

# ***BETWEEN BULLETS***

"Pilot"

Written by

Evette Betancourt

evette.betancourt@gmail.com  
619-208-1249

**TEASER**

**SUPER TITLE: HONG KONG, CHINA**

INT. STADIUM - NIGHT

FIGHT NIGHT!

ROARING FANS scream and shout as the cameras fly by them.

WE ARE LIVE....

On the JUMBOTRON are images of tonight's fighters.

JUN "THE BULLET" FONG vs. XEI "MERCILESS" ZHEN

Pyrotechnics go off. Confetti flies in the air -- the stadium trembles from the sheer volume of the fans.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE - LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

In fight attire, JUN FONG (26), a guy's guy, humble, polite, and loves to win. A shoe forces his head to the floor... a gun digs into his scalp--

NOTE: ITALICS INDICATE CANTONESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

JUN

*This is a big fight. Please, I can help you with another one.*

VOICE

*Third round.*

Triad gang member, SHANG (30s), lead enforcer, all business all the time, nudges the gun harder into Jun's scalp.

Triads, LI (28), and MING (30), surround them. Both are thin and have punch-able faces.

Jun's younger brother, RORY FONG (21), lays across from him. Also, with a gun to his head. He's lanky, attention whore, chattier than most...

His arm is in a sling...

RORY

*Leave my brother alone. I can throw one of my fights.*

SHANG (VOICE)  
*No. Your brother is a better  
 fighter.*

RORY  
*No, he's not.*

Ming hits him.

RORY (CONT'D)  
*Do that without a gun, coward.*

JUN  
*Rory, shut up.*

SHANG  
*We'll do more than break Rory's  
 arm. Again... if you don't throw  
 the fight.*

JUN  
*I'll do it. I'll throw the fight--  
 Third round.*

The gang releases them and walks out as if nothing happened.  
 The brothers rise without a word to one another. Distant...

INT. PRESSROOM - NIGHT

SPORTSCASTER (40s), faces the camera with his slick hair,  
 clean eyes, and smug smile...

SPORTSCASTER  
*Tonight is an exciting night as JUN  
 "The BULLET" Fong takes on Xei  
 "Merciless" Zhen. Jun makes his  
 championship debut, fighting for  
 the Middleweight title against Xei,  
 who defends it for the second time!  
 Jun is favored to win, but make no  
 mistake, Xei is a force to be  
 reckoned with! Next to me is a two-  
 time former lightweight champion  
 and Jun's younger brother, Rory  
 "The Virus" Fong.*

RORY  
*Hello. Thank you for having me.*

SPORTSCASTER  
*What is the biggest obstacle facing  
 your brother going into this fight?*

RORY

*Nothing. His strength is unmatched, and he's submitted people with rare naked chokes, all of them with the opponent having one arm in to defend themselves.*

SPORTSCASTER

*Xei has an impressive ground game; you don't think Jun needs to worry?*

RORY

*Nope. My brother's style is unique and very freestyle. Rebellious, if that makes sense. If Xei is going to win, it'll be on his feet. But he's not going to.*

SPORTSCASTER

*As the younger brother, do you ever get nervous seeing him fight?*

Rory shakes his head.

SPORTSCASTER (CONT'D)

*How did you two share the same passion for mixed martial arts?*

RORY

*Well, as you know, my father, Zhao Fong, is a famous Karate Champion, so it started there. We watched American shows because of my mother. So we'd play "Cops and Robbers" without the toy guns because my father didn't believe in those.*

SPORTSCASTER

*Who played whom?*

RORY

*I'd always play the bad guy.*

SPORTSCASTER

*Last question. You've been plagued with mysterious injuries in and out of the ring, but when will we see you fight again?*

RORY

*I don't have a clear answer for you right now, but soon.*

INT. STADIUM - RING - NIGHT

Jun and his team enter the stadium. Jun walks out like he hates his job instead of a passionate winner.

Rory's family sits front and center. His mom, white, SARAH (44), smiles ear to ear. His father, ZHAO (48), claps, but it's hard to read his mood.

Jun smiles at his family, but it fades as he sees the Triads sitting behind them.

INT. PRESS ROOM - SAME

Rory watches the fight on a monitor.

**ON SCREEN: Jun takes a right hook to the jaw and nearly goes down. The camera cuts to their parents. Behind them, the Triads sit impatiently, Rory clocks this.**

Rory grabs his injured arm in the sling.

RORY

Please, Jun, for once, don't be a winner.

DISSOLVE TO:

FIGHT HIGHLIGHT MONTAGE

- ROUND ONE: Jun hits Xei with a three-punch combo and a head kick that stumbles Xei. He recovers quickly and connects with flashy kicks. Jun utilizes wrestling moves to get back to his feet.

- Jun's family cheer him on.

- ROUND TWO: Both fighters are bloody. Xei has a renewed vigor and drops Jun with an overhand punch, but he quickly gets up. Xei does an uppercut followed by some kicks.

END MONTAGE

DING. DING.

Jun sits at his corner, battered.

His HEAD TRAINER (40s), slaps him in the face. This is how they run shit in Chinese M.M.A.

HEAD TRAINER

*Check his kicks.*

XEI'S TRAINER (40s), is on the opposite corner, ices his fighter...

XEI'S TRAINER  
*He's tired. Stand and bang. Don't  
let him get you to the ground.*

The REFEREE gestures them to clear the ring--

The RING GIRL signals the ROUND 3 card--

DING. DING

REFEREE  
Fight!

Xei buries a kick into Jun's thigh, followed by a jab.

**CROWD**

Jun's mom is scared.

The Triads are at ease... this is what's supposed to happen.

**RING**

Jun delivers a fast jab, makes him bleed, and follows with a hard cross; he checks the clock... **2:00 left on the timer.**

Xei lands an overhead right, closes in, and punches with a fury. Xei takes his back, leans against the cage, and chokes Jun... All goes according to plan...

Jun fades--

CHILDHOOD FLASHBACK

EXT. FONG RESIDENCE - BACKYARD - DAY

YOUNG JUN (12), and YOUNG RORY FONG (8), practice martial arts moves with their father ZHAO (31).

Zhao has an intimidating, stern, and mystical presence. He commands respect.

The boys bow to their father and then to each other. They take their fight stances.

Zhao signals them to fight.

They spar...

Johnny is cunning and uses his speed and strength to his advantage.

Rory loses, and he still has the salt in his mouth...

