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POWER BOOK II: GHOST

Episode 308

"Sacrifice"

Written by

Sara Rose Feinberg

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FULL YELLOW DRAFT: June 2nd, 2022

CAST LIST (PAGE 1 of 1)

TARIQ ST. PATRICK
MONET STEWART TEJADA
COOPER SAXE
BLANCA RODRIGUEZ
BRAYDEN WESTON
CANE TEJADA
DAVIS MACLEAN
DIANA TEJADA
DRU TEJADA
EFFIE MORALES
JENNY SULLIVAN
KEKE TRAVIS
LAUREN BALDWIN
LUCAS WESTON
PROFESSOR BENNET
RASHAD TATE

AGENT ANGEL "JUNIOR" YOUNG
ASHLEY FITZPATRICK
BECCA WESTON
BRUSHAUNDRIA CARMICHAEL
EVELYN CASTILLO
EVERETT NEAL
GILBERTO CASTILLO
GUILLERMO CASTILLO
GUSTAVO CASTILLO
JACKIE CHO
NICOLE WESTON
ROBERT WESTON
RON SAMUEL JENKINS
SALIM ASHE FREEMAN
THEO ROLLINS
THOMAS BEVERLY

AGENT 1
AGENT 2
AGENT 3
AGENT 4
ASSHOLE 1
ASSHOLE 2
ANNIE VUONG-HAN
HANK WEST
JEMELE HILL
MAITRE D'
MODERATOR

SET LIST (PAGE 1 OF 1)

INTERIORS

EXTERIORS

CASTILLO'S RESTAURANT

COUNTRY CLUB

DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICES
SAXE'S OFFICE

D.E.A. OFFICE
PARKING GARAGE

DAVIS' MAYBACH S600

DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE
ROOFTOP

D.E.A. OFFICE
RICO WAR ROOM

DOCK NEAR THE PORT AUTHORITY HELIPAD

FANCY RESTAURANT

EAST RIVER

PENTHOUSE

NYC CRIMINAL COURT

POLICE PRECINCT
HALLWAY
INTERROGATION ROOM

PAPER GOODS SUPPLY STORE

PORT AUTHORITY HELIPAD

STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY
EFFIE'S ROOM
PROF. BENNET'S OFFICE
THEATER
THEATER LOBBY
THEATER GREEN ROOM
YEATON LECTURE HALL 101

STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY
EFFIE'S ROOM
STREET

TEAM DRUG WAREHOUSE

WESTON FAMILY TOWNHOUSE

TEAM DRUG WAREHOUSE

TEJADA FAMILY HOME
DINING ROOM
LIVING ROOM

WESTON FAMILY TOWNHOUSE
DINING ROOM

WESTON HOLDINGS
LUCAS WESTON'S OFFICE

CHANGED: *ADDED OMITTED

GHOST: 308 - "Sacrifice"

1

EXT. DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT (NIGHT ZERO)

1

OPEN on DAVIS MACLEAN, his body silhouetted by the glowing NYC skyline as he sits precariously on the edge of the roof and drunkenly drains the last sip of a bottle of scotch.

DAVIS MACLEAN
Ain't life a motherfucker.

Davis drops the empty bottle. It SMASHES on the sidewalk far below. Behind Davis, SAXE winces and approaches.

SAXE
What do you say we move that-a-way?

DAVIS MACLEAN
Don't be coming over here without
that six pack.

Saxe reluctantly hands Davis the beers. He cracks one open.

DAVIS MACLEAN (CONT'D)
Twenty-eight years I been waiting
for my brother to be out, and now
he won't even fucking see me.

SAXE
Life is a motherfucker.

Despite his deep betrayal, Saxe means it. He's the friend Davis needs right now, and Davis is glad he's there.

DAVIS MACLEAN
Sit yo ass down.

Saxe really doesn't want to dangle his legs that many stories above street level, but Davis pulls him down and hands him a beer.

SAXE
To trying to do the right thing but
getting fuck-all for it.

DAVIS MACLEAN
Damn right.

They cheers and drink. Davis drains his beer, then drops it over the edge. SMASH! He puts a hand on Saxe's shoulder.

DAVIS MACLEAN (CONT'D)
Behind all that hair gel, you one
decent motherfucker.

(CONTINUED)

1

CONTINUED:

1

If only Davis knew. Davis's PHONE rings. As he fishes it out of his pocket, he holds on to Saxe for balance.

 DAVIS MACLEAN (CONT'D)
 Fuck. I gotta take this.
 (into phone)
 MacLean... What...? No, I had no
 idea....

*

Davis looks at Saxe and tightens his grip on Saxe's shoulder. Saxe's heart pounds: *is someone telling Davis he's a snitch?!*

 DAVIS MACLEAN (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 Okay, I'll take care of it.

Off Saxe, wondering if he's about to be pushed off the roof..

2

INT. TEJADA FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT (NO) (INTERCUT)

2

MONET, on the other end of the call.

 MONET
 Hurry up. I didn't raise no snitch,
 but they're gonna lean on her hard.

Monet hangs up and looks over to DRU and CANE.

 MONET (CONT'D)
 If it were you two I wouldn't be
 worried. But Diana--

 DRU
 Di's hard, Ma.

 MONET
 Yeah, just hard enough to look out
 for herself and sell my ass out.

Dru and Cane exchange a glance -- Monet might be right.

 CANE
 I'ma head to Stansfield, see what I
 can find out.

And we RETURN TO...

3

EXT. DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT (NO)

3

Davis hangs up. Saxe is sweating his traitorous balls off.

 DAVIS MACLEAN
 Diana Tejada's been arrested. I
 gotta go to the precinct.

(CONTINUED)

Saxe relaxes, then seizes the opportunity. He follows Davis.

SAXE

Hold on, you're in no shape to represent anyone tonight.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Fuck no. But I got twenty blocks to sober the fuck up.

SAXE

I'll go. You can do the arraignment tomorrow.

DAVIS MACLEAN

And Monet will cut my balls off.

SAXE

Tell her I know the shit they're gonna pull in there. Used to do it myself.

DAVIS MACLEAN

You sure?

SAXE

Absolutely. I got this.

Davis, happy to have the night off, pops open another beer.

DAVIS MACLEAN

I owe you one, my man.

As Saxe heads to the roof door, Davis gets a text from Tariq: *Need to talk ASAP.*

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (NO)

CLOSE ON a SURVEILLANCE PHOTO of Diana putting drugs in the rooftop lockers (Ep. 306). PULL OUT to DIANA, looking at the photo with JENNY SULLIVAN and BLANCA RODRIGUEZ opposite her.

DIANA

Look, this is all a set up. You got a call from a guy named Salim, right? He's trying to get back at me for breaking up with him. Simple.

From the look on their faces, Diana realizes this isn't Salim, and she might be in real trouble.

JENNY SULLIVAN

No. Not simple. We have you on felony possession with intent to distribute, Diana. That's up to nine years upstate.

DIANA

You can't prove felony weight from a photo.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Oh, you're an expert?

DIANA

The way the cops harass my family -- I have to be.

BLANCA

We don't have just a photo.

Diana can't tell if they're bluffing. She shifts nervously, but remembers what Monet taught her and plays tough:

DIANA

So book me.

JENNY SULLIVAN

We thought we'd give you a chance to avoid that.

DIANA

Nah, I'm good. Besides, I'm a first offender. So I'm looking at a misdemeanor and community service.

BLANCA

If the judge agrees. You think he'll do that? With your last name?

JENNY SULLIVAN

We know you're trying to turn your life around, Diana, and we want to help--

BLANCA

Clearly, she knows how it works.
(to Diana)
Gotta give to get. Right, mamita?

*

Off Diana starting to sweat, we begin an INTERCUT SEQUENCE of the players the RICO team is really after, starting with...

5

INT. DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT (NO) (INTERCUT)

5

TARIQ hurries into Davis's office to find him staring out the window, lost in thought about Theo.

TARIQ
Yo, Davis.

DAVIS MACLEAN
(startled)
Hey, come in, man. What's this about?

TARIQ
Saxe was lying. They are looking at me for Lauren and it's part of a fuckin' RICO case.

Davis's head is swimming from the booze, he tries to focus.

DAVIS MACLEAN
A RICO? With the Feds? How would Saxe even know about that?

TARIQ
Because he's their fuckin' CI.

It's a knife in Davis's back -- and heart.

DAVIS MACLEAN
Who's this fuckin' coming from?

TARIQ
Lauren Baldwin told me. She's alive. Been in protective custody this whole time.

Without a word, Davis goes to his desk, unlocks a drawer, and removes a GUN. Tariq steps in front of him.

TARIQ (CONT'D)
You can't do that, man.

DAVIS MACLEAN
Nigga, get the fuck outta my face--

TARIQ
They're watching all of us right now--

DAVIS MACLEAN
FUUUUUUUUCK!!!

