

RIDE ALONG

"Pilot"

Written by

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REGULAR CHARACTERS:

JAREK WYSOCKI (40's) - A local legend and outsized character, Jarek stands at center of the show that takes place in the center of the country. Like the city of Chicago itself, Jarek is razorblades and brass knuckles wrapped in politeness and ego-less charm. He's a Polish-American, Chicago-born and raised DETECTIVE with a wicked sense of humor, a cynic's eye, but a romantic's heart.

CALEB EVERS (Early 30's) - A young Detective from the North Side of the city, Caleb is an entertaining, tough-looking puppy dog who wants badly to be Jarek's next "project". Caleb sneaks up on you - savvier than you initially think, more observant than you give him credit for, more driven than his demeanor hints at and ultimately the perfect ying to Jarek's yang.

TERESA COLVIN (38) - A fast riser and skilled cop, Teresa has arrived at the very top of the Chicago Police Department in a very short period of time. She did this by proving herself on the streets, by charming those in power above her and by absorbing everything Jarek taught her over the years.

ANTONIO BETZ (25) - A Latino kid from the dangerous Westside of Chicago, Antonio escaped street life due in no small part to Teresa who oversaw an outreach program for disadvantaged kids 12 years ago. She gave him a chance and he took it. He graduated high school and became a cop. He's now Teresa's driver/body guard and also often her confidant. He's her cultural and ethnic touchstone to the streets and as such he has a ton of influence through her. She's also his mentor as she tries to pass on much of what Jarek has taught her over the years.

VONDA WYSOCKI (26) - A young beat copper (what Chicago cops call uniformed officers), Vonda is Jarek's niece (and in his mind, his responsibility). She's carried on the family tradition of becoming a cop even though her father was killed in the line of duty when she was young. She's a natural for the job having spent a lifetime preparing for it. She and her partner are currently tasked to the Organized Crime Division, which means that in addition to riding a beat, they also occasionally have plain clothes responsibilities - a plum job for a beat copper. Vonda's life is complicated by the fact that she finds herself falling in love with her partner, something Jarek believes can cloud your mind and get you killed.

ISAAC JOINER (30's) - A very charismatic African-American beat copper who is Vonda's partner, Isaac seems to gravitate to the adrenalin and excitement of this job. He naturally considers himself indestructible and "lucky" and as a result puts himself, and thus Vonda, in occasionally tricky, dangerous situations. She always follows him though. While Vonda is falling for him very hard, Isaac is attracted just enough to get himself into some real trouble and to set her up for some real heartache. Isaac has a real generational conflict with Jarek, fueled primarily by this growing relationship with his niece.

ALDERMAN PATRICK GIBBONS (60) -- The longtime Irish building magnate turned politician, Gibbons has ruled his ward with a velvet glove for three decades. His constituents love him, but there have always been loud whispers and knowing glances that on the edges of his financial empire are the classic markings of organized crime. Gibbons would have been mayor years ago, but it would have been a step down for him. Jarek and Teresa are convinced he's dirty at his core and when they tie a murder in the pilot episode to Gibbons' empire, they become determined that now is the time to finally bring Gibbons to justice.

LIAM HENNESEY (30) - An Irish tough guy in Gibbons' construction empire, with a dangerous secret.

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. S. DAMEN AVE., CHICAGO (60 MPH) - DAY

JAREK (V.O.)
If you can't love Chicago, you can't
love anything.

Out the unmarked car's window we see DOWNTOWN Chicago blur by. Camera PANS to our two occupants BLASTING past the United Center, dashboard lights and siren on --

JAREK WYSOCKI, 40's, Chicago P.D. Det. rides shotgun.

QUICK FLASH of historical photos/videos as Jarek talks --

JAREK (V.O.)
We're the South Side and the North
Shore. We're steak joints and dive
bars. We're jazz on Rush Street and
shoppers on Michigan Av. We gave the
world Oprah, Obama and the '85 Bears.
And we would've thrown a knockout
Olympics if those crooks who run the
thing hadn't bought it for Brazil
instead. We delivered Kennedy the
presidency and eight years later threw
a convention no one'll ever forget.

BACK TO THE PRESENT AS --

Approaching W. Jackson Blvd., Jarek scans for traffic --

JAREK
Clear on the right.

DET. Bill LINDSEY, instead slows down, looks both ways.

JAREK
It's clear! Come on!

He proceeds, but not fast enough for Jarek's tastes.

QUICK FLASH of old-time Chicago crime/police photos as --

JAREK (V.O.)
People think the city's reputation for
crime started with Al Capone, but
Chicago was such a lawless cesspool,
that when the Great Fire destroyed
half the town in 1871, many thought it
was simply God's retribution.

(MORE)

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

Even after the fire, and before Capone, one newspaper wrote "Chicago is infested with a horde of thieves, burglars and cut-throats, bent on plunder, and who will not hesitate to burn, pillage and even murder."

(beat)

Unfortunately, some things never change.

BACK TO THE PRESENT AS --

The car roars past MALCOLM X. COLLEGE and under the EISENHOWER EXPRESSWAY --

JAREK

Get there, Bill.

The car approaches W. Harrison as a BLACK MUSTANG CAREENS past. Bill SLAMS on the brakes to avoid hitting it or the 8 POLICE CARS tailing. It's a high speed chase and Jarek can only sit and watch the parade go by.

JAREK

Harrison's closed at Halsted. He'll try to cross the river at the Roosevelt Bridge. Beat him there.

BILL

I'll try.

Jarek stares daggers at him.

QUICK FLASH of YOUNG JAREK, in a line of rookies, having his badge PINNED to his chest by his FATHER (his face unseen). Young Jarek SMILES with PRIDE, shakes hands.

JAREK (V.O.)

When my father pinned the badge on me, he said shake hands with the good citizens of this city using a velvet glove, but keep a razor blade hidden 'tween your fingers for the rest of 'em. Also told me the moment I ever felt safe, remember I was just a dumb Pollock, as capable as the next idiot of getting my head shot off.

EXT. W. HARRISON ST. (65 MPH) - DAY

Inside the Black Mustang, LUIS ESPERANZA, 23, sees a SQUADCAR approach alongside. He sticks a HANDGUN out the open window, fires a WARNING SHOT. The SQUAD CAR slows down, falls back in line. Distracted, Luis BASHES the side of a parked car, bounces off and keeps going.

EXT. W. ROOSEVELT RD. (75 MPH) - DAY

Bill drives as Jarek cranes his head, sees A POLICE HELICOPTER in the sky heading their direction.

JAREK
Coming our way.

As they approach the Halsted intersection, Jarek and Bill both look to their left for oncoming traffic, see --
THE BLACK MUSTANG heading straight for them.

JAREK
Go!

Bill ACCELERATES, avoids being sideswiped by the Mustang which FISHTAILS, falls behind them, one lane over.

JAREK
Slow down, get even with him.

Bill slows so that the Mustang catches up. Luis points his gun out the window. Bill slams on the brakes, almost gets rear ended by the lead trail car.

JAREK
Catch back up to him.

BILL
He's armed.

JAREK
I know this guy. He won't shoot me.

BILL
Nah, he'll miss you, hit me.

JAREK
Catch up to him or I'll toss you out right here and now.

Beat. Bill doesn't believe him. Jarek reaches across Bill and unlocks Bill's door --

Bill accelerates and catches up to Luis. As Luis raises his gun from 4 feet away, both cars still going 70 --

JAREK
Luis! It's me.

LUIS
Wysocki?

JAREK
You're gonna get your head shot off!
What's going on, Luis?

LUIS

I'm in a stolen ride, man. Plus I got the gun and some weed and I'm on parole. How many years is that?

JAREK

Doesn't have to be the rest of your life. Nobody's hurt yet.

LUIS

Lookin' to go out in a blaze of glory, man. Just stallin' 'til the news choppers roll up with cameras.

JAREK

What about your girlfriend, Luis? What's her name again?

LUIS

Maya? She's pregnant. It's a boy.

JAREK

Yeah? What about that kid, Luis? You don't want to live to see him?

LUIS

You ain't ever gonna let me touch my son now. Maya's gonna be so pissed.

JAREK

Why don't you explain it all to Maya? Where is she right now?

LUIS

At the flower shop, working.

JAREK

Let's go there then. Okay?

LUIS

Don't play games on me.

JAREK

Wouldn't do that to you, Luis. I'll let you hug her, kiss her goodbye. You wanna do that, Luis? You want to kiss Maya goodbye, feel your son's kick? Just drop the gun out that window and follow us there.

A beat.

