

The Thesis

by

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1 EXT. CARMINE TARTAGLIA'S OFFICE -- EVENING

ARNIE CASEY, mid 50s, is pushed into the room by DOMINIC and LUCA, early 30s Mafia types. Dominic forces Arnie to sit in a wooden chair. Arnie, a disheveled likeable guy, nervously grips the armrests.

CARMINE TARTAGLIA, a well-dressed mob boss, mid 40s, sits behind his desk.

CARMINE
It's fifty now.

ARNIE
I'll get it Carmine. Tonight's game
is a lock.

Carmine nods to Luca. Dominic grabs one of Arnie's arms and pins it to the arm of the chair.

ARNIE (CONT'D)
(panic)
What are you doin'?

Luca uses a small wooden bat to SMASH Arnie's hand. Two, three, four times.

Arnie SCREAMS and drops to the ground. He clenches his hand as blood gushes between his fingers.

CARMINE
One week.

2 EXT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- DAY

Two story brick building in Brooklyn with an apartment on the second floor.

3 INT. BRUNO TARTAGLIA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

BRUNO TARTAGLIA, early 80s, lies in bed hooked up to an IV. He coughs violently.

A NURSE rushes in and tries to put an oxygen mask on him. He pushes her away.

BRUNO
Get the fuck away from me.

Carmine enters.

NURSE

He won't--

CARMINE

It's alright. Leave us alone for a minute...

The nurse leaves and closes the door.

CARMINE (CONT'D)

He wants a sit down.

BRUNO

Fuck him. We got no business with him.

A KNOCK at the door. BENEDETTO (BEN) SERVINO, mid 20s, timidly sticks his head through the door. Ben, handsome and athletic, carries a tray of food and a newspaper.

BEN

Lunch.

CARMINE

You can come in.

BRUNO

This is Paulie Servino's kid.

CARMINE

I know.

(to Ben)

Your old man was a stand-up guy.

Ben lays the tray and a newspaper on a table.

BEN

The manicotti you like.

Carmine puts his arm on Ben's shoulder and pulls him aside.

CARMINE

When my father goes on about the old days, you forget whatever you hear. You understand?

BEN

Yes sir.

Carmine leaves.

Bruno picks up the newspaper and stares at the front page. He hits the paper with the back of one of his hands.

BRUNO

They charged those Wall Street con artists with racketeering.

BEN

They're lookin' at 20 years to life.

BRUNO

Feds used that racketeering bullshit on us. Turned some of my guys into rats.

4 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- EVENING

SAMANTHA CASEY works at the bar. Samantha, mid 20s with dark auburn hair, has a cold, aloof attitude and a chip on her shoulder.

Ben stands next to a table with GENO GENONI, a mid 40s heavy set mobster. Samantha catches his eye.

BEN

Hey, Geno. Who is she?

GENO

Carmine brought her in to be the new bartender.

BEN

You think he's...

GENO

Nah. Carmine don't fool around with anyone from the restaurant.

Ben goes over to the bar.

BEN

Hi. I'm Ben.

SAMANTHA

So?

BEN

We're going to be working together, so I figured we should introduce ourselves.

SAMANTHA
(coldly)
Samantha. Anything else?

A GUY at the end of the bar raises his glass and shakes the ice.

GUY
How about a refill.

Samantha goes over and refills his drink. Ben returns to Geno's table.

GENO
(laughing)
Looks like you struck out.

BEN
She's just playing hard to get.

Ben continues to stare at Samantha.

GENO
I gotta go. Big sit down with this
moulanyan, Doctor G.

BEN
Doctor G?

GENO
The crazy fuck thinks he's the black
Godfather. Speaks Italian. Did you
ever hear such a thing? A *moulanyan*
who speaks Italian?

BEN
Uh... Kobe Bryant?

GENO
The Lakers guy?

BEN
His father played on an Italian
basketball team. So he grew up there.

GENO
You're shittin' me.

5 INT. WAREHOUSE -- LATER

Empty warehouse except for a table and two chairs. Carmine sits at the table. Geno, Dominic and Luca stand near him.

DOCTOR G enters, followed by DARIUS and two BODYGUARDS. Doctor G, a mid 30s light skinned black man with a shaved head, talks very slowly in a deep voice with a hint of a Jamaican accent. Darius, late 20s, black with long dreadlocks, walks with a noticeable limp.

Geno pats down Doctor G. Darius pats down Carmine.

CARMINE

Leave us.

Carmine and Doctor G's men leave the room. Carmine motions to the chair across from him. They sit.

CARMINE (CONT'D)

Why are we here?

DOCTOR G

Ain't no real money in selling dime bags and hustling pussy.

CARMINE

It got me by for a long time.

DOCTOR G

But now you're running the biggest scam of them all.

(pause)

You got yourself a hedge fund.

Carmine is momentarily stunned.

CARMINE

What the fuck are you talking about?

DOCTOR G

Cutting in the other families was a stroke of genius. Get Wall Street scumbags hooked on primo dope and high class hookers. Then a little blackmail gets you all the inside information you need.

(sits back and smiles)

Nice. Very nice.

CARMINE

Go to hell.

DOCTOR G

Two brothers can work together. No?

(smiles)

Da Roma in gui cominica l'Africa.

CARMINE
You insult me?

DOCTOR G
All I ask is a piece of the action.

Carmine stands up.

CARMINE
I'm warning you. Don't fuck with
me.

DOCTOR G
The days when you could back that up
are long gone.

CARMINE
That can change overnight.

6 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- EVENING

A WOMAN, mid 40s, sits at the bar. Samantha stands behind
the bar.

WOMAN
(shouting)
Who the fuck are you to tell me I've
had enough?

The woman gets off the bar stool but has trouble standing
up.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
You wise-ass little bitch.

The woman throws her drink in Samantha's face. The HEAD
WAITER rushes over and takes the woman by the arm.

HEAD WAITER
Come on. Let me get you some
coffee...

The Head Waiter escorts the woman to a table in the back.

Stunned, Samantha stands dripping wet.

Ben goes behind the bar and gets a towel. He hands it to
her.

BEN
Here.

Samantha wipes her face and blouse.

BEN (CONT'D)
You okay?

SAMANTHA
Yeah. I'm fine.

She throws the towel on the bar. As she takes a step, she slips and almost falls. Ben catches her.

BEN
Watch the ice.

She angrily kicks the ice across the floor.

BEN (CONT'D)
Listen, how about tonight after work--

SAMANTHA
(interrupting)
Look, you seem very nice. I'm sure there's some little waitress out there who'd love the attention. But I'm not her.

BEN
Does this condescending attitude come natural? Or is it something you've had to work at?

SAMANTHA
Just drop it.

7 INT. BRUNO TARTAGLIA'S BEDROOM -- AFTERNOON

LILLY straightens up Bruno's pillow and helps Bruno sit up. Lilly, mid 60s, is very attractive for her age. Ben comes in with lunch.

BEN
Veal chop.

BRUNO
Lilly, this is Benedetto.

Lilly shakes Ben's hand.

LILLY
Bruno tells me you're a student at Columbia.

BRUNO
He's gonna be a doctor.

BEN
Sorta. I'm working on my Ph.D. in
economics.

LILLY
Well thank you for taking such good
care of Bruno.

Lilly affectionately runs her fingers through Bruno's hair.

LILLY (CONT'D)
We had a lot of good times.

BRUNO
The best.

LILLY
I've gotta go before Carmine gets
back.

Bruno nods. She kisses him and leaves.

BEN
Nice lady.

BRUNO
No one else ever came close.

BEN
You with a wife and family. Must
have been hard for her.

BRUNO
She always knew her place. Never
pushed for more...

Bruno drifts away.

8 INT. LIQUOR STORE -- MORNING

A rundown, inner city liquor store with a "For Sale" sign on
it. Ben writes in his notebook as he talks to the store
owner, LORENZO, mid 60s.

BEN
This is just background for my thesis.
It will be completely anonymous.
(pause)
Can I ask why the store's for sale?

LORENZO

I've been robbed three times this year.

BEN

Has it always been this bad?

LORENZO

Never. In the old days I had Mob protection.

BEN

But wasn't that protection *from* the Mob?

LORENZO

Sure. But no one would dare rob a store protected by the Mob. Now the insurance companies won't even sell me a policy. I can't stay in business.

BEN

What about the police?

LORENZO

The cops don't do shit. At least with the Mob, when you paid for protection, you got it. Now this neighborhood's outta control.

9 INT. CARMINE TARTAGLIA'S OFFICE -- EVENING

VINCE DeVITO and CESARE PROFACI, mid 40s Mafia bosses, enter. Carmine hugs them.

CARMINE

We gotta send Doctor G a message.

VINCE

We don't have enough muscle to take him on.

CARMINE

We'll bring it in from out of town.

CESARE

I know who to get.

VINCE

One of those hedge fund assholes must've shot his mouth off.

CESARE

Those guys would fuck their own mother
for an extra nickel.

CARMINE

I'm gonna find out who.

10 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Restaurant is closed. Geno sits in the corner drinking.
Ben sits next to Geno.

BEN

So what happened the other night?

GENO

Doctor G insulted Carmine. Some
shit about Africa. *Da Roma in gui
cominica l'Africa.*

BEN

Africa begins below Rome.

GENO

I was born in America. I don't get
all this old country shit.

BEN

Back in the 8th century, the Moors
conquered Sicily and southern Italy.
There was a lot of interracial
marriages. So...

GENO

You saying I'm part...?

BEN

The Moors weren't black, they were
African Muslims.

GENO

Same fuckin' thing.

Geno pours another shot and downs it.

11 EXT. BROOKLYN STREET -- EVENING

A large SUV pulls into the driveway. Darius and an attractive
early 20s BLOND get out of the SUV. The Blond hangs all
over him as he limps toward the house.

A car slowly pulls up. Ominously, the passenger side windows roll down.

Darius spots the car. Gun barrels protrude from the windows.

Darius frantically grabs for his gun. A HAIL OF BULLETS gun him and the Blond down. The car speeds off.

12 INT. RIVER BAR -- EVENING

Ben sits in a booth. SHAUN CONROY enters and joins Ben. Shaun, mid 20s, outgoing and hyper, is Ben's best friend. He has an annoying habit of constantly fiddling with his iPhone.

The WAITRESS comes over.

SHAUN

Two Gray Goose martinis. My friend and I are celebrating.

BEN

Celebrating what?

SHAUN

Jennifer's Dream just raised mucho capital. I've been hired to design the next generation of bras.

BEN

You're a structural engineer. What do you know about bras?

SHAUN

A suspension bridge and a bra, it's the same problem.

BEN

That's unbelievable.

SHAUN

Speaking of unbelievable. How's your mob thing going?

BEN

(lowers voice, leans forward)

Are you crazy? Be careful what you say.

SHAUN

Sorry.

BEN
Getting some good background material
for my thesis.

SHAUN
I can't believe you get to be with
real...
(looks around, softly)
You know. Real wiseguys.

BEN
All thanks to what my father did.

SHAUN
Isn't it kind of dangerous?

BEN
There are some lines you can't cross.
Respect that and there's no problem.

13 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Ben stands at the bar with a tray. Samantha puts drinks on
the tray. Two very attractive late 20s women, TRACY and
ALLISON, walk by.

BEN
Thank you ladies. Enjoy the rest of
your evening.

The two women stop and move close to Ben.

TRACY
(flirts)
You always so attentive?

BEN
I try to be.

Allison takes a napkin from the bar.

ALLISON
Pen?

Ben hands her his pen. She scribbles down a number and stuffs
the napkin in his shirt pocket.

ALLISON (CONT'D)
Call us.

BEN
Us?

They smile and nod naughtily.

The two women leave. Ben glances at Samantha and smiles.

SAMANTHA
(rolls her eyes)
Good God.

Geno comes over and puts his arm on Ben's shoulder.

GENO
Looks like you're gonna get some
action.

BEN
I think I'll pass.

GENO
What? Those two will teach you stuff
you ain't gonna learn anywhere else.

Ben takes out the napkin and stuffs it in Geno's shirt pocket.

BEN
Knock yourself out.

Surprised, Samantha looks at Ben with a trace of a smile.

14 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING GARAGE -- NIGHT

The garage is dimly lit and almost empty. A Mercedes is parked by itself at one end.

A Cadillac pulls in and parks. Carmine gets out and gets into the Mercedes.

15 INT. MERCEDES -- CONTINUOUS

JORDAN BAINES, early 50s, dressed in an expensive suit, sits in the drivers seat.

CARMINE
The clinical trials for Newman
Pharmaceuticals' new drug aren't
looking good.

JORDAN
It's supposed to be a blockbuster.
(pause)
You sure about this?

CARMINE

Their CEO has this real fucked up fetish. Trust me, the information's solid.

