

LANDLORD

No it's not and you know it.

Twitch confused.

TWITCH

The man's name is Al. African American. About six feet...

LANDLORD

You listening!? There's no Al living here because there ain't no fifth floor.

(points to the front door)

Go! Look for yourself. I'm sure you know how to count.

EXT. - APARTMENT - DUSK - CONTINUOUS

Twitch bursts onto the street as cars honk and slam their brakes. In the middle of the street he plainly sees there are only four floors to the building.

INT. - APARTMENT

Twitch runs through the halls, up stairs then crashes through the door, that for him, has always been the fifth floor. Instead he's blinded by daylight from the rooftop. How can this possibly be?

Back inside, Twitch finds Stewie.

TWITCH

Stewie! Look at me. The man upstairs, Al...have you seen him before?

STEWIE

(high on drugs)

I don't know who Stewie is, dude. My name's Twitch.

Twitch doesn't have time to argue.

TWITCH

Okay, alright...Twitch...the man upstairs, called Al. Have you seen him lately?

STEWIE
Don't know any Al.

TWITCH
On the roof; you walked by him the
other day.

STEWIE
Not me, man.

Twitch hears his cellphone ringing down the hall from his
apartment. He goes to get it.

TWITCH
Hello?

AL
(voice over the phone)
None of them know me. You're the only
one.

TWITCH
Where's Maria?

The phone goes dead. Behind Twitch, Spawn silently spills out
of the shadows moving towards him. Twitch spins, ready to
shoot.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
Move and I blow your fucking head off.

Spawn becomes Al. Twitch wonders if he's losing his mind.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
What...are you?

Al's eyes begin to glow.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
My daughter. Were you involved?

AL
No. I was in the alleys that day, in
the shadows not in the light. I'm
limited where I can move. You're
daughter and others, they're dead
because of that.

(beat)
But I'm going to make sure I stop it.

TWITCH
Stop what?

AL

Evil. We've allowed it to grow to the point it's consuming us. Like cancer. And it's everywhere. The only thing that can stop it is an army. An army filled with men like you and I who know we're at war. Who know taking them out one at a time is useless.

(beat)

You're not here by accident, I brought you here for a purpose...to help me. To join me. To push back against those who so casually take everything we hold dear. Because if men like you won't fight, then who will? Who's going to stand against them the next time someone, somewhere in the world, decides to take another person's daughter? We need to take them all out. Help me set my trap.

Twitch stares.

TWITCH

I don't even know...if you're real.

A loud pounding at the door shatters the moment.

MORRIS (O.C.)

Twitch! It's Morris. You there?

Al steps back into the shadows, slowly melting into the darkness. His face turning to a skeletal mass of bugs as his whole body, now insects and rats, collapses to the floor. The creatures scatter. Morris comes through the door.

MORRIS (CONT'D)

It's Maria, she's hurt. Bad.

CUT TO:

EXT. - HOSPITAL PARKING LOT - DAY

A car screeches to a halt as Twitch jumps out running towards the E.R. Entrance.

INT. - HOSPITAL - EVENING

Twitch bursts into the lobby of the E.R. Officer Franco stands waiting with Douglas and two other cops.

TWITCH

Where is she?! The lady you brought in?

OFFICER FRANCO

Upstairs resting. You know her?

TWITCH

Who found her?

OFFICER FRANCO

Douglas called it in.

Twitch moves towards Douglas, gets in his face.

TWITCH

What'd she say? Where'd you find her?

DOUGLAS

Get out of my face. You're not supposed to be here?

Danny enters the lobby.

DANNY

Twitch? What's going on?

TWITCH

A lady in my apartment. Someone got to her.

DANNY

Who did?

TWITCH

Don't know, ask Douglas and Franco. I'm going upstairs.

INT. - MARIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Twitch enters as a nurse leaves. Maria rests. Her face swollen and beaten.

TWITCH

(whispering)

I swear...I'll find whoever did this.

Multiple shots of Twitch at her bedside. Time passes.

CUT TO:

INT. - TWITCH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Two gang members head inside the apartment. They go upstairs to the fourth floor, pounding on Twitch's door. No answer.

GANG MEMEBER 1
He's not here.

GANG MEMBER 2
Then we wait until he is.

Coming up the stairs, carrying groceries, is the Shaman. He looks at the two men nervously before searching for his keys.

GANG MEMBER 2 (CONT'D)
Hey, old man? You know the guy that lives here?

SHAMAN
I do. You friends of his?

GANG MEMBER 2
Kind of. You seen him lately?

SHAMAN
Maybe.

GANG MEMBER 2
Maybe?

He grabs the Shaman and slams him against the wall, face first. Pressing as hard as he can.

GANG MEMBER 2 (CONT'D)
Listen you old fuck, I ain't got time for bullshit. You seen this "Twitch" guy today or not?

The Shaman, in pain, nods no. Then a voice from behind. It's Stewie; he's completely wasted. The punk lets go of the Shaman who darts inside his apartment.

STEWIE
Hey, you two cock sucking black-assed, shit eating whores...I'm Twitch. You looking to get a piece of this?

He pretends he has a gun, folding his fingers in his jacket.

GANG MEMBER 2
You're Twitch?

STEWIE
You see another cop here?

GANG MEMBER 2

No. No I don't.

The tough guy steps forward and shoots Stewie in the head!

CUT TO:

INT. - MARIA'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The room is dark. Twitch sleeps with his head on the rail. Maria's movement wakes him.

TWITCH

Hey, you.

MARIA

You can't be here. Not by me.

TWITCH

I know you're afraid. But what they did...it's because of me. They came back for you to get to me.

(pause)

Who were they?

Maria turns away.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Maria, please, the men who do this, they only put people in the hospital once. Next time you're in the ground.

She starts to cry.

MARIA

I deserved this.

TWITCH

Don't say that. It's not true.