JAREK

Today's a good day to trust me.

Beat, then the gun CLATTERS to the street at 60 MPH, gets run over by a trailing squad car.

HELICOPTER SHOT

Bill and Jarek's car pulls in front of the black Mustang and the whole line of cars slows --

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

A very pregnant MAYA, 23, waits anxiously outside the flower shop with two BEAT COPPERS (Chicago slang for Uniform Officers) and assorted Lookie-Loos.

Jarek and Bill's car appears, followed by the black Mustang and the eight Squad cars. Bill parks, Luis does the same. Jarek exits, approaches Luis --

JAREK

Let's see the hands, Luis.

Luis complies, gets out of the car. Jarek indicates the nervous wreck Maya --

JAREK

Maya looks beautiful. Congrats on the kid. You got one minute with her.

Luis approaches Maya, who throws herself into his arms.

MAYA

Oh my God, Luis. What's going on?

Luis puts a hand on her belly. Kisses her.

LUIS

I'm so sorry, baby.

Away from this, Bill stares at Jarek, pissed.

BILL

You almost got me killed, asshole!

JAREK

(re: citizens)

Lose the language, women and children.

BILL

I said you almost got me killed.

JAREK

You're right. I'm sorry about that.

BILL

Just 'cause you rub elbows and whatever the hell other body parts with the new Superintendent, doesn't mean I --

JAREK

It's clear this partnership isn't going to work. We're just not a match. I'll let your Lieutenant know to reassign you at our mutual request.

BILL

After one day together? Screw you.

JAREK

I'm not going to warn you about the profanity again. Kids are listening.
(beat)
I need the car keys.

Bill FLINGS them hard at Jarek's chest. Jarek catches them though, calmly puts them back in his pocket.

JAREK

Appreciate the time and effort. Best of luck to you out there.

Jarek turns and approaches Luis and Maya --

LUIS

They really got me this time, chica. I'm gonna be away a long, long time.
(off her anguish)
Before I go though, I know this prolly ain't the right moment...

Luis drops to a knee, takes her hand. She wells up.

LUIS

And I don't got a ring or nothin', but will you marry me, Maya?

MAYA

'course I'll marry you, Luis.

The civilian crowd applauds, oohs and ahhs.

LUIS

You'll wait for me to get out?

MAYA

Sure I will.

Jarek shakes his head at the beat coppers. No way she'll wait. As Jarek breaks up the kissing couple --

JAREK

Come on, Luis. Honeymoon's over.

SMASH TO TITLES:

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. COMMERCIAL STREET - DAY

A DEAD BODY (20's, Hispanic) lies in the middle of the street, eyes peacefully closed, dressed in an impeccable SUIT and TIE. Surprisingly, no blood, no mess.

CALEB (V.O.)

How does a thirty-eight year old woman get put in charge of 10,000 Chicago police officers?

CALEB EVERS, Early 30's, boyish, but tall and athletic, walks towards the crime scene. Caleb eyes Jarek, at a distance, talking with SUPERINTENDENT TERESA COLVIN, 38.

CALEB (V.O.)

It helps if the city's first choice, a fellow from Texas, takes in a little too much of the local flavor with a camera-phone nearby.

QUICK FLASH of a 60 YEAR OLD MAN, in the back area of a night club with two nubile ESCORTS (20's), one on his lap, the other's 36C breast spilling out of his hand.

BACK ON CALEB as he eyes Jarek gesticulating to Teresa.

CALEB (V.O.)

The city's second choice, a thirty-year Chicago P.D. vet seemed like a lock til he had a heart attack and his wife made him take early retirement. So Teresa Colvin, the controversial choice, became the only choice left.

QUICK FLASH of a camera PANNING down a long line of PHOTOGRAPHS on a wall -- City Superintendents over the years, from 1861 to the present. All are OLD MEN, almost all white.

CALEB (V.O.)

To understand the tornado this sent through Chicago establishment, you need to know the Department's history.

The Camera finally lands on the PORTRAIT of Teresa. She could not stand out more from her predecessors.

CALEB (V.O.)

For a city that has run for decades on the good old boy network, they didn't know what to do with a young broad.

BACK ON Caleb as he walks towards the crime scene --

CALEB (V.O.)

My take is a boss with seventeen years on the Chicago force, someone who hits the streets with her men rather than hiding behind her desk or lounging on the golf course like the last guy, must be a good thing. Of course, my opinion is not universally shared.

Jarek and Teresa consider the dead body --

TERESA

How is this not a murder?

JAREK

It's a misdemeanor murder we already solved from four days ago. Esteban Fierro, gang hit in that salsa club.

TERESA

So what's he doing blocking traffic this morning?

Jarek points to a FUNERAL HOME across the street.

JAREK

Crew that killed him last week, seems to have broken into the funeral home, dragged the corpse into the street, put another dozen bullets in him.

TERESA

Point made. So why am I here?

JAREK

Because Esteban Fierro right there is Paco Fierro's cousin.

Jarek's CELL PHONE rings. He goes to answer it as Teresa waves to ANTONIO BETZ, 25, Latino Beat Copper, who acts as her Driver/Bodyguard. Caleb fidgets nearby.

TERESA

Antonio, call Central Detention, tell them we're coming to talk to Paco.

ANTONIO

Yes, Ma'am. You also wanted me to block off from 1 to 2 on the schedule?

TERESA

City business.

ANTONIO

Need a heads up to keep you safe.

TERESA

Top secret. Shouldn't get too dicey.

Before Antonio can protest, Jarek hangs up, approaches --

JAREK

Got two fresh bodies in Welles Park.
I'm rolling there now.

CALEB

Great, I'll come with.

A beat. Jarek and Teresa stare at this interloper --

CALEB

Caleb Evers. Division just assigned
me to ride with you.

Caleb extends his hand. Jarek doesn't shake.

CALEB (V.O.)

One thing I know for fact is if you
ride with Jarek Wysocki for more than
three months, you move up in the
world. Besides Superintendent Colvin,
another old partner of his runs a
Chicago P.D./FBI joint task force.

QUICK FLASH of a 40 YEAR OLD WOMAN barking orders to a
roomful of cops and Feds.

CALEB (V.O.)

Another's Chief of Dubuque, Iowa.

QUICK FLASH of a 42 MAN addressing a roomful of cops.

CALEB (V.O.)

True, one of Jarek's ex-partners is
rumored to have had a breakdown...

QUICK FLASH on a 38 YEAR OLD MAN just rocking back and
forth in a chair in a looney bin --

CALEB (V.O.)

But any baseball fan knows batting 3
for 4, doesn't make you Ernie Banks.
It makes you Ernie Banks on uber-
steroids. God willing and a little
luck, I'm Jarek Wysocki's next pet
project.

BACK TO THE PRESENT on Caleb, his hand still dangling --

JAREK

Cubs or White Sox?

CALEB

Sox.

Jarek takes Caleb's hand, shakes it. Teresa smiles.

TERESA

Nice try, Jarek. You're not going to wash this one out so easy.

JAREK

Wanna bet?
(tosses Caleb keys)
Get the car.

CALEB

Sure. Where is it?

JAREK

You're the Detective.

Beat. Caleb's not phased.

CALEB

Be right back.

Caleb runs off in search of Jarek's car. In the background, Jarek sees two beat coppers, VONDA WYSOCKI, 26, and ISAAC JOINER, 33, black, chatting by the police tape. They seem friendly, maybe even flirty.

JAREK

You ready for today?

TERESA

Six months in, if we don't do it now --

JAREK

Never will.

TERESA

Still...

JAREK

What do you got to lose? You're already too young and inexperienced for the job... not to mention the whole ovaries thing.

TERESA

I'm trying to keep the ovaries a secret.

JAREK

Besides, all we're fighting is a hundred-seventy years of municipal graft and corruption.

TERESA

Are we fools for thinking we can change any of it?

JAREK

Maybe. But we're cowards if we don't try. This double murder I'm heading over to, guess where one of the victims worked? Liffey Construction.

TERESA

What's Liffey Construction?

JAREK

Maybe nothing. I'll let you know.

Jarek moves off, approaches Vonda and Isaac --

JAREK

Vonda.

VONDA

Uncle Jarek.

JAREK

How's your day?

VONDA

You're looking at the highlight.

Beat. Jarek eyes Isaac. No love lost.

JAREK

Isaac.

ISAAC

Jarek.

Beat. Then a HORN honks. Caleb is in the car, waving.

JAREK

(to Vonda)

Keep your head on a swivel.

EXT. N. LINCOLN AVE. (30 MPH) - DAY

Caleb drives, Jarek shotgun. Over the silence --

CALEB (V.O.)