JORDAN

We'll make a killing shorting the stock.

CARMINE

We got a sweat deal going here. It's ten times harder to rig a football game than one of these stock deals. Why would you risk screwing it all up?

JORDAN

What are you talking about?

CARMINE

Last week a girl ODed at your place in the Hamptons.

JORDAN

Some bad E.

CARMINE

And now the cops are crawling up your ass.

JORDAN

It's cool. Got it under control.

CARMINE

Where'd you get it?

JORDAN

Ken gets everything. Why?

CARMINE

Need to protect my investment.

16 INT. LILLY'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Ben and Lilly sit in the living room. A teapot is on the coffee table.

Ben takes a notebook out of his knapsack.

LILLY

You've been so kind to Bruno. Any way I can help. Tea?

BEN
That'd be nice.

Lilly pours the tea.

As Lilly talks, Ben takes notes.

BEN (CONT'D)
Bruno told me he helped you start
your beauty salon business.

LILLY
I had no collateral, so the banks
wouldn't even talk to me. Going to
Bruno was my only option. I'd have
nothing today if it wasn't for the
loan from Bruno.

BEN
Eight salons is pretty impressive.

LILLY
I knew what would happen if I didn't
pay. I had no choice but to be
successful.

BEN
But then you and Bruno?

LILLY
There was something between us from
the very first day. Being with Bruno
was very exciting. The best clubs.
All the big events. But over the
years, it became much more. I really
love him.

BEN
But you knew there was no hope of
anything more.

LILLY
Most people assumed I was his *goomar*.
But I didn't need his money. It was
my choice to live that life.

BEN
Any regrets?

LILLY
No.

(MORE)

LILLY (CONT'D)

I never could've done the whole kids and church thing. Bruno had to have that.

BEN

I got the feeling you don't like Carmine.

LILLY

(disdain)

He's a vicious, petty little man. For some reason, he resents what Bruno and I have.

17 INT. STAIRS TO BRUNO'S BEDROOM -- DAY

As Ben walks up the stairs, a priest storms past him. Bruno shouts from the bedroom.

BRUNO (O.S.)

(screams)

Save my soul? Save your own goddamn soul.

18 INT. BRUNO TARTAGLIA'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Ben enters.

BEN

What happened?

BRUNO

Word of God bullshit. Word of those fuckin' bastards in Rome.

BEN

I'm sure he was only trying to--

BRUNO

Trying to what? Have me beg for forgiveness? Back in Sicily, the landowners treated us like shit. The government bled us dry. What did the church do?

(mocking)

Accept it. It's the will of God.

(more angry)

A priest kisses the Pope's ass. He turns his back on his family.

Bruno coughs uncontrollably. Suddenly Bruno holds his chest and GASPS. His head drops to his chest.

Cautiously, Ben goes over to Bruno.

BEN
Are you alright?

He leans over the bed and puts his ear on Bruno's chest.

BEN (CONT'D)
Oh my God.

Ben frantically rushes out of the room.

19 INT. BRUNO TARTAGLIA'S BEDROOM -- LATER

Ben stands nervously in the corner.

Carmine uses an electric control to lower the head section of the bed. He bends over and kisses Bruno on the forehead. He gently closes Bruno's eyes.

20 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

Empty restaurant. Ben reads a book at a table in the corner.

Samantha comes over and looks at the book.

SAMANTHA
Urban Microeconomics?

BEN
I'm a grad student at Columbia.
Workin' here helps pay the bills.

SAMANTHA
I would have never guessed.

BEN
It's amazing how effortlessly you do that.

SAMANTHA
Do what?

BEN
Be condescending.

SAMANTHA
I didn't realize you're so sensitive.

BEN

Unbelievable. You respond with an insult.

SAMANTHA

Look, I just want to know about this funeral thing tonight.

BEN

The wake.

SAMANTHA

Whatever. Why do I need to go?

BEN

Not going would be an insult to Carmine.

SAMANTHA

But I never even met his father.

BEN

Don't matter. It's a respect thing.

SAMANTHA

(beat)

I haven't been to one of these things before.

BEN

What? How's that possible?

SAMANTHA

It just is. Alright?

BEN

Look. If you're uncomfortable, you can come with me.

(pause)

All you have to do is ask.

SAMANTHA

(long pause,
begrudgingly)

Can I go with you?

BEN

(smiles)

Sure.

21 INT. FUNERAL HOME -- EVENING

Packed funeral home. Carmine and other family members sit in front of the casket. Ben and Samantha give their condolences and move to the hall.

BEN
He looked good.

SAMANTHA
Looked good? He's dead.

BEN
You know what I mean.

SAMANTHA
I'm gonna go. This is totally weird.

BEN
I should probably stay for a while.

SAMANTHA
(beat)
Thanks.

Samantha leaves. Ben goes over to Geno.

GENO
I see you came with the ice queen.
You getting to first base?

BEN
You kidding?

GENO
What do you see in that broad?

BEN
I don't know.
(beat)
There's something about her...

GENO
Yeah, a great ass. That's it.
(beat)
Sometimes a bitch is just a bitch.

22 INT. FUNERAL HOME -- LATER

BOBBY NIGHTLY, mid 30s, wearing a dark suit, steps over to Carmine. He whispers in Carmine's ear.

As Carmine goes upstairs with Bobby, he sees Ben walk by.

CARMINE

Hey, kid.

Ben turns to Carmine.

CARMINE (CONT'D)

Get me a cup of coffee with a little anisette. Bring it up to the undertaker's office.

Ben nods.

23 INT. UNDERTAKER'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

As Carmine enters the office, a gun is put to his head. The undertaker is unconscious on the floor. TYREL, a late 20s black man, holds the gun.

TYREL

(to Bobby)

Get out.

Bobby rushes out the door.

24 INT. FUNERAL HOME -- CONTINUOUS

Ben walks up the stairs with the coffee. Bobby hurries past him, bumping his arm.

Coffee spills, burning Ben's hand. He frantically switches the coffee cup to his other hand.

BEN

(mutters)

Asshole.

25 INT. UNDERTAKER'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Tyrel cocks the gun.

CARMINE

At my father's funeral?

TYREL

You got careless.

The door opens. Ben enters holding the coffee.

Tyrel's eyes dart between Ben and Carmine. He points the gun toward Ben.

Ben throws the coffee in his face and tackles him. Tyrel hits Ben on the side of his face with the butt of the gun.

As Ben falls to the floor, Carmine jumps on Tyrel, knocking him down. The gun goes flying across the floor. Carmine viciously punches Tyrel in the face. Again and again. Blood gushes from Tyrel's nose and mouth.

Carmine gets off the unconscious Tyrel. Unsteady, Ben slowly gets up, with blood dripping from his cheek.

CARMINE
(out of breath)
Get out of here.

Trance like, Ben turns and walks out.

26 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- MORNING

With a black eye and a bandage on his cheek, Ben enters. Slaps on the back. High fives. Samantha watches from behind the bar. He goes over to Geno.

GENO
Hey. It's the big hero.

Geno puts his arm over Ben's shoulder.

GENO (CONT'D)
You did good. Carmine wants to see you.

27 INT. CARMINE TARTAGLIA'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Carmine has his arm on Ben's shoulder.

CARMINE
That was fast thinking.

They sit. Carmine pours two shots. He holds up his glass.

CARMINE (CONT'D)
Salute.

Reluctantly, Ben picks up his glass. They down their shots.

CARMINE (CONT'D)
I'm not gonna forget what you did.
I want to take care of you. What do you want?

BEN
Nothing. There's no need--

CARMINE
A new car? A vacation? How about a
few weeks in Italy?

BEN
Really. Nothing.

CARMINE
You think about it. Cause I'm gonna
do something for you.

28 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- MORNING

Ben rushes to get ready. He searches for his keys and cell
phone. He finds them and walks toward the door.

A KNOCK. He opens the door. Samantha stands at the door
with a large duffel bag.

BEN
Hey...

SAMANTHA
You gonna let me in?

BEN
(dumbfounded)
Uh... Yeah sure, come in.

Samantha enters and throws her duffel bag on the floor. She
looks around the apartment and picks up several books.

SAMANTHA
What the hell is this? A mob library?

BEN
Research material for my thesis.
Why are you here?

SAMANTHA
You saved Carmine's life.

BEN
Not really. Well... Yeah, sorta.

SAMANTHA
He wants to say thank you.... I'm
the thank you.

BEN
I don't understand.

SAMANTHA
I'm supposed to give you a month
you'll never forget.

BEN
You can't be serious.

SAMANTHA
You couldn't take your eyes off me
at the restaurant. Now I'm not good
enough for you?

BEN
That was before...

SAMANTHA
Before what? Before you got a Madonna
complex from your *goomba* friends?
Only interested if I'm a good little
girl?

Ben takes a quick glance at his watch.

BEN
Look. I'm kinda in a rush.

Samantha sits on the couch. She puts her feet on the coffee
table.

SAMANTHA
I'll be waiting.

BEN
What? You're not staying here.

SAMANTHA
Take that up with Carmine.

Ben rushes out.

29 EXT. ECONOMICS BUILDING -- MORNING

Impressive, old ivy covered building at Columbia University.

30 INT. PROFESSOR THOMPSON'S OFFICE -- MORNING

Ben sits in a chair. PROFESSOR THOMPSON enters, carrying a
copy of Ben's thesis. He holds it up.

THOMPSON

Your field work on how the mob culture shaped their business model has some interesting new insights. But you haven't substantiated your contention that the mob played a key role in keeping inner city commerce functioning.

BEN

Once the mob lost control over the neighborhoods, chaos followed.

THOMPSON

(exasperated)

You're assuming cause and effect where it doesn't exist. Other forces had a far greater impact in destroying inner city commerce than the decline of the mob.

Disappointed, Professor Thompson sits back and sighs.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)

You need to rethink your conclusion.

31 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

Geno sits at the bar. Ben enters and sits next to him.

BEN

What the hell is going on?

GENO

(laughs)

What's the matter? Don't you like your gift? The skinny bitch was my idea.

BEN

I can't--

GENO

Whoa. No one refuses a gift from Carmine.

BEN

What am I supposed to do?

GENO

What are you a *finocchio*? Do whatever turns you on. Have some fun.

32 INT. RIVER BAR -- LATER

Ben and Shaun drink at the bar.

SHAUN
(incredulous)
I just don't get it. The girl you've
had the hots for is waiting for you...
and you're here with me?

BEN
I just can't believe she'd do
something like this.

SHAUN
You barely know her.

BEN
Yeah, but--

SHAUN
Look who gives a shit what you
thought. The reality is you got an
early Christmas present. Open it.

They down their drinks. Shaun throws money on the bar.
They get up and walk toward the door. Shaun puts his arm on
Ben's shoulder.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Hey. Started my new job today. I
can't believe I get to test my designs
on the most fucking gorgeous women
in the world. You gotta come and
see my office.

33 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Ben enters. Samantha holds up some of his papers.

SAMANTHA
Why the charade?

BEN
You had no business reading my stuff.

SAMANTHA
You shouldn't leave it lying around.

BEN
I wasn't expecting company.

SAMANTHA
So Carmine doesn't know about your
so-called research?

BEN
Obviously not.

SAMANTHA
Interesting.

BEN
So what are you? Some kinda hooker?

SAMANTHA
Is that what you think?

BEN
What else am I supposed to think?

SAMANTHA
You can think whatever you want.

BEN
Alright then.

Ben grabs the desk chair and sits.

BEN (CONT'D)
Undress.

SAMANTHA
What?

BEN
Do a little strip tease for me.

Ben gets up and moves close to her.

BEN (CONT'D)
Would some music help?

Samantha slaps him across the face.

SAMANTHA
Do you really think I'm one of
Carmine's bimbos?

BEN
You propositioned me.

SAMANTHA
I had no choice.

BEN

What does Carmine have over you?

SAMANTHA

None of your business.

BEN

You've made it my business.

SAMANTHA

I'm going to stay here. You're not going to touch me. And you're going to tell Carmine I'm the best lay you've ever had.

BEN

(incredulous)

Let me get this straight. You make this deal or whatever it is with Carmine, but you have no intention of holding up your end. Then you show up here and expect me to go along with it?

SAMANTHA

Yup.

BEN

But what if I say either put out or get out?

SAMANTHA

I don't have to worry about that now.

BEN

Why not?

SAMANTHA

Because if you do, Carmine will find out that he's nothing more than a lab rat in your little mob research project.

Long pause. Ben goes into the bedroom. He comes out with a blanket and pillow. He throws them to Samantha.

BEN

Couch is yours.

34 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE -- NIGHT

Tyrel is unconscious and waist deep in cement. Carmine, Geno, Dominic and Luca stand above him.

Luca throws a bucket of water on Tyrel. Tyrel wakes up and struggles to move.

TYREL

What the fuck?