Davis KICKS over an office chair.

(CONTINUED)

TARIQ

Saxe can't know that we're onto him. Not before we figure out what he knows.

DAVIS MACLEAN

(remembering)

Motherfucker's on his way to the precinct right now. Diana Tejada got arrested, he's representing her.

TARIQ

Anything she tells him he'll take straight to the Feds!

DAVIS MACLEAN

'Aight, I'm on my fucking way.

Davis grabs his jacket and briefcase.

TARIQ

Davis--

DAVIS MACLEAN

I know, act like he ain't a traitorous rat bastard.

*

Off Tariq, not sure Davis can do it, we return to...

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (INTERCUT)

Where Diana still manages to play it cool, giving up nothing.

DIANA

Even if I wanted to help y'all, I couldn't. I'm just trying to get through college.

BLANCA

A college you transferred into to be with Tariq St. Patrick.

DIANA

Tariq? The kid who used to tutor my cousin?

JENNY SULLIVAN

Cut the shit, Diana. We know he works with your brother, Cane.

BLANCA

And Monet. In fact, she probably had him kill Dante Spears.

(CONTINUED)

6

CONTINUED:

6

Diana takes in what they're telling her, does some calculating.

DIANA

So who do y'all really want? Tariq
or my mother?

Off Diana, hard as steel, would she really sell Monet out?

7

INT. TEJADA FAMILY HOUSE - NIGHT (NO) (INTERCUT)

7

Dru watches Monet spiral out:

*

MONET

I know I did Diana dirty after Zeke
died, but I was outta my head.
She's gotta understand that.

A KNOCK on the door. They exchange a glance.

*

DRU

That's not a cop knock.

MONET

Go see who the fuck it is.

Dru sees it's Tariq and opens the door half-way.

DRU

You better have a damn good reason
to be at this door.

MONET

What is it, Tariq? You got
something to do with why they
arrested Diana?

TARIQ

We all do. They're trying to get us
on a RICO.

The word hits Monet and Dru like a truck. And we return to...

8

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (INTERCUT)

8

Where Jenny and Blanca play the RICO card on Diana...

BLANCA

You know what that means, right?
Any little thing you ever did to
help Tariq or your family with
their drug business--

JENNY SULLIVAN

--like, say, putting a little
product into a locker--

BLANCA

--and you're looking at *twenty*
years federal time.

DIANA

I think you're confused. My family
runs a bar.

BLANCA

Damn. That's a lot of dead bodies
for selling cocktails. Detective
Whitman, Zeke, Carrie Milgram,
Jabari Reynolds.

*

JENNY SULLIVAN

Your dad.

BLANCA

Goes all the way back to Ramirez,
the dirty cop your mom had between
her legs, 'til one of you popped
him.

DIANA

You two are a couple of hood-stans
who watch too much Law & Order.

Blanca gets right up in Diana's face:

BLANCA

Diana, I'm not gonna lie, I'm going
scorched earth on this one. Only
question is which side of the bars
you're on when the smoke clears.

9

INT. TEJADA FAMILY HOME - NIGHT (NO) (INTERCUT)

9

Dru crosses over to Tariq:

(CONTINUED)

DRU

Hold up, nigga, how do you know
about this RICO?

TARIQ

Because they have an informant. I
know who it is, but I can't tell
y'all right now.

Dru PINS Tariq against the wall.

DRU

How we know it ain't you?!

TARIQ

Then why would I say shit?!

Monet levels a GUN at Tariq's head.

MONET

Give me the name, Tariq.

TARIQ

(fuck)
It's Saxe.

Dru looks at Monet who nods for him to let go of Tariq.

DRU

I can make him disappear --

MONET

Hell no, that shit's too fuckin'
risky --

TARIQ

I got a play. But we need Cane in
on it. Where is he?

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - EFFIE'S ROOM - NIGHT (INTERCUT)

TRACK BEHIND Cane as he reaches Effie's door and knocks.
EFFIE opens it, surprised to see him.

EFFIE

Oh, hell no. You pay my tuition and
think you can just run up on me--

CANE

Nah, Effie, Diana got roped up.

This lands on Effie. She can see he's upset.

EFFIE
Fuck. Come on in.

Cane follows Effie in.

CANE

They got her on possession with intent. You know how she mighta got caught up?

Effie pauses, she doesn't feel much like helping Diana after Diana got with Tariq right after their breakup (Ep. 306).

CANE (CONT'D)

Look, it coulda been any of us.

EFFIE

But it's not.

CANE

You right. It's my little sister. I know y'all got the same bad taste in scrawny niggas, but she ain't sitting in no foul-ass jail cell if there's anything I can do about it.

Effie softens. She's never had anyone look out for her like that. It's endearing. And not just a little hot.

EFFIE

She was dealing out of the campus candy store. Maybe she got caught on the roof camera.

CANE

Bet. Say less.

*

Cane starts to leave.

EFFIE

Yo, Cane.
(he stops and turns)
It was really decent, what you did with my tuition.

CANE

Yeah well, you really want this shit. And you good at it. So...

EFFIE

And you did it... with no expectations?

CANE

I'm not asking you for shit. Why is that so hard for to believe?

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE

Because you are who you are.

CANE

Maybe you don't know me...

They look at one another, the toughness and games falling away. They're just two people who could really use some comfort right now. Effie leans in, kisses him softly. Within seconds, it's hot-spankin' game on! And we return to:

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (INTERCUT)

Where Diana can no longer hide how scared she is.

BLANCA

So, anything you want to say to us now?

DIANA

Yeah. Lawyer.

Which ends our INTERCUT SEQUENCE and we TIME CUT TO:

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - NIGHT (NO)

Saxe heads to the interrogation room, when Jenny stops him:

JENNY SULLIVAN

Cooper! What're you doing here?

Saxe looks around to make sure they're alone, then whispers:

SAXE

I'm representing Diana Tejada.

JENNY SULLIVAN

What?

SAXE

I know, too good to be true, right?

JENNY SULLIVAN

Or too fucking unethical.

SAXE

Didn't we cross that line awhile back?

JENNY SULLIVAN

You weren't pretending to be Davis' legal counsel. It's not worth the risk, Cooper.

12

CONTINUED:

12

SAXE

We need this. We still don't know their connect, where their stash house is, who calls the shots. She could give us all of that.

It's too good for Jenny to pass up.

13

INT. DAVIS' MAYBACH S600 - NIGHT (NO)

13

Davis arrives at the police precinct, his head swimming with rage and booze. He takes a sip from a steaming hot coffee, hoping it'll settle him, when he gets a call from Tariq.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Yeah... 'Aight, I got it... *I said, I got it.*

Davis tries to gain his composure, as he exits his car and walks into:

14

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - NIGHT (NO)

14

Davis turns a corner to find Jenny and Saxe whispering. In FLASHES, he re-lives the history of Saxe's betrayal:

Ep. 204, Scene 3 [*Saxe: Jenny's not an idiot, if I keep using her for info, she's going to see through it. Davis: That's why you're fucking her bind. So she doesn't.*];

Ep. 307, Scene 8 [*Saxe: There's no murder investigation.*] **and**

Ep. 307, Scene 30 [*Saxe: I'm so sure this will work, that I'll make the approach myself. Only problem is, I'll need a lot of cash.*];

Ep. 308, Scene 1 [*Davis: you one decent motherfucker.*]

Davis clears his throat, startling Jenny and Saxe, who both immediately pretend to be arguing as opposing counsel:

SAXE

... You can't question my client without her attorney present!
(then, to Davis)
Davis, you decided to come?

Davis uses every ounce of self-control he can muster to not strangle him.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Two heads are better than one.
(to Jenny)
Ms. Sullivan.

(CONTINUED)

Jenny senses the crazy tension and steps aside. As Saxe and Davis walk into Diana's cell, we TIME CUT to:

15

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (NO)

15

Where Davis tries to keep Diana from giving anything up while Saxe tries to get her to talk without blowing his cover.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Okay, Diana, first off, from now on, you only talk to me--

SAXE

---us.

DAVIS MACLEAN

And you'll be out of here real fast. They don't have a case against you and they know it.

SAXE

Well, they do have that video.

DIANA

And they might've gotten the bag from the locker--

DAVIS MACLEAN

A bag whose contents you have zero first-hand knowledge of.

Diana looks at Saxe -- *is this really going to work?*

SAXE

Okay, let's say that's true, we should still discuss who told you about those lockers--

DAVIS MACLEAN

Immaterial. If she didn't know what was in the bag--

SAXE

Which she hasn't exactly said--

DAVIS MACLEAN

She hasn't said she does--

SAXE

Because we haven't heard her side of the story--

DIANA

Oh my god! Can you both shut up!

As Davis glares at Saxe, Saxe does his best to sound neutral:

(CONTINUED)

SAXE

Excuse us. We haven't even asked what you want. Please, go ahead.