Ya hear so many Jarek Wysocki stories, you don't know which to believe. My favorite is how he held off an angry mob with a bullwhip.

QUICK FLASH of Jarek cracking a BULLWHIP to keep TWENTY ANGRY PEOPLE from getting to a WOUNDED RAPE SUSPECT.

CALEB (V.O.)
 Crowd heard it was a local rapist,
 were ready to lynch him. DNA later
 cleared the guy. Some Beat Coppers
 started calling Jarek "Illinois
 Jones", but that didn't stick. "The
 Polish Cowboy" did, though.

BACK TO THE PRESENT AS --

Caleb tries to break the ice, worm his way in --

CALEB
 Hottest actress in the hottest scene
 in movie history? Go.
 (beat, off Jarek)
 For me... Fast Times at Ridgemont
 High, Phoebe Cates climbing out of the
 swimming pool, bikini top peeling off.
 (beat)
 What's yours?

JAREK
 You know the problem with men?
 (beat, he doesn't)
 If they can't eat it, drink it, smoke
 it, snort it or pawn it, men will
destroy it. I'm locked in a car ten
 hours a day, I need a female partner.

CALEB
 How 'bout I keep the seat warm 'til
 you find the woman of your dreams?

JAREK
 Any stories you've heard about me,
 they're not true.

CALEB
 Okay.

JAREK
 I don't appreciate any profanity.

CALEB
 Noted.

JAREK
 And the only sane answer to your
 question is Audrey Hepburn in any
 movie she was ever in.

Caleb nods. Takes it as a victory.

EXT. WELLES PARK - DAY

A husband and wife, jogging clothes, shot dead, lying next to each other. DETECTIVE GLEN HOWELL, 50's, mills. Beat coppers troll the scene. Jarek and Caleb approach.

JAREK
Glen, what do you got?

DET. HOWELL
Well, I got a marriage that ended in ways unkind. Husband and wife joggers. Steve's a systems analyst at some data entry company. Linda's comptroller for Liffey Construction.

JAREK
Yeah, I heard.

DET. HOWELL
(suspicious now)
Why are you in this part of town?

JAREK
New detail.

DET. HOWELL
Yeah? What's that?

JAREK
I ride all around the city listening to the radio, hijack any case I want from the Primary.

Beat. Then Det. Howell laughs. Must be a joke.

DET. HOWELL
Really? How can I get that job?

JAREK
Spend four years training the future Superintendent, gain her trust.

DET. HOWELL
You're serious? Since when is this?

JAREK
Sparky, what time is it?

CALEB
8:22.

JAREK
New policy commenced at 8:21 and this is official notification I'm taking over your case.

DET. HOWELL
That's ridiculous. The Prom Queen's really giving you that kind of juice?

JAREK
Teresa Colvin isn't a Prom Queen, she's the Superintendent. And yes, that kind of juice. Canvas started?
(off his nod)
Great. Anything turns up, hit my cell. And keep taking notes. Paperwork's still yours.

Caleb kneels down over the husband's body. He's wearing HEADPHONES, but the cord isn't attached to anything.

CALEB
Headphones, but no I-Pod. Shoot 'em up robbery in this neighborhood? Guess it's possible, but...

Jarek starts to walk away --

JAREK
Come on...

Caleb rushes after the fast-moving Jarek --

CALEB
We really got free reign to take over any investigation in the city?

JAREK
I do. Tomorrow you go back to the real world.

CALEB
Okay. So why are we walking away from our crime scene?

JAREK
Ever been to Liffey Construction?

INT. CENTRAL DETENTION - VISITOR'S ROOM - DAY

Teresa sits on one side of the table. Antonio behind her. A GUARD watches over PACO, 30, Latino, tatted.

TERESA
Mr. Fierro, I'm Superintendent Teresa Colvin.

PACO
Superintendent? That like some kind of janitor?

TERESA

Superintendent means I'm the highest ranking police officer in Chicago. Every cop in this city answers to me.

PACO

(to Antonio)

Yo, how'd we miss out on initiating your ass, amigo?

ANTONIO

Wanted to do something important with my life.

PACO

Like being her chihuahua? She carry you around in her purse?

Teresa shares a look with Antonio not to take the bait.

TERESA

We're here about your cousin.

PACO

Thought you caught Esteban's shooter?

TERESA

This morning other members of the 85th Street Overlords removed your cousin's body from his mortuary, dragged him into the street and shot his corpse numerous times.

(He can't mask rage)

I know this threatens to escalate violence between your two gangs.

PACO

That how you read the situation?

TERESA

So I've come respectfully, leader to leader, to tell you my Department will be enacting revenge on your behalf.

PACO

How you gonna do that?

TERESA

In five minutes, multiple raids will be initiated on various Overlord residences and illegal operations. We're going to cripple their organization as punishment. You get in the middle of this fight though, we return the favor... respectfully.

Beat. He considers.

PACO
 You got 'til midnight to show me how
 you bring the pain. After that, it's
 gonna be like fireworks in July.

INT. CITY JAIL HALLWAY - DAY

Teresa walks with a tweaked Antonio. She notices.

TERESA
 Say it.

ANTONIO
 Guys like Paco destroyed my
 neighborhood. Makes threats against
 the city like that? Little soft on
 him, weren't you?

TERESA
 Last time war broke out, three kids
 under the age of ten got killed in
 Austin and Humboldt Park. I'm just as
 soft as I need to be.

EXT. PARKING LOT (STAGING AREA) - DAY

ERNIE TREFIAN, 35, muscled, Armenian-American head of
 this area's ORGANIZED CRIME DIVISION, addresses a dozen
 cops - some in uniform, others in C.P.D. windbreakers,
 all vested. He hands out handmade flyers --

ERNIE
 Our target in this city-wide
 coordinated raid is Jimmy Washington.
 You all know Jimmy. We're expecting
 to find at least three weapons in a
 lock box under his bed and hopefully
 some cocaine and heroin. He's not Dad
 of the Month material, so we think his
 son's probably at Mom's, but you never
 know. John and Tim, you got the door
 with me and Wiggy. Rick and Octo got
 the back. Isaac and Vonda got crowd
 control. Rest of you, follow us
 inside. Let's do it.

All head for cars. Isaac whispers to Vonda, pissed.

ISAAC
 Crowd control? Again with this?

EXT. S. AUSTIN BLVD. (20 MPH) - DAY

Four unmarked police cars and two squad cars in a line
 sneak down the street like a snake hunting a mouse.

As they pass through a red light, the lead car ACCELERATES to 50 (no lights or sirens) and the others follow turning on W. 18th street (Residential) and stop in front of a row of APARTMENT BUILDINGS. Across the street, people sit on porches and stoops watching.

Cops silently STORM their targeted building. Isaac and Vonda take a position watching the spectators.

We HEAR the sounds of "POLICE! OPEN UP!" as a battering ram pounds into a METAL DOOR fifteen times before we hear it crash in. Isaac, frustrated, spies the LOOKIE-LOOS. One draws his attention -- QUENTIN SILVER, 20's, sits on an old car seat -- a poor man's porch swing.

ISAAC
(sotto, to Vonda)
You see Quentin Silver over there?

VONDA
Is that Quentin?

ISAAC
Oh, that's him. Outstanding warrant on that gas station armed-robbery.

VONDA
We're just crowd control.

ISAAC
Unless we see a wanted fugitive.

Isaac smiles. She finds his charm hard to resist. Isaac walks casually towards the crowd. Vonda follows. Quentin's played this game before though, sees them approach and he leaps off the car seat, over the porch rail and runs for it. Isaac and Vonda chase --

OVER fences, through garbage cans, and around parked cars, Isaac and Vonda storm after Quentin, arrive at --

EXT. BACK ALLEY - DAY

No sign of Quentin. Isaac's not ready to quit.

ISAAC
You that way, I got this way.

We stay with Vonda as she peels off the other way. Gun raised she stealthily approaches a back yard with a tool shed. The shed door quivers ever so slightly in the wind. She approaches, FLINGS the door open --

Nothing. She closes the door, now REVEALING Quentin who PUNCHES her in the jaw, sending her sprawling to the ground. He's on top of her, trying to RIP her GUN from her grip. She hangs on tenaciously.

She deflects the punches with her spare hand, but he's beginning to overpower her as --

BAM!

Isaac FLIES into screen, BARRELS into Quentin, knocking him off of Vonda. Isaac SHOVES Quentin's face into the dirt, grabs an arm and twists it behind Quentin's back.