Carmine looks through his wallet. He holds up Tyrel's driver's license.

CARMINE

Tyrel. I hate these crazy fuckin' names. Why couldn't your momma give you a real name?

TYREL

Fuck you.

CARMINE

Who was the other guy?

Tyrel struggles more intensely to get free.

Carmine nods to Dominic.

More cement pours around Tyrel rising up to his shoulders.

TYREL

(panicked)

Stop. It was Bobby Nightly from Jersey City.

Carmine nods. More cement pours.

Carmine takes the money from the wallet and puts it in his pocket. He throws the wallet into the cement.

TYREL (CONT'D)

No!

The cement covers Tyrel's head. Carmine hands the driver's license to Dominic.

CARMINE

Get that to Doctor G.

35 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- MORNING

Ben comes in from the bedroom.

Samantha sleeps on the couch with her back facing Ben. The blanket has fallen on the floor. Samantha's nightgown is bunched up to her waist. She wears a thong. A small tattoo of a butterfly is on her buttock.

Ben pauses for a second. He goes into the kitchen and begins to make breakfast.

Slowly, Samantha wakes up. She realizes her nightgown is pulled up and quickly pulls it down.

She goes into the kitchen.

SAMANTHA

Get a cheap thrill this morning?

BEN

Cheap maybe. Not all that thrilling.

SAMANTHA

You're a real comedian, huh?

BEN

I have my moments.

He puts two glasses of juice on the table. She stretches her back.

SAMANTHA

Your piece of shit couch broke my back.

The toast pops up. Ben puts it on the table.

BEN

Bacon?

SAMANTHA

I'm a vegetarian.

BEN

I should'a guessed.

They sit. She takes a bite of her toast.

BEN (CONT'D)

I saved Carmine's life.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

No matter how pissed he gets, I have one free pass.

(pause)

What happens if you don't deliver?

SAMANTHA

What do you want?

BEN

I'll give you the month. But I want to know why you agreed to do this.

SAMANTHA

What difference does it make?

BEN

It makes a difference to me.

She stands up and throws the toast on the table.

SAMANTHA

(angry)

Forget it. I should'a known this was never gonna work out.

BEN

Relax. Keep your big secret. But there is one condition.

SAMANTHA

What?

BEN

We make it look real. We hang out together. You meet my friends. I meet your friends.

SAMANTHA

There's no way.

BEN

Find a way.

(beat)

I'm not working tonight, so you can make dinner.

SAMANTHA

Make?

BEN

As in earn your keep.

SAMANTHA
You expect me to cook?

BEN
Yes I do.

Cold stare.

SAMANTHA
Fine.

BEN
(smiles)
I like your tattoo.

She gives him the finger.

36 INT. WAREHOUSE -- NIGHT

Empty warehouse except for two chairs in the middle of the room. Carmine sits in one of the chairs.

Dominic and Luca push KEN DRAPER, early 40s, dressed in an expensive suit, into the room.

CARMINE
(to the Dominic and
Luca)
Wait outside.

They leave.

CARMINE (CONT'D)
Sit.

Ken sits facing Carmine.

KEN
(indignant)
You have me dragged here?

CARMINE
You told Doctor G about our
arrangement?

KEN
Half of Wall Street gets their dope
from him. We can use him.

CARMINE
Use him? He wants in on the whole
operation.

KEN

If he delivers, why not?

CARMINE

We're practically printing money.
How the fuck much money do you want?

KEN

More than the next guy.

CARMINE

(disdain)

You dumb stupid fuck.

Carmine goes to the door and gets Dominic and Luca.

As Ken gets up, Dominic and Luca grab him and force him back into the chair. As he struggles, they tie his wrists and ankles to the arm and legs of the chair with zip locks.

KEN

If something happens to me, they'll
know it was you.

CARMINE

High stakes gambling with the
Russians. Not too smart.

KEN

Nothing I can't handle.

CARMINE

Sure about that?

Suddenly, Dominic put a clear plastic bag over Ken's head and tightens it around his neck. As Ken frantically struggles the plastic bag goes from clear to foggy.

Oblivious to Ken struggling, Carmine talks to Luca.

CARMINE (CONT'D)

Make it look like he skipped town.

Ken stops struggling.

CARMINE (CONT'D)

(to Dominic)

Make the body disappear.

37 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Samantha works in the kitchen. Ben writes at the desk.

SAMANTHA

Dinner's ready.

Ben closes his notebook and throws it on his knapsack. He glances at the stove and sits at the table.

Samantha puts potatoes and mixed vegetables on the table. Ben takes some of each. He tastes the potatoes.

BEN

You've taken boiled potatoes to a whole new level.

SAMANTHA

I'm Irish. Potatoes are what we do.

They eat.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

This research of yours. You trying to be some kind of apologist for the mob?

BEN

Just making the point that the mob brought economic stability to some bad neighborhoods.

SAMANTHA

You're defending a bunch of thugs.

BEN

It's just research.

SAMANTHA

It's more than that. You're obsessed with this romanticized myth of the mob. You're a wiseguy wannabe.

BEN

Hardly. Beyond sports betting and some loan sharking, there's not that much left to the mob.

SAMANTHA

That may be, but you're still fixated on all their secret society code of silence bullshit. As far as I'm concerned, they're nothing but a bunch of latent homosexuals.

BEN
That's ridiculous.

SAMANTHA
Making food for each other. Hugging
and kissing each other. Open shirts
with gold chains. Need I say more?

BEN
They all have families and *goomars*
on the side.

SAMANTHA
Their ultra macho persona is just an
overreaction to their homosexuality.

BEN
You're crazier than I thought.

SAMANTHA
And all this mumbo jumbo of yours
about economic stability and keeping
order is nonsense.

Long silent stare. Ben holds up a potato on a fork.

BEN
Pass the salt.

38 INT. BEN'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Ben wakes up. He gets up and stretches. As he goes to the door, he hears Samantha talking on the phone. He leans against the door.

SAMANTHA (O.S.)
I don't care what it's going to take.
He's gotta be stopped.
(beat)
We both know where this is headed.
(beat)
Alright. Meet you there.

Puzzled, Ben waits for a few seconds and then opens the door.

39 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Samantha zips up her purse. Ben walks up to her.

BEN
Who's gotta be stopped?

SAMANTHA

That was a private conversations.

BEN

You some kind of cop?

SAMANTHA

That's an inane question even for you.

BEN

It all fits. The reason you pretended to agreed to this was to gain's Carmine's trust.

Samantha grabs her pocketbook

SAMANTHA

(sarcastic)

Can't put anything past you, can I Sherlock?

She move very close to him and looks him straight in the eyes.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Can I count on you not to blow my cover?

BEN

Now you're fucking with me, right?

SAMANTHA

Maybe.

40 EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Samantha walks out of the apartment. Ben comes out a few seconds later. As she walks down the street, he follows her at a distance.

41 EXT. COURT HOUSE -- LATER

Samantha enters the court house. Ben follows her.

42 INT. COURT HOUSE -- LATER

Samantha sits on a bench outside the doors to a court room. MIGUEL, a shy, sad 5 year old Hispanic boy, sits next to her.

Ben sits on a bench in a hall that is perpendicular to where Samantha is sitting. From behind a newspaper, he can hear them but not see them.

Samantha runs her hand reassuringly through Miguel's hair.

SAMANTHA

How does your daddy treat you?

MIGUEL

Good.

SAMANTHA

Does he ever hit you?

MIGUEL

No.

SAMANTHA

Not even when you've been bad?

MIGUEL

No.

SAMANTHA

What does he do when you're bad?

Miguel points to his back. Samantha pulls up his shirt. Cigarette burn marks. Samantha gently pulls his shirt back down.

ERICA JASPERS and MARIA POSADA come through the court room doors.

Maria, an early 20s Hispanic woman, has a black eye and cut lip.

Erica, mid 20s, is very intense. She's attractive but hides it with no make-up and a baggy shirt and slacks.

Samantha hugs Maria. Maria wipes tears away and sits next to Miguel. She holds Miguel tightly.

Puzzled, Ben listens.

Samantha takes Erica aside and moves right near where Ben is sitting. Ben quickly pulls the newspaper up high and crouches down.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

The bastard has been burning him with cigarettes.

ERICA

Calm down. The judge will make his custody ruling Thursday.

SAMANTHA

How could anyone do that?

ERICA

He's a sick fuck.

Samantha and Erica go back to Maria and Miguel. Ben gets up quickly and leaves.

43 INT. BUTCHER SHOP -- EVENING

Cold storage room. Beef carcasses hang from hooks.

Dominic lies naked on a steel table with his arms and legs tied to the legs of the table. He struggles to get loose.

A BUTCHER, mid 50s, wearing a bloody white apron enters. He goes over to a table and sharpens a knife.

DOMINIC

What the fuck is going on?

Doctor G enters and goes over to Dominic.

DOCTOR G

Time to send you back to Carmine.

The butcher goes over to Dominic and plunges the knife into his abdomen just below his ribs. He pulls it slowly down toward Dominic's groin.

Dominic screams as blood gushes out of his abdomen.

44 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Ben comes out of the bathroom carrying a hairdryer, curling iron, a huge bag of makeup and a pile of clothes.

Samantha sits on the couch reading Ben's notebook.

Ben drops everything on the coffee table.

BEN

The bathroom's out of control.

SAMANTHA

You expect me to live out of my duffel bag?

BEN
I emptied the hall closet.

SAMANTHA
(sarcastic)
Wow. My own closet. I can put all
my cop gear in there.

BEN
Okay. Maybe that was a little over
the top.

SAMANTHA
A little?

He realizes she has his notebook.

BEN
Is that my notebook? You had no
business going in my room.

SAMANTHA
I was just curious.

BEN
(angry)
Give that to me.

He tries to grab the notebook. She pulls it back.

She reads from the notebook.

SAMANTHA
"New bartender. Hot". Hot's all
in caps. And underlined twice.

She enjoys embarrassing him.

BEN
It's just my shorthand for hotheaded.

SAMANTHA
You expect me to believe that?

BEN
It was the red hair.

SAMANTHA
It's auburn.

She closes the notebook and gets up.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Fantasies running wild?

BEN
Hardly.

She pushes the notebook against his chest.

SAMANTHA
Too bad you're never gonna find out.

45 EXT. HOUSE -- MORNING

Large stone house in Westchester, New York with a three-car garage and a long driveway.

46 INT. GARAGE -- MORNING

Carmine enters the garage from the house. He hits the garage door opener and gets into his car.

As he backs out of the garage, the car bangs into something. He stops.

Carmine gets out of the car and goes to the front of the garage.

Dominic's body lies on the driveway.

47 EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- MORNING

Samantha exits and walks down the street. A few moments later, Ben exits and walks in the same direction.

48 INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM -- MOMENTS LATER

Samantha gets on the subway. Ben gets on the subway car behind her.

The subway departs.

49 INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM -- MOMENTS LATER

The subway arrives at the next station.

Samantha gets off. Ben watches her from the window.

He barely gets off before the subway doors close.

50 EXT. SOUTH SIDE BATTERED WOMAN'S CLINIC -- MOMENTS LATER

One story brick building in Brooklyn with "Women's Clinic" sign above the door.

Samantha enters the Clinic. Ben sits on a park bench across from the Clinic. He waits for a minute and enters the Clinic.

51 INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Samantha sits at a desk filling out papers. On the desk is a name plate with "Samantha Casey R.N., M.S.W."

A RECEPTIONIST sticks her head in.

RECEPTIONIST

Someone here to see you.

(smiles)

He's cute.

SAMANTHA

(puzzled look)

Send him in.

Ben enters and sits in a chair in front of the desk. He picks up the name plate.

BEN

A nurse and a social worker? You're full of surprises.

Samantha gets up and SLAMS the door.

SAMANTHA

You son of a bitch.

BEN

Why the big secret?

SAMANTHA

My personal life is none of your business.

BEN

All this doesn't add up.

SAMANTHA

Why? Why do you need to know?

BEN

For some bizarre, masochistic reason, I find you... intriguing.

SAMANTHA
This stops right here.

BEN
You don't call the shots.

Angry silence.

BEN (CONT'D)
Dinner tonight?

SAMANTHA
I already have dinner plans.

BEN
Who?

SAMANTHA
Family.

52 INT. NOISY RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Samantha is at a table with Arnie, her father. His hand is in a cast. Arnie drinks a beer and Samantha sips a glass of wine.

SAMANTHA
So you've been going to all the meetings?

ARNIE
A bunch of gamblers talking about how much they miss the action.

SAMANTHA
They're your support group. This program works.

Ben comes up to the table.

BEN
Samantha, I thought that was you.

Samantha gives Ben a cold stare.

ARNIE
(to Samantha)
Are you going to introduce me?

SAMANTHA
Dad, this is Ben.