He takes her hand.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Please...I need your help. So I can stop this. Stop you from having to be afraid. Who were they?

She closes her eyes, trying to gather some inner strength.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Was it Dillon?

She tortures herself then finally nods yes. He clutches her hand with both of his.

CUT TO:

INT. - CAR - MORNING

Twitch on his phone while he drives. Intercut his conversation with Danny...

INT. - DANNY'S HOME

Danny on his couch watches his son play video games. The boy is getting into what he's doing. Danny acts like some co-pilot encouraging his boy to win the game. Danny's phone goes off as we intercut his conversation:

DANNY

Hey, Twitch. How's Maria this morning?

TWITCH

All her tests came back positive.
They're releasing her later today.

Danny motions to his son to keep playing as he gets up and walks out the front door to his porch.

DANNY

You want me to bring her in for questioning?

TWITCH

No.

A long delay before Twitch speaks again.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

I'm tired, Danny. I can't keep going on...this needs to end.

DANNY

What're you saying?

TWITCH

You know cops from other precincts, right?

DANNY

We all do. Why?

TWITCH

Today at noon. I need a couple patrol cars stationed outside the Mongoose Club.

DANNY

Twitch, no! This is getting out of hand. I know you're going through a lot but...

TWITCH

This isn't about me, Danny. This is about us being cops. Our job is to stop bad guys in their tracks. Period. That's the job. And guys like Dillon they'll never stop, not on their own. So, I'm not asking, I'm telling you, I need those two cars outside his club.

DANNY

What am I supposed to tell them? The chief gets wind of this, he'll nail their asses too.

TWITCH

I don't want them to do anything. Don't even tell them why they're there. Just get 'em to park, eat their lunch then drive away after 20 minutes. That's it. That's all I need.

DANNY

This is suicide, Twitch. You go in there with weapons, they'll kill you where you stand.

TWITCH

And if I go unarmed?

Danny frustrated.

DANNY

Fuck.

TWITCH

Twenty minutes that's all. Just twenty minutes then send the cars home. I need this, Danny.

DANNY

(tortured)

Fine. But this is the last time. Then I'm done helping you out.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)
I can't do this anymore. You're way,
way past a line you shouldn't be
crossing.

TWITCH
I have to do this, Danny.

Twitch hangs up. Danny kicks a chair and slams the door as he re-enters his home.

CUT TO:

EXT. - TWITCH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Twitch jumps from his car. Races to his apartment

INT. - APARTMENT

He pounds on a door. Morris answer it sleepy eyed.

MORRIS
Hey, Twitch.

TWITCH
You know where St. Joe's Hospital is?

MORRIS
Of course.

He shoves money into Morris' chest.

TWITCH
Maria gets released there at noon. Be
there when she gets out. She needs to
see a familiar face.

INT. - TWITCH'S BEDROOM

He rushes to his bedroom and begins to collect small weapons from his bed; among the clutter on his bed is a photo of his daughter smiling. He picks it up to focus on it. Slowly, he walks over and pins it to the wall. As the camera pivots, we see for the first time his **'WALL OF INSANITY'**.

This is what he's been working on every night.

The entire wall is covered from floor to ceiling with every conceivable picture, note or diagram of anything and everyone possibly connected with his daughter's abduction. It's a staggeringly obsessive compilation.

In the center are a dozen grisly photos of his dead child. He stares at his nightmarish masterpiece. Then image after image of Lauren's death flash before him. It's a psychotic episode of visuals!

He attacks the wall shredding and tearing it apart, screaming in pain. When he's done he slams open his closet doors and straps on two Glock 19's and a Smith and Wesson 5496 into his holster. Then pulls out a shotgun and several boxes of ammo. If it's war they want, then he'll give it to them! But...

Lights flicker in the room then go out. Twitch notices he can see his breath as the temperature starts to drop.

His bedroom door slams shut! The 'wall of insanity' starts to shake and vibrate. Suddenly, everything on the wall rips off and flies across the room

But left on the wall with an almost halo glow around it is a single photo of Lauren and next to it a photo that's been flipped over. On its back reads: **PHOTO 'F'**.

Twitch removes the photo and turns it over.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET

Twitch, dodging traffic, heads to his car carrying a duffle bag filled with weapons. Opens the trunk and throws the bag in. He throws a few holsters on his seat before pulling away.

CUT TO:

EXT. - MONGOOSE NIGHTCLUB - DAY

A look at his watch tells him it's almost noon. He's hoping the patrol cars got their orders.

Getting out of his car he pulls on a jacket to conceal his weapons and heads for a side entrance to the nightclub. A small crowbar easily pops open the door.

INT. - MONGOOSE NIGHTCLUB

Twitch makes his way down a few hallways, passing by a deserted dance floor as he hears a few workers milling around in the background. Nothing out of the ordinary.

He turns a corner. At the end of the hall it's the Spawn stranger. Then Spawn vanishes.

Twitch comes to a slightly open door. A couple tough guys play cards and smoke cigars. He continues his trek deeper into the club. He hears a crash; when he turns to see where the noise came from his head hits the barrel of a large Magnum 45.

EXT. - MONGOOSE NIGHTCLUB

Two patrol cars pull up near the nightclub and park.

INT. - DILLON'S OFFICE

Dillon sits, basking in the power of being king. The room is large, decorated with audacious fashion and trinkets everywhere. It's not elegant in any sense but Dillon thinks it's the best throne room a leader could have.

Four of his men and a few attractive women make the place their own. Dillon enjoys the company of his servants.

The door to his room is thrown open as Twitch enters, hands behind his head, with the bodyguard with a gun to his back. Everyone in the room snaps to attention.

BODYGUARD

Found this one roaming the halls.

The bodyguard tosses Twitch's wallet on the desk.

DILLON

(smiling, relaxed)

Well. Well. If it isn't the famous Detective Williams. So, what do I owe this pleasant surprise?

TWITCH

It's time to bring it to an end.