ISAAC

Thanks for leaving me a taste.

Vonda smiles back at the man who just saved her.

INT. LIFFEY CONSTRUCTION - HALLWAY - DAY

Jarek and Caleb walk. Jarek points to a FIRE ALARM.

JAREK

I say the word "institution", that's your cue to come back out here and pull that fire alarm.

CALEB

Seriously?

JAREK

Seriously. Want to ask me why?

CALEB

Why?

JAREK

Tell you later.

CALEB

Won't it spray me with ink?

JAREK

Wives tale your middle school principal told you to keep you and your delinquent pals in line.

INT. LIFFEY CONSTRUCTION - ACCOUNTING - DAY

Jarek and Caleb mid-informing SEVEN ACCOUNTANTS of the death of their boss. Shock and tears.

FEMALE ACCOUNTANT

Oh, my God.

JAREK

I'm so sorry for your loss. Linda was a good comptroller? A good boss?

FEMALE ACCOUNTANT

She was the best.

JAREK

Can anyone think of any reason someone would harm her or her husband?

A beat. The group ponders it. One man in the back, PHILLIP (50's) just looks down, worried.

MALE ACCOUNTANT

Why would anyone do this?

JAREK

I honestly don't know. Is this a pretty good institution to work for?

MALE ACCOUNTANT

Sure. I guess so.

A beat. Jarek looks over at Caleb, who doesn't move.

JAREK

So it's a good institution.

CALEB

I need to grab something from the car.

Caleb walks out.

JAREK

We're going to need a half hour or so with each of you to discuss what kinds of things Linda was working on, who she had financial dealings with.

FEMALE ACCOUNTANT

We have to do this now?

JAREK

I'm afraid so. Is there a room we --

INT. LIFFEY CONSTRUCTION - HALLWAY - DAY

Caleb looks around the empty hallway. Lifts the plastic Fire Alarm and PULLS the alarm. RED INK sprays out onto his hand as the ALARM SOUNDS. Caleb can't believe it.

INT. LIFFEY CONSTRUCTION - ACCOUNTING - DAY

Jarek reacts with surprise to the alarm.

JAREK

I guess we can do the interviews tomorrow. Everyone should clear out for their own safety.

As the accountants quickly take things from their desks and scurry out, Jarek grabs Phillip, the last to leave.

PHILLIP

Hey.

JAREK

You get outside, say you're going to
call your wife, then call me.

Jarek hands him a card.

JAREK

Go.

EXT. LIFFEY CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Jarek and Caleb lean on their car. Across the street,
the employees wait for the all-clear. Some smoke,
others on cells. Caleb shows his ink-stained hand.

CALEB

Won't come off.

JAREK

Guess your principal was right.

CALEB

What are we doing here?

JAREK

Linda Walling worked here.

CALEB

Why aren't we going to her husband's
place of work then?

JAREK

Because Liffey Construction is
special.

CALEB

Special how?

Jarek's cell phone rings. Jarek shrugs, answers.

JAREK

Detective Wysocki.

PHILLIP (V.O.)

It's me.

REVEAL Phillip across the street, away from his co-
workers, talking on his phone staring at Jarek.

JAREK

You're just chatting with your wife.

Phillip turns so as not to look at Jarek.

JAREK

I want to give you the opportunity to talk to me without your co-workers being aware of it. But you do know something useful though, right?

PHILLIP

I can't lose my job.

JAREK

I understand.

PHILLIP

I'm too old to start over. My daughter's in private college.

JAREK

I'm not writing anything down, I'm not even asking you your name. Just give me a place to look. You liked Linda?

PHILLIP

Yes.

JAREK

Then do her this one last favor.

A beat.

PHILLIP

She was crunching numbers on the big Lakeshore project. Sealed bids are due to city hall next week. It's us and two other companies. Linda said someone at the top knew what the other two secret bids were. She said she was getting pressured to rig our numbers to come in under them.

JAREK

Well, that certainly sounds like the Chicago I know and love.

PHILLIP

The last time I talked to her, she was real nervous, said she was considering blowing the whistle to someone at city hall.

Jarek sees TWO ACCOUNTANTS walk near Phillip.

JAREK

I appreciate it. Now say "I love you too, honey" and hang up.

PHILLIP

I love you too, honey.

Phillip hangs up. Jarek hangs up.

JAREK
You know what my father used to call
this?

CALEB
What?

JAREK
A Windy City Lead.

CALEB
What's a Windy City Lead?

JAREK
Something you should run away from.

INT. POLICE UNION MEETING ROOM - DAY

Teresa sits opposite SERGEANT TOM WORTHEN (57, white) and his Union Lawyer, HENRY LISKWRIGHT (40's, even whiter). Antonio holds up the wall behind Teresa.

TERESA
(reads file)
A dozen citizen complaints in the last
two years, a citation for misplacing
your firearm.

WORTHEN
I eventually located my weapon.
Turned out to be under the seat in my
vehicle.

TERESA
Numerous reports of tardiness.

WORTHEN
Hey, I could have had buddies clock me
in. At least I'm honest, right?

TERESA
Your men's case closure rate is in the
bottom five percent. You've built
quite the resume, Sergeant Worthen.

WORTHEN
You don't judge a guy just by numbers.
I've been a good cop a long time.

Antonio's phone rings. He answers as he exits --

ANTONIO
Superintendent Colvin's office...

LISKWRIGHT

Let's be clear here. Under union regulations, you have no cause to dismiss Sergeant Worthen. So if you're here to give him a written reprimand, then just give it.

TERESA

You misunderstand. I'm here to promote Sergeant Worthen.

(off their confusion)

You're far too valuable to have on regular detective duty. I'm promoting you to Commander of Mops and Brooms.

WORTHEN

Pardon?

TERESA

We have a supply closet downtown and recently some mops have gone missing. In your new position you will report to that supply closet to ensure no further cleaning equipment is stolen.

WORTHEN

You want me off the street?

TERESA

Unfortunately the supply closet lacks a phone line. Or windows. But I'm sure you'll manage.

WORTHEN

I've got fifteen years on you in this department. I've got two kids your age for Christ's sake.

LISKWRIGHT

This isn't police policy.

TERESA

As of today it is.

WORTHEN

You're only coming after me?

TERESA

You and a hundred other oxygen thieves who make the rest of my ten thousand great cops look bad.

WORTHEN

You think you got questionable rank and file support now, lady? Wait 'til I spread the word about this crap.

TERESA

Please do. Putting you in the corner isn't a deterrent unless other officers know about it.

WORTHEN

Hey, you smug little bitch. This is my life.

TERESA

But it's my city now. And I can't take on the rest of it if I can't keep my own back yard clean.

Antonio returns, hands Teresa a post-it note. She reads it -- "Alderman Gibbons... IMPORTANT!"

TERESA

(rises to leave)

You don't like your promotion, you can always retire.

WORTHEN

(livid, yelling)

You're nothing more than a pretty face P.R. stunt, lady. You think you can change how things get done in Chicago? You've had this job, what? Six months? No way you last six more, you hear me? I will get you first!

But she's already gone --

EXT. ALDERMAN GIBBONS' OFFICE - DAY

Jarek and Caleb on the sidewalk with Det. Howell, who hands them each a Police flyer. Jarek nods his thanks as Teresa's TOWN CAR pulls up. Jarek opens up the door for Teresa, who sees Caleb.

TERESA

Congratulations. You've lasted longer than his last three partners.

CALEB

Just keeping my head down.

TERESA

Tell me we've got something, Jarek.

JAREK

You know Detective Glen Howell?

DET. HOWELL

Superintendent.

JAREK

Det. Howell and his men just came up
with a solid suspect. This thing
breaks, we got him to thank.

TERESA

Nice work, Detective.

Det. Howell nods a silent thanks to Jarek.

TERESA

Alderman's waiting.

JAREK

(to Caleb)

Stay here.

Jarek and Teresa enter the offices as Det. Howell exits,
leaving only Caleb and Antonio to kick their heels.

CALEB

Caleb.

ANTONIO

Antonio.

CALEB

You're the driver?

ANTONIO

Yeah.

CALEB

Me too apparently.

Antonio tries to write on his notebook, is frustrated.

ANTONIO

You got a pen? Mine's out.

CALEB

Let me look.

Caleb goes to his and Jarek's car, opens the passenger
door, scans... opens the GLOVE COMPARTMENT, finds --

A BULLWHIP neatly coiled up. The Polish Cowboy indeed.

INT. ALDERMAN GIBBONS' OUTER OFFICE - DAY

An attractive secretary, LILLY, professional, early
30's. Jarek and Teresa approach.

