

TO THE GRAVE

Written by
Matthew Mosley

This work has been registered with The Script Vault Ltd
(www.thescriptvault.com) Registration No. 100-3141

FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

An overweight man in his late 30's is running for his life in the dark city park. He is **BENNY**. He looks behind him again and again, looking for something as he flees. Soon after, MALE VOICES can be heard YELLING things in the background but their words are quite inaudible from their distance and the echo. Benny reacts to noises by trying to run faster. The voices become clearer as the mystery men get closer.

VOICE #1 (O.S.)
Here snitchy-snitchy-snitchy.

VOICE #2 (O.S.)
We're coming to get ya, fat boy.

VOICE #3 (O.S.)
Nowhere to run to, bitch.

Another voice BARKS like a dog and the men laugh together like Hyenas. Benny TRIPS and falls over, SLAMMING his face into the ground. He quickly climbs back to his feet and continues running, wiping his now bloody nose as he does so. He quickly glances back to see...

A GROUP OF **SIX YOUNG MEN**, aged 18-25, suddenly come into view, chasing Benny.

One of the men picks up a piece of wood as he runs by it then THROWS it at the running man, HITTING him in the back of the head. He stumbles a little and slows him down just enough for the thrower to gain on him and KICK him in the back, knocking him to the floor and rolling over himself. The young men gather around Benny and rein down punches and kicks to his body and face as they hurl abuse at him about what a 'bad boy' he's been and how 'snitches gets stitches etc...

A CAR drives on the grass and pulls up near to the group. From the passenger window, **GARY GUNN** barks an order.

GARY GUNN
Hold him down.

The passenger door opens and we get a full glimpse of Gunn. A monster of a man, 6ft 4 and 20 stone. Half muscle. Half fat. All intimidating.

The men stop their assault and drag Benny over to a nearby bench, sit him on it and hold him in place by his arms and shoulders.

Gary steps out of the car hold a heavy looking sack and walks at a steady pace over to Benny, who is being held in place by the gang. Benny breaths heavily as Gary makes his way towards him.

BENNY

Look, whatever you want from me you can have it alright? I ain't got much though, I can barely even--

GARY GUNN

So, Mr. Wilcox, I hear that you witnessed an arson attack on a flat near the shops that killed a lad and his family. Is that right?

BENNY

What?

GARY GUNN

The fire at tower flats a few months ago. I hear that you saw the guy that did it. That they only got the guy 'cos you I.D'd him at the cop shop and that's what led to his arrest. Is that right?

Benny takes a nervous look around at the young men holding him down.

YOUNG MAN #1

The man asked you a question.

BENNY

Yeah. That's me, I saw the whole thing. Why?

Gary nods at the young men and they pull Benny from the bench, sweep his legs, bend him over and stretch him over it. They stretch his arms flat out across the wooden seat and flat out his hands. Gary pulls a NAIL GUN from his sack.

BENNY (CONT'D)

No wait, I just saw someone and they put some people in front of me. Please--

Gary presses the nail gun against one of Benny's hands and TRIGGERS a nail through it, pinning him to the bench. He SCREAMS in pain as the gang of young men LAUGH at it.

GARY GUNN

Now, I'm gonna ask you again, what did you see?

BENNY

Oh God, I don't know, I don't know,
please.

GARY GUNN

You didn't see anything, did you?

BENNY

No, I saw someone else. I got it
wrong. Please.

Gary pulls a small petrol can from his sack and pours it over
Benny.

YOUNG MAN #1

Oh you've done it now, boy.

YOUNG MAN #2

Yeah man, light his ass up.

YOUNG MAN #3

Do it, do it.

BENNY

No please, I'll say whatever you
want. I'll say I saw whatever you
want me to.

GARY GUNN

No, you saw nothing. No one. You
heard about the fire, wanted to
look like a hero by saying you did
see something, and lied to the
police. Didn't you?

BENNY

Yes. Okay. I made it up. I made it
all up.

GARY GUNN

And you'll tell that to the police
first thing, won't you?

BENNY

Yes, please just let me go.. I
won't say anything, please.

Gary searches the mans pockets, pulls out a wallet and looks
through it. He pulls out some I.D.

GARY GUNN

Right then, Mr. Dirty Grass, of
Oaks Ridge Lane. I do believe we're
done here. Right?

Benny looks at Gary with calm fear. Gary looks him in his eye, strikes a match and holds it in front of his face.

BENNY

Yes.

GARY GUNN

No more telling porkies?

BENNY

No.

GARY GUNN

No more wasting police time trying to look like a big shot?

Benny shakes his head.

GARY GUNN (CONT'D)

Are you sure?

BENNY

Yes.

GARY GUNN

Alright, then. You make sure that you keep to your word, or I'll keep to mine, and light your whole family up. Okay?

Benny gives a small nod in fear.

GARY GUNN (CONT'D)

Okay then, looks like we can all go home then.

Gary turns and walks back to the car. A SECOND car is now parked behind it.

YOUNG MAN #4

Yeah, you got fucking lucky.

Young Man #4 PUNCHES Benny in the back.

YOUNG MAN #5

Pussy ass bitch.

Young Man #5 SLAPS Benny in the back of the head.

Young Man #6 SPITS ON Benny and the group climb into the two cars and drive away Benny cries as he tries to free to nailed hand from the bench.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

The room is packed with the usual suspects.

A **TATTOOED MAN** in his early 20's in on the stand being questioned by the prosecution.

MAX DAVIS, 40, is prosecuting. He is 40 years old, tall and handsome and with an athletic middle weight's build.

MAX

Where were you on the night of the 31st?

TATTOOED MAN

At home, with my girlfriend, watching Netflix.

MAX

What did you watch?

TATTOOED MAN

'Friends'. Season 1. Check my Netflix history.

MAX

Well, that history only shows that it was watched. Not when or by whom. Your phone records, however, can reveal a lot about your location.

TATTOOED MAN

Well, that was at home with me, too.

MAX

Tell me, why did you fail to pick up a call from Ashley all four times that he called you that night?

TATTOOED MAN

I was avoiding him so I ignored it.

MAX

Really? You also failed to pick up another call from Tony. Where you avoiding him, too?

TATTOOED MAN

No.

MAX

Then why didn't you pick up?

TATTOOED MAN

Because he's tight with Ashley and I thought it might be him calling from someone else's phone in order to get me to pick up, so I just left all calls for the night.

MAX

Or, knowing your phone could be used to trace your every visited location, you left your phone at home before setting off to set fire to the house of a man you and criminal associates of yours had done you wrong.

The **DEFENCE** interrupts.

DEFENCE

Objection. The prosecution is creating a series of events that have no supporting evidence, and trying to make my client appear guilty by association by implying he is friends with criminals.

The **JUDGE** dismisses the objection.

JUDGE

Overruled.

MAX

Isn't it true that you, and people you are in business with, were involved in a turf war with the victim over supposed dealing rights for the area.

DEFENCE

Objection. My client is not on trial on drugs charges, nor has he ever been accused of being involved in drugs, even falsely.

JUDGE

Agreed. Mr. Davis, please stick to the relevant information.

MAX

Very well.
(to Tattooed Man)
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

Isn't it true, that in the weeks running up to the arson attack on the victim's home, that you were seen several times on CCTV walking in the vicinity of the victim's house and making notes about cameras in the area?

TATTOOED MAN

If you say so.

MAX

Well, I don't say so. The video evidence says so.

TATTOOED MAN

I couldn't say.

MAX

Well, the footage says yes.

TATTOOED MAN

Well, you won't have any footage of me in the area on the night of the supposed arson attack, 'cos I was at home, with my girlfriend, watching 'Friends' on Netflix.

MAX

Or you had made notes of all the cameras in the area and found a route to take so's not to be captured on camera.

TATTOOED MAN

No.

MAX

But you couldn't, no matter how much planning you put into it, plan for being seen by your local postman, out walking his dog.

The Tattooed Man shakes his head and looks down.

MAX (CONT'D)

No further questions, your Honor. The Defence calls Benjamin Wilcox to the stand.

The Tattooed Man doesn't move from the stand.

There are RUSTLES in the court as people look around for the Witness after he fails to make himself known.

MAX (CONT'D)
Benjamin Wilcox. Please take the stand.

The Tattooed Man stands smiling in the dock. Max looks at **DS COPE** in the audience. He shakes his head. The Tattooed man's familiar looking friends from the park grin and nudge each other on the other side of the court.

TATTOOED MAN
Looks like he's changed his mind.

JUDGE
Quiet.
(to Max and the defence)
Gentlemen, please.

The Judge signals them over and leans in to speak.

DEFENCE
If the witness can't be produced then I request an acquittal for my client--

MAX
Acquittal my arse, he's guilty as sin and you know it.

JUDGE
Gentlemen, you know as well as I do, if a case relies on a sole witness and that witness doesn't appear to testify then there is no case to answer.

MAX
So he just gets away with it?

DEFENCE
That is the law of the land.

MAX
I'm sure I can find him or get a hold of him somehow. How long do I have?

JUDGE
You know how this works.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

The Tattooed man and his friends emerge from the courthouse, celebrating his freedom. Gary Gunn awaits them in a 4x4.

INT. COURTHOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY

Max is pacing back and forth in the hallway pissed while DS Cope, 45, leans against the wall with his arms folded.

MAX

Can you believe this shit? Again. He gets away with this shit again. All that time to prepare for the case, and for what? Another acquittal?

DS COPE

Story of my life. I don't think I'm even gonna bother taking any more cases connected to him. It's just not worth it.

DS Cope's phone BLEEPs and he checks it.

MAX

They must have gotten to him. It's the only explanation.

DS COPE

Yep, he's in hospital.

He pockets his phone.

MAX

For God's sake. Why didn't he choose protective custody?

DS COPE

Some are just naive enough to think everything will be all right.

MAX

They should try watching the news from time to time.

Max tries to calm himself but to no avail.

MAX (CONT'D)

All those fucking man hours. Gone.

DS COPE

Come on, I'll buy you a pint.

MAX

Nah, I can't. I've gotta get this outta my system. See ya later.

Max hurries away, clearly angry.

INT. DAVIS' GYM - DAY

In the middle of a boxing ring, Max furiously pounds full speed on a pair of focus mitts held by his brother, **JOHN**, 35.

Max beats on the pads with all his hate as John encourages him (ad-libs) until he stops.

MAX

It's not enough.

ARTHUR DAVIS, 60, smiles from the sidelines.

MOMENTS LATER, back in the ring.

John is now wearing full body padding and Max punches and kicks with everything that he has.

FRANK stands besides Arthur, watching the action in the ring.

FRANK

Jesus, Arth', he should be doing some of that cage fighting. He's born for it.

ARTHUR

Yeah. But they've all got to find their own way.

Max pours out the rest of his anger into the body shield of John until he finishes with and side kick that floors John.

INT. GYM OFFICE - DAY

Max and John sit facing Arthur behind his desk.

ARTHUR

So, long story short, I'm old. It's time for me to retire. I don't want to just leave the gym to you in my will to get when I die, so, I'm giving it to you now.

JOHN

You're retiring? You?

ARTHUR

Yes. Me.

MAX

Is the cancer back?

ARTHUR

I'm fine. I just thin it's time for me to hand things over. Enjoy whatever time I have left, you know? I'm 60. The Bible says we're to live for three-score and ten.

JOHN

What's that mean?

ARTHUR

It means, chances are, we get 70-years and that's it. I'm 60. Do the math.

JOHN

You do the books, not me.

ARTHUR

Good point. So, I'm signing each of you over a third of the business so there's no inheritance tax when I die, 'cos the remaining share will be under the threshold, so--

JOHN

(smiling)
Crafty bastard.

ARTHUR

You wanna pay the tax?

JOHN

Fuck no.