YOUNG RORY

*Not fair; you're bigger than me.*

YOUNG JUN

*No. I just wanted to win more than you.*

ZHAO

*Enough, Jun! It's not about winning and you know better. Be a good example for your brother.*

*(to Rory)*

*There will always be someone bigger and stronger than you. But you never give up. Use your wits and cleverness.*

Zhao throws a stern look at Jun, who is easily defeated by it. Rory catches this...

YOUNG RORY

*(whispers to Jun)*

*You're not a bad influence. Just a sore winner.*

Jonathan rubs Rory's head.

END FLASHBACK

Xei squeezes Jun's neck tighter--

Jun comes out of his trance, and scorpion kicks his opponent in the head, cutting Xei above the eye. He bleeds profusely--

He panics... He can't see--

Xei loosens his grip...

Jun is free, springs up, and executes a right hook--

Xei is knocked out.

The crowd gasps... Jun wins! He raises his arms in victory!

He turns around and sees the Triads empty their seats.

JUN

What have I done?

**SUPER TITLE: 7 YEARS LATER - SAN DIEGO, CA**

INT. DRUG LAB - NIGHT

BANG. BANG. BANG. BANG.

POLICE exchange fire with a gang called "Faction."

Chemistry paraphernalia BREAK and shatter. Drug powder rains--

FORCED LABORERS take cover--

INT. DRUG LAB - OFFICE - NIGHT

The Faction LEADER, wearing a face mask, unhooks a hard drive and places it in his jacket.

BLAM. BLAM.

Police fire at him. The Faction Leader escapes, but the hard drive from his pocket falls out.

He reaches for it, but the bullets WHIZZ by him.

Chemistry burners SPARK a fire.

He finds an exit route, leaving the hard drive behind.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. DRUG LAB - NIGHT

The Leader runs out but he's caught by an anxious ROOKIE POLICE OFFICER.

ROOKIE POLICE OFFICER  
Freeze! Hands on your head! Turn  
around!

The Leader raises his hands, the Rookie Officer approaches, for the arrest, but before he can put the cuffs on him, the Leader does an ARM LOCK.

The Rookie reverses it... which catches the Leader by surprise. They fight...

They perform martial arts techniques on each other, almost like each one knows what the other is doing. The officer baits him in with a hit and takes his back.



ROOKIE POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Stop!

He removes the Leader's mask to reveal a familiar face--

ROOKIE POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Rory?... What are you doing here?

Rory (Leader) stops struggling, and the officer takes off his helmet to reveal... His older brother, Jun.

The drug lab EXPLODES.

RORY

Don't tell mom, yeah?

Jun allows his brother to escape.

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

INT. POLICE STATION - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

SGT. FARRAH STEELE, the "e" is silent (42), African-American stands at the podium. She's a no-bullshit-type woman.

SGT. STEELE

Most of our evidence was burnt in the fire except for one hard drive in forensics. Excellent work to Officer Johnny Parker for finding it.

SEASONED OFFICER

Who the hell is Johnny Parker?

SGT. STEELE

The Rookie.

All the officers look confused. Johnny stays in the background to remain unnoticed.

SEASONED OFFICER

Oh. Never heard of him.

She points to Jun, now known as JOHNNY PARKER (33). He's not as lively as we last saw him: drab and introspective-looking all the time.

SGT. STEELE

The F.B.I. is here to assist on a special operation. And by "assist," I mean a pain in my ass. FBI Special Agents Blake Amstat and Yayoi Chen...

F.B.I. Special Agent BLAKE AMSTAT, White, (37), and his Chinese-American Partner, YAYOI CHEN (36), take the podium.

Yayoi is more smartass than quick-witted, charming, and persuasive on her worst day.

Blake and Yayoi move to the podium. Male police officers whistle at Yayoi. Yayoi playfully embraces the catcalls and smiles big, doing small pageant-style waves.

SGT. STEELE (CONT'D)

(re: catcalls)

Knock it off.

BLAKE

Good morning, everyone. We are here to work with all local authorities to take down Vincent DeChant. We will be leads on the case. The stash house you raided was one of his. We appreciate all your help and support. Thank you.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Everyone leaves the briefing room.

BLAKE

Johnny wait.

Johnny keeps walking.

YAYOI

Johnny, please stop.

Johnny stops for her.

BLAKE

What happened out there?

JOHNNY

I don't know what you're talking about.

BLAKE

An officer reported seeing you get beaten by the Faction member who got away. I find it hard to believe he got one over a former M.M.A. champ.

JOHNNY

What can I say? Ring rust.

Johnny walks away.

INT. PALOMAR CARD CLUB - NIGHT

A random place on an unimportant street. It can easily host Bingo Night for the elderly.

It is a packed house; various GAMBLERS focus on their games. Johnny eyes his cards at a blackjack table, sipping on an energy drink.

JOHNNY  
(to Card Dealer)  
Hit me.

The CARD DEALER puts down an unfavorable card.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Son-of-a-bitch.

Johnny calls the bet. He loses.

AVEN CHECK (26), white, enters. He has short hair, a sculpted upper body, and is wise for his age.

AVEN  
How long have you been here?

JOHNNY  
Five hours.

AVEN  
Winning?

Johnny throws him a look.

AVEN (CONT'D)  
Damn, tough luck. You're hitting  
the cards hard tonight. Work okay?

JOHNNY  
Fine.

AVEN  
Dude, I can tell when you're lying.

JOHNNY  
My brother is here.

AVEN  
You mean, like, the-general-United-  
States here or like here, here?

JOHNNY  
Here.

AVEN  
That can't be good.

JOHNNY  
It's not. I got him on a sting.

AVEN  
You let him go?

JOHNNY

Of course, he's my brother. I came to the U.S. to start over and try to protect my family. Live a low-profile life. The first thing he does is bring attention to himself. To me. I don't even have his number or where he's staying. Nothing.

AVEN

You helped your bro in a tight spot; good karma will come from that.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry, man, I don't mean to lay all that on you. How did the meeting go with the promoter?

AVEN

He made it clear to me no respectable promoter is gonna let me fight.

JOHNNY

Screw that guy. Keep training.

AVEN

Yeah... One bad choice comes back to bite me in the ass.

JOHNNY

Trust me; I know the feeling.

A WAITRESS (30s), interrupts.

WAITRESS

(to Johnny)

Don't forget about your tab. Again.

Johnny pulls out some money, but it's not enough.

AVEN

I got it.

JOHNNY

Thanks.

AVEN

Why don't you play roulette? The game machines. Hell... the lottery?

JOHNNY

I don't win by dumb luck or chance.  
Blackjack... you need real skill to  
play and win.

AVEN

Really? Because you're not winning.