DILLON

Oh, it is, is it? And do I get a say in any of this? Given the number of times you've done whatever the hell you please at my expense. Or is this going to be a one-sided affair?

Twitch silent. A look around the room.

DILLON (CONT'D)

Remind me...you have some odd kind of nickname they gave you. What is it again?

Twitch doesn't blink, until the bodyguard delivers a massive blow to Twitch's kidney. Wincing, he gets the message.

TWITCH

Twitch.

DILLON

Twitch. Yes, that's it. I'm sure you'll enlighten us some day about it's origins. But for now...

He leans forward like a deadly shark.

DILLON (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing in my house? And before you answer you'd better pray you weren't stupid enough to come in here packing.

(nods to the bodyguard)

The bodyguard pats Twitch down, then rips his jacket off. To the surprise of everyone, including Twitch, his holsters are all empty. Twitch's guns have somehow disappeared!

BODYGUARD

He's clean.

Twitch wonders, how can that be? He eyes the rest of the room and the firepower each of the men are flashing.

DILLON

Now...why are you here?

TWITCH

Maria. And my little girl. They had nothing to do with you and I.

DILLON

(smirking)

Is that your hard-on here? Maria? She's just some dumb bitch we use from time to time. She's nothing. And your kid? Shit. If you think I ever touched her then somebody's got you turned around.

His smugness only serves to stoke Twitch's fire.

TWITCH

Fuck you.

Dillon nods to one of the men who promptly starts to beat Twitch.

For a moment it looks like Twitch will fall, but in a lightning quick move he flips the guy over his back pinning him to the floor and grabs his gun. He shoves the gun into the bad guy's forehead.

The rest of the men quickly aim their guns at Twitch. It's five against one!

TWITCH (CONT'D)

(to Dillon)

You took my family. Now I'm going to take yours. When's the last time you talked to your Uncle James? Owns a pool hall in Ohio doesn't he? How about your sister, Jenny, down in Miami? Or your cousin in Jersey?

DILLON

You're bluffing.

TWITCH

Then call them. Ask them if there's a black sedan outside their window. Just like the two sitting out front of your club right now.

Dillon eyes one of the ladies who leaves to check it out.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

And your kids. They both go to Madison Prep don't they?

Dillon stands, like a grizzly bear about to attack.

DILLON

You're not walking out of here alive.

TWITCH

Please...I hope that's true. Because in five minutes if I don't, those cars outside call in the calvary. And when they find a dead detective, this place gets leveled.

It's a standoff.

DILLON

What do you need.

TWITCH

ANSWERS! I want answers about my daughter!

DILLON
I never touched your girl.

TWITCH
Then who did?

He puts his gun to his own head! Twitch is now willing to kill himself!

TWITCH (CONT'D)
You've got five seconds! Those cops
outside don't hear from me your life
is over! Tell me! Or I blow my fuckin'
head off! FIVE...FOUR...

Everyone in the room can't believe what's happening.

DILLON
(shouting)
Jesus!

TWITCH
...THREE...TWO...tell me...

Twitch pulls back the hammer on his gun.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
...ONE...

DILLON
Alright! Alright.

He motions to his crew to put their guns away.

DILLON (CONT'D)
It was Riggins. But he had help.

TWITCH
Whose help?

DILLON
Ask your side.

Twitch stares for a moment. He has his info. He relaxes then drops his gun to the floor before slowly walking towards the door.

DILLON (CONT'D)
Riggins hears you're coming, you're a
dead man.

A few more steps; Twitch turns, eyes bloodshot.

TWITCH

I'm already dead. Why can't anyone see that.

He leaves. A few of Dillon's men try to follow Twitch, but Dillon waves them off, telling them to stay.

EXT. - STREET - DAY

Coming across the street, Twitch jumps in his car. Pulls away.

INT. - TWITCH'S CAR

On the phone...

TWITCH

...I'm coming and I need you to meet me outside. Near the side door around back. I'll be there in seven minutes.

EXT. - PRECINCT STREET

Officer Franco waits nervously. Checking to see if anyone is watching. Twitch pulls up to meet her.

OFFICER FRANCO

You're not supposed to be anywhere near this place?

TWITCH

Just get me inside. I'll explain everything later.

She's seen that look in his eyes before. She goes in first then seconds later waves him in.

INT. - PRECINCT

The halls are fairly empty as Twitch and Franco continue their purposeful walk. Upstairs Detective Douglas is on the phone. Twitch beelines for him; slam a file on his desk.

DOUGLAS

Gotta go. I'll call you later.

(hangs up)

What the fuck you doing here? You ain't a detective anymore.

Twitch grabs Douglas by the throat slamming him against another desk.

The two men battle, but Douglas is too big as Twitch gets the short end of their fight. Danny jumps in and peels Douglas away then pins Twitch against some file cabinets.

DANNY

Are you out of your goddamn mind?

TWITCH

(to Douglas)

Your file, the one you submitted, I checked it out. It's all bullshit. Dillon wasn't even in town the days you said you were surveilling him.

DOUGLAS

Fuck you!

Douglas' partner Hernandez enters the room as Twitch pushes Danny off. Grabs the report; opens it and points.

TWITCH

There! Right there. In your own words. Dillon. You see that? It says Dillon was there. He wasn't. He was in Philadelphia that week. So why'd you do it!?

Franco comes up to Twitch.

OFFICER FRANCO

Twitch. We need to go.

TWITCH

(to Danny)

Dillon said to ask my side. Why, Danny? Why did he say that?

OFFICER FRANCO

Twitch!

TWITCH

Leave me the fuck alone!

Franco needs to find help. She leaves. Everyone is tense. Then Danny walks to their office. Twitch follows him inside. He wipes blood from his mouth watching Danny slump into a chair.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Who took her?

Nothing. Danny distracted.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Who took Lauren, Danny? You know don't you?