ARTHUR

So, you idiots are now in charge. I'll keep doing the books for as long as I'm around, but, eventually you're gonna have to hire someone.

MAX

And the cancer isn't back?

ARTHUR

I'm fine.

JOHN

So what now?

Arthur thinks a beat.

ARTHUR

Go get drunk?

INT. PUB - NIGHT

John and Max relieve stress over a pint.

JOHN

Don't worry, there will be other chances. People like them can't help but keep themselves in trouble. They'll give you something else to throw at them soon enough, mark my words.

MAX

Yeah. I know. But in the meantime, they get to keep walking the streets while their victims are afraid to. The whole system needs rebuilding--

Something catches Max's eye.

MAX (CONT'D)

Are you fucking kidding me?

John looks up to see the Tattooed Man from court sitting down to a table with **TWO THUGS**. The Tattooed Man spots Max.

TATTOOED MAN

Hey, alright mate. Hey, bad luck. Can't win 'em all though, right?

His thugs laugh and sit to drink.

JOHN

Fucking wankers.

MAX

Leave it. Like you said, I'll get 'em some other time.

The Thugs decide to chime in with their 2 cents.

THUG 1

No hard feelings, hey mate?

THUG 2

Yeah, better luck next time, pal.

The thugs laugh and fist bump. The Tattooed Man grins.

JOHN

Why don't you sit down, shut the fuck up and drink 'til you drown, pricks?

THUG 1
 (mocking)
 Oooh!

THUG 2
 (mocking)
 Oooh!

MAX
 John, it ain't worth it.

THUG 1
 Yeah, listen to your friend there,
 mate. Don't wanna end up another
 statistic, do ya?

John stands.

JOHN
 I'd like to see you try, mate. I
 bet you're not so tough one-on-one.

Max stands and holds his brother back.

MAX
 Easy. They're not worth it.

THUG 2
 Alright, big man. You've proved
 your point. We're just out for a
 quiet drink. No need to get your
 knickers in a twist.

JOHN
 Yeah, that's what I thought.

John sits. Max follows.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Pricks.

THUGS TABLE

THUG 1
 I'm gonna put that mouthy fucker
 down.

TATTOOED MAN
 (quietly, to thugs)
 Hey, not right now, I've gotta keep
 my head down. Wait 'til I'm gone.

The trio sit and enjoy their drinks as they make glances at John.

Max and John continue their drinks, unaware.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

Night falls on the establishment.

INT. PUB - NIGHT

Max necks the rest of his beer and slams it own on the table. He looks over at the trio of criminals. The Tattooed Man finishes his drink, bids farewell to his thug friends and leaves the establishment alone.

MAX

Right, I'm gonna head off. You gonna be at the gym tomorrow?

JOHN

Depends how many more of these I have.

John shakes his half empty beer at him.

MAX

See ya later.

Max grabs his jacket, double taps his brother's shoulder and walks away. John continues his drink.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Max is laying in bed reading through paperwork. He flips over a few pages and makes a few notes, then looks at his phone, sees it's late and quickly finishes up. He puts his work to one side, wipes his eyes, turns off the light and pulls the covers over himself.

EXT. PUB - NIGHT

John leaves the pub and beelines to his right. A couple of seconds later, the two meatheads from inside exit, look to their left then right, see John and begin to follow him.

The thugs follow John down the quiet street and see as John turns into an alley. The thugs look around and duck in the alley after him.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

John is walking with his hands in his pockets and the two bar thugs run up to him from behind. John turns around just in time to see the thugs reach him.

THUG 1

Hey bitch, why don't you talk some
shit now?

The thug throws a punch but John blocks it. The second thug throws a punch and John blocks it... but then both thugs start throwing punches and kicks at him and John can't stop them all.

John takes a beating for a minute before he catches a break and manages to GRAB one of the thugs and push him into the other, knocking one of them down.

The first thug comes back at John but John defends himself and HIP THROWS the thug to the ground and punches him whilst he's down.

The second thug gets back to his feet and charges John.

John DUCKS and the thug goes flying over him and SLAMMING into the floor. John mounts on top of him and PUNCHES him mercilessly.

The first thug gets back up and pulls out a KNIFE, a YELLS as he storms towards John.

John hears his yells and turns around in time to CATCH the thugs hand and TWIST it back on himself and the thug accidentally STABS HIMSELF in the throat.

The thug clutches at his heavily bleeding neck and stumbles down, falling down. John looks at him in disbelief as this happens.

The second thug rugby tackles John to the ground but John reverses the attacker onto his back. The grounded thug reaches out and grabs the fallen knife then pulls John in close. John tries to pull back out of it but can't do it so grabs he thugs knife hand and pulls it down, STABBING the thug in the heart. He dies.

John quickly stands back up, distraught. He looks back and forth between the dead thugs for a moment then looks around for witnesses and cameras. He sees none.

He takes his phone out of his pocket, pulls up Max's number but pauses as he thinks about pressing CALL. He walks to the end of the alley, looks around and sees a PAY PHONE. He looks around for people and sees none. He runs over to the pay phone and climbs inside.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Max is laying in bed in the dark when his phone starts ringing. He rolls over, grabs his phone and sees a number he doesn't recognise, sits up and answers it.

MAX

Hello?

JOHN

Max, it's John. Listen--

MAX

Jesus John, where are you calling from?

JOHN

Max, I'm in trouble.

MAX

What?

JOHN

Listen, two of the guys from the pub earlier followed me out and jumped me in an alley.

MAX

Are you okay?

JOHN

I'm fine, they're dead, Max. They're both dead.

MAX

What the fuck?

JOHN

It was self defence. They jumped me and one had a knife. I turned it back on him and he just bled out.

MAX

Jesus.

JOHN

I downed the other but he grabbed the knife and it went into his heart. They both came out of nowhere and just took me by surprise, man. You gotta help me, I don't know what to do.

MAX

Okay, listen, are there any cameras around you can see.

JOHN

No, I already checked all around, and I don't remember seeing any on the way here either.

MAX

Okay, where are you now?

JOHN

I'm in the alley besides Kent's Hardwood store, off Lockton Avenue.

MAX

Okay, stay right there, I'll be there soon.

EXT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT

Max's car pulls up at the end of the alley and Max gets out.

He approaches John standing over the thug's bodies.

MAX

So you came out of the pub, they followed you down here, made a move and you acted in self defence?

JOHN

Yes.

MAX

Did anyone see anything?

JOHN

No. The street was empty.

MAX

What about at the pub, what happened there?

JOHN

Nothing happened after you left. We didn't speak again. I just left and they followed me.

MAX

Okay. The pub was pretty full earlier and there were a lot of witnesses, so when they're reported missing your name is gonna come up. We'll work on that later, right need we need to find a place to put these two.

JOHN

You don't wanna report this?

MAX

No. Too dangerous, he's got cops in his pocket and if they don't think you might have been involved with the disappearance, they'll have to equally assume that it could have been a rival gang. But if they know you were responsible then they'll go after dad. That's their M.O.

JOHN

Oh God.

MAX

I'll back the car up.

Max leaves.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

A spade cuts into the Earth as Max prepares a grave. He's dressed in painters overalls and gloves.

Max climbs out of the hole and walks over to the car. John is changed into new clothes. He hands the bagged old ones to Max who boots it.

Max pulls the dead thug's bodies from his trunk and strips them. He rolls the dead men into the grave and pours a liquid over the bodies. A chemical reaction creates a smoke.

JOHN

Have you done this before?

Max pauses a beat then starts filling the grave.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max's car is parked outside.

MAX (V.O.)

Just go to work as normal, do what you normally do and maybe play the hangover game a little. If anyone suspects you, they should assume you'd be too drunk to do anything and not leave a trace so it should be okay.

JOHN (V.O.)

Okay, but--

MAX (V.O.)

John, just do as I say and I promise, everything will be okay. We'll talk later, okay?

JOHN (V.O.)

Okay.

John exits the car, waves it off and heads for the house. Max pulls off quietly.

EXT. CAR WASH - DAY

A **CLEANER** is detailing Max's car boot. Max is standing nearby. His phone rings. He picks up.

MAX

Yeah.

(beat)

Slow down. Slow down.

(beat)

Where are you?

(beat)

Okay, calm down. I'm nearby, I'll be there in a minute, alright?

(beat)

Okay. Bye.

He hangs up and pays the Cleaner.

INT. CAFE - DAY

Max is eating a bacon sandwich. John hasn't touched his.

MAX

Well, you were seen arguing with them and there are witnesses, so you can expect a call from the police, but it was quick and no one approached the other so, chances are it will be brief and nothing to worry about.

JOHN

You're sure?

MAX

Yes. You called me from a pay phone, right?

JOHN

Yeah.

MAX

Then there's no call from your phone to mine for help, and they didn't have phones on them so their route can't be traced electronically.

JOHN

Wait, did you bring your phone with you last night, 'cos it might show ours close to each other later than night?

MAX

No. I left it at home.

John exhales in relief.

MAX (CONT'D)

Look, don't worry, I really doubt they'll think of you first.

INT. POLICE STATION - FRONT DESK - DAY

Gary Gunn walks into the reception area of the station and addresses a **POLICE OFFICER** at the desk.

GARY GUNN

I'd like to report two missing people, and suggest a suspect.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Max sits in as John's lawyer as he is questioned by a **DETECTIVE**. A **MUSCLE BOUND COP** is also sitting in on the interview.

DETECTIVE

Can you tell me what you did on the 13th of this month, please?

MAX

Between what times?

DETECTIVE

The whole day, please.

MAX

The whole day isn't a requirement. Only the time around the supposed crime you are apparently investigating could ever be considered necessary. So at what time of the day are you referring to?

DETECTIVE

Okay, between 8pm and 11pm.

(to John)

Where were you between 8pm and 11pm?

JOHN

At 8pm I was at home where I stayed until I went to the Cock N Bull pub on Derwent to meet my brother.

John motions Max with a nod.

DETECTIVE

Oh, you two are related?

MAX

That's correct. And I can confirm he was at said establishment, with myself, until I left at 10pm.

DETECTIVE

And while you were there, I understand that you had an altercation with a group of three gentlemen there celebrating--

MAX

There was no 'altercation' as you word it, and the so-called gentlemen you refer to are all known troublemakers who were out celebrating the release of a friend of theirs who escaped criminal justice.

The Muscle Bound Cop chimes in.

MUSCLE BOUND COP

Well, what they were celebrating is irrelevant, what is relevant is the report of an altercation between Mr. Davis and these gentlemen.

It's clear that Max doesn't like them being referred to as 'Gentlemen'.

MAX

Well, there was no altercation. Just a case of some nobodies shouting empty threats and not following through.

DETECTIVE

(to John)

And did you make any threats towards--

MAX

No.

DETECTIVE

I was asking your client.

JOHN

No. I did not.

DETECTIVE

So what happened?

MAX

We were having a quiet drink--

DETECTIVE

I'm asking your client. Please.

(to John)

In your own words.

JOHN

One of the men shouted something, I forgot what exactly, and I asked them to kindly keep to themselves and keep out of our business.

DETECTIVE

In those exact words?

MAX

No comment.

The Detective looks at Max with frustration.

JOHN

No comment.

DETECTIVE

(to John)

And did you leave at 10pm also?

JOHN

No, I stayed for a few extra drinks and then went home alone.

DETECTIVE

And were the two men still at the pub when you left?

JOHN

Possibly. I wasn't really paying attention to them after the 10-20 seconds they were making fun. That's literally as long as it lasted.

MAX

It was nothing.

DETECTIVE

And after you left the bar, what happened?

JOHN

I walked home.

DETECTIVE

And did anyone see you?

JOHN

Not that I'm aware of.

DETECTIVE

And you went straight home?

JOHN

Yes.

DETECTIVE

Well, witnesses at the bar say that after you left, the two gentlemen in question left directly after you and no one has seen them since.