JOHNNY

You're not helping.

EXT. PRIVATE GYM - DAY

VINCENT DECHANT (39), has a light heavyweight physique that matches his imitating presence. He practices Japanese Martial Art: *Kendo*, with TREY (27), and JAMAL (29).

The men wear standard protective gear, except for Vincent.

A Mexican male, CARLITO ESPINOZA (40), watches the match. He's smarter than the average *cholo*, but dresses like one.

CARLITO

(re: raid)

I left Rory in charge. It's my  
fault.

In fight gear attire, a petite Mexican woman, KARINA VASQUEZ (26), stands at attention next to Vincent. Small in stature but has an intimidating presence like Vincent.

KARINA

(to Vincent)

You should have let me run it.

VINCENT

Maybe I should have.

CARLITO

The cops got nothing. We'll get the  
supply back. I've arranged it.

Vincent does some quick movements on Trey and Jamal.

KARINA

From who?

CARLITO

Don't worry about it.

Rory enters.

Carlito greets him friendly-like. Karina throws dagger eyes at him.

VINCENT

That was a lot of product we lost.

RORY

It wasn't my fault.

Vincent defeats the two men. Jamal and Trey get up and bow to Vincent. He doesn't return the gesture.

VINCENT

Karina, scout our storage for our new gun shipment, and you're fighting tonight.

KARINA

Too bad you don't fight tonight. I would like to see your head bop off.

RORY

Yeah, too bad.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY BOXING GYM - DAY

A BUM sits on the corner with a cup asking for money. Johnny stops in front of him and drops some coins in.

BUM

That's it?

JOHNNY

Yeah, sorry. That's all--

BUM

Bum.

INT. CITY BOXING GYM - DAY

Aven practices his strikes as Johnny holds the bag.

AVEN

Good news, man. I got a fight tonight.

JOHNNY

Congrats. Did that promoter change his mind?

AVEN

A different kind of promoter. You coming, right?

JOHNNY

Of course.

Aven takes his eyes off the punching bag.

At the entrance is his girlfriend, SOPHIE MILLER (24). Smarter than her years. Privileged, respectful, compassionate, a girl's girl, and a man's equal.

AVEN

Sophie's here. I gotta get going.

JOHNNY

Alright, text me later.

Johnny locks eyes with Sophie. They wave at each other.

INT. MEXICAN MARKET - DAY

Karina enters a family-owned store with piñatas hanging all over the ceiling. It's a small and tight place that surprisingly holds a lot of shit.

INT. INVENTORY ROOM - DAY

Karina meets with ROC-ROC (25), LOCO (18), and SPOOKY (22).

KARINA

Really? This is the best you got?  
There are kids all over the place.

LOCO

And?

KARINA

I didn't say I cared. I expect more effort next time.

ROC-ROC

Rollies and narcos are everywhere;  
this is all we could get. Peeps are freakin'.

Loco and Spooky move a large wooden box and open it. In the box is some filler paper with Mexican candles. Underneath them are GUNS.

Roc-Roc shows Karina shipping crates.



ROC-ROC (CONT'D)  
This will be for the--

Karina spots a kid in the store area, she hits Roc-Roc--

ROC-ROC (CONT'D)  
Right, more piñatas.

SPOOKY  
Where's Carlito?

LOCO  
Yeah, what's up with Carlito? He  
can't parley with his ol' cats even  
on his re-up. He too big, dawg?

KARINA  
I have no idea what you just said.  
Don't worry about Carlito.

ROC-ROC  
Word is you're gunning for his spot  
as Vincent's second.

Karina throws him a look.

SPOOKY  
*Yo no se por que esta puta en  
podar.*

KARINA  
(grabs Spooky)  
Don't ever speak Spanish in front  
of me. Ever!

SPOOKY  
Sorry.

Karina quickly releases him and leaves.

SPOOKY (CONT'D)  
What the hell was that all about?

ROC-ROC  
I don't know.

LOCO  
You said "sorry" like a bitch.

Spooky throws a piñata at him.

INT. AUTO JUNK YARD - NIGHT

More chop shop than anything else. Johnny isn't pleased, but Aven loves it.

Johnny notices "F" branded on some of the CROWD MEMBERS. Drugs are passed discreetly. Johnny clocks this.

There's already a fight happening.

JOHNNY

What is this place--

Aven looks up, Johnny follows his gesture...

Rory approaches. He wears an expensive full-grain leather jacket with sterling silver snaps and everything Johnny can't afford on his rookie cop salary.

RORY

--An illegal fight pit.

JOHNNY

Jesus... I put my career on the line for you when I let you go. This is the thanks I get?

RORY

I didn't ask you to.

The crowd takes notice of their raised voices... And Karina.

AVEN

Guys, not here.

RORY

Don't tell anyone I'm your brother.

JOHNNY

Why would I?

Rory leaves.

AVEN

That went well.

JOHNNY

I'm gonna find him. Everything came out wrong. I'm glad he's okay and alive.

AVEN

You probably should have started with that. Leave him alone; I need you at my side.

JOHNNY

I'm happy you get to fight, but this place doesn't look legit. Who's the promoter?

AVEN

It's not a promoter. It's a private circuit.

JOHNNY

Who?

AVEN

It's better that you don't know.

JOHNNY

Who? Aven?

AVEN

Vincent DeChant.

JOHNNY

Jesus. That drug-dealing criminal?

AVEN

Well, technically he's not a criminal. Innocent until proven guilty, right?

JOHNNY

I never liked your optimism.

AVEN

If you didn't, we wouldn't be friends.

Johnny throws a look.

AVEN (CONT'D)

Look, man. I'm just fighting. This is all I want to do. It's what I'm good at. And it pays a shit ton of money.

JOHNNY

We need to leave.

AVEN

I can't leave--

Rory comes back with a drink...

RORY  
--No one can.

FIGHT PIT GUARDS block the entrance and exit.

Johnny realizes his vulnerable position.

JOHNNY  
Who makes sure the fighters are not  
doping?

RORY  
You don't do that here. No one  
does. There are no rules but one.  
Don't dope. Vincent wants fair  
fights, or you pay a heavy price.

AVEN  
I'm gonna gear up.

He leaves.

RORY  
I didn't think I would see you at  
one of these things.

JOHNNY  
I just wanted to make sure Aven  
didn't do anything stupid.

A RANDOM GROUPIE and GROUPIE FRIEND notice Rory. They're  
breathtaking...

RANDOM GROUPIE  
Hey baby.

RORY  
Oh, hey.

RANDOM GROUPIE  
You didn't call last night.