TERESA

Superintendent Colvin and Detective
Wysocki for the Alderman.

LILLY
He's waiting for you.

She rises, leads them to the door which opens to --

INT. ALDERMAN GIBBONS' OFFICE - DAY

The kind of office that only 30 years of running a city from behind the scenes can buy. Behind the desk sits Chicago political machine legend PATRICK GIBBONS, 60.

GIBBONS
Good to see you again, Teresa.

TERESA
You too. This is Detective Wysocki.

GIBBONS
Can I get either of you a drink?

TERESA
No thank you.

GIBBONS
Lilly, just a scotch for me, please.

LILLY
Yes, sir.

GIBBONS
(to Jarek)
Or is it too early?

JAREK
Is there such a thing?

GIBBONS
(to Lilly)
I guess it's a double then.

She nods, exits.

GIBBONS
So this murdered couple that happened this morning...

JAREK
Steve and Linda Walling.

GIBBONS
This kind of butchery in my district, it's unacceptable.

TERESA
Hopefully, we can eliminate this kind of crime in the entire city.

GIBBONS

Well, I'm an optimistic man, Teresa, but I have the disadvantage of living in the real world. Austin, Cabrini, we whack the moles where we can, but my part of town? We catch the bastards. Tell me what you know.

JAREK

Our canvass landed a real good looking suspect.

Jarek hands Gibbons the sheet Det. Howell gave him. It's a photo and rap sheet for WENDELL HOLMES, 30's, white, emaciated meth-head.

JAREK

Wendell Holmes, was seen in the area just prior to the shootings. You see his sheet. No stranger to violence.

GIBBONS

So this looks like a meth-head stick-up gone bad?

JAREK

Probably.

(beat, casual)

But we're also looking into the wife's place of employment, Liffey Construction. She was involved with some big city stuff, so we want to cover our bases there.

Lilly enters with Gibbons' double scotch.

GIBBONS

Thanks, Lilly.

(to Teresa)

Any resources you need. Anything.

EXT. ALDERMAN GIBBONS' OFFICE - DAY

Jarek and Teresa exit. Caleb and Antonio sit in their respective cars. Teresa stops Jarek.

TERESA

Since when are you so free with information to the politicians?

JAREK

Mellowing in my old age.

TERESA

Jarek?

Beat. He never could hide a secret from her.

JAREK

The dead woman was getting ready to whistle blow on her company.

TERESA

Liffey Construction?

JAREK

Guess who owns it? Not on paper, not officially... but really.

TERESA

(beat, shit)

Alderman Gibbons.

JAREK

Hey, you keep showing promise, you might get somewhere in the department.

TERESA

You know this for a fact?

JAREK

All the city bidding Liffey does, can't have his name on the letterhead.

TERESA

You know this for a fact?

JAREK

I've heard it.

TERESA

But you don't know it.

JAREK

I feel it.

TERESA

Jarek. I'm trying to get two gangs to lay down their guns before midnight. I'm taking on the Police Union and a hundred pissed-off, armed cops. Don't drag me into a fight with the second most powerful man in Chicago after the Mayor unless you know something.

JAREK

He's way more powerful than the mayor and you wanted to take on corruption. And besides, now that Gibbons and his machine know I'm sniffing around Liffey Construction, the next move isn't mine or yours. It's his.

HIGH ANGLE looking down on Teresa and Jarek --

REVEAL

Alderman Gibbons watches the silent action from his office window as he sips his scotch.

QUICK FLASH of old time Chicago politics footage, people at the polls, politicians glad-handing, campaigning as --

GIBBONS (V.O.)

My Great-Grandfather ran this ward when it was only Irish and German. My grandfather followed him, taught me you take care of your own first and foremost. You wonder why the same guys get elected over and over again? It's because someone got the Fitzgerald family the zoning variance they needed to build that extra bedroom for his sick mother. It's because someone got the Vittinghoff boy's drag racing citation knocked down to a simple speeding ticket so he wouldn't lose his license. Someone did that for them. That someone was me.

BACK TO THE PRESENT as Gibbons continues watching --

GIBBONS (V.O.)

My father didn't want the job, but I ran the first chance I had. My name got me elected the first time. After that, I earned every single vote. They say Chicago is the city that works. What some people never understand is it works in a lot of different ways.

Gibbons watches Jarek's car drive off and Teresa get into her car. As he takes one last sip --

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

Vonda and Isaac lean against their squad car as Jarek and Caleb drive up. As Vonda watches --

VONDA (V.O.)
Uncle Jarek's the one who woke me up
and told me my father had been shot.

QUICK FLASH of 10 year old Vonda shaken awake by Jarek.

VONDA (V.O.)
And when Dad died the next day, he
hugged me and told me I was his
responsibility now.

QUICK FLASH of 10 y.o. Vonda listening solemnly.

VONDA (V.O.)
He taught me how to knock down the 7-
10 split, taught me when you smell
Blommer's chocolate in the morning
air, it's going to be cold that day.

QUICK FLASH of chocolate being stirred at Blommer's. The camera goes from the pot, to the chimney, up into the air and ZOOMS a mile to Young Vonda's house where she wakes up in bed smelling the chocolate in the air.

VONDA (V.O.)
And when I told him I wanted to enroll
in the Academy, not only did he not
stop me, I know he pulled strings to
get me in early. Though he didn't
admit it then. And he wouldn't now.

Jarek and Caleb emerge from their car, approach.

JAREK
Need a favor. We got a suspect in our
double hummer. Wendell Holmes. We'll
sit on his house, but I pulled his
contact cards. He's got three
felonious friends stumbling around the
city. See if you can get one dirty.

VONDA
Love to.

JAREK
Let me see it.

Jarek looks at Vonda's face where she took the punch.

ISAAC
She handled herself really good.

JAREK
Ernie says you two went chasing after
this guy out of position.

ISAAC
Wanted felon, what would you have
done?

Isaac has him there. Jarek sidles close to him.

JAREK
I got to tell you what happens to you
if something happens to her?

ISAAC
We'll be just fine.

Jarek pulls Vonda to the side, out of earshot.

JAREK
You sleeping with your partner?

VONDA
No.

JAREK
I can see.

VONDA
I swear on Dad's grave. No.

That satisfies him. Still --

JAREK
I'm trying to figure out why you'd
follow this guy off the reservation to
get popped like that.
(beat, off her)
Isaac's too cocky. He's the kind of
guy who's going to drown one day, pull
someone down with him.

VONDA
I'm being careful.

JAREK
Trust me, partners is complicated
enough.

She nods her understanding. Jarek walks back to Isaac,
who's looking at the contact cards Caleb has given him.

JAREK
I need one of them dirty.

EXT. W. CORTEZ ST. (PARKED) - DAY

Jarek and Caleb on stakeout. After a beat.

CALEB
Top Ten Album Covers of all time.
I'll start. Nirvana's "Nevermind".
Now you.

A beat. Jarek's not going to play this game. His cell rings through the car's sound system. He has no choice but to answer on speaker phone.

JAREK
Hello?

INT. DINA'S HOUSE - INTERCUT

DINA WYSOCKI, Jarek's ex-wife, 40, does house chores as she cradles the phone against her ear --

DINA
It's me.

JAREK
You're on speaker.

DINA
Who else is there?

Jarek looks at Caleb, can't remember his name...

CALEB
Caleb Evers, Ma'am.

DINA
Hi Caleb. I'm the ex-wife.

CALEB
I'm the soon-to-be ex-partner.

DINA
Has he told you about his fiancée yet?

JAREK
Dina.

DINA
Twenty-seven years old. Doesn't that seem a little young for Jarek, Caleb?

CALEB
That seems a little young.

Caleb nods "no" to Jarek.

JAREK
What can I do for you, Dina?

DINA
J.J. left his physics project at your house. He says it's in the cubby.

JAREK
When does he need it?

DINA
Can you bring it by around nine?

Jarek sees in his rear view mirror, WENDELL HOLMES.

JAREK
Sure. Got to go.

Jarek and Caleb exit the car. Six Beat Coppers appear from various nooks and crannies, guns drawn.

JAREK
Wendell Holmes! On the ground!

WENDELL
I'm not resisting!

Wendell lays down. Caleb pats him down as a beat copper cuffs him. Caleb pulls an I-POD from Wendell's pocket.

CALEB
You know what goes well with these?
Headphones.

Caleb finds some keys. Jarek turns to the Unis.

JAREK
Take him to the station.

BEAT COPPER #1
Any help executing the search warrant?