DIANA

They're threatening to go after my family. So, number one, none of this falls on anyone but me.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Understood.

SAXE

Absolutely. But, that might require you to plead guilty. And as officers of the court, we can't let you do that if you are in fact innocent.

It's a risky move on Saxe's part, but it works:

DIANA

Well, what if I did know what was in that bag? What if I was--

Before Diana can finish, Davis "accidentally" knocks his hot coffee onto Saxe's lap!

SAXE

FUCK!!

As Saxe jumps up in pain, Davis SLIPS a note to Diana and gives her a nod to keep it to herself, then escorts Saxe out.

DAVIS MACLEAN

(turning to Saxe)

Sorry about that, partner. Let's get you cleaned up.

SAXE

Jesus Christ, Davis.

Saxe painfully peels his wet shirt off his scalded stomach.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Got a sous vide pork chop over here. Diana, I believe we have enough for now...

After Davis closes the door, Diana unfolds the note: *Put Saxe on Effie. Trust me.* Off Diana, having no idea who to trust...

16

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - EFFIE'S ROOM - DAY (DAY 1)

16

Cane and Effie are asleep, spooning, when Cane's phone lights up with a 9th missed call from Monet. They both stir awake, both surprised how good it feels to be together, and both pretending it doesn't. Cane checks his phone.

CANE

Oh fuck, I gotta dip. *

EFFIE

Nobody asked you to stay.

CANE

Okay, Nola Darling, ain't no one trying to shake up your Loving Bed.

EFFIE

Shut up.

They get dressed, stealing smiles and looks at one another.

EFFIE (CONT'D)

No cap, it's all good. Don't feel you have to call to check in -- see how I'm feeling or any of that bullshit.

CANE

Actually I do have to call you. We're in business together, remember?

Effie laughs. It's nice to have a guy around who's not so damn serious. A KNOCK on the door, Mr. Serious himself:

TARIQ (O.S.)

Yo, Effie. Can we talk?

CANE

You still messin' with slim fit?

TARIQ (O.S.)

C'mon, Effie, it's business.

EFFIE

(to Cane)

Look, I don't want to have to deal with this today. Can you just--

CANE

Hide in the bathroom like a simp?

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE
Cane, please. Thirty seconds.

Cane shakes his head and goes to the bathroom, shutting the door behind him. Effie opens the door to Tariq and allows him to enter. As the door shuts --

EFFIE (CONT'D)
What do you want?

TARIQ
You said you wanted back in the business. I got a job for you.

EFFIE
A job? Who the fuck am I -- TaskRabbit?

TARIQ
I need someone to pick up more coffee cups before your shift and fill the orders.

EFFIE
Fuck you. That's a job for a corner boy.

TARIQ
There's been some heat on the streets. If the boys are hot, we gotta keep them locked off from Wall Street.

EFFIE
That's true, but still, fuck you.

TARIQ
Listen, you need money, I need to move product. We don't have to like each other to work together.

As Tariq and Effie continue to talk, we go to:

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - EFFIE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Where Cane listens through the door to the rest of their conversation.

EFFIE (O.S.)
I do this, I want my own product.

TARIQ (O.S.)
Fine. One brick a week. See you in class.

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

17

As Cane hears Tariq leave, his phone lights up with a text from Monet: *the fuck you at? We got business.*

18

INT. TEJADA FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY (D1)

18

Monet gets a text back from Cane -- *on my way* -- but it's too late because she and Dru are starting a meeting with EVELYN, GUILLERMO, GUSTAVO and GILBERTO CASTILLO.

MONET

Sorry to bring y'all here for bad news, but shit got sloppy when I stepped away. Now I'm back, putting things right. But first we got to shut down operations for a couple days.

GUSTAVO

A couple days! You know how much--

EVELYN

Shhh, boy, let her finish.

MONET

The Feds are looking at us. As of now, it ain't got shit to do with y'all. They don't know we're working together.

*

GUILLERMO

How the fuck you know that?

Monet looks at Dru, worried he's going to out Saxe.

DRU

(lying for Monet)
Our lawyer has a friend at DEA. Dude told him what they're working with.

MONET

So y'all lay low while I dead this investigation, and it'll never touch you.

GILBERTO

Dead the investigation how?

MONET

The less you know, the better.

GUSTAVO

Fuck that. We ain't in on it, we don't shut down business.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

Yes we do. I'm not losing any more of my family to prison. Comprende?

Evelyn's word is God. Her boys nod their understanding.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Alright, there's nothing more to discuss.

As they get up to leave, Evelyn pulls Dru to the side.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

You know where Gordo is? He hasn't been picking up my calls.

Monet watches Dru, hoping he can keep it together.

DRU

Uh... I haven't... We haven't... No, I haven't heard from him.

Gustavo, who hung back to listen, notes Dru's nervousness.

GUSTAVO

Trouble in paradise, hot-lips?

DRU

Nah, we good. We all good.

Off Monet, worried about Dru...

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - YEATON LECTURE HALL 101 - DAY (D1)

As our students -- Tariq, Effie, BECCA, ASHLEY, THOMAS and JACKIE -- take their seats, BRUSHAUNDRIA hands out FLIERS for a debate between Tate and Annie Vuong-Han, his Democratic primary opponent.

BRUSHAUNDRIA

8pm tonight, y'all! Hot debate! Right here on campus!

Effie brushes pass Tariq, as Brushaundria hands out flyers.

*

BRUSHAUNDRIA (CONT'D)

8pm! Watch Rashad Tate expose AVH
as the false ally that she is!

ASHLEY

I like AVH. She has some pretty
radical ideas about redistribution
of wealth.

BRUSHAUNDRIA

Exactly, my little Caucasian peer.
Now that my people are finally
making money, she wants to take it
from us and give it to the poor?
Thank you, next.

*

THOMAS

One of "your people," RSJ, is her
biggest supporter.

BECCA

Because all his money's safe in
corporate tax shelters.

BRUSHAUNDRIA

Okay, I see you, sis!

PROFESSOR HARPER BENNETT hushes the class.

PROFESSOR BENNETT

Alright, everyone, this is actually
a fitting introduction to today's
topic. The United States has a
history of trumpeting rugged
individualism. But when should we
sacrifice the individual to meet
the needs of the many?

EFFIE

Depends what you mean by sacrifice.

PROFESSOR BENNETT

Good point. Consider the following
situation. Salim...

SALIM ASHE goes to a large IMAGE on the blackboard that
illustrates the classic ethical "trolley dilemma:"

SALIM

A run-away trolley is barreling
towards five people on the track
who face certain death.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SALIM (CONT'D)

Except you happen to be standing by the lever that could divert the trolley to a second track where only one person is standing, thereby saving the lives of five by killing just one.

PROFESSOR BENNET

Do you pull the lever?

BRUSHAUNDRIA

Hell no. I don't know those five.

JACKIE

True, they could be five serial killers.

ASHLEY

Or five doctors.

PROFESSOR BENNET

This is all part of the dilemma. You don't know who any of the people are.

Tariq, with his RICO plan on his mind, jumps in:

TARIQ

And it doesn't matter. People aren't all good or all bad. That's why you should pull the lever, do the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

EFFIE

I disagree. Nobody has the authority to choose who lives and who dies. You're okay with someone sacrificing your life for five people you don't care about?

Without realizing, Effie's arguing for her own life.

TARIQ

No, but that's the point. It's not up to the person on the track, it's up to the guy by the lever.

THOMAS

But by choosing to pull it, he is committing murder --

*

(CONTINUED)

BECCA

It's the same as pushing someone in front of the train.

*
*

TARIQ

It's still the right thing to do. Morality is about making the hard decision, not avoiding it.

*

EFFIE

It's also about making the right decision which isn't always obvious.

Off Tariq, hoping he's doing the right thing...

INT. TEJADA FAMILY HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY (D1)

Cane arrives home to an angry Monet, waiting for him.

MONET

So you don't care 'bout this family no more?

CANE

I was trying to help Diana, Ma.

MONET

You was helping your dick, nigga. I ain't stupid. And while you up in that scholarship pussy, I'm handling the RICO that's about to bite us all in the ass!

*

CANE

What RICO?

MONET

The one they trying to get Diana to flip on us for. Yeah, nigga, so listen good. We ain't moving no more product till I say so.

CANE

Did you tell Tariq that? He's in motion.

MONET

Tariq knows. And you better not put a word of this in Effie's ear. She gotta think we business as usual.

*

CANE

Fuck that. You setting Effie up?

MONET

Boy, I told you all you need to know. Don't go thinking for yourself.

CANE

'Cause then I'ma realize I don't need you no more, right? That's why you say that shit?

MONET

I say it 'cause it true. I gotta go clean up another one of your messes right now.

CANE

What the fuck I do?

MONET

Weston Holdings.