Danny's silence enrages Twitch. He pins Danny to the wall, his forearm shoved against Danny's throat.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

YOU KNOW!

He pulls the '**PHOTO F**' from his pocket and shoves it in Danny's face.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Why the fuck are you in this picture with Dillon? Tell me you didn't help him? Not you, Danny! Not you.

DANNY

Why couldn't you back off? That's all you had to do was just ease up.

TWITCH

What about Lauren?

DANNY

Why didn't you listen?

TWITCH

What did you do, Danny!?

DANNY

I was protecting you.

Twitch slams him against the wall again.

TWITCH

What did you do to her!? Dillon said he never touch her?

Danny now paranoid. His world is collapsing.

DANNY

He wanted you gone. They were going to kill you! You understand that? I was trying to save you.

TWITCH

You knew I had to pick her up that day. Gainer? He was part of this too?

DANNY

She wasn't supposed to get hurt. You have to believe me. Three days.

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

That's all it was going to be. I swear. Just three days. We didn't know Lauren would get that sick, but when she came back you'd want to be with her and you'd forget about everything else including Dillon.

TWITCH

She DIDN'T come back!

DANNY

That's not what we wanted. She was just supposed to be a distraction. That's all.

Pushing Danny away Twitch stammers back barely about to stand. His chest heaves; he feels like he's going to black out.

TWITCH

A...distraction?

DANNY

She wasn't supposed to get hurt. I swear to you.

TWITCH

Why? For what..? Money?

DANNY

Don't look at me like that. Don't get on your high horse. I work my ass off every day on this job! Every day! And for what? Nothing. I've got a wife that can barely stand the sight of me and a son that won't talk to me. How do I make that better with the bullshit money I get here? When's it my turn? When was I going to get mine?

A coat rack holds Danny's holster, Twitch pulls the gun from the holster and points it at Danny.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Go ahead. Do it. You won't get ten feet outside this office.

Danny walks toward Twitch getting his courage back.

DANNY (CONT'D)

How do you think this goes down? What're they going to write?

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

That an insane detective, days after being suspended for reckless behavior comes back to work on a killing rampage because of the grief over his dead daughter?

Twitch attacks his partner again. Danny pinned, whispers in Twitch's ear.

DANNY (CONT'D)

They're going for Maria again.

Twitch stops. Danny pushes Twitch off.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You've become predictable.

The office doors opens as Douglas, Hernandez and a few others block the doorway.

Twitch tries to push by but there's too many of them. Douglas looks to Danny for directive. Danny waves to let him go. The cops move just enough for Twitch to squeeze by.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Call everyone. It's time.

CUT TO:

INT. - PARKING GARAGE - DAY

T.J. comes out of an elevator. There's no one around. His cell phone rings.

T.J.

What's up? I'll head there now.

He gets in his car. Before he can turn the key a wire wraps around his neck; strangling him.

RIGGINS

I brought some men to New York with me. Now they're missing. Your boss got something to do with that?

Barely able to breathe, T.J. can't talk.

RIGGINS (CONT'D)

'Cause I thought we were going to all be family.

He let's go. T.J. gasps for air.

T.J.

I know nothing about that.

RIGGINS

Don't you lie to me!

T.J.

I swear.

RIGGINS

Here's what I know. I'm not going to be the only one short a few men.

Riggins shoots T.J. in the head with a silencer. He tries to get out of the car but his door is locked. Without warning the window wipers turn on then the car horn blares. Riggins tries the other side but it's locked too. He tries to shoot out the window but his gun is jammed.

Finally, the horn stops. A pause, then the entire car jerks.

RIGGINS (CONT'D)

The..fuck?

The car radio comes alive, getting louder with static noise as black murky water begins to run down the inside of the windshield starting to fill the bottom of the car. He body slams his door again. Nothing. The car impossibly continues to fill with water...

Higher and higher. Riggins pounds on the door, slamming his feet and gun butt against the window. Nothing will work and he can't get out. As Riggins tries to keep his head above the water the spiked hand of Spawn snaps to the surface pulling him under!

The car is now completely filled with dark water. Riggins tries holding his breath. Then out of the black water snaps the hideous face of SPAWN! His mouth open wide baring razor sharp teeth.

Outside the car, all we hear are muffled screams of the man inside, desperately banging around trying to get out. He disappears in the dark water. It's silent for a moment. Then...

His face appears, upside down; screaming. Hands clawing the windows as we see he's drowning. He disappears again. There's a loud thud, as the black water turns red with a burst of blood, like something exploded inside!

The car rocks and the security horn goes off again.

CUT TO:

EXT. - STREET OUTSIDE APARTMENT - DAY

Twitch pulls his car up and races inside the building.

INT. - APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

He sprints upstairs slamming open Maria's apartment door, gun in hand. Inside Maria, on her couch, is startled. Morris and Charlene are there keeping her company.

MORRIS

What the hell, dude?

Twitch frantically searches the apartment.

MARIA

Twitch, you're scaring us.

Twitch catches himself.

TWITCH

Pack your things, you're not safe here.

A scream is heard. Twitch goes to an open window putting his head out. It's coming from the roof. He looks at Morris, tosses him a gun.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Don't leave her. And shoot anyone that walks in that door.

He climbs out the window and up the fire escape to the roof where he sees a female tenant looking at something behind an outcropping. Twitch approaches. It's a dead body. He turns the body over. It's Stewie.

Someone else is on the rooftop. Twitch sees them running for the stairwell door. He chases after him.

CUT TO:

EXT. - TWITCH'S APARTMENT - DAY

A half dozen cars pull up outside Twitch's apartment pouring out a small army of thugs and dirty cops, including Dillon, Douglas and Hernandez. They grab handguns and semi-automatics from the back of trunks. Inside one of the cars Danny snorts something to build his courage then joins the others.

INT. - BUILDING

Twitch still pursues the runner.

EXT. - APARTMENT

At the front doors Danny and Dillon know what needs to be done.