RORY  
Busy. You know how it is. I'll  
catch you ladies, later.

He winks. The girls walk off. Johnny rolls his eyes.

Off his look...

RORY (CONT'D)  
Remember the good days. The girls  
flocked to us. Money, drinks, a  
country at our feet--

JOHNNY  
Until it's all gone. No one cares.

RORY  
You act like I screwed up. Don't  
resent me for my success.

JOHNNY  
Your success? This?!

A BOOKIE approaches them with bet markers.

BOOKIE  
You in?

JOHNNY  
What are the odds against Aven?

BOOKIE  
Two-to-one.

Johnny takes out a twenty-dollar bill.

BOOKIE (CONT'D)  
Starting bet is a hun-dough.

JOHNNY  
What?

BOOKIE  
A. Hundred. Dollars. Ya know, a hun-  
dough.

JOHNNY  
Nevermind.

Rory takes out a wad of hundred-dollar bills, takes one, and  
gives it to the bookie. Johnny shakes his head... He wants to  
say something so bad... Rory waits, ready for the explosion--

VOICE (O.S.)  
Karina "the Cheetah" Vasquez vs.  
Samurai.

FRANKIE FIST (45), ugly in an equally ugly suit, takes the  
center. Announces...

FIST (VOICE)  
Fight!

SAMURAI (25), is at least twenty pounds heavier than Karina. She performs quick hits, but Karina dodges most of them.

Samurai over commits on a hook, Karina ducks and springs back with her (in)famous right hook to the chin...

K.O.

FIST (CONT'D)  
Your winner: Karina "the Cheetah"  
Vasquez.

Fist raises Karina's arm in victory; she pulls it away.

A CUTMAN, 30s, wipes the blood off her gloves. She waves her hand for the cut man to leave.

Karina turns to Johnny. Uh... oh...

KARINA  
(to Johnny)  
Who are you?

RORY  
No one. Just someone I owe money  
to.

He takes out a \$1000 and gives it to Johnny, who plays along.

RORY (CONT'D)  
(to Johnny)  
Get lost, and I don't want to see  
you again.

The words cut Johnny deeper than the insult of money; not sure if Rory meant it.

Aven and ROLAND (23), move to the center of the crowd.

FIST  
Aven "the Vindicator" vs. Roland  
"Iron Clad" Chabad.

Fist signals Aven and Roland to fight.

The fighters circle each other.

Aven gets some good hits, using dirty boxing skills.

Roland sweeps him and mounts; Aven barely escapes. Both are back on their feet.

Aven dodges a few hits. Aven counters with an uppercut and knocks Roland down. He doesn't stop. Roland is clearly defeated, but Aven doesn't stop.

JOHNNY

Aven. Stop. He's done.

The crowd cheers for more blood. Johnny pushes himself closer to the fight, ready to stop it... Then--

VOICE (O.S.)

Everybody! Freeze! F.B.I.

Aven runs off.

The crowd scatters like roaches.

Johnny checks on Roland.

F.B.I. AGENT

Don't move.

Johnny surrenders himself.

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

INT. F.B.I. BUILDING - BLAKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Blake has too many pictures of his family. Yayoi sits on the desk and stares at Johnny. Reading each other.

Blake enters with two cups of coffee. He hands Johnny one, he refuses. Yayoi takes it.

BLAKE

What were you doing at the fight?

JOHNNY

I was invited to the fight. It is a spectator sport, after all.

YAYOI

Your friend is a real smartass.

JOHNNY

We aren't friends.

BLAKE

I want you to work for me.

JOHNNY

No.

BLAKE

It'll fast-track you to detective one day. That's what you want, right?

JOHNNY

I can get detective on my own.

BLAKE

And what about your brother? You left that out on your application.

He drops a dossier of Rory.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

(re: Rory)

World M.M.A. champ turned Triad enforcer.

YAYOI

If you want to help your brother, this is it.



BLAKE

You'll run the local task force against Faction. I need someone I can trust.

JOHNNY

I would never work for you if it meant saving my life. And if you want Rory, arrest him. You'll be doing him a favor.

Johnny storms out.

YAYOI

That went well.

BLAKE

You always have to have the last word, don't you?

YAYOI

Yes.

EXT. VINCENT DECHANT MANSION - POOL AREA - DAY

Inside a small mansion with a few GUESTS. Vincent and Karina relax at the pool. Carlito approaches.

KARINA

I guess you heard about the fight being raided?

CARLITO

I'll handle it.

Vincent raises his hand to quiet him. Carlito shuts up.

VINCENT

Exactly how much was the loss?

KARINA

A lot.

CARLITO

How precise you are.

KARINA

You can take a look at the books.

CARLITO

I don't answer to you.

VINCENT

You will if you don't get the job done.

Karina and Carlito throw daggers with their eyes.

CARLITO

We didn't have any problems until she came around. You can trust me. I'll handle it.

KARINA

I can take care of the mess.

VINCENT

Carlito needs to fix his mistake.

A WOMAN (20s), moves to Vincent and grabs his attention.

Carlito speaks to Karina aside.

CARLITO

Don't dick around with me.

KARINA

A woman's touch is needed.

CARLITO

Listen, fight chick, you're in over your head.

Rory arrives.

KARINA

Where were you at the raid?

RORY

Taking a piss. I took off. Where were you?

Vincent punches Rory. This catches everyone by surprise.

VINCENT

Twice we've been hit, and you get away unscathed.

CARLITO

Karina was there, too.

VINCENT

Not the drug lab.

CARLITO

But she wanted that operation. She knew just as much as Rory about the lab.

VINCENT

So do you.

KARINA

(to Carlito)

I'm not a rat.

VINCENT

Enough! Rory, secure the guns coming in and move them to the new storage Karina set up. Shelter Island Fuel Pier, 11:00 PM.

(to Carlito)

Make sure everything goes smoothly - this time.

KARINA

It's too risky, with the raids--

VINCENT

It's done.

Karina catches a shared look between Vincent and Carlito. It's not a good one.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Call me when it's over. Karina, we have helping hands coming in from Ricky.

Vincent walks off and gestures for Carlito to follow him.

KARINA

(to Rory)

Watch yourself.

INT. FONG RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Johnny sits with his parents eating dinner. The home is filled with traditional Chinese home décor. They brought part of the mainland with them.

His mom has a soothing demeanor, his dad not so much.

Next to her is an empty seat meant for Rory.

SARAH

Where's your brother? I'm getting concerned. We haven't seen him. He hasn't called.

JOHNNY

He does his own thing.

SARAH

Do you know what that might be?