Ben goes to shake Arnie's hand. Realizing Arnie has a cast on, he switches to his left hand. They shake hands.

ARNIE

I never get to meet any of Samantha's boyfriends.

Ben looks at Samantha and smiles.

BEN

Oh really?

SAMANTHA

(to Arnie)

Dad, Ben's just a friend.

ARNIE

You had dinner yet?

BEN

No.

ARNIE

Sit, we were just about to order.

Ben sits.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

She always brings these crazy girlfriends of hers. Politics this and politics that. At the end of the night my head hurts.

BEN

I promise you, that won't happen tonight.

Arnie leans forward and stares straight at Ben.

ARNIE

Let's get a couple of things straight right up front.

(beat)

Yankees or Mets?

BEN

Yankees.

ARNIE

Giants or Jets?

BEN
Giants.

ARNIE
And?

BEN
Come on... The Knicks.
(looks heavenward)
God help us.

ARNIE
Carmelo's gonna lead us to the
promised land.
(to Samantha)
I like this kid.

She has a pained look on her face.

The WAITER comes up to the table.

WAITER
The gentleman at the end of the bar
would like to buy you a around of
drinks.

Arnie looks over to the bar where a MAN, mid 60s, waves to
him.

ARNIE
Frankie Ryan.

SAMANTHA
The mobster?

ARNIE
Don't believe everything you read in
the papers.

Arnie goes over to the bar.

SAMANTHA
(angry)
You followed me here?

BEN
Did I mention that I meet your friends
you meet my friends also includes
family.

SAMANTHA

My father doesn't know I work at the restaurant. So keep your mouth shut.

BEN

Why would you possibly want to keep that a secret?

SAMANTHA

(more angry)

It's none of your business.

BEN

You read all my stuff. You psychoanalyze me. And I can't ask a few questions?

SAMANTHA

Following me around like this is creepy. You're turning into some kind of stalker.

BEN

You sleep on my couch. I hardly need to stalk you.

Arnie returns.

ARNIE

I'm starving. Let's order.

DISSOLVE TO:

53 INT. NOISY RESTAURANT -- LATER

Empty plates on the table. Arnie, slightly drunk, puts his hand on Ben's shoulder and turns to Samantha.

ARNIE

You got a good one here.

SAMANTHA

(sarcastic)

I'm glad you approve.

ARNIE

(to Ben)

Maybe you and me catch a Yankee game...

SAMANTHA

Dad, Ben doesn't--

ARNIE

Hush, girl. This is between me and Ben.

BEN

I'd love to go.

Samantha gives Ben an angry stare.

54 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Samantha and Ben argue as they enter the apartment.

SAMANTHA

How many times do I have to say it?
Stay out of my personal life.

BEN

But I like your father.

SAMANTHA

I know he can be very entertaining.
But he's also completely
irresponsible.

BEN

You're his daughter, not his mother.

SAMANTHA

I've had to be both.
(suddenly choked up)
He's managed to turn my whole life
upside down.

She turns away from Ben, wiping tears away.

BEN

I'm sorry. I'll back off.

She suddenly turns back to Ben and moves close to him.

SAMANTHA

You want to know why I work at that
god forsaken restaurant?

FLASHBACK

55 INT. CARMINE TARTAGLIA'S OFFICE -- EVENING

Samantha timidly enters.

SAMANTHA
You wanted to see me?

CARMINE
Sit.

She sits.

CARMINE (CONT'D)
Coming here to save your old man's
ass... that took guts.

GENO
Paying off his debt by bartending
for a year... must be tough.

CARMINE
Would you like to have it over with
in 30 days?

SAMANTHA
How?

CARMINE
You heard what Ben did?

SAMANTHA
Yeah.

CARMINE
I want to give him something... A
gift.

SAMANTHA
So what do I have to do with this?

CARMINE
He's got a thing for you. I want
you to treat him right.

GENO
Fuck his brains out.

SAMANTHA
(incredulous)
You *can't* be serious.

CARMINE
(forceful)
You're gonna do this for me.

SAMANTHA
There's no way.

CARMINE
(angry)
You little bitch. Get the fuck out.
And tell your old man I want my money
by the end of the week.

SAMANTHA
That's impossible.

BACK TO THE PRESENT

56 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- MOMENTS LAT

Ben is stunned.

BEN
I had no idea.

SAMANTHA
(angry)
Now you know every last goddamn
detail. Are you finally satisfied?

BEN
I...

Samantha goes into the bathroom and slams the door.

57 INT. CARMINE TARTAGLIA'S OFFICE -- EVENING

Vince and Cesare enter. They sit.

CARMINE
Dominic's body was dumped in my
driveway. He was gutted like a
butcher shop carcass.

CESARE
Fuckin' savages.

CARMINE
We gotta retaliate.

CESARE
If this keeps escalating, we lose.
We have no choice but to cut him in.

VINCE

We can all make out. He feeds us the Wall Street assholes who are strung out on his dope. Then we put the squeeze on them.

CARMINE

No way I do business with that scumbag.

Vince and Cesare exchange a disappointed glance.

58 INT. JENNIFER'S DREAM OFFICE -- DAY

Impressive entrance area. Jennifer's Dream is in huge letters behind the receptionist's desk. Framed pictures of beautiful models in bras are all over the walls. Ben walks up to the secretary.

BEN

I'm here to see Shaun Conroy.

RECEPTIONIST

I'll get him for you.

Ben walks around and looks at the pictures. Shaun comes out.

SHAUN

Come on in. Check out my office.

59 INT. SHAUN'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Impressive office. Big sheets of paper stuck to all the walls. Several diagrams of breasts with arrows drawn on them. Mathematical equations everywhere.

SHAUN

You like?

Ben nods his approval. He looks at the equations.

BEN

What's all this?

SHAUN

It's a hard problem. It's like trying to build a suspension bridge that's only anchored on one side. All other bras just push up. My plan is to push out first then up.

(MORE)

SHAUN (CONT'D)
 (completely obsessed)
 The problem is right here.

Shaun points to a term in one of the equations.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
 This is the amount of raw material.
 I can only solve the equation for a
 C cup and above.
 (frustrated)
 This is maddening.

BEN
 You've gone completely nuts.

SHAUN
 I know, I know. But enough about
 me.
 (eager)
 I want all the details about you and
 your little sex slave.

BEN
 That's gotten complicated.

SHAUN
 How could it possibly get complicated?

60 INT. COURT HOUSE -- MORNING

Maria and Miguel sit on the bench outside the court room.
 Erica and Samantha stand next to them.

ERICA
 The court order means he can't go
 near either of you.

Maria nods. Her husband, TITO POSADA, a mid twenties Latino,
 comes down the hall toward them. Tito is heavily tattooed
 and scary.

TITO
 You put this shit in Maria's head.

ERICA
 (to Samantha)
 Find a guard.

Samantha runs down the hall.

ERICA (CONT'D)
Get away from us.

Maria sobs and holds Miguel tightly.

TITO
(threatening)
No one keeps me away from my family.

ERICA
You're pathetic. Does beating up
your wife and kid make you feel like
a big man?

TITO
You fuckin' bitch.

As Tito lunges at Erica, two Guards grab him. They drag him
away.

TITO (CONT'D)
You're gonna pay for this.

Samantha hugs Maria and Miguel as Erica watches the Guards
take Tito away.

61 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Ben slices and dices. Pans on the stove. Intense cooking
activity. Ben opens the oven and takes out a tray of lasagna.

Samantha works on the computer at the desk.

BEN
Dinner's ready.

Samantha gets up and sits at the table. Ben pours the wine.

Silent moment.

BEN (CONT'D)
I'm really sorry if I made things
harder.

SAMANTHA
You're good at that.

BEN
You should'a just told me everything
right up front.

SAMANTHA

Do you have any idea how embarrassing it is to have to bail your own father out of his gambling debts? I didn't need your pity.

BEN

Fine. How about we just call a truce?

SAMANTHA

(beat)
Whatever.

BEN

But for the record. What you're doing for your father is incredible.

He hands her a plate of lasagna.

BEN (CONT'D)

Meatless.

He smiles. She doesn't. She tastes the lasagna.

BEN (CONT'D)

Well?

SAMANTHA

(begrudgingly)
Good... Really good.

They each sip their wine.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Is cooking one of your mob rituals?

BEN

(laughs)
My mother taught me to cook. My father died when I was 14. My mom worked. So a lot of nights I'd do the cooking.

SAMANTHA

Taught you well.

Ben smiles and sips his wine.

BEN

Tomorrow we're getting up early. There's this thing I do on Saturdays.

SAMANTHA

What?

BEN

You'll see. Just wear old clothes.

Silent moment as they both eat.

BEN (CONT'D)

Did I mention that I have a rule?

SAMANTHA

What?

BEN

When I cook, you clean.

Samantha looks over at the stove. Pans and utensils everywhere.

62 EXT. HOUSE IN HARLEM -- MORNING

Ben and Samantha walk up to a rundown house. Building supplies stacked up everywhere. Hammers BANG. Workers move around. She looks at him, not understanding.

BEN

Rehabbing inner city homes. Some of us in the econ department started it last year. We all drag our friends here to help.

Shaun walks by carrying some boards.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hey, Shaun.

Shaun goes over to them.

BEN (CONT'D)

This is Samantha.

Shaun and Samantha shake hands.

SHAUN

Your hand's not as cold as I thought it would be.

Samantha gives Ben a dirty look.

SAMANTHA

So you're the bra guy?

SHAUN

I prefer brassiere architect. I provide the illusion of voluptuousness.

SAMANTHA

You mean you objectify women. Half the women in our clinic are trying to be something they can never be. All because companies like yours market this Barbie Doll image of a woman.

SHAUN

Whoa, judgmental right out of the gate.

SAMANTHA

Just stating a fact.

Shaun turns to Ben and puts his hands on his shoulder.

SHAUN

Run. Run as fast as you can and don't look back.

BEN

Okay, now that you two have hit it off, how about we get started?

Ben picks up a paint brush and hands it to Samantha.

BEN (CONT'D)

You're painting today.

63 INT. HOUSE IN HARLEM -- LATER

Window frame painted. Ben inspects as Samantha watches. Ben nods his approval.

BEN

Nice work. But you only did two windows all day.

SAMANTHA

Only?

BEN

Should'a been more like eight.

SAMANTHA

You're seriously complaining about
how fast I work?

BEN

Forget I mentioned it. Dinner?

SAMANTHA

I need to stop by the clinic first.

(beat)

What you're doing here... It's good.

64 INT. SOUTH SIDE BATTERED WOMAN'S CLINIC -- LATER

Ben, Shaun and Samantha walk through the hall.

SAMANTHA

(shouts)

Erica.

ERICA (O.S.)

Back here.

Ben and Samantha go into an area under construction and walk
up to Erica.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Fredrick Van Helling dropped dead of
a heart attack.

SAMANTHA

No.

(to Ben)

This addition would give us space to
have women and their children stay
overnight. Van Helling was the
anonymous donor who was funding it.

ERICA

Without him, the project's dead.

Ben looks around.

BEN

We can do all the finishing work.
We work for free.

ERICA

You will?

(beat)

I'm sorry... Who are the two of
you?

SAMANTHA

This is Ben and Shaun.

Ben and Shaun shake hands with Erica.

In his slightly sweaty tee-shirt and jeans, Ben looks hot.

BEN

I'm serious.

ERICA

There may also be some structural issues.

As he talks, Shaun glances at his iPhone and scrolls with his thumb.

SHAUN

I can help with that. I'm a structural engineer.

Erica grabs the iPhone out of his hand.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Give that back.

ERICA

You're supposed to look at people when you talk to them.

SHAUN

My, my, aren't we touchy.

ERICA

You get your electronic pacifier back, after you check out the structure of this place.

SHAUN

So you got a little dominatrix thing going. Kind of a turn on.

ERICA

(to Samantha)

Is he for real?

SAMANTHA

Afraid so.

Shaun climbs up a ladder into the rafters.

ERICA

Even if you guys work for free, we still have to raise some serious cash.

Shaun walks over their heads on the rafters. Dust falls on them. They run into the hall.

SAMANTHA

(to Erica)

Do you have the child abuse report?

ERICA

It's in my office.

BEN

Mind if I use the rest room?

ERICA

Down the hall.

Ben goes down the hall. They go into Erica's office.

65 INT. ERICA'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Erica and Samantha stand next to Erica's desk with their backs to the door.

ERICA

That's the mousy waiter?

SAMANTHA

Yup.

ERICA

You gotta be kidding me. He's hot.
(smiles)
Still sleeping on the couch?

SAMANTHA

Don't be ridiculous.

ERICA

Come on, there's no way you're not thinking about it.

SAMANTHA

Maybe.

Standing in the doorway, Ben clears his throat. Startled, Samantha and Erica turn toward him.