MAX

The timing of their leaving the bar directly afterwards has nothing to do with him leaving the bar. If they had left the bar first and he followed, then you might have had something. But if anything, the fact that you say there are witnesses that say that they left directly after him shows that he left alone as previously stated. Next question please.

DETECTIVE

So you didn't bump into these men after you left the bar?

JOHN

No, I did not. After I left the bar I walked directly home.

MAX

And unless you have reason to believe anything to the contrary, a witness, some CCTV or a direct statement from someone who claims to have spoken to them in person or by phone after they left then you have no reason to believe my client was in anyway involved in anything untoward against these men.

DETECTIVE

And these men didn't follow you after leaving the bar?

JOHN

If they did, I didn't see. I wasn't looking behind me. I went straight home.

DETECTIVE

And you didn't follow them?

MAX

No.

DETECTIVE

For your client to answer.
(to John)
Please.

JOHN

No. I left the bar. I walked home.
I was alone and I saw no one along
the way.

DETECTIVE

And that's it?

MAX

Asked and answered.

INT. POLICE STATION - CORRIDOR - DAY

Max corners the Detective with a request.

MAX

Listen, with who these guys are
connected to and what we know
they're responsible for, I'd like
to request some protection for my
brother just in case it gets back
to Gary Gunn and he thinks the
worst of it and sends someone
around to send a message.

DETECTIVE

Sorry, but at this moment there's
no resources available and besides,
until 72-hours has passed it's not
an official criminal investigation
so there's time for them to show
up.

MAX

But this is Gary Gunn we're talking
about. What if--?

DETECTIVE

(interrupting)
Look, Max there's just no one to
spare. I'm sorry.

The Detective heads out.

Max stands defeated.

At the opposite end of the corridor, the Muscle Bound Cop is looking Max's way makes a discreet call from his mobile.

MUSCLE BOUND COP
(into phone)
Alright, they're about to leave.

INT. UNKNOWN CAR - AFTERNOON

From behind the wheel of a car, an **UNSEEN DRIVER** watches Max and John leave the police station and climb into Max's car.

As the car pulls away, the driver starts the engine and slowly follows them from a safe distance.

INT. CAR - AFTERNOON

Max tries to keep John calm.

MAX
They piss people off all the time, so they've got to assume the possibility of a more likely candidate for the disappearances than you. But still, you know what these types are like, so make sure your doors are locked before bed, keep a weapon by your bed, stick the vacuum cleaner under the door handle so if someone breaks in it gives you more time to get out.

JOHN
How would I get out if they're upstairs?

MAX
Pull the old trampoline on the back under the bedroom window and sleep in the back.

JOHN
You mean jump out the window?

MAX
Only if you have to. Keep your keys close by and your phone charged.

JOHN
Jesus.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Max's car pulls up outside.

MAX (O.S.)

It's just a precaution. You can never be too careful with these people. That reminds me, put that metal bucket behind the front door incase someone tries to pour petrol through the letter-box.

The unknown car pulls up in the background.

JOHN

Why don't I just stay at a hotel?

INT. UNKNOWN CAR - DAY

The unseen driver makes a call as he watches John exit Max's car and head into his house.

UNSEEN DRIVER

Yeah. 28 Thorpes Road. He's here. Brother look likes he's leaving.

GARY GUNN (O.S.)

Stay there. Make sure he doesn't leave.

UNSEEN DRIVER

You got it.

Max drives away and John enters the house.

INT. HOME GYM - NIGHT

Max works out. He starts with skipping, then moves on to free weights and bag work before finishing with a grappling dummy.

(Intercut with...)

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A LARGE VAN quietly pulls up outside Jon's house and **SIX YOUNG MEN** climb out. One of the young men is dressed as a pizza delivery man, complete with pizza. The 'Delivery Man' walks up to the door, pizza in hand, as the others find a place to hide as they put on gloves and balaclavas. The 'Delivery Man' knocks on the door and the curtain is opened. John sees the Pizzas uniform and closes the curtain again.

The Delivery Man looks around at his friends in waiting then clears his throat as he sees a figure at the door before it opens.

DELIVERY MAN

Hello, sir. I've got the pizza you ordered.

JOHN

Sorry, mate. I haven't ordered any food from anywhere.

DELIVERY MAN

Really? Isn't this 28 Thorpes Road?

JOHN

Yeah, but I didn't order.

The men in waiting prepare weapons.

DELIVERY MAN

Oh well, that's the address I've got and it was paid for over the phone by credit card so, if you want it, it's paid for.

He opens the box and John leans in for a sniff. The 'Delivery Man' pulls a taser from his jeans and aims it at John from underneath the box. As John takes a wiff, the Delivery Man fires.

JOHN

AUGH!

The Delivery Man pushes the pizza into John's face and pushes him back into the house. His five young friends storm in the house behind him and close the door.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The 5 masked young men proceed to kick the shit out of John from the front door through to the living room, taunting him throughout (ad-libs). The Delivery Man films the whole thing on his phone.

THUG A

Hey, stand him up man.

Two goons pull John up to his feet. Thug A PUNCHES him in the face. He friends laugh and cheer the assault.

THUG B

Yo, yo, my turn.

Thug B throws a punch, John blocks it so Thug B KNEES him in the stomach, knocking the wind out of him. The goons cheer more.

THUG 3

Didn't see that coming, did ya?!
See if you can stop this--

Thug 3 goes in quick for an attack but John strikes first and knocks the third thug back and on his ass. His friends laugh.

THUG 4

Aw, he clowned you, mate. Fuckin' hell!

THUG 3

Shut the fuck up! You do something then.

THUG 4

Alright! Alright!

The fourth thug pulls out a NIGHTSTICK and smashes John around the face with it.

THUG 5

Where the fuck did you get that?

THUG 4

Fletch lent it me. Bad ass, ain't it?

The door opens and Gary Gunn enters. The room goes silent. The Delivery Man quickly hides his phone by his side, clearly filming when he's not supposed to be. He keeps recording.

Gary stands over a badly beaten John. He admires the bruises.

GARY GUNN

(smiling)
Alright, mate?

Gary rains down furious blows to John's head and body. John is too weak to fight back. Gary pins him down by his throat and beats his skull until it breaks under his fists.

He wipes the blood from his fists on John's shirt and stands.

GARY GUNN (CONT'D)

Torch it.

He leaves.

His thugs get to work covering the scene in petrol. They cover what they can and leave. The last thug strikes a match and drops it into the gas.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The orange glow of flames lights up behind the drawn curtains of the front room as the last thug runs out of the front door, pulling it closed behind him.

He dives into a waiting car and it pulls off, fast but without screeching tires.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Max is laying in bed in the dark. We hear his phone start to RING as it lights up. He wakes at the noise and checks the screen and sees DAD on the caller I.D. He answers it.

MAX

Hello?

(beat)

Hey, what's up?

(beat)

What's wrong?

(beat)

What?

(beat)

How?

(beat)

Oh Jesus, fucking Jesus.

Max breaks down.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Max and Arthur stand with various family members at John's funeral. A **PRIEST** reads from the Bible.

Max spots a group of men in the distance, waving, whistling and enjoying the show. Gunn's men. The Tattooed Man gives a mocking 'Boo Hoo' gesture as he laughs.

Max is too numb to do anything about it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ARTHUR'S HOUSE - DAY

Arthur opens the front door to reveal DS Cope. He shakes his hand, closes the door and leads him through various grieving family members in the living room and through to the kitchen.

INT. ARTHUR'S KITCHEN - DAY

Max pulls a beer from the fridge and turns to see Arthur and DS Cope.

DS COPE
How you doing?

Max shakes his head, hands Cope the beer and grabs a new one.

ARTHUR
So what have you got?

DS Cope exhales before speaking.

DS COPE
Well, there was no CCTV within quarter of a mile of the house. Only suspects as of yet are the missing guys he had an interaction with that night, their extended family... families, and that's it.

ARTHUR
That's it?

DS COPE
We checked where he worked and he had no problem with anyone there, so, unless he pissed off the wrong person on the way home then it has to be them. Which ones and how we find out are what we're working on now.

MAX
And how are you gonna do that?

DS Cope thinks a beat.

DS COPE
That's what we need to figure out next. If you've got any ideas, we're open to anything.

Max puts his beer down and leaves the room.

INT. MAX'S LAW FIRM - DAY

Max enters holding a box of files under one arm. Work mates throw him sympathetic smiles and nods as he makes his way to an office. He knocks on the door.

Inside the room, a **LAWYER** turns around in their chair.

LAWYER
Hey, Max. How you doing?

Max enters and drops the box on the lawyer's desk.

MAX
I'm handling it. Kind of. But I might need a little more time off. I'm--

LAWYER
Yeah, that's not gonna be a problem.

Max looks down.

MAX
Thanks. I thought I could just drown myself in my work but... I've had second thoughts.

LAWYER
Do you wanna talk about it? I'm on my lunch break soon if you wanna--

MAX
Oh, no thanks. I'm... not in a drinking mood. Thanks though.

LAWYER
No problem. If you change your mind you know ere I am. 'Kay?

MAX
Yeah. Thanks. I appreciate it. I'll--
- let you know.

Max heads out.

LAWYER
Alright man.

The Lawyer takes a look at the heavy workload inside the box.

LAWYER (CONT'D)
Shit.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Max sits in the spots where he last shared a drink with John. He sits drinking quietly, looking at the spot where his brother once sat. He sits in peace, drinking alone until something catches his eye: The Tattooed Man he failed to put away. The bastard from the funeral.

Max watches him from afar making a drug deal with someone in the corner. No one else is looking, just Max. The deal is completed and the Tattooed Man leaves.

Max quickly thinks to himself. Stay or go? His eyes dart back and forth between the door and drink pint before he makes his decision. He downs the rest of his drink, puts on his jacket and quickly makes for the exit.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Max exits the bar and looks left and right for the Tattooed Man. He spots him and carefully follows from afar.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Max follows the Tattooed Man down the street until he takes off down some stairs and towards a bridge. Eventually, the Tattooed Man stops to pee. Max steps into the shadows and watches from a safe distance. He spots a discarded Baseball bat nearby. He looks at the Tattooed Man then grabs it.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

The Tattooed Man walks under the bridge. Max appears in the background then quickly moves up towards the Tattooed Man from behind. He hears the footsteps and turns just in time to see Max swing the baseball bat into his knees. He's instantly floored and screams in pain.

MAX

Shut up.

Max brings the bat down on the Tattooed Man's chest, winding and silencing him.

MAX (CONT'D)

There was an arson attack on a house on Thorpes Road 2 weeks ago. What do you know about it?

TATTOOED MAN

What makes you think I know a
fucking thing about it?

Max kicks the Tattooed Man in the liver. He curls up in pain.

MAX

Who did it?

TATTOOED MAN

If you're a cop then you know who
did it, if you're not then what's
it to you?

MAX

Someone was killed in that house.

TATTOOED MAN

Yeah, I heard. Beaten and burned
alive. What a way to go.
(laughs)

Max stamps on the Tattooed Man's face. His jaw cracks and he
stops laughing.

MAX

I want names, addresses,
descriptions, work places.

TATTOOED MAN

Fuck you.

Max stamps on the Tattooed Man's balls. He groans in pain.

MAX

How many kicks before your balls
burst, do you reckon?

Max steps on the Tattooed Man's neck and holds the bat ready
to swing.

MAX (CONT'D)

Give me a name. Now.

TATTOOED MAN

I'm not a fucking snitch.

Max quickly raises the bat ready to bring it down on the
Tattooed Man's head when...

TATTOOED MAN (CONT'D)

WAIT!

Max pauses a beat.

TATTOOED MAN (CONT'D)
Jake Ford. 12 East Street.

MAX
That's one. Who else?