JOHNNY

I'm not his big brother anymore. He has his own life.

Sarah looks back and forth at her older son and her husband, waiting for some interaction between the two. She nudges her husband.

ZHAO

How's work?

JOHNNY

Fine.

Zhao acknowledges this with a slight nod, Sarah wants more...

ZHAO

You know if you want a different line of work--

JOHNNY

Oh... Here it comes. Why don't you offer Rory a job?

ZHAO

Your brother is a lost cause.

SARAH

*That's enough from both of you.*

JOHNNY

I gotta go. Thanks for the food.

INT./EXT. MYSTERIOUS VAN - NIGHT

Outside a dilapidated building, the van idles. Huddling together with hardly any room to move, a group of illegal Mexican IMMIGRANTS wait in anticipation.

RICKY (18), a wannabe thug, opens the doors.

Karina hands Ricky a large puffy envelope full of money, he accepts. Ricky pulls out his cellphone.

RICKY

I'll call Carlito to confirm the drop-off.

Karina snatches Ricky's phone.

KARINA

Don't worry about him.

RICKY

Vincent wants the kids and men working and the girls at the convents.

KARINA

Whore houses. Just say whore houses. Don't do that code shit.

RICKY

Watch out for that one...

Ricky points to a young Mexican male, MIGUEL (24).

RICKY (CONT'D)

Nearly busted my jaw, fighting me. I would have shot him if I wasn't losing money on his beaner ass. You think he would be thankful for getting him out of that third world country.

KARINA

Dude, you're Mexican. Where do you think your family came from?

RICKY

Whatever, he's still a beaner.

KARINA

Oh, my God. You're so stupid. Go.

RICKY

Those two next to him are his mom and sis.

Ricky leaves.

Karina scans the area suspiciously as she makes sure no one is watching her. She waits for Ricky to be out of sight.

INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Johnny goes to the refrigerator and grabs a pre-made protein shake in a bare fridge.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

Johnny answers the door. It's Rory.

*NOTE: ITALICS ARE IN CANTONESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES*

RORY

*I'm glad you're okay.*

JOHNNY

*You're in trouble, again. Aren't you?*

RORY

*It's not what you think. This is different.*

JOHNNY

*What kind of fighting was that? Aven could have killed that guy. I saw drugs being passed around. Are you dealing?*

RORY

*I didn't know Aven was gonna go all killer instinct. No, I'm not dealing. I swear.*

JOHNNY

*Rory. Look. I can help. I can get you out. I'm an officer now. I have resources and access to good lawyers. Just tell me what kind of trouble you're in.*

RORY

*I can't. You've done enough for me already.*

JOHNNY

*Rory...*

RORY

*(re: fight pit)  
You enjoyed it, didn't you? The crowd. Hand-to-hand combat. The rawness of it all...*

JOHNNY

*A little. I'm not a fighter  
anymore. The commission banned me  
for life.*

RORY

*That was in China. This is America.  
You got a new name, a new you.*

JOHNNY

*I can't bring attention to myself,  
and neither should you. I just want  
you safe and out of trouble. I  
changed my name. My life. You  
didn't. If someone sees you, the  
Triads will come--*

RORY

*They won't. Trust me.*

JOHNNY

*So you just have everything figured  
out?*

RORY

*Yeah. Just trust me. Keep doing  
what you're doing, and don't go to  
any more fights with Aven.*

JOHNNY

*I thought you wanted me to fight.*

RORY

*Not with Vincent. Trust--*

JOHNNY

*--Me. Tell me everything or if you  
don't, leave me alone.*

Rory's eyes go soft.

RORY

*It's like that?*

JOHNNY

*Choice is yours.*

RING.

RING.

Johnny answers the phone.

JOHNNY (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
I know I'm past due. You'll have  
the payment soon.

Rory takes Johnny's cell phone and saves his number to it.

JOHNNY (O.C.) (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Next week.

Johnny slams the phone and sees Rory gone.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
Son-of-a-bitch.

**END OF ACT TWO**



**ACT THREE**

INT. F.B.I. BUILDING - DIGITAL FORENSICS ROOM - DAY

The room has a wall of computers and touch screens. The Tech Supervisor, MARCUS (40), wears thick bifocals and types on a keypad. He's all business and crude.

BLAKE  
How are you doing, Marcus?

MARCUS  
You don't care.

BLAKE  
This is my partner, Yayoi Chen.

MARCUS  
I don't care.

Yayoi extends for a handshake. Marcus looks at her hand.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Do you wipe with your right or left?

YAYOI  
Excuse me?

BLAKE  
Just answer, or he isn't going to do his job.

YAYOI  
Well, I'm right-handed, so...

MARCUS  
And that is your right hand.

YAYOI  
I wash--

Blake throws her a "don't instigate" look.

BLAKE  
Tell me the specifics on the drive.

MARCUS  
That's why you are here, right. I'm about to tell you.

Marcus sits with perfect posture and scrolls over.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

The hard drives that were obtained at the Narcotics Lab were very damaged, as expected. But, due to my high level of skills and my adequate salary, I recovered details that should be of interest to you.

YAYOI

Wow, you're weird.

MARCUS

Why?

BLAKE

Keep going, Marcus.

MARCUS

No. I do not like the way she made that comment. I will simply write it down.

YAYOI

Oh, thank God.

Marcus gives her a dirty look and jots some notes down on a pad. Blake quickly grabs it.

BLAKE

Thanks, Marcus!

Yayoi and Blake leave quickly.

INT. F.B.I. BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Blake and Yayoi exit the Digital Forensics room.

BLAKE

(re: Marcus)

If you keep talking, he keeps talking, and next thing you know, you forgot why you were there in the first place.

YAYOI

Thank you for letting me be the bad guy.

Blake reads the notes off.

BLAKE  
Shelter Island Fuel Pier. 11:00 PM.  
Tuesday.

YAYOI  
Tomorrow is Tuesday.

BLAKE  
Yes. It. Is.

INT. HEIN AND HEINZ LEGAL OFFICES - ERIK'S OFFICE - DAY

ERIK HEINZ (40), is muscular for a business type. He has a square jawline and is not easily intimidated. He meets with Vincent and Carlito.

ERIK  
My associates enjoyed the fight until it was shut down unexpectedly; now, they're scared to come. And they are tired of seeing the same old fighters. They expect high-quality fights. As for your other products, they were interested and now, not so much.

CARLITO  
Persuade them.

ERIK  
It's going to be difficult.

CARLITO  
Give me a list of names, and I will personally take care of it.

ERIK  
You're kidding, right?