JAREK
No. I don't want any police presence here. Clear out ASAP.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Jarek opens Wendell's door with the keys. They enter --

INT. WENDELL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Small, dark, a sty.

JAREK
Never ceases to amaze me how well
crime pays. Close it and lock it.
(MORE)

JAREK (CONT'D)
 (off Caleb)
 I'm expecting visitors.

Caleb shuts it, locks it. They look around the place.
 It's filthy, depressing, except for --

JAREK
 Always with the big TVs, these guys.

A 50" plasma on the wall.

JAREK
 Find the remote, see if the game's on.

CALEB
 Game doesn't start until 2:20.

JAREK
 You mean the Cubs game, right?
 Because the Sox don't play today.
 (Caleb's busted)
 I knew it. You're a lying, filthy
Cubs fan. You thought you could
 weasel your way into my good graces by
pretending to be a White Sox fan?

CALEB
 I grew up on the North Side. We had
 Sandberg, Maddux, Grace and Dawson.
 What was I supposed to do?

Jarek looks at Caleb like he rapes nuns for sport.

JAREK
 Search it.

As they search different parts of the apartment --

EXT. ROBERT HEALY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

Antonio opens the car door for Teresa, as he gets off
 the phone. As they walk towards the school entrance --

ANTONIO
 Raids all went off with no friendlies
 injured.

TERESA
 Overlords hand over the mortuary
 shooters yet?

ANTONIO
 Not yet. So what is this event?

TERESA
 Community outreach thing I got roped
 into.

ANTONIO
I went to school here.

TERESA
Really?

INT. ROBERT HEALY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - DAY

They walk down the hallway, approach Classroom 15.

ANTONIO
That used to be Mrs. Estrada's class.

TERESA
Still is.

Teresa opens the door, waves Antonio inside to --

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Where twenty-five 4th graders (almost all Hispanic) sit.
Happy Birthday banners on the wall.

KIDS
Happy Birthday, Officer Betz!

Antonio looks at Teresa. She smiles, nods him forward.

MRS. ESTRADA
Antonio!

ANTONIO
Mrs. Estrada.

She hugs him.

MRS. ESTRADA
Class. Today is Antonio's twenty-fifth birthday. But fifteen years ago, he was a fourth grader in this classroom, just like you. Who has questions for Officer Betz?

Many kids raise their hands. Antonio points to one.

4TH GRADE BOY
How do you become a police officer?

ANTONIO
Well, you stay out of trouble. Decide you want to help people who can't always help themselves. And then you need someone to give you a chance.

Antonio sneaks a peak at Teresa. She beams.

INT. WENDELL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jarek and Caleb still rooting through the place, when they hear action at the door. Both draw their guns.

WILL (O.S.)
Wendell? Open up.

A low knock. Jarek opens the door to reveal two TOUGHS, WILL and LIAM, both 20's and Irish. They see the guns --

WILL
Easy...

JAREK
And who are you?

WILL
We're just looking for Wendell.

JAREK
Come on in.

WILL
Nah, that's alright.

JAREK
Get in here.

Jarek waves them in, closes the door behind them.

JAREK
How you know Wendell?

WILL
Just friends.

JAREK
Oh yeah, how tall is he?

Will doesn't know.

JAREK
Who sent you here?
(beat, louder)
Who sent you here?

LIAM
Screw this. I'm out.

JAREK
You're not going anywhere.

LIAM
Get an arrest warrant then, asshole.

Jarek KICKS Liam in the GROIN, sending him to the floor.
Caleb freaks out.

CALEB

Hey!

Jarek GRABS Liam's head and SMASHES his face hard into the floor. Caleb tries to stop Jarek, but Jarek gets one or two more shots in before Caleb gets him off. Liam writhes in pain.

JAREK

Search the big mouth.

Caleb searches Liam, while Jarek searches Will.

CALEB

Just a wallet.

JAREK

Let me see.

Caleb tosses it to Jarek. Jarek pulls out the license.

JAREK

Pleasure, Liam. Who sent you to find Wendell?

LIAM

Your mother, after I got done three-waying her and your sister.

Jarek rushes towards him to kick his ass. Caleb intercepts him. Caleb turns to Will and Liam.

CALEB

Get the hell out of here.

JAREK

I'm not done with him.

CALEB

(sotto)

Yes you are. Because if we bring them in, I'll have to write this all up.

(to Will and Liam)

Go.

Jarek tosses the wallet back to Liam.

LIAM

What about my license?

JAREK

Mail away for a replacement.

WILL

Come on.

Will and Liam beat it out of there. A pause.

CALEB

That was really not cool.

JAREK

Starting tomorrow you won't have to worry about it.

EXT. N. PULASKI RD. (30 MPH) - DAY

Vonda and Isaac in their squad car, eyes peeled.

ISAAC

Your uncle's really got it in for me.

VONDA

He's just over-protective.

ISAAC

Doesn't he know I got your back, baby?

She laughs it off, but inside she's flattered, in love.

ISAAC

His generation still sees color.
Time's on the side of the righteous.

VONDA

That's one of our plates right there.
White Chevy.

They watch the car come to a complete stop at a stop sign, then continue.

ISAAC

He roll that stop sign?

VONDA

Think he did.

Isaac hits the siren.

EXT. N. PULASKI RD. (PARKED)- DAY

Jarek & Caleb pull up. YANCY, 20's, scuzzball, stands, hands cuffed in the back. Jarek rolls down the window --

JAREK

What do you got, Officers?

VONDA

Suspect ran a stop sign. In searching Yancy's vehicle, we found some electronics that come back stolen.

JAREK

This your first time getting popped?

YANCY

Not exactly.

JAREK

We can bring him in for you.

VONDA

That'd be a big help. Thanks, Detective.

JAREK

Really should eat first, though. You hungry, Yancy?

INT. COP JOINT GREASY SPOON - DAY

Jarek, Caleb and Yancy finish lunch.

YANCY

That was great. Thanks again.

JAREK

No problem.

A waitress (PENELOPE) approaches.

PENELOPE

Get you fellas any dessert?

JAREK

Well, Penelope, that depends on Yancy.
(to Yancy)
You pals with Wendell Holmes?

YANCY

That's what that shakedown was about back there? Forget it.

JAREK

Here's the deal. We can skip dessert, process you on the stolen merch... or we can forget about those charges while you order any dessert on the menu and tell us about Wendell.

Penelope waits, curious. After a beat.

YANCY

Slice of cherry pie, heated up. Scoop of chocolate ice cream on the side.

JAREK

Same.

CALEB

Same.

EXT. POLICE STATION MOTORPOOL - DAY

Jarek, Caleb and Det. Howell with Wendell, who smokes.

JAREK

You want to tell us about this five grand you were bragging to your buddies you were getting paid?

WENDELL

Who ratted?

CALEB

How many people you tell?

WENDELL

One too many. Guy paid me the five grand to take out the couple. Extra emphasis on the wife. Make it look like a rip off he said. I mean I already got a damn I-Pod.

JAREK

What was this guy's name?

WENDELL

Never gave it. Wanted it that way.

JAREK

You never saw him before?

WENDELL

Not before two nights ago at the bar.

JAREK

You ID him for us?

WENDELL

You put him in front of me, yeah, I'll do business with you.

JAREK

Okay. Detective Howell's got additional questions for you.

WENDELL

I know the drill.

DET. HOWELL
Thanks for the bust.

JAREK
Any time.

Det. Howell leads Wendell back inside.

CALEB
We got the shooter, but not the money man. So, where to?

JAREK
I know where I'm going next. To make love to my fiance.

CALEB
Excuse me?

JAREK
Should only take about an hour. I'll meet back up with you then.

CALEB
For real?

JAREK
You know how to keep a gorgeous twenty-seven year old happy?

CALEB
No.

JAREK
Figured as much.

EXT. POLICE MEMORIAL - NIGHT

Dedicated to slain Chicago Police Officers, this monument lies between Soldier Field and Lake Michigan. Dim lights illuminate hundreds of names of lost souls.

Jarek enters, looks at a name for a moment, then --

LIAM (O.S.)
You could've warned me to wear a cup.

Reveal LIAM emerging from the shadows. Jarek pulls out Liam's license, tosses it to him.

JAREK
Doesn't play as well, you know what's coming. You got any pals up here?

LIAM
A guy I graduated with got killed as a rookie, but I barely knew him.
(MORE)

LIAM (CONT'D)

(beat)
Your brother's up here, right?
Where's his name?

JAREK
Over there somewhere.

LIAM
Which wall?

JAREK
I don't know. I never look at it.
What's the word?