DANNY

(pointing to various gang members)
You. You. Guard these doors. You four.
Cover the back. I'll call when we're
finished. Until then, no one comes in
or out of this building. Let's go.

The rest follow Danny and Dillon inside. Danny points down the halls, gesturing them to split up.

THUG 3

(holding his phone out)
Reception in here is shitty.

DILLON

Good. We'll use that to our advantage.

The group goes deeper in the building, breaking off into smaller groups. Some move down halls to cover other possible exits. Some monitor various hallways. Tenants peer from their apartments but are quickly scared back into their rooms.

One group heads upstairs to Twitch's room. CRASH! They kick the door in. A half dozen men pour in with weapons. They scour the place. Moments later...

MEMBER

It's clear.

DILLON

He's here. So find him.

INT. - APARTMENT

Different gang members check the apartment complex. Upstairs, in the halls and down in the basement, manhandling all those they come across. A gang member tries using the elevator.

ANOTHER MEMBER

(slapping his friend)
It's broke. Take the stairs.

INTERCUT:

A couple of thugs enter an apartment that's empty, they look around. Then one of them is pulled backwards into a dark room. His partner comes in, the door slams behind him. We're in the dark as something savagely attacks the thug.

Tenants hear the commotion in the building. Some bolt their doors. A few are pulled into the halls by the gang.

From the hallway we see a gang member walks into an apartment; he shoots at something we can't see. The door slams behind him. A struggle is heard.

Moments later a handful of members regroup with Dillon and Danny.

GANG MEMBER 4

Got nothing, boss.

DILLON

We don't have time to search every apartment. Get Maria!

A member leaves. At the edge of the hall, Dillon looks over the balcony to the foyer area below.

DILLON (CONT'D)

What's your partner up too?

DANNY

He knows we're her.

A door creaks opens to an apartment. Dillon and his men flash guns! A curious five year old boy stands there. Charlene, holding a crying baby, comes for her child. She pulls her son back inside. Closes the door.

DILLON

We're wasting time.

He goes to the edge of the balcony, losing his patience.

DILLON (CONT'D)

Twitch! I know you're here. Don't get stupid.

His voice echoes throughout the building. Then silence.

Cut to Twitch deep in the building in the shadows.

More tenants are accosted and dragged to the foyer.

DILLON (CONT'D)

(with greater intensity)

You hear me!?

More silence. Fuming, Dillon heads to Charlene's door and kicks it in! Charlene and her family scream. The father attempts to do something but is shot dead. Dillon grabs Charlene, still clutching her baby, by her hair. He drags her out into the hall. She's terrified, as Dillon pulls his gun.

CHARLENE

No..no. No. Please....

DILLON

Give me your baby.

MOTHER

(crying)

No...

Dillon punches her; grabs the baby then walks to the edge of the balcony.

DILLON

(at the top of his lungs)

TWITCH!

His voice thunders throughout the building.

DILLON (CONT'D)

Alright! Then let's play your game!
You've got 10 seconds, then this
fuckin' baby dies!

He puts his gun to the baby's head; insanity spreads across his face. He'll do it! Charlene is delirious with fear. Danny moves towards Dillon, but a gang member cuts him off.

DANNY

What're you doing?

DILLON

Five seconds! Then I splatter his
fuckin' brains. Five..! Four..!

One of his gang members questions him.

GANG MEMBER

Boss..?

Dillon turns and points his gun at his own man.

DILLON

Don't you question me.

The gang member backs down. The gun back on the baby. Everyone is tense.

DILLON (CONT'D)
Three!...Two!..ONE!!

TWITCH (O.S.)
Stop!

Slowly, Twitch walks out to the middle of the foyer, hands raised.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
Put down the baby.

Two thugs grab Twitch, wrapping his arms behind his back. Dillon stares, trying to check his own emotions. He crams the baby into the chest of one of his gang members, who gives it back to an overwhelmed mother.

Danny and Dillon come down the stairs and approach the detective. Twitch gives a hateful stare to Danny.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
(to Danny)
Now you're killing babies too?

Dillon pistol whips Twitch. He falls against a couple thugs.

DILLON
He's not running the show. I am. And
yeah, I kill babies...

Leans into Twitch.

DILLON (CONT'D)
...just like I did yours.

Twitch lurches like a wild animal. It takes three gang members to hold him back.

TWITCH
You're dead! You hear me!? You're a
dead man!

DILLON
(smirking)
I was thinking the same thing about
you.

DANNY
This is on you, Twitch. We told you to
stay away.

The odds seem impossible for Twitch as other residents get dragged into the foyer.

We see Morris and the landlord among the growing crowd being herded together. Dillon signals his men holding Twitch...

DILLON

Take him back to the Mongoose.

As Twitch is pushed along he looks at the tenants. Sees them terrified and huddled together. Some are on the balcony with armed thugs nearby.

Close-up: A cockroach skitters across the floor.

Suddenly, the floor vibrates. It's minor at first, but slowly builds in intensity, rattling the very foundation of the building. People stagger and lose their balance.

It's an **EARTHQUAKE!**

EXT. - APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Outside the body guards protecting the front doors stand relaxed. Whatever supernatural force is going on inside isn't showing itself to the outside world.

INT. - APARTMENT

With most lights now broken it's dark inside as the building feels like it's being torn apart. Then everything stops!

DILLON

(to Danny)

What the fuck was that?

It's deathly quiet. Dark. Until...

...a deafening CRASH! As all the windows, shutters, doors and vents in the building close with violent force.

Spawn's trap has been triggered! The entire building is completely sealed shut!

We intercut as both tenants and gang members try prying the windows or doors open, but nothing budes. Screams echo as tenants think they're trapped! Some, like Maria and the Shaman get locked inside their rooms. While others are in the halls locked out of their apartments. A dirty cop runs into the foyer.

COP 2

The doors. Windows. Everything's sealed.