Carlito is serious.

ERIK (CONT'D)  
My customers...

Vincent leans forward in his chair.

ERIK (CONT'D)  
Your customers have the highest confidence in me to keep things very discrete. When do you expect the next shipment?

VINCENT

We have the delivery tonight. What they expect and what they get is entirely up to me. Keep them coming and buying.

Vincent pushes Erik into his chair.

ERIK

No need for that.

CARLITO

I'll make sure Erik is on his game.  
(to Erik)  
As for the fights, there's always new blood looking to spill some.

EXT. BANK ATM - NIGHT

Johnny inserts his bank card. His phone rings.

CALLER ID: RORY.

Johnny ignores it and it goes to VOICEMAIL. He continues with the ATM transaction. A prompt pops up: "Insufficient Funds."

JOHNNY

Shit.

He quickly checks the other pocket, it's the \$1000 Rory gave him at the fight earlier.

Johnny takes a moment, fidgeting with the money.

ATM PROMPT: DO YOU NEED MORE TIME?

Two options--

DEPOSIT. WITHDRAWAL.

Johnny hesitates at the deposit option.

CUT TO:

INT. PALOMAR CARD CLUB - NIGHT

Johnny uses the \$1000 to play blackjack. This time he wins, and he loves every moment of it.

Sophie approaches from behind and catches Johnny by surprise, spilling his drink...

SOPHIE  
I'm so sorry--

JOHNNY  
Don't be.

Sophie grabs a napkin and dabs his shirt. Johnny takes it for more than it is. He's flattered and shouldn't be--

JOHNNY (CONT'D)  
I got it. Thanks.

SOPHIE  
Oh, okay. Sorry... ya know, for a police officer I would take you as being more alert and aware of your surroundings.

JOHNNY  
You're the only one that gets me like that.

SOPHIE  
Oh...

JOHNNY  
I mean like because your so stealth like--

SOPHIE  
That's me. Light on my feet.

JOHNNY  
Aven with you?

SOPHIE  
Of course.

Aven brings Johnny an energy drink.

AVEN  
(re: Johnny's winnings)  
I guess you do have some skill.

An ASSHOLE DRUNK approaches...

ASSHOLE DRUNK  
Hey, I know you. You used to fight, right? I'd visit my buddy in China... used to watch you all the time.

JOHNNY

I'm sorry I think you have the wrong man.

ASSHOLE DRUNK

No, it's def you. Why don't you fight anymore?

AVEN

He said you have the wrong guy.

Sophie puts a hand on his shoulder to calm him down, but she's invisible.

ASSHOLE DRUNK

(to Aven)

I wasn't talking to you chief.

A crowd forms.

ASSHOLE DRUNK (CONT'D)

Hey, I'm talking to you. I can take you.

JOHNNY

(to Asshole)

Relax, man. Drinks on me, if you relax.

The man thinks for a moment...

ASSHOLE DRUNK

Whatever, pussy.

He staggers away. The crowd looks disappointed for the lack of a fight.

AVEN

You should've gave him the bullet punch.

JOHNNY

You don't always have to hurt someone to win.

AVEN

You're a cop. You hurt people on the job.

JOHNNY

I try not to.

EXT. SHELTER ISLAND PIER - NIGHT

F.B.I. Agents hide and wait for the operation to go down.

BLAKE  
(into radio)  
Anything?

YAYOI (O.C.)  
(into radio)  
Nothing.

Blake checks his watch: **11:50 p.m.**

BLAKE  
(into radio)  
They're not coming.

His phone rings. He Picks up.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Amstat.

CUT TO:

EXT. PEARSON FUEL DOCKS - NIGHT

Yayoi and Blake arrive to see yellow tape, SPECTATORS, and C.S.I. They are greeted by local DET. ADRIAN MARQUEZ (47). Adrian looks older than his years and very experienced.

DET. MARQUEZ  
(into phone)  
Yeah, I'll let you know. Gotta go.

Blake and Yayoi approach. Det. Marquez doesn't acknowledge Yayoi; she might as well be a ghost.

BLAKE  
Why'd you call me?

DET. MARQUEZ  
Nice to see you, too.

BLAKE  
Sorry... Hi. This is my partner  
Yayoi Chen. Yayoi. Adrian.

YAYOI  
Pleasure.

DET. MARQUEZ

You were at Shelter Island. That's a fuel dock. This is a fuel dock. I figured you were looking for something.

Adrian, Blake, and Yayoi move down the ramp and approach a covered body.

Adrian pulls the cover off the body to reveal: Rory SHOT in the head.

**END OF ACT THREE**



**ACT FOUR**

EXT. PEARSON FUEL DOCKS - NIGHT

Forensics processes Rory's body.

DET. MARQUEZ  
You know him?

BLAKE  
No. Good luck with the stiff.

Yayoi plays along with the lie.

DET. MARQUEZ  
Thanks.

BLAKE  
Curious. Did anyone see anything?

DET. MARQUEZ  
Nope, and if they did, they're not talking.

YAYOI  
What evidence do you have?

Adrian's phone rings and he checks it...

DET. MARQUEZ  
I gotta take this. Good luck.

BLAKE  
Thanks.

Adrian walks away and answers.

DET. MARQUEZ  
(into phone)  
Marquez, yeah--

Yayoi makes sure Marquez doesn't forget her.

YAYOI  
(yelling)  
It was nice meeting you.

Adrian looks at her, annoyed. Yayoi smiles.

YAYOI (CONT'D)  
Geez, Blake, I didn't know you associated yourself with racists.

BLAKE  
Racist?

YAYOI  
Marquez.

BLAKE  
What? No. He's just overwhelmed.

YAYOI  
Why didn't you tell him that was  
Johnny's brother?

BLAKE  
Because no one needs to know.

He fidgets nervously, more shaken up than he lets on.

YAYOI  
What are you not telling me?

BLAKE  
Nothing.

YAYOI  
Jesus! You were going to do a bait  
and switch. Bait Johnny in, who you  
wanted in the first place to take  
Rory's place.

BLAKE  
How the hell did you figure that  
out?

YAYOI  
I'm more than tits and pretty hair.

BLAKE  
That's not what I meant.

YAYOI  
Sure you did. I come from a family  
of criminals. I think of every  
angle.

BLAKE  
None of this matters now. We have a  
mole. Only you, me, and Marcus knew  
about the Shelter Island meet-up.

YAYOI  
Here, I thought I was going to  
sunbathe in beautiful San Diego.  
This place sucks.

INT. POLICE STATION - SGT. STEELE'S OFFICE - DAY

Blake and Farrah go over notes on the computer.