TATTOOED MAN
Why do you even care? It's not like
it was anyone you kno-- wait a
minute. It's you. The brother. The
lawyer.

He's made. He knows it. Max takes a quick look around.

TATTOOED MAN (CONT'D)
Oh, you're fucking dead now, mate.
Fucking dead. You think what we did
to your brother was bad? Wait to
'til you see what we do to you.

Max looks back at the Tattooed Man with dead hate.

TATTOOED MAN (CONT'D)
You're gonna fucking wish you were
never born.

MAX
We?

The Tattooed Man realises what he just said. His tone
changes.

TATTOOED MAN
(scared)
What? No!

Max SMASHES the bat into the Tattooed Man's face, hard.
Again. And again. And again. And again. When he stops beating
him he watches as the Tattooed Man's body twitches as it
struggles for life. He watches until it stops twitching.

He looks around, tosses the bat into the canal and makes off
under the bridge into the shadows.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Max dumps his bloodied clothing out of a bag and onto the
ground. He pulls out a bottle and pours liquid from it over
the clothing then strikes a match and drops it. It engulfs in
flames and Max pours out all of the liquid over the fire,
raising the flames higher then stands to watch it burn.

EXT. BRIDGE - DAY

A team of police and **CSI** investigate the scene of the crime. **DC MEGAN SWANN** (22) scans the dead Tattooed Man's finger into a phone then walks over to DS Cope who is looking at the surrounding area.

DC MEGAN SWANN

Well, there's no signs of robbery. He's got £600 cash on him, his debit card, a couple of credit cards, two phones, and about £400 worth of coke.

DS COPE

So I'd say someone who didn't need money or drugs had it in for him.

DC MEGAN SWANN

Either that or some crackhead forgot to rob him. Or was disturbed.

DS COPE

Oh, he was disturbed, alright. You don't break a man's head open like that unless there's something wrong upstairs. Any word on an I.D Yet?

DC MEGAN SWANN

Searching now. What do you think, told the wrong guy to piss off?

DS COPE

God, I hope not. You don't need someone that easy to trigger into doing that walking the streets.

DS Cope spots a **FROGMAN** in the canal holding up a **BLOODSTAINED BAT** found in the water. Someone takes it and bags it for evidence.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

Well, at least we might have some prints. Doesn't look like we'll get anything else.

DC MEGAN SWANN

Why not?

DS COPE

Low bank, by the water, no CCTV,
late night attack no doubt, no
witnesses. Just the poor bastard
who found him.

DS Cope looks over at an **OLD MAN** and his dog being consoled
by **SPECIALISTS** nearby.

DC MEGAN SWANN

Yeah, it's always the dog walkers.

DS Swann's phone BLEEPS! She checks it and reads off the
information.

DC MEGAN SWANN (CONT'D)

Prints belong to a Nathan Green.
Previous for assault, armed
robbery, affray, rape, sexual
assault, attempt murder,
intimidation-- Jesus.

DS Cope's mood gets a sudden boost.

DS COPE

Lovely. Drinks on me then.

He walks off. DC Swann takes a beat to register the change in
mood then gets it and follows him.

INT. X-RAY ROOM - DAY

Arthur is having a chest x-ray taken. A **TECHNICIAN** stands
behind protective glass. The sound of humming from the
machine fills the air as Arthur sits apprehensively.

The room goes quiet.

TECHNICIAN

Okay, we're all done.

Arthur smiles and puts his shirt back on.

Moments later:

Arthur approaches the glass putting on his jacket. He looks
at his x-ray on the lit glass. He sees a large shadow over
his left lung.

ARTHUR

How we looking?

The technician turns off the light, hiding the x-ray.

TECHNICIAN

Oh, I'm just a technician, your doctor will be able to give you a full break down in a day or two.

Arthur smiles politely but knowing he's hiding bad news.

ARTHUR

Okay.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Max sits reading a magazine. Arthur appears from the x-ray room. Max puts the magazine back on the table and stands.

MAX

Alright. How we looking?

ARTHUR

Tech says we'll know in about a week.

MAX

Oh. Okay.

They head out at a slow pace.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

DS Cope is smoking outside. Max and Arthur exit in the background. Max hands Arthur the keys and signals he'll catch him up and walks over to Cope.

MAX

Alright?

DS COPE

Yeah.

DS Cope ashes the cigarette into the bin.

MAX

What brings you here?

DS COPE

Stiff. Just dropped off our friend at the morgue.

MAX

Friend?

DS COPE
Nathan Green.

Max gives a slight confused look.

DS COPE (CONT'D)
Our tattooed friend from the trial?

MAX
Oh. Yeah?

DS COPE
Well, somebody killed him. Took a
bat to his whole body and broke him
throughout.

MAX
Jesus.

DS COPE
Oh I don't think he'll be meeting
him. Not with his record.
(takes a drag on his fag)
No real loss.

MAX
Any clues who do it?

DS COPE
Not yet. No video or witnesses.
Rain probably washed away evidence.

MAX
Rival gang? There's a lot of
territory being fought over right
now.

DS COPE
Maybe.

MAX
Well, let me know. I'll buy the guy
a drink if you catch him.

Max give Cope a friendly goodbye tap on the shoulder and
walks away.

DS COPE
Yeah.

Cope takes a final hit of his cigarette then stubs it out and
bins it.

EXT. GUNN'S GYM - DAY

Gary Gunn is in the middle of a boxing ring pounding away at a heavily padded **SPARRING PARTNER**. He is speaking to a group of his thugs 18-30, standing around the outside of the ring. Gary punches his partner throughout his speech.

GARY GUNN

(angry)

I want to know who did it, I want to know where they live, I want to know where their girlfriend lives, where their family lives, where their friends live. Where they like to eat, where they drink, where they buy their drugs. I want to know where their kids go to school.

The onlookers share a worried look with each other.

GARY GUNN (CONT'D)

Get out there and find the people that know what happened. I wanna know everyone who was in the pub that night, who was seen hanging around outside, walking by, all of it. Knock on some doors, see if the local businesses have got indoor CCTV that picked up anything and get it back to me, pronto.

Gary viciously lands a big punch in his sparring partner's face sending him to the canvas.

GARY GUNN (CONT'D)

Come on. Why is everyone a pussy? Colin, get in here.

COLIN puts on his gloves and climbs into the ring.

GARY GUNN (CONT'D)

Bitch.

Gary punches the semi-conscious sparring partner in the head as he lays on his back.

Colin gives a close friend a look of 'oh fuck' then holds his fist out for a friendly bump but Gary ignores it and goes straight into raining down heavy blows to his head. Colin covers the best he can, fearful of striking back.

EXT. DAVIS' GYM - DAY

Max is hitting pads in the middle of the boxing ring. He hits with crisp blows with precision and power.

As the punches land, Max sees FLASHES of the Tattooed Man he killed as he rained punches down on him. His punches get harder and harder as he remembers him and his anger rises until finally the **GUY** holding the pads for him YELLS out in pain and holds his now clearly injured shoulder.

MAX

Shit. Sorry.

(beat)

Sorry.

Arthur aids the guy out of the ring from the other side.

Max climbs out of the opposite side and heads for the changing rooms. He KICKS a bag as he passes it.

INT. INVESTIGATION ROOM - DAY

DS Cope is addressing a task force assigned to the Tattooed Man's death. Cope sticks his picture up on a large whiteboard.

DS COPE

Our victim, for lacking a better term, is Nathan Green. A name I'm sure most, if not all of you, are aware of. He was found beaten and battered with his legs broken and the contents of his head on the pavement. He wasn't robbed, he wasn't tortured and he wasn't branded, so it's not the Kelly gang. Most likely.

DC Megan Swann appears by his side with two hot drinks. She hands him one.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

I want you to look at rival gangs, see if anyone had a personal grudge, if he had an ex-girlfriend got a new boyfriend, if anyone was displeased with the quality of drugs he might have sold them, anything they could think of.

A **RANDOM COPPER** asks a question.

RANDOM COPPER

Are we looking to arrest them or give them a medal? I mean, he wasn't the most innocent member of the public was he?

DS Cope looks to DC Swann to answer.

DC MEGAN SWANN

No, he wasn't. But we have to make sure that this was at least a targeted attack and not just some random person going out and attacking another random person and getting a face by chance. 'Cos if that is the case then we have a much worse person out there who might attack an innocent person next time.

The officers give looks that they understand.

DS COPE

Exactly. So let's treat this as if he were any other, decent, member of the public and find out who did it. Okay?

The officer mumble 'Yes's.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

Right then, let's get to it.

The officers break. DS Cope turns to DC Swann.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

(referring to the drink)

Thanks.

INT. MAX'S WORK OFFICE - DAY

Max sits at his desk looking at his computer. He's reading up on the drug dealer he killed. Convictions. Accusations. Informant information.

He clicks on 'Known Associates' and selects Jake Ford. His picture pops up. We see it's the Delivery Man who tricked John into opening his door. Max recognises his as a face from the funeral gang.

Max clicks 'Last Known Address' (12 East Street) and 'Hang Outs'... the Tavern. He prints out his picture and pockets it.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Max changes into all-black, puts on some gloves and grabs a newly purchased bat, pockets a knife inside his jacket and heads out.

EXT. TAVERN PUB - NIGHT

A group of young men are smoking outside the pub. In the group is faux 'Delivery man' Jake. Max watches him from the shadows across the street.

Jake looks in his cigarette pack. Empty, he taps his **BUDDY'S** shoulder and motions down the street. Jake and the Buddy break away from the group and head off down the street. The rest of the group head back inside the pub. Max follows Jake and his Buddy from across the road.

Jake taps and motions a nearby alley. He dips into an alley and the Buddy carries on down the street.

Max crosses over and towards the alley. The Buddy pops into a local shop and Max heads down the alley.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Jake is peeing against a wall. Max puts on a pair of knuckle dusters and walks up behind him.

BAM! Max hits Jake with a 3-move combination and puts him to the ground.

MAX

You helped set a man's house was set alight on Thorpe's Road with him still in it. Who else was involved?

JAKE

What? I didn't have nothing to do with it.

Max punches him in the face and stands on his neck.

MAX

Don't lie, boy. Nathan Green gave you up.

JAKE

What? Nathan's dead.

MAX

No shit.

Jake puts two-and-two together.

JAKE

You killed Nathan?

MAX

Yeah, you too if you don't tell me who you were doing it for.

JAKE

Fuck you, man. You piece of shit. That fucker got what he deserved for killing Pete and Dave. And I wasn't any part of it. But if I was, I wouldn't tell you shit.

MAX

Tell me who else was involved or I'll do to you what I did to your little friend. Only this time I'll--

JAKE

Shut your mouth. I ain't no grass like that bitch. Try it mate, I'll fucking do you. Fucking let me up and find out--

BAM!

Max rains down punches on Jake, knocking him half unconscious. He goes through his jacket, takes out his phone and uses his thumb to unlock it.

Max goes scrolls through looking for the phonebook then realises that the phone's wallpaper is an image of John being beaten to death.

He looks back at Jake then goes through PICTURES. The only offending image is the wallpaper. He goes through the VIDEOS archive and sees a familiar looking thumbnail. He clicks it.

Jake's phone shows the video of John's torture and murder. Max watches in horror as the video plays out until Jake starts laughing as he regains full consciousness. He stands.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Okay, I lied. I helped. And I lit the match that set him on fire.

Max pockets the phone and rushes Jake. He unleashes his full power and puts Jake to the floor as fast as he got back up.

Max punches Jake in the face until flesh matter starts flying off with the ensuing blood. He punches him around 20 times before he finally stops and stands back up.

Max stands over Jake's battered and bloodied body. In the background, his Buddy appears at the end of the alley.

BUDDY

Hey!