Then a loud sound as metal and gears grind against each other. It's the broken elevator...and it's come ALIVE!

Agonizingly, it makes it's way up to where Twitch and the gang are gathered. A small light flickers inside. The elevator screen doors open. Standing inside, backlit, is the hooded Spawn stranger, his head bowed. He looks up, and for the first time we see it's AL. Young. Serious and heroic.

Al stares.

DANNY
(turning to his men)
You said downstairs was clear?

COP
It was.

DILLON
(to Al)
Then where have you been hiding?

AL
I wasn't. I've been waiting.
(beat)
For all of you.

Dillon signals to his men. Dozens of bullets spray the elevator. The elevator goes dark. Then impossibly, the shattered light inside turns back on. A member checks inside. It's empty.

Al is gone.

Everyone stunned. A baby's cry breaks the silence over a few sobbing tenants. Twitch sees Maria. It's the same camera shot as earlier at her apartment when he left her alone. Suddenly, Lauren is standing where Maria was. This is a reminder to him that he left her alone too; he won't do it a second time.

He turns and attacks the thugs; screaming. When he does...

A **SONIC BOOM** erupts from the elevator! Its force slamming gang members and cops back against the walls with crushing impact. The residents, though, are left standing from this 'Spawn Force'.

TWITCH
RUN!

Tenants scatter. Twitch races upstairs leveling a thug along the way. He gets to Maria's door, tries opening it, but can't. He bangs on it.

TWITCH (CONT'D)

Maria!

On the other side Maria is working the door too.

MARIA

I'm here. I'm okay.

TWITCH

It won't open.

A gunshot tears through the door. Twitch rolls back as a gang member comes around the corner.

MARIA

Twitch!

The gang member and Twitch slug it out. Twitch eventually drops him. He picks up the guy's gun. Now he's armed, but because of his broken hand he'll have to shoot left-handed. Another shot rings out. He takes off, telling Maria...

TWITCH

Stay away from the door!

CUT TO:

Moments later, the bad guys downstairs are on their feet. Dillon with Douglas.

DOUGLAS

This place, it's booby-trapped.
We need more men.

Dillon dials his phone. He gets nothing but static.

DILLON

Derek? Derek, can you hear
me!?!...FUCK!

He throws his phone against a wall.

VARIOUS APARTMENT HALLWAY SHOTS - CONTINUOUS

Tenants hide, trying to protect themselves and loved ones. Danny gathers men in the foyer. Dillon and Douglas are there.

DANNY

(barking orders)
You two..go, find a way out of here.
The rest of you sweep the place.
Twitch is still inside.

They disperse.

CUT TO: A thug enters an apartment. He sees his breath as the temperature in the room drops below zero. Things start to freeze. The thug struggles to breath. He's suffocating as his skin becomes freeze-dried.

Spawn appears. He slams the frozen man with his chains who explodes into a thousand shards.

INT. - MARIA'S APARTMENT

Dillon shoots out the door then crashes it open. Inside are a couple kids; they're scared out of their minds. Dillon looks around. One kid bumps into something, startling Dillon. He turns to shoot but Maria jumps and him and stabs him with a knife.

MARIA

GO!

Dillon clutches his side as the children dash out the door. Maria follows them.

INT. - HALLWAY

Twitch rounds a corner where two tenants fight a gang member. Twitch can't get a clean shot because of their constant movements. More thugs head towards him. There's no more time. He takes aim waiting for the slightest gap as arms and limbs flail in every direction.

BLAM! The bad guy drops and the tenants take cover. Twitch got his shot, now he has to fend off the others. Soon his gun is empty. He dives to the side. He sees Al behind the men. They make eye contact.

TWITCH

(to Al)

I'm going upstairs!

Twitch runs up the stairwell as bullets fly past him from two gang members in hot pursuit. Twitch gets to the door at the top and bursts outside onto the rooftop into bright sunlight. The door slams behind him. Seconds later the bad guys burst through the same door, but they aren't on the rooftop. Instead the mysterious **fifth floor** is back. And the older version of Al stands at the end of the hallway. The gang members are confused.

GANG MEMBER

Where'd he go old man?

Al calmly flips his hoodie over his head. When he looks up again he's the young, vibrant Al.

AL

He went away. From you.

We hear a heartbeat starting. The door slams shut into the camera. We sit in black as the heartbeat pounds faster and louder.

Like a strobe light, we cut in and out of black with graphic images of the horror of Al, then Spawn, then the skeletal Spawn delivering its fury upon them. The strobe ends with only Spawn standing.

INT. - HALLWAY

The Shaman stands defiant in the halls angry these men have come to desecrate his place of living. But his bravery won't repel the bullets coming his way. Morris dives at the Shaman, tackling him back into his tribal looking apartment.

MORRIS

Stay down. And don't move.

Jumping to his feet, Morris grabs a heavy vase. He clubs a thug walking in, knocking a gun from his hand. They fight. The thug crashes into a cluster of candles and picks up a candle with a large flame trying to shove it into Morris' face, who blows out the flame.

When he does, Spawn's black hand grabs Morris from behind, pulling him down to the floor. The thug smiles, gets his gun. Walks over to Morris...aims...

A half dozen tribal swords, mounted on the wall, catapult across the room impaling the thug against a wall, puncturing his body and head. Morris grabs the fallen gun, checks on the Shaman...

MORRIS (CONT'D)

You okay?

The Shaman nods that he is. Morris runs outside.

INT. - BASEMENT

Maria, hides two kids behind machinery and sectioned walls. They crouch behind boxes, barely able to see in the dim light.

Dillon enters, his face still bleeding. Another member joins him. Both have guns. Maria and the children cup their mouths to hide their breathing.

DILLON

What's going on here, Maria! Upstairs?
Tell me, bitch and I end this quickly.

She doesn't answer. Soon her and the kids are discovered. One boy is roughly pulled from his hiding place. Maria tries to stop him, but she's still weak from the hospital.