BEN
Door's locked.

ERICA
Oh, sorry.

Erica reaches in her desk drawer and hands Ben a key.

Ben looks at Samantha and smiles.

BEN
Mousy?

66 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Empty restaurant. Ben sets the tables for the next day. Geno sits at the bar sipping a beer. Carmine comes up to Ben and puts his arm on his shoulder.

CARMINE
So how's my gift working out?

BEN
Prima classe.

Carmine laughs.

CARMINE
She better be giving you some first class ass.

Carmine slaps Ben on the back and goes into his office. Ben resumes setting tables.

BANGING on the door.

Geno gets up and opens the door. Jordan, dressed in a suit and tie, pushes his way in.

JORDAN
(agitated)
Where's Carmine?

GENO
Slow down, pal. Who wants to see him.

JORDAN
Tell him Jordan Baines is here.

Ben looks up with a puzzled look.

67 INT. CARMINE TARTAGLIA'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER

Carmine grabs Jordan by the lapels of his suit and slams him against the wall.

CARMINE
Are you fuckin' crazy coming here?

JORDAN
Ken has disappeared.

Carmine lets go of Jordan and steps back.

CARMINE
And you're surprised? He owed
millions to Russians.

JORDAN
His gambling was always a problem.
(dumbfounded)
But millions?

CARMINE
Screw those crazy bastards and you're
as good as dead.

JORDAN
So what are we going to do?

CARMINE
Nothing. It's his problem not ours.

68 INT. BEN'S BATHROOM -- MORNING

Samantha stands at the medicine cabinet mirror drying her hair.

Wearing a bathrobe, Ben leans into the open door.

BEN
How much longer?

SAMANTHA
A while.

BEN
Come on, I'm going to be late.

SAMANTHA
This is the only mirror.

Ben enters.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

BEN
Taking a shower.

He pulls the shower curtain back and turns on the shower.
She turns toward him.

BEN (CONT'D)
(grins)
Don't look.

Samantha turns back to the mirror and resumes drying her hair. As Ben takes off his bathrobe and steps into the shower, she adjusts the mirror slightly and watches.

SAMANTHA
(shouts)
The mirror is steaming up.

BEN (O.S.)
Tough. Next time get up earlier.

Losing the battle with the steam, Samantha shuts off the hair dryer. Ben sticks his head out from behind the shower curtain.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey, I got some personal stuff to take care of today, so you're on your own.

69 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Ben grabs his car keys and goes to the door. Samantha stands at the door.

SAMANTHA
Personal stuff?

BEN
Yeah.

SAMANTHA
Like what?

BEN
I'm just having lunch with my mother.

SAMANTHA
And you don't want me to meet her?

BEN

It's not that. It's just...

SAMANTHA

I thought that I meet your friends
you meet my friends includes family?

BEN

(beat)

Alright. But remember, this was
your idea.

70 EXT. BEN'S MOTHER'S HOUSE -- AFTERNOON

Small house in Long Island. Ben and Samantha are at the
door.

Ben's mother, ROSA, greets them at the door. Rosa, mid 50s,
is an outgoing, very opinionated woman.

71 INT. BEN'S MOTHER'S HOUSE -- MOMENTS LATER

Ben and Samantha enter.

BEN

Ma, this is Samantha Casey.

SAMANTHA

Nice to meet you.

Rosa and Samantha shake hands.

ROSA

(to Ben)

You didn't tell me you were bringing
a friend.

SAMANTHA

Must have slipped his mind.

ROSA

Casey. That's Irish?

SAMANTHA

Yes.

ROSA

You still go to church?

SAMANTHA

Uh... At Christmas...

ROSA
So there'd be no problem with a big
church wedding?

BEN
Ma, enough.

ROSA
(to Ben)
This isn't one of your break up meals?

SAMANTHA
Break up meals?

ROSA
Ben would break up with a girl by
having her over. After a few hours
with me, he never saw her again.

BEN
That's not true--

ROSA
(interrupting)
Let's eat.

72 INT. BEN'S MOTHER'S HOUSE -- LATER

Ben sits in a chair watching TV. Samantha enters from the
kitchen. She stops and picks up a photograph from the mantle.

CLOSE-UP of the photograph: Circa 1980. Six guys in their
early 20s.

SAMANTHA
Who's this?

BEN
(pointing)
That's my father in the middle with
his cousins. Do you recognize Sal
here on the end?

SAMANTHA
No. Should I?

BEN
Sal Testa sound familiar?

SAMANTHA
The Wall Street guy on TV?

BEN

Right.

SAMANTHA

What about the others?

BEN

(pointing)

Freddy and Tony are cops. Angelo owns some strip clubs. Vic just got out of jail for running a book.

SAMANTHA

A book?

BEN

Sports book. Gambling.

SAMANTHA

Ah...

BEN

I was just with all of them a few weeks ago.

SAMANTHA

They all still get together?

BEN

Sure. Family's family.

Rosa enters from the kitchen.

ROSA

(to Ben)

It was so nice of Samantha to help me with the dishes.

SAMANTHA

We had a nice talk.

BEN

I'm afraid to ask.

Rosa takes the photograph from Samantha.

ROSA

It's hard to believe that your father's been dead for 10 years.

She hands the photograph to Ben. He stares at it for along silent moment and then puts it back on the mantle.

ROSA (CONT'D)

You two get going. I've gotta go to Anna Rosselli's mother's wake.

Rosa hugs Samantha and Ben.

SAMANTHA

Lunch was wonderful.

BEN

Wait, I thought you and Mrs. Rosselli weren't speaking?

ROSA

We haven't spoken in years. But she came to your father's wake.

BEN

My mother has a list of everyone who came to my father's wake. First thing every morning, she checks the obituaries.

ROSA

What would people say if I didn't show the same respect?

73 INT. BEN'S CAR -- LATER

Ben and Samantha are in the car. Ben drives.

SAMANTHA

How'd your father die?

BEN

He worked on the docks. He was caught on a surveillance camera witnessing a mob payoff.

SAMANTHA

He was in the mob?

BEN

No. Nothing like that. Wrong place, wrong time. He wouldn't testify so the judge threw him in jail. The first night inside he had a heart attack.

SAMANTHA

Oh my God.

Long silence.

BEN

After my father died, the mob kind of looked out for us. They took care of the mortgage. When my mother's car got stolen, they had it back in a few days.

(pause)

My thesis didn't start out that way, but I ended up trying to prove that the good they did offset the bad.

SAMANTHA

It doesn't work that way.

BEN

(sighs)

I realize that now. But it puts my thesis at kind of a dead end.

SAMANTHA

Maybe you were trying to rationalize what your father did.

BEN

No more psycho-babble. Okay?

SAMANTHA

(sympathetic)

Okay.

(pause)

All that must have been horribly difficult for you.

Samantha reaches over and touches Ben's hand. He glances up at her.

74 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- MORNING

Papers spread all over. Ben works feverishly on his computer.

Samantha comes out of the bathroom, dressed for work.

SAMANTHA

What are you doing?

BEN

A few days ago Jordan Baines met with Carmine.

SAMANTHA

Who's Jordan Baines?

BEN

Big hedge fund guy. The two of them meeting makes no sense, so I've been doing some digging.

(totally engrossed)

I found three big stock bets by Baines that are hard to understand...

(pause)

...Unless he knew something no one else knew.

SAMANTHA

Isn't that illegal?

BEN

Illegal but incredibly lucrative.

SAMANTHA

Not to doubt your genius, but if you could figure that out, why couldn't the SEC?

BEN

I don't know. But who'd be better than the mob at using extortion and blackmail to get confidential information?

SAMANTHA

Madoff, Enron, Worldcom. Wall Street is already totally corrupt.

BEN

That was just about cooking the books. Imagine what would happen if you added extortion and blackmail to insatiable greed.

SAMANTHA

You looked the other way when it came to prostitution, loan sharking and all their other illegal activities. But when the Mob tampers with your precious capitalism, you get all bent out of shape.

BEN

They could undermine the whole market.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)
(ponders)
Maybe this is where I should go with
my thesis.

Deep in thought, Ben sits back in his chair.

75 INT. BAR -- EVENING

Shaun is at the bar talking to a busty BLOND wearing a low
cut top.

Samantha, Ben and Erica enter and sit in a booth in the corner
of the bar.

Shaun hugs the Blond and goes over to the booth.

ERICA
Why didn't you invite your little
friend to join us?

SHAUN
Condescending *and* judgmental.

ERICA
Just asking.

SHAUN
She's a dancer friend of mine.

ERICA
Really? Ballet? Jazz?

SHAUN
Uh... More on the exotic side.

ERICA
A stripper?

SHAUN
Aspiring.

SAMANTHA
How do you aspire to become a
stripper?

SHAUN
Gotta overcome your inhibitions.

ERICA
And I suppose you're helping with
that?

SHAUN

It's part of my humanitarian work.

They all laugh.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Enough about me. What about what Ben's uncovered?

SAMANTHA

He's gotta tell someone.

BEN

I've got no real proof so there's nothing to tell.

SHAUN

Besides, if he named names, he could wind up at the bottom of the East River.

ERICA

Well, the mob fits right in with Wall Street. Behind all that fancy sounding financial bullshit, the banks are just bookies running a rigged game.

SHAUN

My head hurts talking about this stuff. We need a round of martinis.

76 EXT. STREET -- LATER

Samantha and Ben walk along crowded sidewalks lined with small stores.

BEN

Shaun and Erica seemed to be really hitting it off.

SAMANTHA

As strange as that seems, they are.

BEN

I can't believe he talked you two into it.

SAMANTHA

Why? We'll get free clothes.

BEN
Testing his new bra line? I just
can't see you doing that.

SAMANTHA
Maybe you don't know me as well as
you think.

Samantha stops in front of a tattoo parlor.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Come on.

77 INT. TATTOO PARLOR -- EVENING

Drawings of tattoos cover the walls. A female TATTOO ARTIST,
late 20s, sits behind the counter. She wears a black leather
vest. Her arms are covered with tattoos.

Samantha and Ben enter.

BEN
What are we doing here?

SAMANTHA
I'm going to get another tattoo.

BEN
Now?

SAMANTHA
Why not?

Samantha goes up to the counter and starts flipping through
a big notebook with pictures of tattoos.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
(to Tattoo Artist)
Got any angels?

The Tattoo Artist grabs another big book and flips it open.

TATTOO ARTIST
Take a look at these.

Samantha slowly flips the pages and studies the pictures.

SAMANTHA
This one. That's perfect.

Ben leans over and looks.

BEN
You're serious?

SAMANTHA
I think I'll put it right here.

She points to the side of her buttock.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Why don't you have any tattoos?

BEN
Just never got around to it.

SAMANTHA
You're so uptight.

BEN
(defensive)
I'm not uptight.

SAMANTHA
Bullshit.

She grabs his arm and pulls him toward the back of the tattoo parlor.

JESSICA
You can watch.

Tattoo needles BUZZ in the background.

78 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Samantha and Ben enter.

Ben looks at his upper shoulder.

BEN
I can't believe I got a tattoo.

A tattoo of yin-yang symbol is on his shoulder.

SAMANTHA
Yeah, a yin-yang symbol is a real radical statement.

BEN
What's gotten into you?

She moves close to him.

SAMANTHA
You don't like it?

BEN
It'll just take some getting used
to.

With one hand, she pushes against his chest moving him toward
the bedroom.

SAMANTHA
I always hold up my end of a deal.

Palpable sexual tension.

79 INT. BEN'S BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Samantha pushes Ben onto the bed. Lying on his back, he
rests on his elbows.

BEN
(smiles)
That include deals with Carmine?

SAMANTHA
A deal is a deal.

BEN
I didn't think I was your type.

SAMANTHA
You will be when I'm done with you.

BEN
What?

SAMANTHA
Just kidding.
(pause)
Sort of.

As Ben watches, Samantha unbuttons her blouse. She throws
the blouse on the floor. Wearing a sexy black bra, she moves
next to the bed.

BEN
Shaun got it wrong.

SAMANTHA
How so?

She pushes him down and gets on top of him.

BEN

Instead of just testing his new line,
he should'a asked you to be one of
the models.

She kisses him.

SAMANTHA

Good answer.

They kiss passionately. They make love.

80 INT. BEN'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Ben sleeps in the bed. Samantha, fully dressed, enters and
sits on the edge of the bed.

SAMANTHA

Hey, wake up. It's almost noon.

Ben wakes up and tries to pull her back in bed.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Stop. I've gotta get to the clinic.

Samantha gets up. Ben holds one of her hands.

BEN

Last night...

SAMANTHA

(smiles)

How much of my father's 50,000 did I
pay off?

BEN

Hmm... 10,000.

Samantha starts to walk away.

SAMANTHA

(smiling)

Only four more to go.