The Buddy pulls a gun from his pocket and shoots at Max. Max ducks behind a large metal bin and takes cover as the gunman fires off shots from a distance.

Max looks around for a weapon. The gunman runs out of bullets and begins to reload as Max spots a brick and runs at it. The gunman finishes reloading.

Max grabs the brick and throws it at the gunman, hitting him square in the face. He staggers back in pain holding his face as blood begins the flow from his forehead, obscuring his vision.

Max takes full advantage of the moment and runs at the would-be assassin and jumps through the air, delivering a flying knee to the gunman's chin, breaking his neck instantly.

Max takes off without looking back.

INT. MAX'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Max takes a seat at his computer. He goes through the deceased dealer's phone. He pulls up the murder video and hits play.

The sounds of John's beating and murder play sound as the image of the video reflects in Max's eyes.

Max's eyes glaze over as the video progresses. As the sounds of death kick in, Max breaks into tears and he screams through gritted teeth.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Max sits calmly in the station waiting room as human traffic passes him while he waits to be seen. He's in his own little world as he strokes the Delivery Man's phone.

He's in a world of his own until DS Cope appears by his side.

DS COPE

Hey, Max. What can I do for you?

Max snaps out of it, takes a breath and stands.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

Look, I'm sorry your brother's case is taking so long, but, I think it's gonna take even longer now with this 'vigilante' case we're all on. It's kind of taken priority, you know?

MAX

Vigilante?

DS COPE

Yeah, well, that's what the press are calling it.

MAX

Why are they saying that?

DS COPE

Well, there were two more... 'murders' of known faces and, coupled with the mysterious disappearance of the two goons that you and your brother ran in to that night, the media have decided the cases are most likely linked and that of a vigilante serial killer. Can you believe it?

MAX

No, I mean--

DS COPE

They've even given him a name.

Max looks confused.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

'Death Penalty'.

A twinkle in Max's eye says he likes it.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

I told them, Britain doesn't have a death penalty, sadly. But, once they've created a story to sensationalise something, you know what they're like.

MAX

Yeah.

DS COPE
So, what was it that you wanted?

Max pockets the phone.

MAX
Oh, you know, just trying to see if there was any progress in the case and that. But it looks like you've got bigger fish to fry at the moment so-- I'll let you get to it.

DS COPE
Thanks. Listen, your brother hasn't been forgotten and he won't be.

MAX
Of course.

DS COPE
There's still a team on it and I'll make sure you're updated every step of the way, okay?

MAX
Yeah. Thanks, Pete.

Cope smiles and gives him a friendly tap on the shoulder before leaving.

Max's phone bleeps. He checks it. A text message from DAD reading "Results came back. Need to talk."

Max pockets the phone and heads out.

INT. DAVIES' GYM - DAY

Arthur and Max are sitting next to each other. The mood damp.

MAX
So that's it then?

ARTHUR
Yeah. Oh well. I had decent innings. I had your mum. John. You. I owned my own business. My own boss all my life. Not many can say that. Not even you.

Max smiles a beat, but it soon disappears.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Do you know when you're going back
to work?

Max think sa beat.

MAX

I'm not. Not now.

(beat)

Gonna be looking after this place,
aren't I?

Arthur smiles and rubs Max's rub. They sit silence for a
moment.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER

MAX

Dad. If you knew who killed John, I
mean, if you knew for a fact who
did it, and you believed there was
no way of them ever serving time
for it 'cos of their connections or
whatever, what would you do?

ARTHUR

What would I do? Son, I've got 6 to
8 months to live, I'd buy myself a
gun and kill every last one of
them. If there was no chance of
them doing time, 100 percent. Hell,
even if they were gonna do time,
this countries so soft on crims I'd
probably do it anyway. Shoot 'em
dead, right there in the courtroom.

(beat)

Why do you ask? Have you got some
info?

MAX

No, I'm-- just worried of what
might happen if they catch 'em and
can't convict for some reason. Just
don't know what I'd do, is all.

ARTHUR

If they get him or them before I'm
gone, you won't have to.

(beat)

(MORE)

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

I hope they get 'em before I'm gone. I'm not scared of going but I don't wanna go not knowing.

Max nods and there's another moment of silence.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Cup of tea?

Max smiles at Arthur.

MAX

I'll get it. You got the cancer.

Max exits. Arthur chuckles at the odd, dark, joke.

INT. MAX'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Max sits at his computer. He brings up the faces of the men on the murder video, blows them up and hits PRINT.

The printer ejects page with a killers' face on it. Max takes it and sticks it up on an empty wall then goes back to the computer and does the same thing with another killers' face.

Max prints off all the faces from the video and sticks them all up. Max finishes by pinning up an image of Gary Gunn in the middle of all the other faces.

INT. MAX'S WORK OFFICE - DAY

Max logs into the firms network at his computer. He opens up his most recent kill (Jake Ford) and looks up all known associates, address, convictions etc... and prints them all off. It must be 20+ faces.

INT. MAX'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

Max matches up his newly printed off faces to those printed off from his brother's murder video that are plastered all over his wall. He matches them up and tosses the rest aside. His main targets are lined up.

EXT. DANGEROUS STREET - DAY

Max stands leaning against a lamppost with his hood up watching a MYSTERIOUS HOUSE from a distance. He waits for the street to clear of cars and people then takes a look around and steps into the road in its direction.

A car turns a corner and almost hits him. It stops and DS Cope sticks his head out of the window. Max looks panicked for a moment.

DS COPE
Hoodies blind your peripheral.

Max smiles.

DS COPE (CONT'D)
You coming for a drink?

INT. PUB - DAY

Max and DS Cope are sitting at the bar drinking.

DS COPE
I'm telling you, the more and more the press speculate and make links that aren't there, the longer and longer it takes for us to get on with the real job of finding those responsible. I mean, they must on some level get it. For God's sake, if you keep asking about unrelated things, people expect us to connect them, and if there's no connection, it wastes time.

MAX
You know the press, anything to get those sales up. Especially today with the internet.

They drink.

MAX (CONT'D)
So there's definitely a link then?

DS COPE
I don't know. Honestly, it's too early, but who knows, ya know?

MAX
You said Gary Gunn came in to report them missing himself right? Not a blood relative?

DS COPE
Yeah.

MAX

Maybe he wanted them gone for some reason and thought he'd use the public confrontation to his advantage. Report it himself so he could use it as a defence if ever accused personally. We know the fucker's crafty enough.

DS COPE

Yeah.

DS Cope thinks about it.

MAX

Then again, maybe they were killed by someone else in his crew and he found out about it and made an example of them.

DS COPE

Killed his main man Green and these newer two?

MAX

He was there that night, and we don't know why they were meeting up or what was said. I mean, they say it was celebration drinks but, there were only three of them.

DS COPE

I suppose.

MAX

And let's face it, if those first two are dead, Gunn has never been the type to try and hide his hits has he? I mean, it's almost as if he likes things to be in the public eye.

DS Cope is thinking.

MAX (CONT'D)

Now that I think about it, I think it's more than possible that something went wrong with the missing two, Green did something and Gary took him out for it.

DS COPE

And the other two?

MAX

Maybe they knew something. Maybe they were in on it. Maybe Gunn just believes they were, and being the way he is, didn't want it to make him look like he wasn't in charge and so did something about it, just in case. You know his record.

DS COPE

(thinking)

Yeah.

Max notices DS Cope is deep in thought.

MAX

And Nathan has a lot on his rap sheet. If he killed someone, he'd need to bury it.

DS COPE

And they were killed up close, so that could be a sign that they knew their killer.

MAX

Exactly, who else could get that close?

DS COPE

The press said the killer probably buried the first two then stopped bothering to cover them up,, but, I think you might be on to something there.

BLEEP! Cope's phone gets a message. He checks it.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

Right, I gotta go. You want a lift to the cemetery?

MAX

Huh?

DS COPE

Isn't that where you were going?

MAX

Oh yeah, thanks.

DS Cope downs the rest of his drink and heads out. Max looks at his half empty pint, leaves it and follows Cope out.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Max stands looking at his brother's gravestone. He waits a moment before speaking.

MAX

I'm sorry I wasn't there. I'm sorry I didn't have you stay at mine. Or stay at yours with you.

(beat)

Dad will be with you soon. His cancer is back and... it's gonna get him this time.

(beat)

I know who killed you. One of them made a video. I found it and I've I.D'd them all. I know where most of them live or hang out, and I'm gonna take care of them all.

(beat)

Although, if you can hear me, then you already know. Who knows, maybe I'll be seeing you soon, too.

(beat)

Well, I've got guns to buy, so, I'll see you soon. Hopefully not too soon.

INT. DANGEROUS STREET/MYSTERIOUS HOUSE - DUSK

Max wears his hood up and hands in his pockets as he approaches the mysterious house. He takes one last look around before knocking on the door.

After a beat the door opens with the chain on it. **SCOTT** answers the door. He looks tired despite the type of day.

SCOTT

Who are you?

MAX

Hey mate, I'm John, I'm a friend of Smithy Chambers. He sells me coke. He said you can get me what I need.

SCOTT

Smithy's just got sent down for a year.

MAX

Yeah, I know. Look he told me if I needed anything to come see Byron. That you?

SCOTT

No.
(looks him up and down)
You a cop?

MAX

No, mate. You can search me.

Scott thinks a beat.

MAX (CONT'D)

I've got cash.

Scott pulls out some cash.

SCOTT

Hang on.

He closes the door and we hear the chain jangle. Max looks around. The door opens and he heads inside.

INT. MYSTERIOUS HOUSE/HALLWAY - DUSK

Scott leads Max into the living room.

SCOTT

Against the wall, arms out.

MAX

Sure, pal.

Max assumes the position and lifts his shirt.

MAX (CONT'D)

No wire, mate. See?

SCOTT

Turn around.

He does. Scott doesn't find anything out of the ordinary.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Alright. Come through.

BYRON calls from the other room.

BYRON (O.C.)

Who is it?

Scott leads Max into...

INT. MYSTERIOUS HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Scott enters first. Byron and three other men are sitting around a table.

SCOTT
It's a mate of Smithy's. He just wants some gear.

BYRON
How the fuck do you know he's Smithy's mate?

SCOTT
'Cos he said so.

BYRON
Well, have you ever seen him before?

SCOTT
No, but, how else would he know?

BYRON
Know about what? I don't know what you're talking about, man.

MAX
Hey man, I'm just looking for some stuff, okay? No trouble.

Byron nods to **MELVIN**.

Melvin gets up and frisks Max over. Max is compliant.

SCOTT
I already checked him, man. He's good.

BYRON
You're half fucking asleep, how would you know?

MELVIN
Jesus Christ.

Melvin pulls a massive wad of cash from Scott's pocket.

KEVIN speaks up.

KEVIN
Jesus. How much GEAR are you looking for?

MAX

Not much, just... I'm in the market for something else as well, and, Smithy said you might be able to help with that too.

Byron, Melvin, Kevin, Scott and **BOB**. Share a quick look.

BYRON

How much is that?

MAX

Fifteen hundred.

Melvin tosses Byron the cash.

MAX (CONT'D)

Me and my brother, we've gotten into some business, by accident, and we've upset a couple of people and we just wanna be able to protect ourselves. That's all.

Byron shines a black light over the cash to make sure it's real. It checks out.

MAX (CONT'D)

Not looking to start a fight with anyone or anything, just be ready if someone starts one with us.

Byron thinks it over a minute.

BYRON

Smithy sells you gear?

MAX

Yeah.

BYRON

How long?

MAX

Pfft, 2 years. 3 maybe. Not a lot just, a bit every other weekend. A couple of pills every once in a while.

BYRON

(surprised)

Pills? That little fucker. I'll have to have word with about that.

Bob shakes his head.

BYRON (CONT'D)

So what you looking for exactly?