SGT. STEELE

Are you sure you want to tell him?

BLAKE

I owe it to him.

KNOCK. KNOCK.

SGT. STEELE

Come in.

Johnny enters. Sees Blake...

JOHNNY

If this has anything to do with the special operation--

SGT. STEELE

Special operation? Blake, what is he talking about?

BLAKE

Nothing. That's not important. Johnny, if you could please sit.

JOHNNY

Sarge, I have somewhere to be.

SGT. STEELE

Not right now, you don't. Please sit. Listen to what Blake has to say.

BLAKE

It's about Rory. I'm really sorry, Johnny.

He pulls out a photo of Rory, dead with an "F" on his shoulder.

SGT. STEELE

We didn't find Rory's phone, but checked his records. He called you right before he was killed. You know about what?

Johnny looks up.

JOHNNY

I was at the bank. I don't know why he called.

BLAKE

We were wrong about Rory being a Triad Enforcer. He was part of Vincent's crew.

JOHNNY

The "F"?

SGT. STEELE

It's Vincent's brand for his gang.

BLAKE

Did Rory mention anything to you? Why he was working with Vincent. His plans?

Johnny shakes his head.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

Your parents are identifying the body now. Johnny, I know--

JOHNNY

I should've taken the stupid call!

Johnny keeps his composure. His eyes water.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You were right to ask me about being a part of the operation. I'm the best for it. I'm in.

BLAKE

There is no task force.

JOHNNY

What?

BLAKE

We'll call you if we have any more questions.

JOHNNY

It was Vincent, wasn't it?

BLAKE

Sorry, Johnny.

SGT. STEELE  
You should know how this works.  
It's an ongoing investigation, and  
we can't share any evidence with  
you. Take some time off.

JOHNNY  
I don't want any time off.

SGT. STEELE  
You can come back to work once you  
clear counseling. Gun and badge...

JOHNNY  
I'm going after DeChant with or  
without the badge.

SGT. STEELE  
Then it's without it.

Johnny throws down his gun and badge.

JOHNNY  
Fine. I quit.

SGT. STEELE  
Don't do this.

Johnny leaves. Blake goes after him, but Steele stops him.

SGT. STEELE (CONT'D)  
Task force? When were you going to  
tell me?

BLAKE  
Doesn't matter. It's not happening  
anymore.

SGT. STEELE  
Why not?

Blake leaves without an answer.

INT. MORGUE - HALLWAY - DAY

Johnny sees his mom and dad sitting in the hallway. Sarah  
cries hysterically.

JOHNNY  
I'm so sorry. I'm going to find out  
who did this.

Zhao slowly gets up.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Dad...

Zhao slaps him in the face.

ZHAO

*He looked up to you.*

He storms off before Johnny and mom can say anything.

INT. PALOMAR CARD CLUB - NIGHT

Johnny drinks alcohol for the first time in a long time. He's drunk, playing the cards hard with the winnings from the previous night.

The card dealer throws him an unfavorable hand.

JOHNNY

Shit!

CARD DEALER

Sorry, man.

He pulls the chips to his end.

JOHNNY

A marker?

CARD DEALER

No more.

A DOUCHEBAG (20s), not paying attention or doesn't care, bumps into Johnny.

Johnny pushes him back--

DOUCHEBAG

What's your problem, dude?

Johnny lets it all out... He executes his bullet punch in close range, but it's not enough, he kicks him on the way down. He's so quick, no one can stop him.

Johnny downs the last of his drink without remorse or guilt.

INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Johnny watches training videos of him and Rory...

More drinking...

KNOCK.

KNOCK.

Johnny answers, and Aven steps in and hugs him.

AVEN

I'm so sorry. I came as soon as I heard.

JOHNNY

Thanks, man.

AVEN

Your parents told me you quit the force. Why?

JOHNNY

Did you know about Rory working with Vincent?

AVEN

No.

He sees the training videos of the two brothers together, a little bit envious. And sad.

JOHNNY

I'm going to fight for Vincent.

AVEN

I want to help, but if this is about revenge--

JOHNNY

I just need the money, okay?

AVEN

They're not going to let a former cop fight for them.

JOHNNY

I'll take care of that. Can you get me in?

AVEN

They need to see your skills first. I'll make a call.

JOHNNY

Thanks, Aven...

Still drunk...

AVEN

Of course, man. You're like a brother to me.

JOHNNY

Rory is-- was my brother and I failed him. I fail everybody... didn't use too...

EXT. WASHINGTON SKATE PARK - NIGHT

Under a bridge, Yayoi waits. Paranoid. Behind her...

CRUNCH.

Yayoi pulls out her gun--

YAYOI

Come out. Hands up.

A HOMELESS MAN slowly comes out.

HOMELESS MAN

Don't shoot.

Yayoi holsters her gun, relieved. The Homeless Man runs off.

Johnny appears out of nowhere and scares her.

YAYOI

Jesus! What the hell? Could you have picked a darker place?

JOHNNY

My little brother. I want Vincent to pay.

YAYOI

What makes you think it was him?

JOHNNY

My brother was at both those raids. He probably thought my brother was a snitch and killed him for it.

YAYOI

So you did let him go?

Johnny nods.

YAYOI (CONT'D)

I thought you were done playing copper.



JOHNNY

I can help you close the case with Vincent as your criminal informant, and you can get all the credit and glory instead of your white male counterpart.

YAYOI

What makes you think I want all the glory?

JOHNNY

No one takes you seriously.  
(switches to Cantonese)  
*I'm sure your traditional Chinese parents are not fans of your work.*

YAYOI

It's not Vincent I want.

Yayoi hands Johnny a thick file folder.

JOHNNY

(Re: file)  
Who's this?

YAYOI

Karina Vasquez.

JOHNNY

What do you want on her?

YAYOI

I'll let you know.

JOHNNY

I need you to delete any records of me on the force.

Yayoi walks off without having the last word.

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

INT. ALLIANCE TRAINING CENTER - NIGHT

Aven and Johnny wait in an empty gym.

AVEN

Let me do the talking.

JOHNNY

Yeah, sure. But they are coming?

AVEN

Yeah, don't worry.

JOHNNY

No one knows that Rory was my brother.

AVEN

I'm not going to say anything.

Carlito, Trey, Vincent, and Karina enter.

VINCENT

Hey, hey, hey! You have a good friend in Aven. He's told me how great you are.

He extends his hand.

JOHNNY

Johnny Parker.

VINCENT

What's your style?

JOHNNY

Winning.

VINCENT

I like that.

KARINA

Wait. I remember you... You were at the fight. You were talking to Rory.

Vincent takes out his gun. The air leaves the room...

JOHNNY

I was. Aven told me about it and said that the best fights happen in the fight pit. I like a challenge and wanted to see it for myself.

KARINA

And Rory?

JOHNNY

Who? Oh yeah, that guy. I... I uh... put a bet on you. And won. You looked tougher and meaner than any other fighter I had ever seen.

AVEN

It's true.

Carlito takes a sidebar with Vincent.

CARLITO

Remember what Erik said? His customers want to see new fighters. New fighters give us new customers. We shouldn't kill him.

Karina interjects.

KARINA

We need to tighten our circle and not take anyone in.

VINCENT

Carlito is right.

Carlito is all smiles.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

So is Karina. We'll let fate decide.

KARINA

(re: Johnny0)  
I'll vent him.

Vincent lowers the gun.

VINCENT

You get one chance. This is Carlito. Trey trains all my prospects.

TREY

Where do you train?

JOHNNY  
Nowhere in particular.

VINCENT  
This is Karina Vasquez.

JOHNNY  
I remember.

KARINA  
I leave an impression.

INT. ALLIANCE TRAINING CENTER - CAGESIDE - NIGHT

The young Mexican immigrant from the van, practices aerial kicks and fast striking techniques.

Vincent and Carlito find a spot in front of the cage.

KARINA  
(to Johnny)  
You're fighting my guy. Try not to  
get kicked in the face.

She moves next to Vincent, with Trey following her.

Johnny studies Miguel's moves.

JOHNNY  
What's this guy's style?

AVEN  
I've never seen him before.

Miguel does some impressive flying spin kicks.

AVEN (CONT'D)  
Wow. He's good. Well, good luck,  
buddy.

JOHNNY  
Yeah, thanks.

He gets in the cage, and Aven shuts it behind him. Miguel gets in his corner and Johnny in his.

Karina moves behind Aven.

KARINA  
You called Carlito instead of me.

AVEN  
You didn't pick up--

KARINA

Shut up. I got you in with Vincent,  
don't forget that. You talk to me,  
not Carlito. Got it, pretty boy?

Johnny and Miguel take the center of the ring.

Miguel swings fast like he's fighting for his life.

Johnny is nervous. They exchange blows; Miguel is versatile  
and goes for a takedown. Johnny can barely defend it.

Johnny rolls to secure an arm bar; but Miguel maneuvers out.

Miguel lands a jumping 360 kick. Johnny goes limp, Miguel  
takes advantage of the moment and wails at him.

Johnny pushes him away and sweeps his leg. Miguel does  
another takedown and gets Johnny's back, pounds on his face,  
transitions to a choke. Johnny tucks in his chin.

Only Johnny's chin stands between victory and defeat. Johnny  
slowly loses strength...

JOHNNY AND RORY FLASHBACK

INT. JOHNNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Johnny and Rory are talking on the couch.

EXT. AUTO JUNK YARD - NIGHT

Johnny sees his mom crying. His dad slaps him. Johnny looks  
over and sees Rory on the slab of the morgue.

END FLASHBACK

INT. ALLIANCE TRAINING CENTER - CAGESIDE - CONTINUOUS

Johnny composes himself and escapes the choke; he switches  
position. Johnny is in Miguel's full guard. He postures up  
and strikes Miguel with everything he has.

But it's not enough--

Miguel finds an opening and clobbers Johnny for the win!

K.O.

CARLITO

Shit.

KARINA

Yeah! That's what I'm talking about!

She claps hard, child-like in front of Carlito, bragging for her fighter, Miguel.

VINCENT

(to Carlito)

Karina's not going to let you live that down.

Aven enters the cage and checks on Johnny. He comes to.

JOHNNY

What happened?

AVEN

Nothing good.

JOHNNY

I lost, didn't I?

AVEN

Yeah, man. You almost had him.

KARINA

(smiling)

Welcome to the fight pit.

She snaps a photo of Johnny, blinding him. Karina congratulates Miguel as he steps out the ring.

EXT. PALOMAR CARD CLUB - NIGHT

Johnny smokes a cigarette by himself. His pride more damaged than his face. He's drunk and can barely stand.

The lights of the club illuminate his watery eyes as he looks at the VOICEMAIL on his phone.

He listens to the voicemail...

RORY

I'm sorry I ruined everything for you, and I didn't mean to make things so difficult. I wanted to

Johnny hangs up... closes his eyes tight... throws his cigarette, dials again--

RORY (CONT'D)  
 (into phone)  
 --Make everything better for us.  
 The fight pit reminded me of old  
 times. I miss them. I hope to see  
 you fight again. I love you,  
 brother.

Johnny dials Rory back. It goes straight to voicemail.

START CLOSING MONTAGE SEQUENCE

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Karina frees the illegal immigrants from Ricky's van and gives Miguel's mom and sister some money.

JOHNNY (V.O.)  
 Rory, you don't need to say sorry.  
 I should've never borrowed money  
 from the Triads. My gambling debts  
 just piled up, and the next thing I  
 know, they're breaking your arm. If  
 I threw the fight, we wouldn't be  
 here. It's my fault.

INT. MEXICAN MARKET - NIGHT

Roc-Roc, Spooky, and Loco load crates of guns into their new storage area.

JOHNNY (V.O.)  
 I stopped fighting because I made a  
 mistake, and that cost us  
 everything. I lost a part of me,  
 and I took it out on you.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Vincent and Det. Marquez (the inside man) meet with handshakes and respect. Vincent hands him an envelope with a large amount of money.

Det. Marquez gives Vincent some of the supplies lost from the drug lab.

JOHNNY (V.O.)  
 I love you. Talk to you later.

END CLOSING  
 MONTAGE

INT. KARINA'S LOFT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Karina sits in front of her computer screen. She hacks into different law enforcement databases and searches "Johnny Parker" and "Jonathan Parker"...

NO RESULTS.

EXT. AQUEDUCT - NIGHT

Carlito with Spooky, Loco, and Roc-Roc jump out of an SUV and pull out Miguel. He's bound and gagged.

Carlito shoots Miguel dead.

They dump his body in the aqueduct.

Carlito dials Karina...

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION KARINA/CARLITO

KARINA

What?

CARLITO

Your boy Miguel went missing. Just vanished...

KARINA

You mother-

CARLITO

It looks like my fighter, Johnny is in, and yours is out.

KARINA

You son-of-a-bitch.

Carlito hangs up with a devilish grin.

**END OF SHOW**