BEN

Wait. I meant 1,000.

81 INT. MARIA'S BEDROOM -- EVENING

Maria lies in bed whimpering as she pulls the sheet up to
her chin. Tito stands at the foot of the bed zipping his
fly.

TITO

You don't tell nobody about this.

He moves close to her and yanks her head back by her hair.

TITO (CONT'D)

You understand?

Maria spits in his face.

TITO (CONT'D)

You fuckin' bitch.

He slaps her. She wildly throws punches. He grabs her by the neck and slams the back of her head on the nightstand. Two, three times. She goes limp. Blood oozes from the corner of her mouth.

He grabs his shirt and rushes out.

82 INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -- EVENING

Samantha sits behind her desk. Erica paces.

SAMANTHA

(upset)

I can't believe she's dead.

ERICA

That animal she married did it.

SAMANTHA

Unless the cops can prove that, he'll get custody of his son.

ERICA

I already have a court order. He'll never see him again.

SAMANTHA

I hope you're right.

ERICA

I'm leaving. You coming?

SAMANTHA

I've gotta finish this up. I'll lock up.

DISSOLVE TO:

83 INT. SAMANTHA'S OFFICE -- LATER

Samantha works at her desk. She looks up to see Tito standing in the doorway.

TITO

Where's the one with the big mouth?

Samantha grabs for the phone. Tito yanks the cord out of the wall.

Samantha tries to run. Tito pins her against the wall.

TITO (CONT'D)

Make it so I can see my son.

SAMANTHA

There's nothing I can do.

Tito takes out a switchblade and holds it to Samantha's neck.

TITO

Find a way.

Tito runs his other hand over Samantha's breast.

TITO (CONT'D)

Find a way. Or I come back to finish this.

Tito takes the knife away. He closes the blade and suddenly slaps her across the face. He leaves.

Samantha stands in defiant silence. She grabs a paperweight from her desk and smashes it against the door.

84 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Samantha is on the phone.

SAMANTHA

(upset)

They're lying.

(beat)

No, I don't understand.

(beat)

Yes, I have your number.

She slams the phone down.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

He's got witnesses who claim they were with him.

ERICA

The cops are useless. I've seen it too many times. This kind of thing never ends good.

SAMANTHA

I'll get a gun. If he comes near me, I'll kill him.

BEN

You're talking crazy.
(beat)
What's his name?

SAMANTHA

Why?

BEN

(to Erica)
Name?

ERICA

Tito Posada. From Fourteenth Avenue in Brooklyn.

SAMANTHA

What are you going to do?

BEN

I'm gonna talk to Geno. This Tito needs to be sent a message.

SAMANTHA

You're serious?

BEN

You got a better idea?

85 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- LATER

Ben and Geno sit at a table in the corner.

GENO

A few weeks in the hospital. He'll get the message.

They get up. Geno puts his arm on Ben's shoulder.

GENO (CONT'D)
If Carmine gives the okay. It's
done.

Ben smiles weakly.

Geno goes behind the bar and takes out a short wooden club. With one hand he smacks the club into the palm of his other hand.

GENO (CONT'D)
This is real good for giving messages.

Geno hands the club to Ben. He stares with his eye riveted on the club.

Ben lays the club on the bar.

BEN
(unsure)
I need more time to think about this.

GENO
What's to think about?

BEN
I just need more time. Okay?

GENO
Whatever you want.

Ben leaves.

86 EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

As Ben walks up to his apartment a black SUV pulls up. Two black THUGS jump out and grab Ben, forcing him into the SUV.

87 INT. BACK ROOM OFFICE -- LATER

Doctor G sits at a desk with a cup of coffee. Ben is pushed into the room by the two black Thugs.

DOCTOR G
I hear you're pretty good with a cup
of coffee.

BEN
What's this about?

Doctor G gets up and walks toward Ben.

DOCTOR G
Who did Carmine have kill Tyrel?

BEN
How would I know?

Suddenly Doctor G throws the coffee in Ben's face and pushes him against the wall.

DOCTOR G
Don't fuck with me, white boy.

Doctor G holds out his hand and snaps his finger. One of the black Thugs hands him a photograph.

CLOSE-UP of the photograph: Samantha leaving the apartment.

DOCTOR G (CONT'D)
Very nice.

Doctor G crumbles up the photograph and throws it on the floor.

DOCTOR G (CONT'D)
Tell me.

BEN
I don't know.

DOCTOR G
(to one the Thugs)
Do her.

BEN
No. Stop.
(beat)
Carmine used a Puerto Rican guy...
He comes to the restaurant
sometimes... I heard 'em talking
about it.

DOCTOR G
You got a name?

BEN
Tito Posada.

88 EXT. STREET IN BROOKLYN -- CONTINUOUS

Tito pulls up in his car with the windows down. The street is empty. A black THUG comes up to the car.

THUG
You Tito?

TITO
Who's asking?

THUG
Tyrel wanted me to give you this.

TITO
Who the fuck is--

Vashaun pulls out a gun and shoots Tito in the forehead.

89 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- MORNING

Samantha and Ben sit on the couch. Ben sits with his head resting on the back of the couch staring at the ceiling. Samantha stares at a newspaper.

SAMANTHA
We had a man executed.

BEN
What choice was there?

SAMANTHA
We've become no different than them.

BEN
I made the choice, not you.

SAMANTHA
When I didn't stop you from going to
Geno, I made the choice too.
(pause)
I can't believe I was actually talking
about getting a gun.

BEN
That was to protect yourself.

SAMANTHA
No. It was choosing to be part of
their violent world.

KNOCK at the door. Ben gets up and lets Erica in.

ERICA
That monster got what he deserved.

SAMANTHA

And we were judge and jury.

Erica hands Samantha a piece of paper.

ERICA

The first DNA sample ever taken from
Tito was the one the coroner took.

(beat)

He raped Maria before he killed her.
His DNA matched three other rapes.

SAMANTHA

That doesn't change anything.

ERICA

Without hesitation. Without regrets.
I would have done the same thing.

SAMANTHA

I guess I'm just different.

ERICA

Keep telling yourself that.

Samantha stares out the window, wiping away tears.

SAMANTHA

I don't know what I feel.

She goes over to Ben.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I'm going to stay with Erica for a
few days.

Samantha and Erica leave. Ben buries his face in his hands.

90 EXT. PAWN SHOP -- EVENING

Brick building in Brooklyn. Sign on building reads "Profaci
Pawn Shop".

91 INT. PAWN SHOP -- EVENING

Merchandise everywhere. Vince and Cesare sit near a desk in
the corner.

Doctor G stands with two of his MEN.

DOCTOR G
(to his Men)
Wait outside.

Doctor G's men leave.

Doctor G looks at a Samurai sword mounted on the wall. He takes it down and pulls the blade out of its sleeve.

CESARE
It's 1000 years old. Belonged to
some emperor.

DOCTOR G
A true warrior's weapon.

CESARE
It's yours. A peace offering.

Doctor G moves close to Vince and Cesare.

DOCTOR G
I accept. It shows respect among
brothers. No?

CESARE
Yeah. Whatever you want. Now, what's
it gonna take to end this war?

DOCTOR G
Ten percent. Twenty if the
information comes from my sources.

CESARE
We can live with that.

DOCTOR G
Carmine had my nephew, Tyrel, killed.

VINCE
What's done is done.

DOCTOR G
Without vengeance, Tyrel's soul is
trapped in limbo.

Vince and Cesare look at each other.

VINCE
Cut the voodoo zombie shit.

DOCTOR G
All I ask is his killer's blood.

CESARE
Carmine will never agree to it.

DOCTOR G
(ominous)
Well then, we all lose.

92 INT. BAR -- EVENING

Ben and Shaun sit at the bar sipping beers.

BEN
We've hardly talked the past two days.

SHAUN
You can't change what happened. The two of you just have to move on.

BEN
Easy for you to say.

Erica and Samantha come over to them.

SHAUN
This broad is staking me. Every time I turn around she's there.

ERICA
You're an idiot.

SHAUN
Not as much as these two. See that booth over there?
(points to a booth)
I reserved it. Go over there and work it out.

Samantha and Ben hesitate.

SHAUN (CONT'D)
Come on. You're screwing up my plan to get Erica drunk.

ERICA
Go.

Ben and Samantha go over to the booth and sit across from each other. Samantha wipes tears from her cheeks.

SAMANTHA

I was blaming you for what I was feeling.

(pause)

I just couldn't admit to myself that I wanted Tito to get exactly what he got.

BEN

If I had to, I'd do it again.

SAMANTHA

For some reason, I kept thinking of that scene in the *Godfather* with the undertaker.

BEN

Buonasera. He wanted the Godfather to give him justice for the rape of his daughter.

SAMANTHA

Justice. Vengeance. Call it whatever. I wanted it.

(pause)

What have we become?

Samantha reaches across the table and takes Ben's hands.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I just want all this to be over.

Ben kisses her hands. They stare into each others eyes.

MONTAGE:

Ben waits on a table at the restaurant.

Samantha reads to a group of children.

Ben and Samantha paint the house being rehabbed.

Ben takes notes as he talks to two old men playing chess in a park.

Samantha cooks at the stove. Ben takes a taste and nods with approval.

END MONTAGE

93 INT. PROFESSOR THOMPSON'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Ben and Professor Thompson are in the office. Thompson pages through a copy of Ben's thesis.

THOMPSON

The whole idea of the mob running an underground market that sells confidential information to the highest bidding hedge fund is incredibly disturbing.

BEN

The mob's business model is to traffic in whatever illegal commodity is in demand. Insider information is just the next hot commodity.

THOMPSON

(holds up Ben's thesis)

This is a vast improvement over your first draft.

Professor Thompson hands Ben his thesis.

THOMPSON (CONT'D)

After you address my comments in the margins, I'll send it on to the full committee.

Ben put his thesis in his knapsack.

94 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- MORNING

Empty restaurant. Ben and other WAITERS set the tables.

FBI agent TOM BARNETT and four other agents in suits enter the restaurant.

HEAD WAITER

Sorry we're not open yet.

Barnett hands the Head Waiter some papers.

BARNETT

Search warrant.

(to the other agents)

Everything.

Agents fan out. The Head Waiter runs to the back room. Geno comes out.

GENO
God bless America.

BARNETT
Glad you feel that way. Got some
questions for you.

GENO
Isn't this a great country? I don't
gotta answer any of your fuckin'
questions.

One of the agents comes back with Ben's knapsack. He pulls
out Ben's thesis.

BEN
(nervous)
That's mine.

95 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Samantha sits on the couch as Ben paces.

SAMANTHA
They had no right to take your thesis.
I'm gonna call my friend at the ACLU.

BEN
Maybe we're worrying about nothing.

Knocking at the door. Ben opens the door. Barnett and three
other AGENTS.

Barnett hands Ben a piece of paper.

BARNETT
Search warrant.

96 INT. POLICE STATION INTERROGATION ROOM -- MORNING

Barnett and LIZ MURPHY, late 30s, dressed in a business suit,
sit across from Ben.

BARNETT
This is Liz Murphy from the SEC.

Barnett slides Ben's thesis across the table.

MURPHY
Your thesis has some fascinating
stuff. Made us wonder what else you
knew.

Murphy reaches down into her briefcase and takes out Ben's notebook.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

We've been investigating suspicious trades by Jordan Baines' hedge fund. Page 82 in your notebook mentions a meeting between Baines and Carmine Tartaglia. Page 98 speculates about Tartaglia extorting insider information and feeding it to Baines.

BEN

Just notes for a novel I'm planning to write.

BARNETT

Don't bullshit us.

MURPHY

This gives us the missing link. We need you to testify that you witnessed this meeting.

BEN

I'm not saying anything more.

BARNETT

Don't make the same mistake your old man did.

BEN

(angry)

My father did what he had to do to protect his family.

Murphy hands Ben a folded paper.

MURPHY

That's a subpoena to appear before a grand jury.

Ben stares at the subpoena.

BEN

When?

BARNETT

Two weeks.

97 INT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

BANGING on the door. Ben opens the door. Carmine and Geno push their way in.

CARMINE
You talk to the Feds?

BEN
How did you--

Carmine pushes Ben against the wall. Geno grabs Samantha by the arm.

CARMINE
What did they ask about?

BEN
Wall Street connections.

Carmine grabs Ben by the throat.

CARMINE
What did you tell 'em?

BEN
(difficulty talking)
Nothing. I don't know anything.

Carmine tightens his grip on Ben's throat. Samantha struggles.

CARMINE
You know I met with Jordan Baines.

SAMANTHA
Let go of me.

She breaks free. She rushes over to Carmine and punches him.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)
Let go of him.

CARMINE
You little bitch.

Carmine lets go of Ben and punches Samantha in the face.