Dillon grabs her, pulling her close, whispering in her ear.

DILLON (CONT'D)

I'm going to hurt you.

Above, a light bulb shatters. Then another, and another until the hallway is dark except at the end, where a single bulb still ebbs, casting a shadow as something moves. Dillon and the thug, point their guns towards a hissing sound.

Then black, inky tentacles start crawling up the wall and across the ceiling towards them, like black oil running upside down. The last light goes out.

We hear chains rattling. Moments later the light comes back on; the thug is wrapped in Spawn's blood red cape as it tightens like a snake around it's prey. Maria and the kids run. Dillon tries to escape to but turns straight into Spawn's black face whose mouth snaps open like a giant piranha. Dillon runs but doesn't get far as Maria, using all her might, clubs him with a metal pipe. He drops. Maria stands over him.

MARIA

Fuck you too.

She grabs the kids and runs.

Dillon staggers to his feet, blood running down his forehead. In the distance black smoke pours in. Dillon can't quite make out what he's looking at as he begins to hear growls. It's Spawn. His crimson cape snaps open and out come three rabid wolves who haven't eaten for a very long time.

The last thing Dillon ever sees are wolves lunging for his throat.

INT. - HALLWAY

Elsewhere, Hernandez and another cop see Twitch dive into a doorway. They smash open the door to the landlord's apartment, beating him. They only have one goal.

HERNANDEZ

Where is he!? Where's Twitch?

The landlord glances towards the bathroom door that's slightly ajar and he sees Twitch inside looking at him. Twitch nods his approval for him to tell them what they want to know.

LANDLORD

(waving to bathroom)

In there...he's there.

Hernandez goes to check. When he enters the door slams shut and locks! Outside the cop tries to help but can't get in. Hernandez is trapped inside.

HERNANDEZ

God damn it!

There's a sound from behind the red shower curtain. He pulls the curtain back and sees a dozen ravens and bats quietly sitting there: perched. "What the fuck is this!?" he thinks. Then thousands of bugs pour up from the sink drain and toilet, like water over flowing onto the floor. Hernandez slams against the door. The cop outside hears the banging.

COP

Jess! Jesse...! Open up!

Inside Hernandez's body begins to convulse. He starts spitting up bugs as they come out of his and mouth. He's vomiting bugs while hundreds of others crawl over him. He falls to the floor literally choking to death and being buried alive by the insects.

The cop outside shoots the door handle. With one final kick he smashes the door open. A heartbeat, then bats and ravens fly at him violently pecking him to pieces.

INT. - HALLWAY

A thug runs after one of the tenants but falls through the floor into the space between the floors. Wedged in the dark, he hears the sound of feral animals. A pair of green eyes stares at him.

In one move the Spawn creature pulls the man into the dark, shadowed recesses of the floor.

INT. - HALLWAY

More shooting with residents, Twitch and the bad guys.

At the top of the stairs, a thug sees Al back lit. Al just stares then slowly walks towards the thug, hands up like he wants to surrender.

GANG MEMBER 4
(pointing gun)
That's far enough.

Al just keeps walking forward.

The thug unloads his gun on Al, who looks like he's being electrocuted. He's not...

He's TRANSFORMING!

Black ink pours up and over Al's body. The thug fires at Al but it's as if the bullets don't exist. Al continues to transform as he walks down the stairs. This is a magnificent moment as we get the full-on look of Spawn.

The thug takes off heading to an upper hallway as the Spawn creature follows him. He's scared shitless! He tries door after door, none will open, but then sees a young boy run to one of the doors and slip inside. The bad guy rushes to that same door. It won't open.

Animal sounds and the 'Spawn storm' getting closer!

Finally, the door opens! The thug falls inside but nothing's there. The room is completely empty. No boy. No furniture. Nothing but a white light and a small picture on a bare wall. It's an image of Lauren.

The light go off! But Lauren's photo begins to radiate a glow. A pair of piercing, demonic green eyes float above the photo.

In the dark, the gunman fires wildly, each time he does the flash of the gunshot go off creating a strobe-like effect. On the last couple we see Spawn now behind the shooter.

SMASH CUT TO:

Maria maneuvers the halls. She finds one of the tenants hurt and tries to help them inside her apartment as Douglas comes around the corner gun cocked. She freezes: Twitch tackles her

Into her apartment. They jump to the kitchen to get cover from Douglas who comes in with another gang member 'guns-a-blazing'. Maria is shoved into the kitchen corner.

TWITCH
Get down!

Bullets fly everywhere as the kitchen area is destroyed with a sprayed with bullets. In the middle of all this Twitch turns to see if Maria is okay, but his face turns to shock as he see the fridge door riddled with bullets now ajar and there taped to the fridge door is a drawing of a unicorn. The drawn is signed...**LAUREN**.

All sound disappears in Twitch's world as he grabs the drawing, reading his daughter's name. He looks at Maria cowering in the corner...

TWITCH (CONT'D)
(to Maria)
My daughter was with you!?

MARIA
What're you're talking about.

Douglas is now on Maria and Twitch, who's holding Lauren's drawing.

DOUGLAS
She was. Maria's just been keeping
that a secret.

Twitch stunned, slowly gets up then charges Douglas, screaming at the top of his lungs. The fury of his yell echoes throughout the building.

Douglas shoots Twitch.

Twitch falls behind a couch. At the same time the gang member behind Douglas is snatched away offscreen. Douglas goes to finish the job but instead of finding Twitch there's a young girl laying face down. Douglas confused. The dead girl turns... it's Lauren.

She looks exactly the way she did when they found her dead rotting body; pale white skin, dried blood, blackened eyes and matted hair. It's a horrifying image.

She walks towards a freaked out Douglas. He shoots but the bullets pass through her. With each shot this apparition morphs becoming more normal looking. Lauren, looking completely normal silently stands in front of him... then SCREAMS like a monster as sharp teeth snap at him.