MAX

Something small. Reliable. Quiet,
if possible. Plenty of ammo.
Whatever you've got.

BYRON

How much are you wanting to spend?

MAX

As little as possible but as much
as I have to, ya know?

MELVIN

Can't put a price on your life.

MAX

Exactly.

BYRON

I've got a few things. A couple of
quiets is gonna cost you everything
though. It's up to you.

MAX

If they're silent but deadly,
that's fine.

BYRON

Who did you piss off?

MAX

The Gunns.

BYRON

(smiling)

Shit.

Byron shoots Bob a nod and Bob goes into the kitchen.

BYRON (CONT'D)

What happened?

Max thinks up a story.

MAX

Brother slapped a couple of his
boys around. Word is it's been
taken personally for some reason
and the big man wants to send a
message.

BYRON

Yeah, he likes to keep them young lads around. You've got to wonder about that, right? I mean, you never see him with a woman, do ya?

Max shrugs his shoulders.

Bob returns with a duffle bag and hands it to Byron. Byron opens it and starts placing guns on the table.

BYRON (CONT'D)

We've got, a revolver. Loud but compact. Never jams so is always gonna be your best bet. Only got one though.

He places it on the table and pulls out the next one.

BYRON (CONT'D)

Got a lovely little pump action. Big and loud but, I've got 5 of these so, I can cut you a deal. £300 for one of £500 for two.

Max points to the Revolver.

MAX

Can I--

BYRON

Sure.

Max picks up the Revolver and gets a feel for the weight of it.

BYRON (CONT'D)

I've got a couple of Lugers too, but it looks like you're feeling the Revolver, there.

MAX

Yeah, it's nice.

Max opens the chamber, give it a tradition spin and snaps it shut.

BYRON

What it sounds like you're looking for though is the Barretas.

Byron pulls the items in question from the bag, silencers attached, and places them on the table in front of Max.

Max eyes them up like a pair of tits through a window.

BYRON (CONT'D)

Like I said, the quiets will cost you everything. Silencers aren't easy to come by, ya know?

Max picks up one of the guns and strokes the shaft with delight in his eyes.

MAX

Yeah.

BYRON

They're nail drivers, mate. Someone comes at you, no way they'll be standing after coming up against these.

(beat)

But they cost more.

MAX

Yeah, these. I want these.

BYRON

Both for Fifteen hundred?

MAX

Yeah.

He flicks a switch the magazine falls out. Empty.

MAX (CONT'D)

How much ammo you got?

Byron pulls a small box from the duffle bag and opens it on the table.

BYRON

You get what you see here, plus four extra mags for a quick reload.

Max smiles and holds his hand out towards Byron.

MAX

You've got a deal.

Byron shakes his hand. As soon as they're done Max's hand drops to the table, grabs a loaded magazine and quickly pops it into gun and proceeds to shoot all five men in the room dead. Quickly and quietly.

He gathers up what he needs and leaves the rest on display on the table.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Max empties guns from a duffel bag onto his bed then throws his wad of cash down next to it. He walks over to a large map on his wall, picks up a red marker pen and circles a location marked on the map as 'Gunn HQ'.

INT. MYSTERIOUS HOUSE - DAY

DC Megan Swann runs through the crime scene for DS Cope in the room full of dead bodies as CSI number the evidence.

DC MEGAN SWANN

It looks like the gunman was sitting in the corner facing the couch when it went down. There are more bullets in the victims than the walls so, either they were so close he couldn't miss, or he's a good shot. Probably someone you'd find at the range or someone with a military background.

DS COPE

And nobody heard anything?

DC MEGAN SWANN

Nothing. So he probably had a silencer. We found guns and drugs in the back so, again, not a robbery but personal.

DS COPE

Unless there's only so much he could carry.

DC MEGAN SWANN

Could be.

He looks around at the scene a beat.

DC MEGAN SWANN (CONT'D)

Are you thinking it's the same guy?

He is now.

DS COPE

God damn it.

He exits.

EXT. MYSTERIOUS HOUSE - DAY

DS Cope exits the house and makes his way to the garden gate and lights a cigarette. After a quick puff he takes a look around. He seems to remember something. Seeing Max earlier? He looks back and forth between where he bumped into him and the house. He stands in wonderment at the possibility.

EXT. ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX - DAY

A **GROUP OF TEENAGERS** are sitting on a bench. Max approaches them.

MAX

Hey, um, this is gonna sound strange but, I've not played Paintball since I was a kid and I'm on my lunch break, so I'm on my own. I know this sounds weird but, any chance you lot want a game? On me? You lot verses me.

They seem unsure at this strangers request.

MAX (CONT'D)

You shoot me more than I shoot you lot I give you £10 each. How's that sound?

TEENAGER 1

Serious?

Max grins.

INT. ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX/PAINTBALL AREANA - DAY

(MONTAGE)

Max and the Teenagers battle it out in the indoor Paintball establishment. Max ducks and dodges between pillars and posts as he takes on the much spryer youngsters. As the game comes to an end, Max looks at his fatigues and sees he was beat. He pays up and proposes another game. They look at each other and smile and they're soon at it again, re-suited and looking much leaner, again all ganging up on Max. He's much more successful this time coming off much cleaner than before.

EXT. ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Max and the Teenagers exit. He waves them good bye and heads the other way.

He takes out his pocket and checks his messages. His smile disappears at the sight of a text and he heads off down the street.

INT. FISH & CHIP SHOP - AFTERNOON

Max and DS Cope are sitting to eat Fish & Chips.

DS COPE

Well, there's nothing to connect the massacre on Mill Street with the dead and missing Gunn associates, yet. But with the fact that they left so many weapons, drugs and money at the scene--

MAX

Money?

DS COPE

Yep, about £300,000. Cash.

MAX

Jesus.

Max wears a 'Fuck!' face.

DS COPE

It matches the others in that respect.

MAX

But these guys don't have a connection to the Gunn family?

DS COPE

Not that we can tell. By all accounts they're rivals of sorts.

MAX

Is it possible that Gunn thought these guys were responsible for taking out his guy and sent someone to get close and take them out?

DS COPE

Well, anything's possible at this point, and whoever did it managed to gain access as if they were trusted, but who would be friends with both groups to do such a thing?

MAX

Never try and understand the logic of the criminal mind. What about junkies? You said they sold drugs. Gunn sells drugs. Maybe a customer of each. A junkie has no loyalty.

DS COPE

Yeah. Maybe. But whoever did it was a great shot. They weren't just able to gain their trust, they were a dab hand with a gun. Junkies aren't known for steady hands.

MAX

Maybe someone was playing above and below the table. Working both sides on the quiet. Money's money, no matter where it comes from.

DS COPE

But they didn't go for the money.

Max goes silent for a second.

MAX

Maybe they didn't think to look for it.

DS COPE

A hired assassin killing for cash but not thinking to rob the people they're killing? Not likely.

Max sees the error in his idea.

MAX

Maybe they feared someone else might turn up and panicked.

DS COPE

I'm not sure how much a person who rolls up in a house full of gangsters with guns in order to kill them all panics, myself.

Max tries to change the tone of the conversation.

MAX

Then I guess you better get out there and catch him then. Before he puts you out of a job.

(joking)

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

Or just sit back, relax and let him
clean your streets for you.

DS COPE

Ha! Then you'd be out of a job too.

MAX

I can manage the pay cut.

DS COPE

(half joking)

It's not you, is it?

Max smiles uncomfortably and adjusts his collar.

EXT. FISH & CHIP SHOP - DAY

Max and DS Cope exit.

MAX

Well, let me know when you know
something. I'll see you later,
alright?

DS COPE

Yeah. Later.

Max and DS Cope each get into their own cars, parked next to
each other outside the Chip shop.

Max starts his engine, waves to Cope and pulls away.

Inside his car, Cope thinks deeply about something for a
moment then glances in the direction of Max's car, just
turning a corner and driving away. Something is bothering
him. He starts his engine and drives off in the same
direction as Max.

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Max is driving the street. Cope is following discreetly from
a distance. Max catches sight of Cope's car reflected in his
rear view as he pulls up to a turn off. He looks confused at
Cope's car way back in the distance, as if he knows he
shouldn't be coming this way. He switches his indicator from
a right turn to a left one and turns in said direction. He
drives slow until Cope's car is the only one visible in the
background. Cope's car goes down another street and out of
sight. Max stops and thinks for a beat then carries on
driving.

EXT. MAX'S STREET - AFTERNOON

Max pulls up outside his house and climbs out. He goes to the boot and opens it to reveal the duffle bag of guns. He grabs it and pulls it loose, but as he goes to close the trunk he spots Cope's car slowly park up at the far end of the street. He thinks a beat then puts the duffle bag back and stabs the spare tire and removes it as if to replace it. He pretends not to notice Cope's car and heads into his house with the wheel.

INT. COPE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Cope sits at the wheel, pulls out his phone and calls someone.

DS COPE

Hi, look, I know it's a costly job but can we get surveillance on all known associates of the dead men?

(beat)

I think I have something. I'll tell you about it when I get in. How long will that take?

(beat)

2 days? No, I need it sooner.

(beat)

Well, can you send me all known associates info in the meantime?

(beat)

Thanks.

He hangs up and sits looking at Max's house as he chews on his thumbnail.

EXT. COPE'S CAR - AFTERNOON

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. COPE'S CAR - NIGHT

As night falls, Cope finally gives in and turns on his engine and drives away.

INT. MAX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

From the shadows, Max watches Cope's car drive away through his curtains. He exhales heavily then walks over to the closet. A small light comes on inside and we see a familiar looking outfit. Max begins to suit up.

EXT. HITMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max is looking through the window of a house at a hired Gunn Hitman who is sitting watching TV.

Max watches, waiting for his moment.

The adverts come on the TV and the Hitman gets up and goes to the kitchen.

Max tests the door. Unlocked.

He pulls down the balaclava, opens the door quietly and slips inside.

INT. HITMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max pulls his gun and sneaks around the house carefully, heading for the kitchen.

He finds the door and sees the Hitman at the kitchen sink, washing a cup as the kettle boils next to him.

Max approaches slowly, gun at the ready.

The kettle CLICKS off and the Hitman pours himself a drink. He walks over to the cupboard and grabs a tea-bag.

As he turns back around he sees masked Max and DIVES towards the living-room, THROWING the hot water in Max's direction.

Max momentarily slips on the wet floor and misses his shot.

The Hitman scrambles in the living room and pulls out a previously hidden gun.

Max appears in the doorway and the Hitman opens fire on him.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

The Hitman fires a bunch of shots at Max and a shot lands in the right side of his chest. He drops his gun and the Hitman storms at him.

Max engages his martial arts skills and stops the Hitman from shooting him, taking his arm and putting him into a lock, smashing his face into the table and pulling his finger on the trigger until the gun is out of ammo, then smashes him on the back of the neck to subdue him. He falls to the ground, dazed.

A PHONE RINGS!

Max search the dazed Hitman's pockets and removes his phone.
 Caller ID: MR. GUNN.

Max accepts the call.

GARY GUNN (O.S.)
 (on phone)
 Pete, I need you to send a message
 to a couple of new dealers working
 a house down on Grove--

Max pulls the dazed Hitman up onto the table face down next
 to the phone. He groans as Max reaches for a knife from the
 kitchen sink.

GARY GUNN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 (on phone)
 Pete, you there?

MAX
 Pete can't come to the phone right
 now, but if you'd like to leave a
 message--

Max STABS the Hitman in the back of the head, repeatedly for
 Gunn to hear down the phone. He stabs him 10-20 times before
 resting the knife by the phone and dropping his body to the
 floor with a thud.

MAX (CONT'D)
 He's not gonna get it.

GARY GUNN
 Who are you?
 (beat)
 You afraid to speak?
 (beat)
 Are you the guy?