She falls to the floor. Dazed with lip bleeding, she struggles to get back up.

Ben tries to help her but Carmine pushes him back against the wall.

BEN
I saved your life.

CARMINE
The score is even. I owe you nothing.
(to Geno)
Take the fuckin' little bitch. Her
old man's still owes me 50,000.

Carmine pulls Ben away from the wall and smashes him back against the wall. He takes out a knife and flips it open.

Geno picks Samantha up by her blouse. Carmine goes over to Samantha and presses the blade under her chin.

CARMINE (CONT'D)
You say one word and you won't be
able to recognize her.

He presses the blade into her chin so that blood drips down the blade. Samantha whimpers.

Carmine and Geno leave, dragging Samantha with them.

Ben stands in stunned disbelief.

98 INT. STRIP CLUB -- EVENING

Typical strip club. Pole dancers. Loud music. Ben enters and steps up to the BARTENDER.

BEN
Is Angelo here?

BARTENDER
Who's asking?

BEN
I'm his nephew, Ben.

The Bartender picks up a phone from under the bar.

BARTENDER
(on phone)
Hey, Ange. There's a kid out here
who says he's your nephew.

ANGELO, mid 50s, heavy set, comes out from a back room.

ANGELO
 (shouts)
Ben.

Angelo gives Ben a big hug.

 ANGELO (CONT'D)
How you doin'?

 BEN
Okay.

 ANGELO
Your mother?

 BEN
She's doing great.
 (beat)
Can we talk?

AMBER, a mid 20s stripper, comes over to Angelo and Ben.

 AMBER
Ange. Who's this?

 ANGELO
My nephew Ben.

Amber seductively runs her hand on Ben's chest.

 AMBER
Hi Ben. How about a little lap dance?

 BEN
 (uncomfortable)
Uh... No thanks.

 ANGELO
 (abrupt)
Get your ass back to work.

99 INT. BACK ROOM OF STRIP CLUB -- MOMENTS LATER

Angelo sits at his desk. Ben sits in front of the desk.

 ANGELO
You stick to the story that it's all
made up shit. You hear me?

 BEN
What if the Feds had what they need
to put Carmine away?

ANGELO

In jail. Out of jail. It makes no fuckin' difference. You testify and you're both as good as dead.

BEN

So there's no way out?

ANGELO

Not as long as Carmine's alive.

100 EXT. BEN'S APARTMENT -- LATER

As Ben unlocks his apartment door, Barnett comes up to him and hands him an envelope.

BARNETT

That gives you full immunity from prosecution.

BEN

I didn't do anything. Why would I need immunity?

BARNETT

With immunity you can't incriminate yourself. So you can't plead the fifth.

BEN

So it's testify or jail?

BARNETT

We'll give you protection.

BEN

(sarcastic)
Right.

101 INT. LILLY'S APARTMENT -- DAY

Lilly and Ben talk.

LILLY

I want to help but I can't think of anything.

BEN

Any secret. Any weakness. Anything Carmine doesn't want known.

LILLY

There is one thing. Carmine's paranoid about being double crossed by the other bosses. He keeps incriminating information on them.

BEN

Any idea where?

LILLY

I have no clue.

BEN

Where would Bruno have hidden it?

LILLY

He had an office with a safe in a garage down by the docks. Him and Carmine kept stashes of cash there.

102 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Samantha, with a fat lip, works behind the bar. Geno sits in the corner watching her. Uncomfortable, Samantha tries to avoid eye contact with him.

103 EXT. SUBWAY PLATFORM -- EVENING

Samantha looks around the platform. She get on the subway. At the last second before the doors close, she gets off. She goes across the platform and gets on the next subway.

104 INT. HOTEL LOBBY -- LATER

Samantha rushes across the hotel lobby. She gets in the elevator.

105 INT. HOTEL ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Ben lets Samantha in and hugs her.

BEN

Any chance you were followed?

SAMANTHA

I was real careful.

Ben gently touches her fat lip.

BEN

Oh my God.

SAMANTHA

What are you going to do about the grand jury?

BEN

It's absurd. But it's like I'm reliving my father's life.

A knock at the door. Ben gets up and opens the door. Arnie enters.

SAMANTHA

Dad? What are you doing here?

ARNIE

Ben's got a plan.

BEN

Carmine keeps incriminating evidence on the other bosses. Lilly is pretty sure it's locked up in a safe down by the docks. We're going to steal the safe and get the other bosses to open it.

SAMANTHA

How? You can't tell them what's in it without implicating Lilly.

BEN

Arnie is going to introduce me to Cesare Profaci. I'm going to say I won it in a card game. I'll offer Profaci half of what's in it if he can get it open.

SAMANTHA

You can't be serious.

106 INT. STRIP CLUB -- NIGHT

Ben, Samantha and Arnie enter.

BEN

In the back.

As they go toward the back room, Amber walks by.

AMBER

Hi Ben.

Samantha watches Amber walk away. She turns to Ben.

SAMANTHA

Hi Ben?

107 INT. BACK ROOM OF STRIP CLUB -- MOMENTS LATER

Angelo sits back in his desk chair.

BEN

Can it work?

Pondering, Angelo rocks in the chair.

ANGELO

Profaci won't pass up a chance to make an easy buck.

(beat)

But he's going to want to know who you got the safe from.

BEN

Any ideas?

ANGELO

Could say it was Rickie Austin. Two weeks ago he turned up dead with a bullet to the back of his head.

ARNIE

Rickie had a big time gambling problem.

ANGELO

Profaci will figure Rickie got whacked because Carmine found out he stole the safe.

SAMANTHA

It's too dangerous.

ANGELO

It's totally insane. But it's got a shot at getting you two out of this mess.

108 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- EVENING

The restaurant is closed. Samantha cleans up the bar. Carmine comes up from behind her and grabs her by the hair.

CARMINE

You play games in the subway?

SAMANTHA

You're hurting me.

Carmine pulls her by her hair into his office.

109 INT. CARMINE TARTAGLIA'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Carmine pushes Samantha into a chair.

Geno and MAX enter. Max, mid 20s, is creepy and unkempt. Geno hands Samantha's pocketbook to Carmine. He takes out her cell phone, throws it on the floor and smashes it with his foot.

Max leans down and locks an electronic ankle bracelet on her. Small green lights flicker on the bracelet.

Carmine grabs her by the hair and smashes her head against the back of the chair.

CARMINE

You don't set one foot out of the restaurant.

MAX

If the alarm goes off you got twenty seconds.

(perverse smile)

Then...

(makes an exploding sound)

...You get blown to pieces.

CARMINE

(to Geno)

Lock her in the basement.

110 EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF BEN'S APARTMENT -- EVENING

Ben gets in his car. As he puts the key in the ignition a hand from behind grabs his shoulder.

Startled, he turns toward the back seat. It's Geno.

BEN

Jesus, you scared the shit out me.

GENO

When your father did what he did, you became family.

BEN

I know.

GENO

L'ordine della famiglia. Bruno met his family obligations. Now you have to.

(somber)

If you testify, Carmine will send me to make things right. *Capisce?*

BEN

Yeah.

(pause)

Samantha not answering my calls.

GENO

When she's not working at the bar, she's locked up in the basement. Carmine's made her wear an ankle bracelet that's rigged to explode if she leaves the restaurant.

(pause)

He's become totally paranoid. Don't even think about crossing him.

Geno gets out of the car. Ben lays his forehead against the steering wheel.

111 EXT. GARAGE -- NIGHT

Dark street. Shaun attempts to pick the lock on the garage door as Ben watches.

BEN

I thought you said you've done this before.

SHAUN

Not to worry.

Shaun continues to work on the lock as Ben nervously keeps watch.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Got it.

Shaun picks up a heavy duffel bag. They go into the garage.

112 INT. GARAGE -- MOMENTS LATER

Holding flashlights, Ben and Shaun walk through the garage. Old cars and car parts clutter the garage.

SHAUN

There's nothing but junk in here.

BEN

It's hardly ever used. It's just a front to launder money.

They shine the flashlights on a set of metal stairs that lead to a second floor office. Two cars are parked under the office.

BEN (CONT'D)

The safe is in the office at the top of the stairs.

They go up the stairs into the office. Ben goes behind the desk and takes down a picture of a map of Italy. He pushes against the wall and a four foot by four foot section of the wall slides in about six inches. He pushes down and the panel slides down, revealing a three foot by three foot safe.

Shaun inspects the safe. Steel beams form a frame around the safe.

SHAUN

I figured it might be reinforced like this.

Shaun opens the duffel bag and takes out an electric saw. He puts on goggles and revs up the saw. He starts cutting the frame. Sparks fly everywhere.

They lift the front of the frame off. Ben tries to rock the safe back and forth.

BEN

Whoa, this is really heavy.

SHAUN

Got it covered.

Shaun takes out a manual winch from the duffel bag. They hook it to the safe and the stair rail just outside the office door.

As Shaun turn the handle on the winch, the safe slowly slides out from the wall. As the safe falls, it smashes through the floor and down onto one of the cars below the office.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Holy shit.

They stand over the hole in the floor and shine the flashlights on the safe below. The rug on the floor hangs halfway through the hole.

They put the frame back, slide the panel back in place and hang the picture back up. They pull the rug back up and straighten it out so that the hole is covered.

They put the winch and saw back in the duffel bag and go downstairs.

The safe is in the middle of the smashed roof of one of the cars. They hook the winch to the safe and the other car. As they pull the safe off the car roof, it falls to the concrete floor with a loud THUD.

Shaun takes out some rollers from the duffel bag. They tilt the safe and fasten the rolls to the bottom of the safe.

Suddenly, the door to the garage opens. The lights are turned on. Shaun and Ben scamper behind the cars.

A typical Mafia THUG, mid 30s, enters and goes up the stairs.

Ben and Shaun remain crouched down looking up at the floor of the office. Suddenly, the Thug falls through the hole in the floor, bounces off the car and lands on top of them.

They frantically push the Thug off them. Moaning, the Thug lie semiconscious on the floor with his holstered gun clearly visible.

SHAUN (CONT'D)

Now what?

Ben looks around and sees a metal cage in the corner that is full of parts and tools.

BEN

(pointing toward the
cage)

Drag him in there.

They drag the Thug into the cage. Ben takes his gun and throws it across the room.

They close the metal door to the cage.

BEN (CONT'D)
We have to lock it.

Shaun looks around.

SHAUN
I got it.

Shaun wheels an oxyacetylene torch welder over to the cage.

Ben moves the safe and duffel bag to the door as Shaun welds the cage door shut. The Thug moans louder and starts to come to.

They shut the lights and wheel the safe out the door. As they close the door, banging on the cage can be heard.

THUG (O.S.)
I'll fuckin' kill you.

113 INT. PAWN SHOP -- EVENING

Cesare is at his desk. Arnie and Ben enter and sit.

CESARE
Arnie. Where have you been? You take your action somewhere else?

ARNIE
Little over my head for a while.
(pause)
This is Ben. A real hotshot.

CESARE
Big game Saturday night.

BEN
Maybe. But right now I'm here with a business proposition.

CESARE
I'm listening.

BEN
I was in this card game with a guy who has this safe he stole. Problem is, he can't get it open. He puts it in the pot. I win it. Now I gotta figure out what to do with it.

CESARE

What does that have to do with me?

BEN

It's a real fancy safe. There's gotta be jewels or something in it.

(beat)

You get it open, we split what's in it. 50/50.

Cesare sits back and rocks his chair.

CESARE

60/40.

114 INT. GRAND JURY ROOM -- LATER

Ben sits in the witness chair. An ASSISTANT DA questions him.

ASSISTANT DA

Did you witness a meeting between Carmine Tartaglia and Jordan Baines?

BEN

No.

Cold stare by the Assistant DA. He goes to a table and picks up Ben's notebook and opens it.

ASSISTANT DA

On page 82 of your notebook you wrote that such a meeting occurred.

BEN

That's not what it says.

ASSISTANT DA

Then enlighten us, what does it say?

BEN

It says Baines showed up at the restaurant and went into Carmine's office. I have no idea if Carmine was in there. I have no idea if they actually met.

ASSISTANT DA

(long pause)

Did you witness Jordan Baines entering Carmine Tartaglia's office?

BEN (O.S.)
 (long beat, faint
 voice)
 Yes.

ASSISTANT DA
 I'm sorry. Could you speak up please.

BEN
 (clears throat)
 Yes.

The Assistant DA turns to the jurors.

ASSISTANT DA
 The next few witnesses will provide
 testimony that associates of Carmine
 Tartaglia had dealings with senior
 executives of the companies in which
 Baines made the questionable trades.
 (pause)
 This testimony links Baines and
 Tartaglia.

He moves very close to the jury.

ASSISTANT DA (CONT'D)
 I want to emphasize that this is not
 a victimless white collar crime.