Douglas stumbles backward into the hall, hitting a balcony railing, then falls over it. The impact of his body hitting the foyer floor kills him instantly.

Inside the apartment, Twitch gets up from behind the couch where he'd fallen after being shot. His shoulder is bleeding. He goes to Maria, still huddled in the kitchen.

TWITCH
You took my girl?

MARIA
You said you didn't have children.

TWITCH
I don't. She's dead.

Maria gasps.

TWITCH (CONT'D)
What did you do?

He grabs her. Maria getting scared.

MARIA
(crying)
Nothing. I just babysit. I swear.
That's all.

TWITCH
You knew they were kidnapped! You knew
that!

She's heartbroken.

MARIA
No! No...they bring them and take them
when they want. I didn't have a
choice. If you question that...any of
it, they kill you!

TWITCH
Instead they killed my baby!

He tries to catch his breath as Maria sobs.

MARIA
I didn't know...I didn't know.

Suddenly the room goes dark and the black presence of Spawn fills the room. Twitch backs away. As Spawn moves closer to Maria, Twitch looks out the door to see the mayhem still unfolding. There are scared and crying faces of tenants, both old and young.

He sees a vision of Lauren, crying. Afraid. He looks back at Maria also crying and afraid. A moment flashes of his daughter happily drawing a picture for Maria. Smiles on both their faces.

Spawn nearly upon Maria. She's cornered, terrified. Twitch runs in blocking her from Spawn. He defiantly stands against Spawn...

TWITCH

Not her!

The Spawn creature rises ready to pounce; Twitch doesn't move. Spawn's form appears more smoke than human as his long, red cape spreads like flowing water. Then it vanishes like it is being sucked away.

Twitch looks to Maria giving her a look of approval. He takes off back into the hallway.

CUT TO:

Danny runs down a flight of stairs, out of breath, sweating. He thinks he's safe. At the end of the hall are the front doors the gang originally came through. He races towards them but they're sealed. He pounds on the door.

Down the far end of the dark hallway a wind picks up. It builds until it sounds like a full on hurricane! Walls rattle. Then green eyes pierce the darkness. Danny, jerks his gun in the direction of the sounds, firing wildly into the dark.

Emerging from the shadows we see Al walking towards him. Al begins to morph. First, into a hideously burnt carcass whose flesh has been ravaged, then into Spawn as black oozes across him to form the black and red specter.

This is our ghostly hero in ALL HIS GLORY!

His giant cape slithers in a massive rhythm. Chains snap. If the Grim Reaper were real, this would be it!

Wind tosses around debris. Spawn moves closer. Danny continues shooting to no effect. The hall goes dark. Silent. We only hear the detective's breathing before...his body is violently shot forward like a rag doll and just as suddenly snaps to a jarring halt! Danny floats in midair like he's being crucified on an invisible cross.

Spawn's burnt visage with razored teeth comes within inches of his throat. Danny is dropped to the floor. He runs to the front door, frantically pounding and screaming at the top of his lungs trying get the attention of the bodyguards standing just outside...

EXT. - APARTMENT - DUSK

...but no sound escapes the building.

Outside, all is normal to the bodyguards. Their backs turned to the door. Over their shoulder, through a small window in the door, we see Danny screaming. Pounding. Horrified. Then his head is enveloped in a black film as he's twisted and tossed against the window with super-natural force. Still no sound is heard.

INT. - APARTMENT

Danny turns to see the dead Lauren for a moment. The hurricane continues. Danny pushes back against the door as images of Lauren/Ghost/Spawn all flash before him. Then a shark-like mouth fills the screen. Danny is swallowed into Spawn's darkness. It's pitch black.

Then a pair of green eyes pierces the darkness. They begin to glow bright.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. - APARTMENT - DUSK

A brilliant flash of green light pierces outward from inside every window in the building, like a huge nuclear explosion has gone off. It lasts the blink of an eye. Again, no sound comes from the apartment.

INT. - APARTMENT

As the light fades, Twitch sees all evidence of the battle has vanished! The bodies of the bad guys, the blood, the wreckage. All of it is gone. Like nothing ever happened. Yet, somehow the residents have been left untouched. For a long moment Twitch can't see Maria...he thinks she's gone too, but eventually she appears behind some tenants.

The windows and shutters of the building all open again as daylight pours in.

Al steps from the shadows to show himself to the tenants. As he's bathed in the sunlight as he drops to his knees, drained from his battle. Twitch goes and helps him to his feet. The tenants, not afraid, instinctively know these two were their saviors today. They gather around them.

The Shaman helps Al to his feet and takes him into an apartment. Twitch gives Al a final look as the door closes.

Other tenants step from their rooms to the edge of the balconies. There's a calmness as Twitch looks up and nods silently to them. They nod back.

They understand now, that despite what the outside world may think of them, they're lives are worthy and for the first time they make eye contact with one another creating a new bonds between themselves before going back to their rooms.

EXT. - APARTMENT - DUSK

Twitch opens the doors to the outside and walks into the street where the sun pours over him. He soaks up it's cleansing warmth though he's badly injured. He sits down.

Maria comes and sits beside him. Neither of them says a word. Camera pulls back to show the street, then the block and finally the city. A time elapse, as the city goes from dusk to night to dawn as a radio voice talks over:

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

In what's been described as one of New York's most grizzly discoveries, the bodies of nearly two dozen men were found about twenty miles outside of New York City in a wooded area. Early reports indicate that some of the bodies, yet to be identified, may belong to NYPD police officers as well as members from a known criminal cartel.

FADE TO BLACK.

Officials haven't given or indicated any reasons to how this massacre may have occurred. But early speculation suggests a possible shootout between New York's finest and their assailants. Illegal guns and drugs were also recovered at the sight.

We'll continue covering this story as information comes in...

SMASH CUT TO:

Spawn's face jumps at camera like a shark on the attack.

THE END