LIAM
This whole Liffey investigation has
the Gibbons machine freaked out.
Everyone's in lock down mode.

JAREK
I need the guy who hired the shooter.

LIAM
I keep hearing a name whispered.
Don't know what it all means though.
Name's Jasper. Sounds like he's up
here from down south.

JAREK
Better than nothing. I need you to
get closer to Alderman Gibbons though.

LIAM
I've been under for almost a year now,
I've never even met the man.

JAREK
After today you will. And soon.

A beat. Liam looks at the wall. Takes it in.

LIAM
How many of these did you know?

Beat.

JAREK
Take care of yourself, Liam.
(re: walls)
I don't want to know any more.

Jarek exits.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Teresa sits alone at a private table eating. She looks across the restaurant -- Antonio at the bar points Jarek to her. Caleb is with him. Jarek tells Caleb to stay. As Jarek walks across the room towards Teresa --

TERESA (V.O.)

Jarek wasn't my first or last partner.
But he was the only one to tell me how
being a woman could make me a better
cop.

QUICK FLASH as a UNIFORMED Teresa consoles a GRIEVING MOTHER.

TERESA (V.O.)

He also taught me when to leave the
woman in me at home.

QUICK FLASH of a UNIFORMED Teresa SLAMMING a SUSPECT on the ground to subdue him.

TERESA (V.O.)

Jarek could have had this job. Never
wanted to leave his car or play the
political game though. When I took
the gig, we agreed... Six months to
settle in, then we tear the city up,
make some real overdue changes. That
was six months ago.

Jarek arrives at the table.

JAREK

Beautiful woman eating all alone?
Doesn't seem right. How're you
scaring them off?

TERESA

You think it's the gun?

Jarek sits. Across the restaurant, at the bar --

CALEB

They do this a lot?

ANTONIO

They're pretty tight.

CALEB

You hear whispers when they rode
together, maybe --

ANTONIO

No way. He was married back then.
She wouldn't do that --

CALEB

Never know.

ANTONIO

Drive someone twelve hours a day, you
know.

BACK ON JAREK AND TERESA

TERESA

Less than five hours 'til Paco's
midnight deadline. Any ideas how we
stop the fireworks?

JAREK

Get a message to the Overlords. If
they don't turn over the grave robbers
by eleven, you start hitting homes of
girlfriends and moms. Only things
degenerates appreciate sometimes are
the warmth of a woman and a home
cooked meal.

TERESA

How's that any different than you?

JAREK

I suppose it's not.

TERESA

In the meantime, Alderman Gibbons
wants another update.

JAREK

He's scrambling to cover up his
tracks, wants to know where we are.

TERESA

We know anything that would scare him?

JAREK

Liam gave me the name of the guy who
maybe paid for the job. Jasper.

TERESA

We use it, might expose Liam's cover.

JAREK

Nah, I just say our shooter dropped
Jasper's name to me.

TERESA

You really want to do this, don't you?

JAREK
My father hated guys like Gibbons.

TERESA
We do it, we can't just wound him.

JAREK
Hoping you'd say that.

INT. ALDERMAN GIBBONS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Lilly leads Jarek and Teresa in. Gibbons greets them.

TERESA
We have the shooter in custody.

GIBBONS
Thank God. Drug crime?

JAREK
Murder-for-hire. The wife was the
primary target.

GIBBONS
How do we know that?

JAREK
Shooter confessed. Says he was hired
by a man named Jasper.

GIBBONS
What was the motive?

JAREK
We believe Linda Walling was targeted
because of work she was doing at
Liffey Construction.

TERESA
We should have warrants by tomorrow
morning to search Liffey for more
information.

GIBBONS
I'm sure that won't be necessary.

JAREK
Is there some reason you don't want us
to search Liffey Construction?

GIBBONS
No. I mean it won't be necessary to
get a warrant. I know Liffey's owner.
He's a friend. if it'll help, I can
get you in there tonight. You can
have full access right now.

(MORE)

GIBBONS (CONT'D)
(yells to next room)

Lilly.

Lilly enters.

LILLY
Yes, Mr. Gibbons?

GIBBONS
Get Owen McDonnell on the phone.

Off Jarek and Teresa, hiding their surprise --

INT. LIFFEY CONSTRUCTION - MAIN OFFICES - NIGHT

A dozen cops accompany Jarek, Teresa and Caleb in this search. We see Caleb talking on the side with WILL and LIAM. Jarek gives orders to two Beat Coppers.

JAREK
Anything with the name Linda Walling
or any paperwork relating to the
Waterfront construction bid.

The cops move off. Caleb approaches Jarek and Teresa.

CALEB
You find it odd that the two guys who
came looking for Marshall today happen
to be working after hours at the same
place the dead lady worked?

JAREK
I find it interesting, not odd.

CALEB
The one, Liam. Something about him.

TERESA
What?

CALEB
He's not who he says he is.

Beat. Jarek and Teresa feign ignorance about Liam.

JAREK
Seems like a regular knucklehead.

CALEB
Yeah, he talks that game. Looks it
even, but he's smarter than he lets
on.

JAREK
You get that from two minutes of
chatting up the guy?

CALEB

It's the way he scans the place. I see the gears moving inside his head. That's not the brain of some lowlife muscle. I say we bring him in, figure out what his game really is.

That would be awkward. Before they need to respond, Gibbons arrives with OWEN MCDONNELL, 50's Irish.

GIBBONS

Superintendent Colvin. This is the owner of Liffey Construction, my friend, Owen McDonnell.

TERESA

Mr. McDonnell.

GIBBONS

He may have something useful for you.

McDonnell offers them a paper. Teresa scans it.

MCDONNELL

We have a vendor named Jasper Franklin. He sells us piping. He's been in town past few days, but he's on his way back to Atlanta tonight.

TERESA

Plane leaves O'Hare in five minutes. Too late to go through channels to stop the flight.

JAREK

(to McDonnell)

So you believe this Jasper Franklin may harbor terrorist intents?

MCDONNELL

What?

JAREK

(to Teresa)

Call the airport, tell 'em a potential terrorist's about to take off.

INT. POLICE HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Jarek and Caleb with JASPER FRANKLIN, 30's. There's no table in this room. Just a bench attached to the wall and two fold up chairs Jarek and Caleb use to get close to Jasper. Mid-interrogation Jasper's scared, breaking.

JAREK

Why'd you want Linda Walling dead, Jasper?

JASPER
I didn't even know the lady.

CALEB
Then why are you sweating like we just entered you in a spelling bee? Oh, because you're starting to realize the shooter ID'd you as the man who paid him five grand to do the deed.

JAREK
Go ahead, Jasper. Take your time accepting the reality of this situation. We'll bring some food in. You want some menus?

Beat.

JASPER
Gibbons wanted her gone.

Jarek perks up considerably. Caleb can't believe it.

CALEB
Alderman Patrick Gibbons?

JAREK
Gibbons ordered the hit on Linda Walling?

JASPER
Yeah.

JAREK
He gave you the order directly?

JASPER
Well, no. I was talking to Owen McDonnell.

JAREK
And McDonnell gave you the order on behalf of Gibbons?

JASPER
Yes. No. Not exactly. I was having dinner with McDonnell and he made a real point to tell me how this woman was becoming a real pain-in-the-ass for Gibbons, for the company.

JAREK
And Gibbons wanted her dead?

JASPER
He didn't say that. He didn't have to.

JAREK

So, no one gave you the order?

JASPER

They didn't have to, you understand?
She was a pain-in-the-ass to Gibbons.
That's all he had to say. You need to
know these people.

EXT. POLICE STATION MOTORPOOL - NIGHT

Jarek and Teresa. They watch Caleb clean out the car.

TERESA

No wonder Gibbons was so helpful.
There's no real link back to him.

JAREK

We didn't kill Gibbons, we just
wounded him.

TERESA

We didn't even wound him. But we did
get the shooter and the money man.
Usually that's a good day.

(beat)

Your boy sniffed something up with
Liam.

JAREK

Maybe Liam's getting sloppy.

TERESA

Or your partner has better instincts
than you think.

Beat.

JAREK

Too bad he's a Cubs fan.

Ernie approaches from inside, hands Teresa a note.

ERNIE

Good news. I got word to the
Overlords that moms and squeezes were
next. They want us to call off the
dogs. They're willing to give us the
crew that dragged that boy out of the
mortuary. All they're asking for is a
face to face just like Paco got.

TERESA

After what they did? They don't
deserve a face to face with me.

ERNIE
Need someone to set terms in person.

TERESA
I know someone who's ready for it.
Thanks, Ernie.

Ernie exits. Teresa can still see Jarek's pissed.

TERESA
Sometimes you just have to go home and
sleep it off. Who taught me that?

JAREK
Whoever he was, sounds like a dumb
Pollock.

TERESA
Only some of the time.

Teresa moves off towards her car, where Antonio opens
the door as Caleb approaches Jarek.

CALEB
Car's clean. Where to?

Beat.

JAREK
Look, Sparky. I don't see this
partnership working. We're just not a
match. I'll let your Lieutenant know
to reassign you at our mutual request.

Beat. Caleb takes it like a man.

CALEB
Sure, I understand.

JAREK
I wish you luck though, and keep safe.

CALEB
Appreciate having the chance to ride
with you.

Jarek nods. Caleb moves off, buries his disappointment.

INT. GANG LAIR - NIGHT

Antonio stands in front of a council of THREE GANG
LEADERS, all black. Main guy is HORACE, 30.

HORACE
Face to face was supposed to be with
the main lady not some Mexican busboy.

ANTONIO

She doesn't grant face to faces with
gangs who break truces and drag
corpses into the street.

(beat)

But, if you want the raids and the
arrests to stop, I'm here to negotiate
terms... respectfully.

EXT. W. 45TH STREET (PARKED) - NIGHT

Antonio gets into the car. Teresa in the back.

TERESA

We good?

ANTONIO

We're good.

Teresa nods, knows her apprentice has learned well.

TERESA

Let's go home then.

INT. DINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jarek lets himself into this two-story home with a key.

JAREK

Dina?

DINA

I'm in J.J.'s room.

INT. DINA'S HOUSE - J.J.'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jarek enters to find Dina making the bed. Jarek puts a
BACKPACK on a desk.

JAREK

There's his physics thing-a-ma-jig.
He here?

DINA

No.

Beat. Then they rush each other and embrace. Kiss
passionately. He THROWS her on the bed. Reaches under
her skirt and RIPS her panties off. Animals.

DINA

Break up with that tramp already.

JAREK

She's not a tramp, she's my fiancée.

DINA
When are you going to tell her?

JAREK
It's a bad time. Her mother's real
sick. I'll tell her soon.

INT. DINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jarek and Dina's 16 year old son, J.J., enters.

J.J.
Mom!... Mom!

J.J. climbs the stairs, FLINGS open his door --

INT. DINA'S HOUSE - J.J.'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dina's fully dressed, making the bed. No sign of Jarek.

DINA
Would it kill you to make your bed?

J.J.
I forgot my phone.

DINA
You can't live two hours without it?

J.J.
Why chance it?

J.J. un-plugs his phone, takes it. About to leave.

DINA
Your father brought your physics
project by.

She points to it. He grabs it on his way out.

J.J.
See ya.

The door slams downstairs. She goes to the closet,
slides it open. Jarek stands naked, t-shirt covering
his privates, her panties in his other hand.

JAREK
You usually like getting caught.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. N. DOMINICK ST. (PARKING) - NIGHT

Quiet, residential. Antonio parks the car. As he gets out to open the door for Teresa --

ANTONIO (V.O.)
When Teresa Colvin found me I was
twelve years old and acting as a
lookout for a couple local dealers.

QUICK FLASH of a 12 YEAR OLD ANTONIO on a shitty street spying the hood with another cholo.

ANTONIO (V.O.)
She was starting a charter program
that pulled me and some other kids off
the street, got on me about my grades.

QUICK FLASH of Teresa TUTORING a 12 Year Old Antonio.

ANTONIO (V.O.)
She talked me into joining the P.D.
and when I quit 'cause I thought it
was too hard, she found me and dragged
my lazy ass back to the Academy.

QUICK FLASH of Teresa finding Antonio at a BAR with buddies. She drags him out.

BACK IN THE PRESENT

As Antonio closes the car door and Teresa steps out to walk to her house --

ANTONIO (V.O.)
When the time came to pick --

BAM!

A GUNSHOT interrupts Antonio's memory.

He SEES a BULLET IMPACT hit Teresa in the CHEST.
Antonio THRUSTS himself in front of Teresa just in time
to take the IMPACT of a SECOND GUNSHOT.

The force knocks them both back on their asses, on the
ground, backs against the town car, Antonio still acting
as a shield in front of her.

Antonio is hit by ANOTHER shot. He's unconscious.
Teresa takes Antonio's gun from his limp hand and FIRES
back in the dark direction of the hostile muzzle flash.

WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS running, a car door SLAMS. A car SCREECHES off.

Teresa lays on the ground, GASPING loudly for breath, still CRADLING the lifeless Antonio in her arms.

INT. ALDERMAN GIBBONS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Gibbons watches a NEWS REPORT about the shooting of the Superintendent and her driver. Info is sketchy.

LIAM (O.S.)

It's a real pleasure to finally get to meet you, Mr. Gibbons.

Gibbons turns and we see Liam with Will.

GIBBONS

Will says you can be of some use to us with constituency services.

LIAM

Not sure what that means, but I'd love to help with anything.

GIBBONS

Well, thanks for coming by. He'll let you know when we need something.

(yells out)

Lilly. Where's that drink?

Will nods for Liam that's their cue to exit. They do, passing Lilly on her way in with a scotch.

GIBBONS

Close the door.

Lilly lets Liam and Will exit, then closes the door. Gibbons sits in his leather chair, turns the TV up. Lilly brings him his drink, places it in front of him.

LILLY

Anything else?

GIBBONS

Kiss my ear.

She bends down and slowly french kisses his ear.

LILLY

Something like that?

GIBBONS

Don't stop. It's working.

She resumes kissing. Whether it's the tongue in his ear or the news on his TV, he smiles ever so slightly.

EXT. ILLINOIS MASONIC HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Isaac rushes towards the hospital. Sees a bunch of COPS milling about in front of the ER entrance. Then he stops. Looks, sees --

VONDA sitting in her car. She appears to be crying. He goes to the passenger window, knocks. She looks up. Tears. She unlocks the door, Isaac gets in. Sits.

ISAAC

Hey... What's...

Beat.

VONDA

This is where they brought my father.
Where I said goodbye to him.

She shivers uncontrollably. He strokes her hair.

ISAAC

Don't be scared. I'm not going to let anything ever happen to you. You understand?

VONDA

I'm not scared of something happening to me, Isaac... I'm terrified something's going to happen to you.

A beat. His hand's still on her head. They lean in and kiss. Longing. Sorrow. Comfort. Love. They pull back and look at each other. No going back now.

INT. ADVOCATE MASONIC MEDICAL CENTER - NIGHT

A few cops inside. Caleb paces as Jarek STORMS in. Caleb intercepts him in a private spot.

JAREK

How is she?

CALEB

One bullet hit her vest. Cracked rib. That's all. She'll be fine.

JAREK

Antonio?

CALEB

He's dead. Didn't have a chance.

Beat. Jarek takes it in. Makes a choice.

JAREK

I want the absolute truth... That gut feeling you had on Gibbons' guy, Liam. That a lucky guess or can you bring that kind of thinking on a daily basis?

CALEB

(absolute truth)

I'm really good.

A beat.

JAREK

Liam's undercover for us. You're the third person, besides Liam himself, to know that fact. You and I cruise the city, pick the cases that really matter, starting with who did this.

Caleb wanted the job, but not at this price.

CALEB

I'll bring up the car.

JAREK

Where is she?

CALEB

Around there.

Caleb exits. Jarek rounds the corner, sees Teresa, in just her white undershirt, ribs WRAPPED, staring at --

ANTONIO lying, shirtless, bloody, dead on a bed in an otherwise empty room. Jarek stands close for support.

JAREK

You stopped wearing your vest when you got named Superintendent.

Beat.

TERESA

When I reassigned one of the cops today he got angry. Made some threats. Not really, but kind of.

(beat)

Antonio insisted I put on his vest. Wouldn't start the car until I did.

She looks at Antonio. It's too much for her. Whether she knows it or not, she's been waiting for Jarek to arrive to break down. He holds her, comforts her.

JAREK
(softly)
Goddamnit.

As the camera finds Jarek's face --

JAREK (V.O.)
People ask me what Chicago is... I
tell them Chicago's family.

EXT. N. SHERIDAN RD. (50 MPH) - NIGHT

Caleb drives. Jarek sits shotgun. Teresa is in the backseat, visible in the middle of the two of them. All three stare ahead -- serious, determined.

JAREK (V.O.)
You love it. Sometimes you fight with
it. But first and foremost you
protect it.

As we go with the three of them on this ride along --

THE END