MAX
 You'll find out soon enough. Mr.
 Gunn.

GARY GUNN
 You're kicking the wrong dog, boy.

Max hangs up the phone and clutches his wounded chest in pain
 and leaves.

INT. STATELY MANOR/GUNN HQ - NIGHT

Gary Gunn looks at his phone with gritted teeth and vengeance
 on his mind. He crushes it in his hand and throws it.

EXT. ARTHUR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max is waiting at the front door, breathing heavily. The door opens and Arthur sees Max bleeding from his chest. He's shocked.

MAX
Can I come in?

INT. ARTHUR'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Arthur drags Max into the room.

ARTHUR
What the hell happened to you? And why are you here and not the hospital?

MAX
I can't take this to the hospital. They'll report it to the police.

Arthur pulls a chair out from the table.

ARTHUR
Sit down.

He does.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
And why can't the police find out you were attacked?

MAX
Because I went at him first.

Arthur listens as he removes Max's shirt.

MAX (CONT'D)
He was one of Gunn's men. He was involved in Johnny's murder. He works for them as a Hitman.

ARTHUR
He killed Johnny?

MAX
One, of many. It's a long story.

Arthur takes a breath.

ARTHUR

Okay. We'll get you cleaned up first.

Max sits shirtless on a chair as Arthur examines his wound.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Well, it looks like a bullet went almost all the way through. It's protruding from your back so I'm gonna take it from there. This is gonna hurt, okay?

MAX

(nods)
Yeah.

Arthur grabs a rag from the side and hands it Max.

ARTHUR

Here, bite on this.

Max folds the rag and puts it in his mouth. Arthur grabs some utensils from the draw and goes to work. Max bites down on the rag and moans in pain.

Arthur removes the bullets, sterilises the wound and stitches him up.

INT. ARTHUR'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Arthur helps Max onto the couch. Arthur pours them each a Whiskey.

MAX

I bumped into one of them. I tried to get some info on the arson and he figured out who I was and threatened me. Us. So I had to finish him off. I got a name from him and that led me to a guy who wouldn't talk, but, had a phone on him with a video.

(beat)

A video of John's murder.

ARTHUR

What?

MAX

I snapped and killed him and his friend when he pulled a gun on me and ran. I went to the police.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

I was gonna confess, but, they said the press had connected the case and would expect something, so--

ARTHUR

Why didn't you send it to the police anonymously?

MAX

Honestly, I didn't think of that. I was so angry. And as soon as Cope told me the press's vigilante theory, I figured it'll be 30-years for confessing to killing 3 so, I may as well take out as many as I can and have the possibility of getting away with it.

ARTHUR

You have your whole life ahead of you. I only have a year at best so yeah, I would do it. But you've got everything to live for.

MAX

If you saw the video, you'd understand.

ARTHUR

No, I don't wanna see that.

MAX

I know. I wouldn't want you to see it.

(beat)

But if you did, you'd understand. Just having them arrested and go to a prison, that they'll probably end up running and living the high life isn't something I'm prepared to just sit back and let happen. If we still had the death penalty then, yeah, I'd hand just send in the evidence. But we don't not anymore.

Arthur leans in.

ARTHUR

Not according to the papers. They're saying the death penalty is back.

Arthur flashes Max an understanding smile.

EXT. POND - DAY

Max and Arthur sit in a boat in the middle of a lake fishing in silence. Arthur is first to break it.

ARTHUR

Remember the first we came fishing here, when you were kids? I'd just showed you 'The Karate Kid' for the first time and John felt the need to mimic the shot of Daniel on the nose of the boat doing the moves?

MAX

And you felt the need to copy Mr. Miyagi and rock the boat until he fell in? Yeah, I remember.

Arthur laughs.

MAX (CONT'D)

He wasn't laughing.

ARTHUR

We were.

Max chuckles.

MAX

Yeah.

ARTHUR

Your mum too, when she heard about it. Until she saw he was wearing his new bright white England shirt. That she wasn't so happy about.

(beat)

That was right before her diagnosis.

MAX

Yeah, I remember.

Arthur is silent for a moment before he changes the subject.

ARTHUR

Remember when he did the crane kick and his show flew off and hit you in the face?

MAX

Are you taking the piss?

Arthur laughs again.

ARTHUR
30 years ago and seems like
yesterday.
(beat)
It all goes by so fast.

MAX
And the older you get, the quicker
each day goes by.

ARTHUR
Damn right. And then before you
know it, one day, time's called and
your number's up.

Arthur looks down as he thinks about his words and
contemplates the death that awaits him.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
How's the chest?

MAX
It's like a severe trapped nerve
but nothing more. It shouldn't slow
me down too much.

ARTHUR
So how many more are there?

MAX
Of those directly responsible that
night, 4 or 5. Total in the family,
about 30.

ARTHUR
Are you going after them all?

MAX
As many as I can get my hands on.
(beat)
If that's okay with you.

ARTHUR
You're your own man. You make your
own decisions.
(beat)
And you're in deep now so, how
about we make it count?

Arthur rests a hand on Max's shoulder and they share a smile.

INT. DAVIS' GYM - DAY

Max and Arthur train hard in the gym. Hitting pads, running drills, doing sprints and throwing out combinations until both are sweaty and out of breath.

BY THE LOCKERS

Max changes out of his soaked shirt. Arthur refuels with a sports drink.

ARTHUR
You on the job tonight?

MAX
Yeah.

ARTHUR
Heavy hitter?

MAX
No. Just a low level enforcer.
Shouldn't be a problem.

ARTHUR
Well, be careful. And give 'em
hell.

MAX
Will do.

Max goes to leave then stops and turns around.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hey, Dad.

Arthur turns back to him.

MAX (CONT'D)
I love you. I don't say it enough.
Not to Mum or Johnny. But, I love
you.

ARTHUR
(smiling)
I love you too, son.

Max turns to exit.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
You soft twat.

Max smiles widely without looking back.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A Gunn **GANG MEMBER** is walking the street, hands in his pockets and headphones in his ears.

GANG MEMBER

(rapping)

Yeah, you know me / P.I.M.P / Known
to drop bodies if a man test me,
what? / Ain't no mans scare me /
Come step up face-to-face bro, if
you want beef--

His phone rings and he pulls it from his pocket

GANG MEMBER (CONT'D)

Hello?

He look right at the sound of footsteps just in time to see a masked Max raising a gun up to him.

SMASH!

The Gang member's phone EXPLODES in his hand as a bullet hits it.

GANG MEMBER (CONT'D)

Oh Shit!

The Gang Member runs down the alley. Max fires off a couple more shots but misses and pauses to clutch his recently wounded chest, then continues after him.

INT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT

The Gang Member ducks behind the large metal dumpster and looks around for a weapon.

Max approaches, gun at the ready. He approaches the large metal dumpster and aims his gun ready to fire... but no one is behind it.

Max looks right just in time to see the Gang Member swing a large piece of wood at the back of his head.

BAM!

Max is knocked face first into the floor.

The Gang Member looks down at his limp body, wood poised to swing like a baseball bat, then kicks Max over onto his back. Max is out cold.

The Gang Member leans in a carefully pulls up Max's balaclava to reveal his face.

GANG MEMBER
(recognising him)
Holy fuck!

The Gang Member drops the wood and flees the scene without thinking.

INT. STATELY MANOR/GUNN HQ - NIGHT

Gary Gunn and a group of associates are playing pool and cards in a large entertainment room, drinking. One of the associates is the Muscle Bound Cop, Fletch.

The Gang Member just attacked comes running into the room, out of breath.

GANG MEMBER
Gary, Gary. Someone just shot at me. Someone just fucking shot at me and tried to kill me.

MUSCLE BOUND COP
Who?

GANG MEMBER
That fucking guy. That fucking lawyer from Nathan's court case. It was him, I'm telling you. Swear down, it was him.

GARY GUNN
The lawyer? You sure it was him?

GANG MEMBER
Yeah, on my life. 100% it was him.

MUSCLE BOUND COP
He's John Davis' brother.

GARY GUNN
We know where his people are?

ANOTHER GANGSTER speaks up.

ANOTHER GANGSTER
Yeah. His Dad lives near the Cock 'N Pub. I passed by when they were having the wake.

EXT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT

Max slowly comes to and pulls himself up. He feels his face and realises his balaclava has been pulled up and face exposed. Shit.

He rushes for his phone and calls DAD.

It rings a couple of times then Arthur answers.

ARTHUR (V.O.)

Yeah.

MAX

Dad, I've been made. I got knocked out and when I woke up my mask was off. So what I need you to do is--

ARTHUR (V.O.)

It's okay, Max.

MAX

No, Dad, listen, I need you to--

GARY GUNN (V.O.)

I'm sorry, Daddy can't come to the phone right now--

INT. ARTHUR'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Gary Gunn towers over Arthur in his chair with his gang of associates around him, masked and armed.

GARY GUNN

--But if you'd like to leave a message--

INTERCUT BETWEEN GARY AND MAX

MAX

Don't you dare. Don't you fucking dare.

GARY GUNN

Don't I dare? After what you've done?

MAX

You killed my brother.

GARY GUNN

You killed my men.

MAX

John killed your men and--

GARY GUNN

Then it's justice.

MAX

It was self defence.

GARY GUNN

Don't make me laugh.

MAX

If you lay a finger on him, I'll--

SMACK!

Gary SLAPS Arthur around the face.

GARY GUNN

You'll do what, exactly? I know who you are now, Sunshine.

MAX

And I know who you are.

GARY GUNN

Except you can't prove anything.

MAX

Phone trace, puts you at the scene.

GARY GUNN

(smiling)

It's your dad's phone, mate.
Unlucky.

MAX

F--

Max holds back.

GARY GUNN

Emotion over-clouding your logic in the moment, is that?

MAX

Alright, what do you want?

GARY GUNN

I want you to suffer, the way my men did. And your Dad to suffer, the way your brother did.

MAX

You fuckin' do anything to him and I'll cut your fucking head off. You hear me?

Gary laughs to his friends as he gestures the phone.

GARY GUNN

Yeah, that's all very terrifying, but listen, if you've got any last words to say to your dad, now's your chance.

Gary puts the phone to Arthur's ear.

MAX

No, I have a video--

ARTHUR

Max?

MAX

Dad. Listen, tell him I've got a video that'll put him away if he hurts you--

ARTHUR

No, Max, you'll do no such thing.

MAX

Dad--

ARTHUR

Listen, I'm dead already. Don't let it be in vain. Finish 'em Maxy.

Gary nods to one of the guys and he begins pouring petrol over Arthur.

MAX

Dad--

ARTHUR

Finish every last fucking one of them. Every fucking last one of the scum-bags.

MAX

Dad!

ARTHUR

Do it for Johnny, Max.

Gary puts a gas mask over Arthur's head.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Do it for Johnny!

Gary lights a match.

WOOF!

Arthur goes up like a firework.

He screams in pain as the flames engulf him.

Max hears everything.

GARY GUNN
Don't worry about missing out on
the show, I'll send you a picture.
Cheerio.

He hangs up and takes a picture of Arthur, kicking and screaming and he burns alive.

EXT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT

Max stands in shock as the echos of his Father's scream play in his head and he think about how he brought it onto him.

His phone BLEEPs.

PICTURE MESSAGE FROM DAD.

Max looks at the words a moment then clicks OPEN.

The picture of Arthur's burning body pops up on his phone and he stares at it with tears in his eyes and gritted teeth.

He SCREAMS up at the sky.

INT. GARAGE - NIGHT

Max storms in and opens up a secret compartment. Filled with guns. Lots of guns. He arms himself to the teeth and gets in his car.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Max pulls up in his car outside the church which still has its lights on and doors open. He gets out of his vehicle and walks up to the doors.

INT. CONFESSION BOOTH - NIGHT

Max enters, full of rage and takes a seat. A Priest is sitting in the other booth waiting to hear him bare his soul.