He picks up Ben's thesis and hands it to Ben.

ASSISTANT DA (CONT'D)
 Please read the highlighted passage
 from your Ph.D. thesis.

BEN
 (hesitates)
 "The mobs infiltration of the market
 could undermine our entire financial
 system."

Nervously, Ben glances at the jurors.

115 INT. BASEMENT -- MORNING

Huddled with a blanket wrapped around her shoulders, Samantha
 sits on a cot in the corner of a basement room.

A rat runs across the floor. Samantha cringes.

The door open. Max enters.

MAX
Need to check the bracelet.

He kneels down and grabs her leg. He studies the bracelet and then moves his hands up her calf toward her thighs.

She kicks him knocking him back.

SAMANTHA
(screams)
Get out.

Max stands up and takes a remote out of his pocket.

MAX
See this? I press this button. And boom.

Max forces himself on top of her as she struggles wildly.

Suddenly Geno grabs Max and throws him across the room.

GENO
You don't touch her.

MAX
Why the fuck do you care?

Geno grabs Max and pulls him up. He put a gun to the side of his head.

GENO
I don't tell you twice.

Geno pushes Max out of the room. He turns and looks at Samantha.

GENO (CONT'D)
You okay?

SAMANTHA
(wiping away tears)
Yeah.

116 EXT. STREET IN BROOKLYN

As Ben drives, Arnie sits in the passenger seat.

BEN
It won't be long before Carmine finds out I testified. So this has to go down today.

ARNIE

You got everything I gave you on
Rickie?

BEN

Got it.

ARNIE

Pull over. The warehouse is at the
end of that long driveway.

Ben pulls over.

Arnie's cell phone rings. He listens for a moment and hangs
up.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

All set. Eddy's at the bar in the
restaurant.

BEN

Can he slip her a message?

ARNIE

No problem. She's knows Eddy is
someone she can trust.

BEN

When I call you, have him tell her
to meet me at the back door.

Arnie gets out and shuts the door. Ben drives away.

117 INT. WAREHOUSE -- LATER

JIMMY, Cesare and Ben are in an empty room. Jimmy, mid 40s,
is a safecracker.

Jimmy pulls a drill out of the safe.

Ben sits in the corner and Cesare paces.

Jimmy pulls on the safe door. It opens.

CESARE

Good work. Mario will pay you.

Jimmy leaves.

Cesare swings the safe door open. He takes out two stacks
of bills and fans through them.

CESARE (CONT'D)
About 50 G's.

BEN
That's it?

CESARE
And some books.

Cesare flips through one of the books.

CESARE (CONT'D)
What the fuck?

Suddenly Cesare turns and grabs Ben. He pushes him against the wall.

CESARE (CONT'D)
Where did you get this?

BEN
(difficulty talking)
I told you.

Cesare lets Ben go.

BEN (CONT'D)
What's in there?

CESARE
(shouts)
Mario.

MARIO, mid 40s, a typical thug comes in.

CESARE (CONT'D)
Lock him in the back room.

Mario takes Ben out. Cesare dials his cell phone.

CESARE (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
Vince, we got a problem.

118 INT. WAREHOUSE -- LATER

Vince and Cesare look through the books from the safe.

VINCE
This could put us away for life.

CESARE

We were being set up. Carmine was gonna fuck us.

DISSOLVE TO:

119 EXT. WAREHOUSE -- LATER

Two of Cesare's GUYS stand near the door.

As Carmine and Geno come up to the door, one of the Guys puts his hand on Geno's chest and stops him.

GUY2

Only Carmine.

GENO

What the fuck?

CARMINE

It's okay.

Carmine goes in.

One of the Guys puts a gun to Geno's head. The other Guy takes Geno's gun.

GUY1

Be cool.

GUY2

Nobody's got a beef with you.

120 INT. WAREHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Carmine enters. Vince, Cesare and two of their GUYS are in the room.

CARMINE

What the fuck's the big emergency?

One of the Guys put a gun to Carmine's head. The other Guy takes Carmine's gun.

Cesare grabs a chair and puts it next to Carmine.

CESARE

Sit.

Carmine sits.

CESARE (CONT'D)
(looks at the safe)
You recognize that?

Carmine is silent. Cesare throws one of the books at Carmine.

CESARE (CONT'D)
Why?

VINCE
(shouts)
You got nothing to say? You betray
us and you got nothing to say?

Vince puts a gun to Carmine's head.

VINCE (CONT'D)
Talk.

CARMINE
Insurance. I never intended--

Vince smacks Carmine across the face with his gun.

VINCE
Your father's turning over in his
grave, you fuckin' rat.

From out of the shadows, Doctor G with the Samurai sword
comes up behind Carmine.

With one swift motion Doctor G decapitates Carmine. Blood
splatters across Vince and Cesare's shirts.

Carmine's head rolls across the room and his body falls to
the floor, blood gushing from his neck.

Doctor G wipes the blood from the sword and puts it back in
its sleeve.

DOCTOR G
We gonna do some business?

VINCE
Carmine's cut is yours.

Doctor G, Vince and Cesare all shake hands. Doctor G leaves.

CESARE
(to his guy)
Get rid of the body.

121 INT. BACK ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

Ben paces. Vince and Cesare burst in.

Cesare grabs Ben by his shirt, spins him around and slams him face first against the wall.

Cesare takes out Ben's wallet and throws it to Vince.

CESARE
What aren't you telling us?

ARNIE
Nothing.

CESARE
Don't fuckin' lie.

VINCE
He's a graduate student at Columbia.

BEN
I got this whole system for winning at Texas Hold'em. Arnie convinced me I could win bigger in private games than at the casinos.

CESARE
How do you know Arnie?

BEN
I was dating his daughter.

CESARE
Who's game was it?

BEN
Rickie Austin was running a private game out of his basement. I won the safe from him.

Cesare take out a gun and puts it to Ben's temple.

CESARE
Rickie's been dead for weeks.

BEN
I've been dragging that safe around for a month.

CESARE
Where'd he say he got it?

BEN

He didn't. All I know is the next day when I went to pick it up, he was real anxious to get rid of it.

VINCE

He must have been afraid Carmine was on to him.

BEN

It's just a goddamn safe. What the hell is going on?

122 INT. ERICA'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Worried silence. Arnie, Shaun and Erica sit quietly.

ERICA

It's been too long.

ARNIE

If he doesn't show soon, I'll go over there and--

SHAUN

And do what?

ERICA

We have to call the cops and tell 'em everything.

Erica picks up the phone and starts dialing.

Arnie's cell phone rings.

ARNIE

It's Ben.

Collective sign of relief. Arnie listens.

ARNIE (CONT'D)

Got it. I'll call Eddy.

123 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- CONTINUOUS

EDDY MCCABE, mid 60s, sits at the bar. Samantha works behind the bar.

Max sits at a corner table staring at Samantha.

Eddy answers his cell phone, listens for a moment and puts his cell phone away.

He takes out a pen and writes a bar napkin. He finishes his drink and holds his glass up.

Samantha comes over to him. Eddy looks around and hands her the glass and the napkin. He nods to her.

She turns and refills his drink as she reads the note. She crumbles up the napkin and puts it in her pocket.

She brings Eddy his drink. He nods to her again.

124 EXT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- MOMENTS LATER

Ben's car is parked behind the restaurant. He paces back and forth holding a pair of cutting shears.

The backdoor opens. Samantha comes half way out.

BEN

Let me take a look.

She holds her leg out as he examines the bracelet.

SAMANTHA

Well?

BEN

I thought there would be a strap I could cut, but this is a lot more complex than I expected.

(pause)

If I cut it, who knows what will happen?

SAMANTHA

There's this little creep in the bar who says it's controlled by a remote.

Ben throws the cutters to the ground. They go back into the restaurant.

125 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- MOMENTS LATER

Samantha comes up from the basement holding two bottles of wine. Max stands at the top of the stairs.

MAX

Where the hell were you?

Samantha pushes past him.

SAMANTHA

I needed more wine.

She puts the bottles on the corner of the bar.

MAX

You don't leave my sight.

SAMANTHA

I need two more.

She brushes past him and goes down the stairs. He follows her.

126 INT. WINE CELLAR -- MOMENTS LATER

Samantha reaches up for a bottle of wine. Max grabs her and gropes her.

SAMANTHA

Let go of me.

Ben comes up from behind and smashes a bottle on Max's head.

Max falls to the ground unconscious. Ben searches his pockets and finds the detonator.

They study the detonator.

BEN

It's got an on-off switch.

Ben holds up the detonator and moves the switch with his thumb.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm not sure that did anything. The green light is still on.

127 EXT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- MOMENTS LATER

Ben comes out and turns back to the door. Samantha comes halfway out. She puts her foot out the door. She struggles to hold the heavy door open.

SAMANTHA

Alarm's not going off.

Samantha loses her balance and falls forward. Ben catches her. The door slams behind her. She jumps up and grabs the door handle but the door is locked.

The alarm on the bracelet goes off.

Ben picks up the cutters and puts them on the bracelet. He hesitates.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

(screams)

Do it.

He cuts off the ankle bracelet and throws it against the door.

They run toward the car. The bracelet explodes knocking them both to the ground.

They turn and look at the blast hole in the door.

BEN

Holy shit.

They dust themselves off, get in the car and take off.

128 INT. ERICA'S APARTMENT -- LATER

Erica, Shaun and Arnie sit silently. BANGING at the door. Erica rushes to the door.

It's Ben and Samantha. Everybody rushes up and hugs them.

ARNIE

Carmine?

BEN

There was blood all over their shirts.

(beat)

They must have...

Ben reaches in his pocket and pulls out a wad of bills. He throws them on the table.

BEN (CONT'D)

From Carmine's safe.

They all stare at the money.

ARNIE

It's blood money.

Ben turns to Erica.

BEN

Let it do some good. Use it for the clinic.

Samantha and Ben hug.

SAMANTHA

There's just one thing I still can't figure out.

BEN

What?

SAMANTHA

How'd that stripper know your name?

129 INT. HOTEL BALLROOM -- EVENING

Runway set up in the middle of the room. Jennifer's Dream in huge letters behind the stage.

Dozens of people mill around. TV cameras are being set up.

Shaun dressed in a tux paces. Ben in a tux and Samantha in an evening dress come up to him.

BEN

Ready for your big night?

SHAUN

(nervous)

I can't believe this is going to be on network TV.

SAMANTHA

Where's Erica?

SHAUN

She's...

Erica walks toward them. Hair styled, makeup and a low cut evening dress with ample cleavage. Erica holds open her arms.

ERICA

You like?

SAMANTHA

Erica, I can't believe it's you.

SHAUN

(to Ben)

Do you think my new line does the
job?

Samantha walks around Erica. Ben leans toward Shaun.

BEN

I guess you solved your equation.

SHAUN

Had lots of raw material to work
with.

They both laugh.

130 INT. TARTAGLIA'S RESTAURANT -- EVENING

Ben, Samantha, Erica and Shaun sit at a table. Geno stands
next to them.

GENO

Everything's on the house.

BEN

So you bought the restaurant?

GENO

Yeah. Can you imagine? Me a legit
business man?

Ben notices Tracy and Allison working behind the bar. They
are both dressed very sexy.

BEN

I see you hired some new help.

GENO

(signs)

I still have a lot to teach them.

BEN

(smiles)

Stuff they ain't gonna learn anywhere
else?

GENO

(laughs)

Yeah. Something like that.

131 INT. SOUTH SIDE BATTERED WOMAN'S CLINIC -- AFTERNOON

Large crowd. Erica and Samantha cut the ribbon to the addition as Ben, Shaun and Arnie watch. Applause from the crowd.

132 EXT. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY -- MORNING

Graduation ceremonies have just been completed. Ben wears his cap and gown. Samantha, Shaun, Erica, Arnie, Lilly and Rosa are with him.

BEN

For a while I didn't think this day
was ever going to come.

Lilly reaches into her pocket and takes out a gold chain with a St. Christopher's medal.

LILLY

This was Bruno's St Christopher's
medal... I want you to have it.

He takes the medal and puts it around his neck.

BEN

Lilly, I can't thank you enough for
everything.

Ben hugs Lilly.

ROSA

Tell me. Was it love at first sight?

BEN

(laughing)
For me maybe.

SAMANTHA

Kind of for me too.

BEN

(incredulous)
Right.

SAMANTHA

That seems like so long ago.

SHAUN

I can't believe you took a job at
the SEC.

BEN

Machiavelli once said "Absolute power corrupts absolutely". The same is true for too much money. Wall Street crooks like Baines need to get what they deserve.

SHAUN

Totally cool. Wall Street sleaze balls. The Mafia. Drug dealers. You get to go after the whole rat's nest.

SAMANTHA

Well, *I* couldn't be more proud.

Samantha kisses Ben.

FADE OUT