CANE

Nah, you just can't handle that I did some smart shit you woulda never, ever thought of.

*

MONET

No, Cane. You gave our money to people who will always want to see us fail. Always. Now I gotta go get it the fuck back.

As Monet heads to the front door:

MONET (CONT'D)

Don't you talk to that girl. This RICO shit is real and it's bangin' at our door.

A dejected pajama-wearing BRAYDEN (after learning about the Ponzi in Ep. 307), pours himself some juice and rejects a call from Tariq, when NICOLE and ROBERT WESTON come in.

(CONTINUED)

ROBERT

You know there are no self-care days in finance, Brayden.

BRAYDEN

Can we not do this right now?

NICOLE

I told your father everyone deserves a day off.

ROBERT

Analysts deserve a day off. Portfolio managers. Traders. Not glorified interns.

Brayden's had it with his family's hypocrisy.

BRAYDEN

So people like Uncle Lucas?

ROBERT

He grew Weston Holdings to what it is today.

NICOLE

Everyone loves Lucas.

ROBERT

Stop drooling over my brother, Nicole. It's unseemly.

NICOLE

I'm not drooling... but he is attractive.

*

ROBERT

I'm serious, Brayden, even Trace understands the value of honest work--

*

DING-DONG. The doorbell.

BRAYDEN

Thank god. I'll get it.

We follow Brayden to the front door, which he opens to KEKE.

BRAYDEN (CONT'D)

Woah, I wasn't expecting--

KEKE

To need to brush your teeth?

(CONTINUED)

21 *GHOST: 308 - FULL YELLOW DRAFT - 06/02/22* 23A.
CONTINUED: (2)

21

Brayden checks his breath in his hands, slips outside to...

22

EXT. WESTON FAMILY TOWNHOUSE - DAY (D1)

22

Brayden ushers Keke to the sidewalk outside his house.

BRAYDEN

What are you doing here?

KEKE

Just checking up on my little
Inspector Gadget.

(re: Brayden's crotch)

Not him, but they do sorta look
alike, with the helicopter hat...

BRAYDEN

Keke.

KEKE

Okay, when you didn't show up this
morning, Lucas and I thought we'd
check in, make sure you weren't
overreacting.

BRAYDEN

Overreacting?! You're stealing
people's life savings and ruining
their lives.

KEKE

Please. They're so rich and
clueless they won't even miss it.

BRAYDEN

People will miss their pensions,
their retirement accounts. Are you
kidding me?

KEKE

Brayden, you're a drug dealer. You
sell people poison for a living.
The only reason you're feeling your
little feelings right now is
because our clients look and talk
like you.

BRAYDEN

Not the Tejadas.

KEKE

Yeah, about that... Monet Tejada's
been calling all morning, demanding
to meet with Lucas. We don't need
that kind of exposure.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

22

KEKE (CONT'D)

So brush your teeth, put on a suit,
and handle your investor. Kapeesh?

But before Brayden gets the chance, we're on--

23

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - DAY (D1)

23

Monet, dressed in a shocking red leather outfit (or whatever's weather-appropriate and would make a blue blood's jaw drop), as she struts past the MAITRE D' and onto the sunny patio where CLUB MEMBERS dine on crab cakes.

MAITRE D'

Ma'am! I'm sorry, but the patio is
for members only. Ma'am!

Monet strides towards a table where LUCAS WESTON is enjoying his après-golf with TWO FINANCE ASSHOLES. Lucas has his back to Monet, but the Assholes see her approaching them.

ASSHOLE 1

Um, do you know her?

ASSHOLE 2

I don't even know normal-looking
Black people.

Now Lucas turns around. He immediately knows who this force of a woman is. He smiles, amused, as the Maitre D' runs over.

MAITRE D'

Mr. Weston, I'm so sorry. Ma'am,
you need to come this way.

Monet ignores him and goes to the empty seat.

MONET

(to Lucas)

Thank you.

LUCAS

It's okay, Lenny, Ms. Tejada is a
friend. Please, join us. What can I
do for you?

MONET

I been trying to reach you but I
was told you weren't available.

LUCAS

Yes, well, I usually take client
meetings at the office.

(CONTINUED)

MONET

I'm not your usual client. When I call, you get on the phone. When I have questions, you give me answers. And the second I want my money back, you give it to me. That clear?

LUCAS

Like the air on the 9th hole.

Asshole 2, who's getting a kick out of this, leans over to Monet:

ASSHOLE 2

Where do you buy something like this?

MONET

Don't worry about it. You can't pull it off.

Asshole 2 almost shits his pants. Asshole 1 nervously laughs.

LUCAS

A woman who speaks her mind. I think we have an understanding, Ms. Tejada. It was lovely to meet you.

MONET

You should wear sunscreen. You're looking a little pink.

Monet lifts Asshole 1's martini, downs it, then strides out.

INT. WESTON HOLDINGS - DAY (D1)

Brayden stares at his phone, trying to will himself to make the (now unnecessary) call to Monet, when Tariq rushes in.

TARIQ

Yo, man, why ain't you answering my calls?

BRAYDEN

Dealing with some work shit, bro.

TARIQ

(whispering)

Well this shit is a thousand times worse. There's a fucking RICO investigation into us.

(CONTINUED)

BRAYDEN

RICO like Gambino crime family
RICO? Fuck. How do you know?!

TARIQ

Tell you later, right now we gotta
dead No Cap for a few days and--

Tariq stares at Brayden, who's having a mini breakdown.

TARIQ (CONT'D)

Yo, man, this is fucking serious.

BRAYDEN

Just processing the irony that *I'm*
the Weston targeted by a federal
investigation right now.

TARIQ

What you talking about, man?

Brayden decides to come clean:

BRAYDEN

Weston Holdings is a Ponzi scheme.
I saw the books.

TARIQ

The whole fucking thing is a scam?

BRAYDEN

But you can't say anything, 'Riq.
If my uncle knows I told you, he'll
out us for dealing. He knows about
everything.

TARIQ

Bro, that means my trust money is
gone!

BRAYDEN

And the Tejadas'! If Monet wants
her money back, we're dead.

TARIQ

Yeah, we are.

BRAYDEN

You're not supposed to agree with
me! We'll figure something out,
right? We always do?

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED: (2)

24

TARIQ

I'm tired of fuckin' playing
defense. We need to go on offense.

Off a determined Tariq.

25

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY (D1)

25

CLOSE on Diana as she hungrily slurps up the last of a
milkshake that Saxe brought her. She moves on ravenously to
the cheeseburger.

DIANA

Sorry, they only gave me Fritos and
a Sprite.

SAXE

No, I'm sorry, about that meeting
last night with Davis. We just have
different defense strategies.

DIANA

That's why I wanted to talk to you
alone. It's kinda fucked up, right,
not wanting to know the real story.

SAXE

Like I said, different strategies.
But, yes. Especially because
everything you tell us, me, is
confidential.

DIANA

Thing is, I don't know if I trust
Davis. He's looking out for a lot
of people, you know? People like
Monet.

SAXE

They do seem to have a special
relationship.

DIANA

I'm just wondering, what if he's
doing what's best for her, and not
me?

SAXE

I would really hope that's not the
case.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Listen, if I tell you something,
you won't tell anyone, right?
Including Davis?

SAXE

I promise. Diana, I just want to
get you out of here.

Diana stares at him, trying to ascertain if he's trustworthy.

DIANA

Okay, well, there's something you
should know.

And as we wonder if Diana's going to sell out Monet or follow
Davis's note, we TIME CUT TO:

INT. D.E.A. OFFICE - RICO WAR ROOM - DAY (D1)

CLOSE ON Effie's PHOTO as Saxe slams it on the table before
Blanca and Jenny.

SAXE

Effie Morales. She's our woman.

BLANCA

We've already been down that road.
Morales doesn't connect Tariq to
anything beyond dealing at
Stansfield.

SAXE

Until now. Tariq used to keep his
worlds separate. But he's letting
Effie in, to the point where she's
got her hands in all of it.

JENNY SULLIVAN

So, if we follow her now, you think
she could link the campus drugs to
Wall Street and the Tejada street
business.

SAXE

I do. And if she does, she's also
the most likely to cooperate.
Straight-A student who's got a
future other than drug dealing.

Blanca mulls it over, starting to be convinced.

BLANCA
(to Saxe)
Where'd you get this lead?

Saxe looks at Jenny, who nods for him to come clean.

SAXE
From Diana Tejada. I'm representing
her on the drug arrest.

BLANCA
You out of your goddamn mind?? This
is privileged information you got
as her attorney!!

JENNY SULLIVAN
But it doesn't have to be fruit of
the poisonous tree. We've got
plenty on Effie to backfill
reasonable suspicion. She's on the
rooftop camera and the named perp
in Lauren's attempted murder.

SAXE
Which was clearly retaliation on
behalf of the drug organization.

BLANCA
Real cute routine you two got going
on. You practice in the tub?

JENNY SULLIVAN
Blanca, let's do this. Before more
people get killed.

BLANCA
(to Saxe)
If you're right, your cover's
blown. You ready for that?

SAXE
I am.

BLANCA
Okay, I'll put a tail on Morales.

From Jenny and Saxe, feeling the win, we're on--

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - EFFIE'S ROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)

Effie studying at her desk when a call comes in from Cane.
She smiles as she answers:

(CONTINUED)

27

CONTINUED:

27

EFFIE

This a business call, right?

28

INT. PENTHOUSE - NIGHT (N1) (INTERCUT)

28

Cane wants to warn her about Tariq's plan, and the flirtation in her voice makes him consider it even more.

CANE

It was, but you sound hella naked,
and that's on you.

(then)

Real talk, I heard Tariq ask you to
do that pick-up. You sure you wanna
be his gopher?

EFFIE

I'm sorry, what's that got to do
with you?

CANE

It's just... you sure you trust
that nigga?

EFFIE

You got something to say, Cane, say
it.

Before Cane can respond, there's a SERIES OF LOUD CRASHES
from down the hall, followed by Dru screaming.

DRU (O.S.)

Fuuuuck!!

CANE

Sorry, Effie, I'll hit you up
later.

Cane runs to Dru's room, where Dru's smashing up the place.

CANE (CONT'D)

The fuck, man?

Dru answers by pressing PLAY on a VIDEO pulled up on his
laptop. It's JEMELE HILL mid-interview with EVERETT NEAL.

JEMELE HILL

So, Everett, you're here for a
specific purpose, is that right?

(CONTINUED)

EVERETT

Yes. I'd like my friends and family, and everyone really, to know something I've been keeping to myself for a long time. I'm gay.

JEMELE HILL

And why did you want to come onto my show to say that?

EVERETT

Because there isn't currently a single openly gay, active NBA player. But we're here. And we shouldn't have to hide. So, I'm done with all that.

JEMELE HILL

What has the support been like from your teammates?

EVERETT

Really great. From everyone. I couldn't do this without them. And, my boyfriend.

JEMELE HILL

Yes, the BF!

Everett's hot doctor boyfriend, HANK WEST, 30, white, joins them on stage.

HANK WEST

Nice to meet you.

JEMELE HILL

Can we dish for a second!? An ultra-marathoner pediatric oncologist? Where'd you find this guy?

EVERETT

(all smiles)
He found me.

Dru presses stop on the video and storms out of the room.

CANE

Where you going?

DRU

To drink 'till I black the fuck out.

*

29

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - THEATER - NIGHT (N1)

29

The theater is packed with AUDIENCE MEMBERS for the political debate. TATE and Harper come in through a side door.

TATE

That's a lot of potential voters.
Ooof, my stomach.

PROFESSOR BENNET

Well, well, well, Rashad Tate, are you actually nervous?
(off Tate's embarrassment)
No, I like how it looks on you.

They exchange a flirtatious look and we cut to a flash of their lovemaking from Episode 305. These two have gotten much closer. *

TATE

I like how you look on me.

They exchange a sexy smile and we see another flash of their sex scene from Ep. 305. *

TATE (CONT'D) *

Thank you for being here tonight.

PROFESSOR BENNET *

Where else would I be? *

They kiss. Professor Bennet lovingly wipes her lipstick from Tate's mouth until Tate spots his opponent ANNIE VUONG-HAN, talking with RSJ by the stage. *

TATE

Gotta go. Polls show a slight advantage to the first one to take the stage. Wish me luck!

PROFESSOR BENNET

You're Rashad Tate. You don't need luck.

Tate beats AVH to the stage. As the MODERATOR introduces the candidates MOS, we see Brayden unhappily sitting between Robert and Lucas Weston in the audience.

ROBERT

I can't imagine either of these will be the friend to us that Sweeney was.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS

Friends are often disguised in the
warpaint of enemies.

ROBERT

Do you really have to have to talk
like that?

BRAYDEN

If you're gonna fight, can I not be
in the middle?

On stage, the Moderator asks the first question.

(CONTINUED)

MODERATOR

Let's start with something on all our minds. Rising crime rates. What's your plan to bring them down? Ms. Vuong-Han?

AVH

First, we have to look at the details behind these numbers. Petty thefts, trespass. These are crimes of poverty, not malice--

TATE

(cutting her off)

Unlike my opponent, I actually come from poverty, and let me tell you, these so-called "crimes of poverty" are daily intrusions that tear away at our dignity. Which is why I recently worked with law enforcement to stop a major shipment of drugs that were about to flood our city--

AVH

That was a publicity stunt motivated by self-interest and croneyism! Just like everything Mr. Tate does. He wants to be the man of the poor, then why does his donor list read like a Who's Who of Wall Street's biggest crooks?

TATE

Or a Who's Who of the brave, risk-taking men and women who keep the city's economy going despite the demonization of capitalism that makes for a cool Instagram post but not very smart fiscal policy.

As Harper cringes, Lucas leans over Brayden to Robert:

LUCAS

You see, he's our man.

INT. DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT (N1)

With the debate on in the background, Davis tries to work but can only think about Saxe's betrayal. When the devil himself pokes his head in:

(CONTINUED)

SAXE

Gonna call it a day. Unless you need me.

Davis can barely reply, but knows he has to play it cool.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Nope. All good.

Saxe senses the tension in Davis's voice, but before he can do anything, THEO comes up behind him.

THEO

I'm glad you're both still here.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Theo--

THEO

Before you say anything, I wanna apologize. To both of you. This transition to being out, it ain't nothing. And...

SAXE

Hey, man, we get it. No apology necessary.

Saxe puts his hand on Theo's shoulder, making Davis seethe.

THEO

And I got some good news. Clinic says I'm a great candidate. The treatment's already working.

SAXE

Couldn't be happier for you, man.

Davis can't keep his cool any longer.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Nigga, can I have a fucking minute with my own fucking brother?!

SAXE

Yeah, man, sure. Goodnight.

As a rattled Saxe leaves, Theo turns to Davis:

THEO

Got a problem with white boy?

(CONTINUED)

DAVIS MACLEAN

I just don't need him knowing every little thing about you and me.

THEO

Hope you lie better in court, my brother.

DAVIS MACLEAN

'Aight. I found out last night that Saxe is working with the Feds.

THEO

And you just let him walk on outta here?

DAVIS MACLEAN

I'ma take care of it, okay? I'm only telling you because I'm worried it'll fuck with your release. I messed up. I'm real sorry, brother.

*

Theo shakes his head, he never wanted any of this.

THEO

You know, things might work out better for you if you ain't always so sure you the smartest motherfucker in the room.

Off Davis, feeling like a very stupid motherfucker...

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - THEATER GREEN ROOM - NIGHT (N1)

Post-debate, Tate removes his mic as Bennet enters.

TATE

I'm starving! Wanna give me your most gentle, ego-preserving feedback over Melba's mac & cheese?

PROFESSOR BENNET

I saw you talking to Lucas Weston just now. You know, AVH is right about being beholden to those people.

TATE

Look, I know you're right. But I gotta get the job first.

(MORE)

*

(CONTINUED)

TATE (CONT'D)

And as soon as I do, I'll quit those seersucker motherfuckers and give everyone free health care and an organic garden.

PROFESSOR BENNET

You know, buttercup, you gotta do better than that. I'm not convinced.

TATE

Can I convince you to marry me?

PROFESSOR BENNET

Get the fuck outta here.

TATE

I'm serious.

PROFESSOR BENNET

No, I'm just the other thing you need to win. A doting wife.

TATE

You ain't wrong. But, I also happen to love you.

PROFESSOR BENNET

Rashad--

TATE

I do. You make me remember why I got into all this in the first place. You're brilliant. And a seven out of ten in a bikini.

PROFESSOR BENNET

(laughs)

Seven? Keep it up, that's definitely how you get a ring on it.

TATE

Oh I will, buttercup. I will. And, in the meantime, I'll cancel my lunch date with Lucas Weston.

PROFESSOR BENNET

Now that's a good start...

Off these two lovers as their kiss allows them to grow closer by the minute...

32

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVESRITY - THEATER LOBBY - NIGHT (N1)

32

Tariq watches as the last of the debate crowd files out, including AVH and RSJ. Tariq goes up to RSJ once he's alone.

TARIQ

RSJ.

RSJ

Tariq, you weren't at the debate?

TARIQ

There's something I have to tell you. I don't know how to say this... Weston Holdings is a Ponzi scheme.

RSJ is fucking pissed, but he keeps his composure.

RSJ

How long have you known about this?

TARIQ

I just found out.

RSJ

Then I'll bring you to the S.E.C. tomorrow to report it, and you won't be implicated.

TARIQ

If you do that, you'll never get a penny back from them.

RSJ looks at Tariq with disappointment

RSJ

Are you suggesting I blackmail Lucas Weston?

TARIQ

I'm suggesting you don't let him rob you.

The accusation of weakness touches a nerve, just like Tariq wanted. RSJ drops his calm exterior for once:

RSJ

I worked my ass off to get here by doing things the right way. And I was walking away from Weston Holdings when your shady ass pulled me back in.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED:

32

RSJ (CONT'D)

So let's be absolutely clear, it's because of you, Tariq, that I'm fucked.

TARIQ

I had no idea it was a Ponzi. But with all due respect, RSJ, we're all fucked. The question is, what are you willing to do about it?

Off Tariq with a plan...

33

EXT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - EFFIE'S ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

33

Effie heads out of her dorm and towards the street. Behind her, AGENT ANGEL "JUNIOR" YOUNG follows from a safe distance. As Effie approaches her car, Young whispers into a device:

AGENT YOUNG

Target approaching her vehicle near northeast campus gate.

As Effie gets in her car, an UNMARKED UNDERCOVER CAR pulls up and Young hops in. Effie pulls out into the street. The unmarked car follows.

34

EXT. PAPER GOODS SUPPLY STORE - DAY (D2)

34

Effie pulls up to the loading dock. The unmarked car parks across the street to watch. Effie gives a receipt to a WORKER, who brings over several boxes of No Cap, All Frap coffee cups. As he loads them into Effie's trunk, Young SNAPS PHOTOS from the back seat.

As Effie drives away, Young zooms in on the photo he just took to see the LOGO on the cups, and we TIME CUT TO...

35

INT. D.E.A. OFFICE - RICO WAR ROOM - DAY (D2)

35

Agent Young dumps out the trash bag that he swiped from Weston Holdings in Ep. 307. An abundance of No Cap, All Frap cups fall onto the conference room table, along with banana peels, dirty napkins, and other trash.

Jenny and Blanca step back from the smell.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Jesus, Young. This really necessary?

Agent Young hands a cup to Blanca, whose interest is piqued.

AGENT YOUNG

Flip it over.

(CONTINUED)

Blanca does, and sees the false bottom. She peels it open.

AGENT YOUNG (CONT'D)

That's how they've been
distributing to Wall Street. You
order a coffee, get your drugs
delivered to your desk.

BLANCA

Right under everyone's nose.

AGENT YOUNG

Effie Morales picked up a new
supply of cups this morning. Next
step, she'll have to take them
somewhere to fill the bottoms.

JENNY SULLIVAN

To the stash house. Excuse me.

A happy Jenny goes to a private corner and starts a call...

INT. DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE - SAXE'S OFFICE - DAY (INTERCUT)

Saxe is at his desk, trying to keep a low profile from Davis
and the aggressive vibes, when he sees Jenny calling. He
closes his door and answers in a whisper.

SAXE

Hey.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Cooper, you were right. Effie's
leading us to everything we need.

Saxe is nervous AF, talking about this at work.

SAXE

Okay. Great. That's great.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Things are going to move fast. Like
within the day. You sure you're
okay with this?

Saxe looks over to Davis's office, at the man he's betraying.

SAXE

Yes.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Okay. And Cooper... be careful.

(CONTINUED)

36

CONTINUED:

36

Saxe immediately packs up the few personal items he has -- a couple framed photos, his laptop, etc. He grabs his jacket and goes to Davis's office, trying his best to sound normal.

SAXE

Heading to lunch. See you in a bit.

Davis barely manages a nod, and Saxe walks out... for the last time.

37

EXT. COUNTRY CLUB - DAY (D2)

37

Lucas Weston is back at his regular table, this time alone, reading the paper, when the Maitre D' escorts Tate over.

TATE

Lucas Weston.

LUCAS

Rashad, I'm surprised to see you.

TATE

Had some last minute availability.

LUCAS

Lucky me.

As Tate takes a seat, the Maitre D' lingers, wanting to make sure this melanin-blessed interloper was actually invited.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

(to the Maitre D')

Thank you, Lenny. When Mr. Tate and I began engaging in peaceful, intra-species, verbal communication, that was your clue to fuck off.

The Maitre D' turns red and slinks away.

TATE

Don't get a lot of brothers on the patio, I see.

*

LUCAS

(moving on)

You're a busy man, Rashad, so I'll get to the point. At Weston Holdings, we believe the banking sector can best serve this fine country when it is unhindered by inefficient government oversight. Congressman Sweeney shared this belief, and the result was quite fruitful for both parties.

(CONTINUED)

TATE

Ah, yes, ex-Congressman Sweeney. So sad when a good man turns out to be a racist.

LUCAS

Just like when a good politician turns out to be a dickless lemming. Would you like a biscuit?

TATE

(no to the biscuit)

Ask around, you'll find out that's the last thing I am. And, I think we agree on the larger point here. Let bankers bank.

*

LUCAS

Terrific. I'm hopeful your campaign will be a success. To that end, here's a "donation."

It's a thick envelope of cash. Tate smiles and pockets it.

TATE

I think I will have one of those.

Off Tate, popping a biscuit in his mouth.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - DAY (D2)

CLOSE ON a social media post of Everett and Hank West having oysters and champagne at a fancy restaurant. PULL OUT to Dru, looking at the post, sitting at the bar of the same restaurant, on his 5th drink. He watches as Ev and Hank West pay the bill. Everett softly pecks Hank West on the lips as they head out. As they walk past the bar, Dru turns away, but Ev recognizes him anyway.

EVERETT

Dru? Hey, thought that was you.

DRU

Oh, wow, Ev. What up? You like this place too?

Dru's sloppy drunk and louder than he should be.

EVERETT

I was gonna tell you I was in town but--

(CONTINUED)

DRU

--a guy like me ain't a good look?
With this gay celebrity thing you
doing now.

A few PATRONS, recognizing NBA newbie Everett Neal, start
filming the interaction on their phones.

EVERETT

Dru, you know I--

DRU

It's all good, Ev. I made my
choice.

(re: Hank West)

Just like you did with your white
boy. *

HANK WEST

Really? Ev, do you want me to-- *

DRU

It's okay, Doc. I'm happy for you.
You got yourself a good man.

EVERETT

Come on, Dru, let's go outside.

Everett tries to guide Dru out, but Dru doesn't budge, as he
spirals into a drunken monologue of self-pity:

DRU

Know how you were always saying I
didn't know what I wanted? Well, I
figured it out. And I found
someone. Never-the-fuck-mind it got
so fucked up you could never begin
to fucking understand. And now,
man, he's gone. Now I got nothing.

Everett takes Dru into his arms, and Dru lets himself sob in
Everett's familiar embrace.

EVERETT

It's okay, Dru. It's all gonna be
okay.

Effie parks, and goes to the trunk where she grabs a box of
coffee cups. Before she can close the trunk, SIRENS blare and
multiple cop cars and SUVs speed into the parking lot.

(CONTINUED)

39

CONTINUED:

39

Without a second thought, Effie throws the coffee cups down and runs for her life. Unfortunately, she's ill-prepared as a plain clothes DEA AGENT stops her in her tracks.

As the DEA Agent walks Effie towards the police cars, we're --

A40

INT. TEAM DRUG WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A40

AGENT YOUNG
Alright, everybody in!

(CONTINUED)

A40

CONTINUED:

A40

Agent Young and the SEARCH TEAM file in and begin tearing everything apart as the DEA Agent and Effie remain outside.

AGENT 1

Hey, Young, come look at this.

Young goes to the long work table where the false bottoms are filled. Agent 1 shows him a crystal white powder. Young takes out his portable narcotics scanner and tests the crystal white powder. Whatever it is, it's not cocaine. Young picks up the powder and rubs it between two fingers.

AGENT YOUNG

It's fucking sugar!

Young looks to the other Agents for their results:

AGENT 2

Nothing here.

AGENT 3

Nothing.

AGENT 4

Sorry.

*

Young angrily knocks a box of coffee cups to the ground.

AGENT YOUNG

Let her go.

Agent 2 runs outside at rapid speed --

B40

EXT. TEAM DRUG WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

B40

Where Agent 2 finds Effie being held still by the DEA Agent who apprehended her.

AGENT 2

He said let her go.

DEA Agent doesn't budge.

EFFIE

You fucking heard him! Let me go.

Effie pulls herself free.

EFFIE (CONT'D)

What the fuck, man?!!

Off Effie feigning indignation.

40

EXT. TEAM DRUG WAREHOUSE - DAY (D2)

40

Inside his car, Tariq watches live, grainy CCTV footage of Effie leaving the warehouse. Soon thereafter, the Search Team exits: all of them disappointed but, more importantly, empty-handed. Tariq starts a call as celebratory music takes us to:

*
*
*

41

INT. TEJADA FAMILY HOME - DAY (D2)

41

Monet preps dinner when she gets a text from Tariq: *done*.

42 **INT. PENTHOUSE - DAY (D2)** 42

Cane paces, worried about Effie, when a text from Monet comes in: *we good*. Cane starts a text to Effie -- *can u talk?* -- but deletes it and instead calls Dru.

43 **EXT. EAST RIVER - DAY (D2)** 43

Alone and miserable, Dru throws rocks into the river when a call from Cane comes in.

DRU
Naw, fuck all y'all.

He rejects the call and throws another rock.

44 **INT. CASTILLO RESTAURANT - DAY (D2)** 44

Evelyn gets a text from an unidentified number: "We good." *

GUSTAVO *
Ma, take a look at this. *

Gustavo walks over and shows Evelyn the screen on his phone. *
It's video of Dru accosting Everett from Sc. 38. *

DRU (ON PHONE SCREEN)
*And I found someone. Never-the-fuck-
mind it got so fucked up you could
never begin to fucking understand.
And now, man, he's gone.*

Gustavo presses pause. *

GUSTAVO
This shit has gone viral.

EVELYN
He told us everything was good.

GUSTAVO
And still nothing from Gordo?

She doesn't need to answer, they both know what this means --
Dru's the reason Gordo's missing. And probably dead.

EVELYN
We need to have another
conversation with Dru.

Off the paused image of Dru, a target now on his back...

45

INT. DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE - DAY (D2)

45

Davis get a text from Tariq: *it worked*. Davis breathes a sigh of relief then dials Theo's cell.

(CONTINUED)

THEO (VOICEMAIL)

This Theo. Do that thing you do here.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Yo man, got a 'development' I think you'd be happy about. Hit me up. Let's get a drink. Life ain't all bad, right?

Davis hangs up, trying to feel happier than he does. END
MUSIC and TIME CUT TO:

INT. TEJADA FAMILY HOME - DINING ROOM - DAY (D2)

Cane, full of guilt and bad attitude, walks in to find Monet and Tariq waiting for him to discuss next steps.

MONET

Where's Dru?

CANE

He's your son.

Monet eyes him, she'll deal with his ass later.

MONET

Let's get this shit over with.

TARIQ

Now that the Feds know we're onto them, they're gonna have to regroup, which buys us some time.

CANE

What this? Skinny Nigga Masterclass on How To Beat a RICO?

MONET

One more word, boy.

CANE

(ignoring Monet)

So, Tariq, you gonna go after your man Saxe? Or pull a Lauren and chauffeur his snitch ass outta town? Because someone gotta dead that nigga.

TARIQ

I'll take care of it. But right now we need new distro for Wall Street. Before Noma starts asking questions.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly there's a banging at the door.

CANE
Who da fuck...

Cane exits to answer the door and comes back in with Effie.

EFFIE
Ain't y'all cute, in your little
secret meeting, congratulating each
other on setting me up.

They're all surprised to see her.

EFFIE (CONT'D)
Fuck y'all.

*
*

TARIQ
Okay, chill. You can be mad, but we
needed one person on the outside.
And you were never at risk.

The "we" makes Effie look at Cane, who waits for the lashing he deserves. But instead:

EFFIE
It's cool. I'd've done the same
thing to all you motherfuckers.

She steps to Cane. Kisses him deeply. Tariq turns to Monet --
what the fuck?

*
*

EFFIE (CONT'D)
(to Cane)
You ready to go?

*
*
*

It's a major power play on Effie's part, forcing Cane to pick
between her and Monet. Cane pauses, looks to Tariq, then
grins at Monet.

*

CANE
Enjoy the rest of the TEDTalk, Ma.

Cane and Effie leave together, leaving Monet and Tariq alone.

TARIQ
You knew about that?

MONET
I don't give a shit who's fuckin'
who. We need to talk about Weston
Holdings.

*

Tariq swallows, that's the one problem he hasn't solved.

(CONTINUED)

MONET (CONT'D)

I don't trust that Saint Bernard
looking motherfucker for shit.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED: (3)

46

MONET (CONT'D)

I want a cashier's check with my
full amount, by Monday.

Monet heads to the door.

MONET (CONT'D)

Every goddamn penny, Tariq.

The door closes and Tariq makes a call to an unknown person.

TARIQ (INTO PHONE)

Hey, we're out of time. We got to
do this shit tonight.

47

INT. D.E.A. OFFICE - RICO WAR ROOM - DAY (D2)

47

CLOSE ON a stream of sugar as Jenny pours it from a baggie
onto the table in front of Saxe.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Sugar. Pounds and pounds of it.

SAXE

Did they check everywhere?

JENNY SULLIVAN

They knew we were coming, Cooper!
Which means they knew about you.

SAXE

No, no way Diana Tejada suspected
me. There's gotta be another
explanation.

JENNY SULLIVAN

I have one.

SAXE

Thank you.

JENNY SULLIVAN

You're working for them, and you
set this whole thing up to burn me.

SAXE

Burn you?! I'm the one who just got
fucking burned here! Because of
your team's sloppy work!

JENNY SULLIVAN

My team was acting on the
intelligence you gave them!

(CONTINUED)

SAXE

And if they did it right, Tariq and his serial killer associates would be behind bars right now, not waiting around the next corner to kill me!

JENNY SULLIVAN

I told you Diana was smart.

SAXE

Oh my god! I have a target on my back and all you can say is "I told you so!"

JENNY SULLIVAN

This affects me too! I banked everything on this investigation, and now I've got shit all over me. I'm sorry, but I can't ask for protection for you now.

It hits Saxe fully just how much he's been used by her.

SAXE

Know what, Jenny? For awhile there, it felt good to like you. To actually want to be with you. But you'll never know what that feels like, because the only thing you're loyal to is your own fucked up ambition. And that's a lonely, miserable life. But it suits you.

JENNY SULLIVAN

Fuck you, Saxe.

SAXE

Never again, Jenny. Never again.

Saxe walks out. Off Jenny feeling the sting of his words...

With his head on a swivel, Saxe dials Tariq as he hurries to his car. He gets his voicemail and takes a deep breath before going for it:

SAXE

Tariq, it's Saxe. Listen, I know where Tasha and Yasmine are. If I die, that information does too.

As he talks, Saxe gets into his car.

(CONTINUED)

SAXE (CONT'D)

So call off your dogs, and I'll--

The cold steel of a gun pushes into the back of Saxe's skull.

THEO

Hang up.

Theo is in Saxe's backseat, a trigger pull away from killing him. Saxe ends the call, drops the phone, puts both hands up.

SAXE

Theo, I promise none of this affects you or your release--

THEO

Shut the fuck up and drive.

A terrified Saxe starts the engine and pulls out.

INT. WESTON HOLDINGS - LUCAS WESTON'S OFFICE - DAY (D2)

CLOSE ON Tariq's phone as it lights up with the voicemail from Saxe. Tariq pockets the phone and looks at an extremely anxious Brayden. They're in an after-hours meeting with RSJ and a half-curious, half-nervous Lucas Weston.

LUCAS

I have a dinner meeting to get to but I can always make time for my favorite Limited Partner. And the youth. So glad you invited--

RSJ

Shut your fucking mouth, Lucas. I have never met a man with less integrity than you.

LUCAS

I'm sorry... where's this coming from?

RSJ

I know it's a Ponzi, Lucas.

Lucas shoots a vengeful look at Brayden, then tries to cover:

LUCAS

RSJ, I'm sorry you've gotten in the middle of a family squabble, but that's a lie my drug-dealing, fuck-up nephew told you to--

*

RSJ

Keep talking and I call the SEC tonight. Or we can do this another way. I keep my mouth shut, and in exchange, you return to me every last dollar of my investment and Tariq's trust fund.

Brayden sweats -- RSJ forgot one of the key asks.

BRAYDEN

Um... And... that one other thing?

RSJ

And the Tejada money.

LUCAS

(to Brayden)

You ungrateful, entitled--

(switching to Tariq)

And you. I guess you think this is the hood, but--

TARIQ

The whole world's the hood, you phony shithead.

LUCAS

You are both going to regret--

RSJ

Calm the fuck down, Lucas. If you do anything against Tariq or Brayden, I send an anonymous tip to my friends at the Commission the second I have all my money back.

*

BRAYDEN

So we're all gonna just have to get along, because we're in this together now.

LUCAS

I'm not in anything with you. But I can't disagree that I now find myself skewered from mouth to ass like a suckling pig over hot coals. However, as is the nature of these situations, I don't currently have the full funds for repayment--

(CONTINUED)

RSJ

I've made a payment plan based on your rate of new investments. We just have to make sure the Feds don't find out before I'm paid in full.

*
*

A slight smile comes to Lucas's face, at least there's a perverse pleasure in watching RSJ have to dirty himself.

LUCAS

I have that covered.

*

Off RSJ, his ethical line about to get even blurrier...

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - PROF. BENNET'S OFFICE - DAY (D2)

Where the aforementioned bedfellow, Tate, walks in and drops two tickets onto Professor Bennet's desk.

TATE

MJ, The Musical. Front row. Not so bad being my plus one, is it?

Harper's not in the mood. She levels an accusatory look.

PROFESSOR BENNET

I had an interesting chat with Brushaundria today.

TATE

Hey now, I'm not tryin' to look at any intern titties! It's not my fault they're out there twerking all over the damn office!

PROFESSOR BENNET

Rashad, she told me you met with Lucas Weston today. After you said you wouldn't.

TATE

You right, I lied about that. But listen, baby, starting right this minute, we're going to have a fully honest relationship.

PROFESSOR BENNET

I've been honest with you.

TATE

Okay, so I'm off to a slow start.
But here's everything: Not only did
I meet with Weston today, I
accepted a campaign donation.

PROFESSOR BENNET

You're going to have to give that
back.

TATE

Now that I cannot do. I'm into
honesty, buttercup, not losing.

PROFESSOR BENNET

Funny, because you're losing me.

Harper walks past Tate and out the door.

INT. DAVIS MACLEAN'S OFFICE - DAY (D2)

CLOSE ON Tariq's worried face as he plays Saxe's voicemail
for Davis:

SAXE (ON VOICEMAIL)

*I know where Tasha and Yasmine are.
If I die, that information does
too. So call off your dogs and I'll-*

TARIQ

Then it ends. I've tried calling
ten times. No answer. I gotta find
him before the Tejadas do.

DAVIS MACLEAN

The motherfucker ain't stupid. He's
probably bluffing. Either way, I'm
sure he's halfway to some family
bunker in Montana by now.

(Davis's phone rings)

I gotta take this.

Davis steps aside to answer the call.

DAVIS MACLEAN (CONT'D)

MacLean... Yes, I'm his emergency
contact... But he told me the
treatment was working...? Yes, I
understand.

*

Davis hangs up and immediately dials Theo. It goes straight
to voicemail. Davis shouts at his phone.

(CONTINUED)

DAVIS MACLEAN (CONT'D)

Theo, why have you been lying about your treatments?! Stop fucking ignoring me!

TARIQ

You okay, man?

DAVIS MACLEAN

Nah, man, my brother's fucking dying and he won't pick up my calls.

(then, realizing)

What time did you get Saxe's voicemail?

TARIQ

An hour ago.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Fuck.

TARIQ

What?

DAVIS MACLEAN

I told Theo that Saxe fuckin' betrayed me. He's gonna make him pay.

TARIQ

You think your brother's with Saxe?

DAVIS MACLEAN

Until the crazy motherfucker kills him.

TARIQ

Davis, if Saxe dies--

DAVIS MACLEAN

Shut up already, kid. I know where they are.

Davis grabs his keys and Tariq follows him out.

A just-released Diana walks out of the courthouse to the street, where Monet is waiting.

MONET

You okay?
(off Diana's nod)
You did good, baby girl.

DIANA

Yeah, but my charges are still pending.

MONET

Davis'll take care of those.

DIANA

He better, Ma.

MONET

What I just say?

DIANA

And that ain't all. I want out. Out of the game. Out of New York. I'm thinking Spellman. I can transfer next semester. I know you have enough to cover tuition and living expenses. It'll be a fresh start.

MONET

Fresh start. I'll give you a fresh slap upside the fuckin' head. Get in the damn car.

*
*

Off Diana, wanting to be free more than ever...

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - EFFIE'S ROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

Effie straddles Cane, as their hands and lips land all over each other, in an attempt to prove to each other, and themselves, that everything's fine.

CANE

Hold up. You really cool with how everything went down?

EFFIE

Hundred percent. You?

CANE

Somewhere between like 80 and 110.

They start up again, and it's hot, when there's a loud KNOCK.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Maintenance. Got a gas leak on this floor. Need to check your vents.

(CONTINUED)

EFFIE

You fucking kidding me?

CANE

(not stopping)

Tell her I'm checking your vents
right now...

Until they hear the jingle of a set of keys.

WOMAN VOICE (O.S.)

Okay, maintenance coming in.

EFFIE

Hold on! I'm getting dressed!

Effie throws her shirt on and opens the door to -- Blanca Rodriguez! Who yanks her into the hall and cuffs her.

EFFIE (CONT'D)

What the fuck!!

BLANCA

You have the right to remain
silent. Anything you say--

EFFIE

Get the fuck off me!

As Blanca drags Effie down the hall, a surprised, angry Cane enters the hall still getting dressed.

CANE

Where's your fuckin' warrant?!!

BLANCA

Why? You her lawyer? Shut the fuck
up before I take your ass in too.

Blanca leads Effie to Jenny, who's waiting by an unmarked car.

EFFIE

The fuck is this? That place was
clean and you know it.

JENNY SULLIVAN

You're not being arrested for drug
dealing, Effie.

EFFIE

Then fucking what?

JENNY SULLIVAN

Attempted murder.

The tinted back window of the unmarked car rolls down to reveal LAUREN BALDWIN! She looks at Effie.

LAUREN

Yeah, that's her. That's the bitch who tried to kill me.

As Effie's mind fucking explodes, we see Cane across the street, staring in shock at the woman he thought was dead, and then at the woman he's just fallen for, as Effie's pushed into a police cruiser's backseat and driven away.

EXT. DOCK NEAR THE PORT AUTHORITY HELIPAD - NIGHT (N2)

The same dock Davis and Theo went in Ep. 307, except now it's dark and windy. Through the strobe of landing pattern lights, we make out Theo, pointing a gun at Saxe, who pleads for his life.

SAXE

I promise, Theo! I will disappear! Forever!

THEO

Yeah, that's exactly what's gonna happen.

But before Theo can take the shot, Davis and Tariq run onto the dock.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Theo, do not pull that fucking trigger!

THEO

Get the fuck outta here, Davis!

SAXE

Davis, thank you! Listen, man--

DAVIS MACLEAN

(to Saxe)

Shut the fuck up!

THEO

This traitor gotta go, little brother. And I'm the perfect one to do it.

Davis inches closer.

(CONTINUED)

DAVIS MACLEAN

It ain't over for you, Theo. There are other treatments, other clinics.

THEO

Nah, man. It is over. I got a month at best.

*

Tariq takes a tentative step towards Theo.

TARIQ

Theo, if you take that shot, it's only gonna cause more problems for Davis.

DAVIS MACLEAN

He's right. Put the gun down, Theo, for me.

THEO

You'll be fine, brother. Besides, this ain't about you. See, you ain't never think about what I want. And this is it.

Theo levels the gun at Saxe's chest.

SAXE

Theo, no! Davis! Please!

BANG!! The bullet pierces Saxe's heart. He collapses, his lifeless body splayed across the dock. Tariq runs to him to check for a pulse as Davis takes slow steps towards Theo.

DAVIS MACLEAN

Give me the gun, Theo. You're not taking the blame for this. I'm not letting you go back to prison.

THEO

You right about that, baby bro. We both free now.

DAVIS MACLEAN

No! Don't do this!

*

*

We STAY ON Davis's face lit up by the strobing lights, as he watches Theo turn the gun on himself. We hear another BANG. Theo takes his own life. The pain, the guilt, that will drive Davis to darkness, it's all there, and then we're BLACK.

(CONTINUED)

END OF EPISODE

X30

INT. STANSFIELD UNIVERSITY - THEATER - NIGHT

X30

On stage, the Moderator builds off of the first question.

MODERATOR

Let's move on to another topic. Gun laws. We all know this is of great division among Democrats and Republicans. Do you both agree we need tighter gun control?

AVH

We absolutely need tighter gun laws. We need to restrict how easily American citizens, especially those suffering from mental illness and under the age of twenty one can obtain guns.

TATE

As far as this great state goes, that is already the law. Are you that uninformed and out of touch, Ms. Vuong-Han?

AVH

I'm speaking on a national level. We need to be working to impress upon our more conservative colleagues that gun ownership requires a certain level of mental stability and maturity. As a former NYPD officer, I would assume you agree.

TATE

I do agree. But not because it's a liberal talking point. As a police officer, I've seen the damage that automatic weapons do to the human body. No eighteen year old needs an automatic weapon that's designed for warfare.

MODERATOR

Since you brought up your police background -- how do you propose we handle the issue of police brutality? Especially in minority and low-income neighborhoods?

AVH

I would love to hear Councilman Tate's response.

(CONTINUED)

TATE

No, ladies first.

AVH

No. Former police officers first.

Tate straightens his tie; an attempt to delay.

TATE

I do not condone the attack on Black and brown people in this city, state, or country. We all know the inherent biases that plague our communities. Do police officers need bias and sensitivity training? Yes. But we also need to acknowledge that Black and brown communities want effective policing in their neighborhoods.