MAX

Forgive me f--

(beat)

Father, for I have sinned. This is my first and last confession.

PRIEST

(puzzled)

First and la--

Max closes his eyes, takes a deep breath then opens them again.

MAX

Over the last 10-days I have killed close to a dozen men in acts of retribution for the murder of my brother. As a result of my actions, it has cost me my Father's life and my own safety. So tonight, one way or another, I will bring this spree to an end, even if it costs me my life. I don't ask for forgiveness, I express my intentions only so that if God is listening, he may stop me if he sees it is wrong. Otherwise, I'll go on for as long as I can doing what I see as the only real way of bringing such people to true justice.

The Priest sits in stunned silence.

MAX (CONT'D)

If you have any words of wisdom to speak in order to change my mind, now is the time to talk.

The Priest sits in silent, stunned, terror.

MAX (CONT'D)

Thank you.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Max gets in his car and drives off, passing a Fire Engine with a screaming siren coming from the opposite direction. Police cars follow closely behind it.

EXT. LARGE WALL - NIGHT

A car is sitting outside with **TWO YOUNG MEN** inside. They are watching videos on their phones, laughing.

We hear FOOTSTEPS approaching the vehicle and a hand reaches out and opens the door. They turn in surprise...

POP! POP!

They're shot in the heads, killed instantly.

Max is the gunman. He breaks their phones and closes the door again. He throws a LARGE DUFFLE BAG over the wall and climbs atop the dead men's car to scale over it.

EXT. STATELY MANOR/GUNN HQ - NIGHT

Max's stands behind a large tree next to the high wall that encircles a large Stately Manor in an unknown location.

He crouches down and opens the duffle bag revealing the contents. Guns. Lots of guns. He straps himself with every gun he can carry and loads his pockets with ammunition.

He takes a deep breath then heads stealthily down the side of the wall towards the house in the shadows.

TWO MEN are standing like security at the man doors having a smoke and laughing about something (ad-libs).

Max gently takes his gun with attached silencer. He readies the weapon and makes his way towards the men, crouching behind one to stop being seen by the other until he stands...

POP! POP!

He shoots the two men in the head and they drop quickly. He drags their bodies into the bushes and breaks their phones. He looks up at the many windows to make sure he wasn't seen then takes keys from one of the men and carefully makes his way to the front door. He looks in side. All clear. He steps inside, dragging the duffle bag behind him, and locks the door.

INT. STATELY MANOR/GUNN HQ - NIGHT

Max adds replaces the spent bullets in the magazine to make both guns fully loaded as he carries one in each hand, ready for war. He stalks the ground floor, looking for goons to take out.

A COUPLE OF **WANNABE TOUGH GUYS** come through a doorway laughing about something and come eye to eye with Max. He OPENS FIRE and lays them down quickly and quietly. He grabs their ankles and drags their bodies away from the opening and puts them against the wall to hide them a little then soldiers on.

He passes into a new room and sees a **BRUTE** smoking by an open window. He sneaks up behind him, shoots him in the back of the head, pushes him out of the window and locks it.

He soldiers on.

He comes to the entertainment room and sees a MASSIVE GROUP OF GOONS, GANGSTERS AND GUNMEN surrounding Gary Gunn.

He's out numbered.

He further reloads his clips from spare ammo at his side then steps into full view in the large open doorway.

He WHISTLES.

Everyone looks his way.

MAX
Alright, fuckers?

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Max opens fire on everyone in the room.

Gary Gunn sprints for the back of the room.

All hell breaks loose.

The Gunn Cartel scatter as they try to avoid bullets.

Max marches through as he shoots towards ducking cowards hiding behind pool tables, chairs and sofas.

Bullets rip through the fabrics and bodies drop.

Max runs after Gary, killing anyone that gets in his way.

A **RANDOM GOON** pops his head out from behind the couch.

RANDOM GOON
Where are he fucking guns?

A **SCARED TOUGH GUY** calls out from somewhere, hidden.

SCARED TOUGH GUY (O.S.)
Under the stairs.

The Random Goon and **VARIOUS OTHERS** run for the stairs.

Max gives chase of Gary, firing all the time, constantly missing as Gary ducks for cover as he runs.

Gary reaches the bottom of the stairs and lifts the bottom step revealing a shotgun and shells. He reaches for it when--

BANG!

A bullet hits the wood and Gary runs up the stairs.

Max tries to fire after him but is out of ammo. He reloads and continues after him up the stairs.

The hired thugs see the shotgun in lifted step and take it. They lift up more steps to reveal more carefully concealed weapons under each step, complete with ammunition.

They take up arms and go after Max.

MAX KILLS HIS WAY THROUGH EVERY ROOM AND FLOOR IN PURSUIT OF GARY GUNN. WHEN MAX IS OUT OF BULLETS, HE TAKES A GUN FROM A DEAD THUG AND SOLDIERS ON. HE GOES ROOM-TO-ROOM IN PURSUIT.

DISARMED, MAX TURNS TO HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT AGAINST THE UNTRAINED SCUM OF THE UNDERWORLD. HE BREAKS THEM WITH EASE.

Max exits one room and walks out straight into the Muscle Bound cop. He pins Max against the wall and struggles to get his gun. Max looks him in the eye and recognises him. His teeth grit and he pushes forward.

The Muscle Bound Cop rips the gun away from Max and it goes over the bannister and downstairs, out of reach.

The two trade blows, breaking teeth and kneeing ribs until Max is put in a head lock and begins to pass out.

MUSCLE BOUND COP

Go to sleep. And go see your Daddy.

Max wakes up and grabs the Muscle Bound Cop by the balls and gives them a twist. He rests his arm against his throat and FLIPS him body over to escape then PUSHES him towards the bannister. He hits it and tumbles over it, landing on his head at the bottom of the stairs, breaking his neck instantly.

Max exhales, composes himself and heads to the final door.

INT. GARY GUNN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The door opens and Max storms into the room.

He's instantly shot in the chest multiple times and drops to the floor in pain. He turns towards his attacker to see he man-giant that is Gary Gunn, standing high as a tower and coming straight for him.

Max pulls a revolver from behind his back and fires 6-shots into Gary's stomach and chest. He stumbles back quickly and falls to his back.

Max gets to his feet and approaches the body when Gary suddenly rolls over and stands back up. Max steps back as Gary rips of his jacket to reveal a bullet-proof vest. Max exhales.

Gary takes a pair of knuckle dusters from his desk and wraps them around his hands. Max looks around for a weapon: Nothing. Gary charges him.

Gary throws big fisted blows at Max and the two begin trading hands. Fast and furiously punches swing round about each others heads as heavyweight boxer takes on middleweight fighter in an epic display of style verses style.

Demonstrating wide ranging martial arts skills, Max kicks and kicks Gary Gunn in every way possible from all angles. Gary impossibly takes most of the blows with showing any pain as he returns fresh attacks in return.

As the fight progresses, the already worn out Max begins to fade and Gary gains the upper hand in the fight. He manages to grab him with both of his massive hands and slam him against the wall before scraping him against the walls and everything in his way before picking him up high above his head and slamming him onto a desk, breaking it under him.

Max breathes heavy breaths as Gary picks him up and dumps him chest first onto a chair. Gary reaches for a sword hanging on the wall. Max reaches his ankles and pulls a knife from his sock. He takes one last ditch attempt to free himself and stabs Gary in the knee, dropping him to one leg.

Gary screams in pain. Max breaks free and pulls a second blade from his other ankle. He climbs to his feet and takes a look at Gary.

GARY GUNN
I'm gonna fuckin--

Max unloads a violent blitz of punches and kicks on Gary until he's unable to hold off the attacks and is finally beaten into submission.

Gary lays beaten on the floor, panting heavily as he struggles for air. Max picks him up with both hands and drops him chest down to a chair. Max picks up Gary's fallen sword and stands next to him as he accepts defeat and rests himself.

Gary looks up at Max.

GARY GUNN (CONT'D)

You're--

MAX

Shut the fuck up.

Max swings the sword in the air and brings it down hard on Gary's neck. His head falls from his shoulders in one deft move and rolls onto the floor.

Max exhales a large sigh of relief. It's all over.

He spots a nearby computer. Gary's e-mail account is open.

He pulls the second killed criminals phone from his inside jacket pocket and connects it to the computer. He pulls up his brothers murder video and attaches it to an e-mail and sends it to a local newspaper.

INT. STATELY MANOR/GUNN HQ - NIGHT

Max pours out liquids onto the floor and over the many bodies from upstairs all the way to the front door.

EXT. GUNN HQ - NIGHT

Max strikes a match and drops it into the flammable liquids. The house quickly sets ablaze and spreads downstairs to up.

Max walks away like an action hero without looking back.

INT. MAX'S HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Max turns on the light and walks up to the wall of Faces. He looks at the pictures and marks off the ones he matches to pictures of his nights kills on his phone.

All the gang are taken care of. He takes down the pictures and puts the through a shredder.

EXT. BACK YARD - NIGHT

Max dumps the shredded photographs onto a BBQ, strikes a match and drops it onto the clippings. He watches the past burn with a tear in his eye.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Max is sitting opposite DS Cope being interviewed. No one else is present.

DS COPE

We've brought you here today with regards to a series of killings that took place on the 13th of this month. Can you remember where you were that night?

MAX

After spending the day with my Father, I returned home, watched a movie on Netflix and went to bed.

DS COPE

What movie?

MAX

'Daredevil'.

DS COPE

Hmm. Lawyer turned vigilante after suffering the loss of a family member in order to take down a seemingly untouchable Kingpin of crime. A big fat bald white guy. Interesting choice. Then what?

MAX

And upon being unable to sleep, I headed out to clear my head--

DS COPE

Where did you go?

MAX

To church.

(beat)

Where I sought confession--

DS COPE

For what?

MAX

That's for me, the Father and the Almighty to know only. Sorry. Then, after relieving myself of some stress, I got back into bed and cried myself to sleep.

DS COPE

Where you crying about your Father's murder?

MAX

I had not at this time been told of this.

DS COPE

That's not what I asked.

MAX

I cried for the loss of my brother.

DS COPE

Are you aware that there was a massacre a week earlier involving a suspected weapons dealer?

MAX

Yes, I have the news. Dangerous business to be in. Asking for trouble.

DS COPE

And what do you know about it?

MAX

What I heard on the TV.

DS COPE

Nothing else?

Max looks at DS Cope without a word or movement.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

For the benefit of the tape, Mr. Davis is shaking his head. Tell me, Mr. David, your Father had recently been diagnosed terminally ill. Is that true?

MAX

Yes.

DS COPE

And what did your Father think about the possibility of going to the grave without seeing justice for his murdered son?

Max seems to get what DS Cope is getting at.

MAX

It ate him up inside.

DS COPE

And, considering his limited time left in this Earth, would you think it possible that he may have taken justice into his own hands?

MAX

What do you mean?

DS COPE

Well, he was oldish and ill, but he was still a strong man with an army background. He knew his way around a weapon and suspected the now dead to have been involved in the murder of his other son. I'm asking you, with those things in mind, do you think it plausible that he may have used his last days in this realm to take out those he thought responsible, then, having committed these acts but leaving someone behind alive, was followed home and himself killed by said survivor as retribution?

Max thinks about the picture being painted for him.

DS COPE (CONT'D)

I'm not accusing, I'm just asking. Do you think this is possible?

MAX

I guess anything is possible. He was always pro death penalty.

DS COPE

Yes. I can imagine. Me too.

They share a look.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Max attends his dad's funeral. He stands soberly as the Priest reads from the Bible. He notices someone watching from a distance. He gently pulls back his suit jacket, revealing a gun tucked in his belt. He stares their way. Ready. Just in case.

SMASH TO BLACK: