

SAWGRASS WARS

"Alligator Alley"
Episode 4 - Season 1

Written by

Kurt Weichert

Based on the Sawgrass Wars novella series
by Kurt Weichert

Kurt Weichert
Website: weichertmedia.com
Email: kurtw423@gmail.com
Phone: (239) 810-9356

FADE IN:

EXT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - DAY

JOHNNY MALONE stands behind the gate with his arms open.

BONES stares at him.

The moment stretches.

Johnny realizes his son is not coming. He lowers his arms and brushes imaginary dust from his green shorts.

JOHNNY
You boys come alone?

ALEX
Depends who's asking.

JOHNNY
I am.

ALEX
Then yes.

BILLY looks toward the black Mercedes.

BILLY
Unless you count whoever owns that
Mercedes.

JOHNNY
Deon's leaving.

DEON CHILDRESS steps between them. Up close, he is bigger than Alex expected -- a courtroom attorney who still remembers every football field where someone tried to break him.

DEON
You followed me?

ALEX
We were here first.

Deon looks at Billy.

DEON
Billy Dawber?

Billy nods cautiously.

DEON (CONT'D)
You look like Timmy.

BILLY
People say that.

DEON
They're right.

Deon's expression softens, then he turns to Bones.

DEON (CONT'D)
What happened to your face?

BONES
Merle Shelton.

DEON
Why did Merle Shelton hit you?

Bones shoves the birthday card into his pocket.

BONES
Long story.

DEON
Does that story involve Dale Brody
being shot?

Nobody answers.

Deon removes his sunglasses.

DEON (CONT'D)
I heard about it on the drive over.
One Brody dead, one wounded, Jasper
Shelton dead at Dawber County
General, and half the sheriff's
department looking for a stolen
Chevrolet.

Bones points toward the Caprice.

BONES
That Chevy's ours.

DEON
The other Chevrolet.

BONES
Oh.

DEON
Did you shoot Dale?

Bones looks at Johnny for the first time.

BONES

He was trying to kill me.

Johnny's casual smile vanishes.

JOHNNY

Dale Brody tried to kill my son?

ALEX

He tried to take him. The Sheltons did too.

JOHNNY

What for?

ALEX

The money.

Johnny's eyes move to Alex.

JOHNNY

What money?

ALEX

The five million dollars you hid in the Dawber County swamps.

Johnny lights his cigarette.

JOHNNY

I have no idea what you're talking about.

ALEX

You're not a very good liar.

JOHNNY

I'm an excellent liar. You're just not important enough to deserve the effort.

Deon grips the open gate.

DEON

Johnny, these boys cannot stay here. Half of Dawber County may be looking for them.

JOHNNY

Then they especially shouldn't leave.

DEON
You're not listening.

JOHNNY
I heard every word.

DEON
I have to get to Kenny. Kinder's
people claim they found him
unconscious in isolation.

Alex steps forward.

ALEX
What happened to him?

DEON
I don't know yet.

ALEX
Is he alive?

DEON
He was when the prison called.

ALEX
Then I'm coming with you.

DEON
No. You're staying here.

ALEX
That's my father.

DEON
And you arriving at Reform
Correctional with two fugitives and
a Dawber won't help him.

BILLY
We're not fugitives.

Deon gives Bones a pointed look.

DEON
The sheriff may disagree.

ALEX
What did Kinder do to Kenny?

DEON
I intend to find out.

Deon turns to Johnny.

DEON (CONT'D)

You have until five tomorrow
afternoon. After that, I file
Bubs's bankruptcy petition, and
whatever happens next belongs to
you.

JOHNNY

Hold off until I talk to him.

DEON

One day. That's all I can give you.

Deon looks at the boys.

DEON (CONT'D)

Do not go back to Dawber County
until I call.

BONES

You got my number?

DEON

I've had your number since you were
ten.

Johnny inhales sharply.

Bones hears it.

BONES

You been checking on me?

Deon says nothing.

BONES (CONT'D)

Have you?

DEON

I made sure you and your mother
were alive.

BONES

For him?

Deon's silence answers.

Bones looks at Johnny. Johnny studies his cigarette.

JOHNNY

Come on inside. Standing in the
street isn't good for anybody.

Deon pushes past them.

DEON

You are one smooth son of a bitch.

JOHNNY

So I've been told.

Deon heads toward his Mercedes.

Johnny watches until it turns the corner. Then checks every window, rooftop, and parked car.

He ushers the boys through the gate and secures two heavy locks.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Welcome to Miami.

EXT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

A tropical hideout assembled from other people's garbage.

An old swimming pool with cracked blue tile. Two yellow lawn chairs beneath a striped umbrella. Empty mojito glasses around an overflowing ashtray.

Cuban music plays on a portable radio.

A revolver rests on the patio table. Another pistol hides beneath a newspaper.

Billy notices both.

Johnny notices him noticing.

JOHNNY

Beautiful neighborhood. Friendly people. Still, a man should respect the unexpected.

Alex looks around.

ALEX

This is it?

JOHNNY

This is what?

ALEX

You.

JOHNNY

That is a difficult philosophical question for this early in the day.

ALEX

Everybody in Dawber thinks you
escaped with millions.

JOHNNY

Everybody in Dawber spends too much
time discussing my affairs.

ALEX

You live in a dump.

Johnny looks toward the house.

JOHNNY

I don't come to your boathouse and
criticize the mildew.

ALEX

How do you know about my boathouse?

Johnny smiles.

Alex glances at Bones, who has not stopped watching his
father.

Johnny's smile weakens.

JOHNNY

How've you been, son?

BONES

You really asking me that?

JOHNNY

Yes.

BONES

Not good.

Johnny nods slowly.

JOHNNY

How's your mother?

BONES

Why don't you ask her?

JOHNNY

I can't.

BONES

You know where she lives.

JOHNNY

Knowing where somebody lives and
being free to knock on the door are
different things.

BONES

You invited me here.

JOHNNY

You're turning eighteen.

BONES

Tomorrow.

JOHNNY

I know.

Bones steps closer. He is taller and almost twice as broad.

BONES

You know my birthday. You know
where I live. You know who I run
around with. You even know we steal
boat motors.

Billy looks at Alex.

BILLY

He knows about that?

Johnny points his cigarette at them.

JOHNNY

Stealing outboard motors is an
amateur enterprise with an
unacceptable risk-to-profit ratio.

ALEX

That's your objection?

JOHNNY

It's my professional assessment.

Bones's face reddens.

BONES

You knew everything. All this time,
you knew everything.

JOHNNY

Not everything.

BONES

You knew enough to send somebody to watch us.

JOHNNY

To protect you.

BONES

You sent Deon?

JOHNNY

Deon provided occasional information.

BONES

Occasional?

JOHNNY

Birthdays. School trouble. Your mother's health. The people around you.

Bones's fists curl.

BONES

But you couldn't come yourself.

JOHNNY

No.

BONES

Couldn't or wouldn't?

Johnny looks at the pool.

JOHNNY

The Colombians wanted me dead. The Haitians wanted me dead. Some Italians in Tampa wanted me dead for reasons I never completely understood. The federal government wanted me in prison. Mack Donnelly wanted me in the ground.

BONES

Mack's gone.

JOHNNY

Men like Mack are never gone. They leave apprentices.

BONES

What about Atticus?

Johnny's eyes narrow.

JOHNNY

What about him?

BONES

People say Mack killed him looking for you.

JOHNNY

That's what happened.

BONES

You let everybody else pay.

Johnny's cigarette hand trembles.

JOHNNY

I left because staying would've killed more people.

BONES

Leaving killed people too.

Johnny has no clever answer.

Alex steps between them.

ALEX

Where's the money?

Billy sighs.

BILLY

Alex.

ALEX

What? That's why we came.

BONES

That's why you came.

ALEX

It's why Dale Brody tried to take you. It's why Jasper Shelton is dead. It's why Kinder put Kenny in isolation. Everybody thinks we can find Johnny's money.

Johnny studies Alex.

JOHNNY

Kenny showed you something?

ALEX

I showed him a map.

JOHNNY

What map?

Alex draws the coded paper from his jacket.

Johnny reaches for it.

Alex pulls it back.

ALEX

You first.

Johnny laughs softly.

JOHNNY

Kenny's boy, all right.

ALEX

You know what it is?

JOHNNY

I might.

ALEX

Can you read it?

JOHNNY

I might.

ALEX

Where is the five million dollars?

Johnny loses his humor.

JOHNNY

Who told you the amount?

ALEX

Dale Brody.

JOHNNY

Before or after Bones shot him?

ALEX

Before.

Johnny looks at Bones.

JOHNNY

You really shot Dale?

BONES
He had a knife.

JOHNNY
Did you kill him?

BONES
Don't know.

Johnny nods as though Bones passed a test neither knew was being given.

JOHNNY
Come inside.

ALEX
I'm not giving you the map.

JOHNNY
I was going to feed you.

Bones's stomach GROWLS.

Johnny smiles.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
At least one Malone is willing to negotiate.

INT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Small white floor tiles. Dark wood paneling. A brown sofa faces a television with rabbit-ear antennas.

Newspapers, financial magazines, and property records cover every surface.

The air smells of mildew, coffee, cigarettes, and something burning in the oven.

INT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Johnny leads them inside.

JOHNNY
Make yourselves at home.

CARMEN enters in denim shorts and a red brassiere, wielding a wooden spoon.

CARMEN
You left the tamales in the oven.

Johnny looks at the stove.

JOHNNY
I was handling a security
situation.

Carmen eyes the boys.

CARMEN
Who are they?

Johnny places a hand on Bones's shoulder. Bones stiffens.

JOHNNY
This is my son.

CARMEN
Your son?

JOHNNY
Bones, meet Carmen.

Bones shakes her hand.

CARMEN
You said you had no family.

JOHNNY
I said my family lived far away.

CARMEN
You told me your son was a baby.

JOHNNY
He was when I left.

CARMEN
That was twelve years ago!

JOHNNY
Time passes quickly.

Carmen strikes his chest with the spoon.

Johnny backs away.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
We have guests.

CARMEN
Now you care? You could not meet my
parents because you were hiding.
You could not come to my cousin's
wedding because you were hiding.
(MORE)

CARMEN (CONT'D)

But three children from the swamp
can walk through the gate?

BONES

We ain't children.

Carmen looks him up and down.

CARMEN

Not that one.

Johnny opens the oven. Smoke billows out.

JOHNNY

The tamales appear to have
suffered.

Carmen slams the pan onto the counter. Red sauce splashes the wall.

Billy moves out of range.

CARMEN

You are an impossible man.

JOHNNY

I have survived because I am
difficult to predict.

CARMEN

You survive because God wants to
punish the rest of us.

She grabs Johnny by the hair.

Johnny yelps and bends at the waist.

BONES

Get off him!

Carmen pulls.

A thick piece of Johnny's hair comes away in her hand.

Everyone freezes.

Johnny covers the top of his head.

Carmen holds an expensive brown WIG.

Bones stares at his father's short gray hair.

Alex bursts out laughing.

Billy tries not to, which makes it worse.

Carmen throws the wig into the sink.

CARMEN

I hate this thing.

She storms out and SLAMS the screen door. Spanish curses fade down the side of the house.

Johnny straightens.

JOHNNY

Well, she took that better than expected.

Bones points at the wig.

BONES

What the hell is that?

JOHNNY

A disguise.

BONES

You wear a wig?

JOHNNY

The Colombians, Haitians, Italians, and federal government all possess photographs of me.

Johnny peels off a FALSE MUSTACHE and drops it beside the wig.

Billy looks at Alex.

BILLY

We crossed the state for this man.

Alex wipes tears from his eyes.

ALEX

Apparently.

Johnny takes a bottle of rum from a cabinet.

JOHNNY

Neither of you is funny.

Bones does not laugh.

BONES

You can live here like this, but
you couldn't come check on Mama?

Johnny puts down the rum.

JOHNNY

I told you. Returning would have
endangered you.

BONES

You endangered us by leaving.

JOHNNY

How?

BONES

We were broke.

Johnny frowns.

JOHNNY

I made arrangements.

BONES

Your arrangements didn't pay the
light bill.

JOHNNY

I sent money.

BONES

When?

JOHNNY

Regularly.

BONES

Then somebody stole it.

Johnny's face changes.

JOHNNY

Your mother never received
anything?

BONES

Postcards.

JOHNNY

I sent cash through intermediaries.

BONES

Who?

Johnny says nothing.

BONES (CONT'D)

Who?

JOHNNY

I'll look into it.

BONES

You've had seventeen years to look into it.

Johnny grips the counter.

JOHNNY

I cannot get those years back.

BONES

No.

JOHNNY

I can't give you an explanation that makes them hurt less.

BONES

No.

JOHNNY

But I did not forget you.

Bones looks away.

Johnny exits.

Alex moves toward the doorway. Billy stops him.

BILLY

Give them a minute.

ALEX

We don't have a minute. Deon said something happened to Kenny.

BILLY

And Johnny just learned somebody may have stolen money meant for his family.

ALEX

That isn't our problem.

Billy stares at him.

Alex relents.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Fine.

Johnny returns with a black duffel bag and puts it on the table.

JOHNNY

You remember why I sent the card?

BONES

Early birthday present.

Johnny unzips the bag.

BUNDLES OF CASH fill it.

Alex steps closer.

BILLY

Good Lord.

Bones does not touch it.

ALEX

How much?

JOHNNY

Eighty thousand dollars.

Johnny turns the bag toward Bones.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

It's yours.

BONES

Why?

JOHNNY

Because you're my son.

BONES

That didn't matter yesterday.

JOHNNY

It mattered every day.

BONES

You think this fixes it?

JOHNNY

No.

BONES

Then what is it?

JOHNNY

A start.

Johnny places one bundle into Bones's hands.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Use it as a down payment. Buy a piece of property. Something with road access and room to grow. Land is the only thing they aren't making more of.

BONES

What am I supposed to grow?

JOHNNY

Value.

Bones frowns.

Johnny looks at Alex.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Help him.

ALEX

We didn't drive here to become real-estate agents.

JOHNNY

What is this "we"?

ALEX

We're partners.

JOHNNY

In boat-motor theft?

ALEX

In whatever comes next.

Johnny hardens.

JOHNNY

My son is finished stealing motors.

BONES

My son.

Johnny ignores the bitterness.

JOHNNY

You buy land. You hold it. You borrow against it when the value increases. Then you buy more.

ALEX

What about the rest of the money?

Johnny lights another cigarette.

JOHNNY

What rest?

ALEX

The five million.

JOHNNY

Different money.

ALEX

You know where it is.

JOHNNY

Yes.

The answer comes so easily that all three boys fall silent.

Alex unfolds the map on the table.

Johnny looks down. Recognition flashes across his face.

ALEX

You can read it.

JOHNNY

I can.

ALEX

Then take us to it.

JOHNNY

No.

ALEX

Why?

JOHNNY

Because I can't return to Dawber County.

ALEX

You can. You don't want to.

JOHNNY

Those are not the same thing.

ALEX

Everyone back home is drowning
because of what you started.

JOHNNY

I saved Dawber County.

ALEX

You saved it for a few years. Then
you left Kenny, Timmy, Bo Dawber,
and everybody else to go to prison
while you hid in Miami wearing a
wig.

Johnny's eyes flash.

JOHNNY

You know nothing about what
happened.

ALEX

I know my father served twelve
years. Bones grew up without one.
Bubs is losing his church. Billy's
family lives under a name everybody
hates. And you're sitting beside a
swimming pool giving investment
advice.

Billy moves between them.

BILLY

Every story I ever heard about
Vietnam said you ran toward the
shooting. Nobody ever called you a
coward back then.

Johnny looks at him.

BILLY (CONT'D)

My daddy left Dawber County as
somebody everybody admired. He came
home from Vietnam a different man.
Then he died before I ever got the
chance to know him.

JOHNNY

Timmy deserved better.

BILLY

Then tell me what happened to him.

Johnny's anger fades.

He sees the sons of the men with whom he went to war, first in Vietnam and later in Dawber County.

Their fathers' faces. Their fathers' grievances. A map that should never have left the swamp.

JOHNNY

The five million was a reserve. If the organization collapsed, it was supposed to help the families of every man arrested.

ALEX

It didn't.

JOHNNY

No.

ALEX

Why?

JOHNNY

Because the arrests happened faster than expected. I was allowed to walk, but once I left the county, Mack Donnelly came hunting. Then Atticus crossed his path.

BONES

And Mack killed him.

JOHNNY

Yes. After that, there was no safe way back.

ALEX

You could've told somebody where the money was.

JOHNNY

I did.

ALEX

Who?

Johnny points to the map.

JOHNNY

Your father helped hide it.

ALEX

Kenny says he doesn't know.

JOHNNY

Kenny knows more than he remembers.

ALEX

Who else?

Johnny hesitates.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Bubs?

Johnny's silence confirms it.

BILLY

And the third person?

Johnny crushes his cigarette into an ashtray.

JOHNNY

The third person is dead.

BONES

Atticus?

JOHNNY

No.

BONES

Who?

Johnny zips the duffel and pushes it toward Bones.

JOHNNY

That is a story for another day.

ALEX

We came for answers.

JOHNNY

And you have one. The money exists.

ALEX

Then come home and get it.

Johnny laughs without humor.

JOHNNY

I return to Dawber County, people die.

BONES

People are already dying.

Johnny looks at his son's bruised face.

Bones lifts the duffel, then puts it back down.

BONES (CONT'D)

I don't want your eighty thousand dollars.

JOHNNY

Don't be foolish.

BONES

I wanted a father.

Silence.

Bones pushes the bag across the table.

BONES (CONT'D)

If the money belongs to all those families, then bring it back to them yourself.

JOHNNY

I told you why I can't.

BONES

No. You told me why you're scared.

Johnny cannot meet his son's eyes.

Alex picks up the map.

ALEX

Deon gave you until five tomorrow. Whatever Bubs is about to do, you're afraid of it.

Johnny remains silent.

ALEX (CONT'D)

So you have a choice. Stay here and let Bubs hand your secret to the federal government -- or cross the Alley with us and take control of what you left behind.

Johnny looks toward the doorway Carmen vanished through.

Beyond it: his pool, disguises, false name, and the small life he built in exile.

Then he looks at Bones.

INT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

JOHNNY reopens the black duffel bag.

JOHNNY
You'll need this.

BONES stares at the cash he just refused.

BONES
I told you I don't want it.

JOHNNY
You don't have to want money for it
to be useful.

BONES
What's it gonna buy us?

JOHNNY
A better car, for starters.

BILLY looks through the window at the Caprice.

BILLY
He has a point.

ALEX folds the coded map into his jacket.

ALEX
If you're coming with us, we leave
now.

Johnny wraps a bottle of rum in a shirt and puts it beside
the cash.

JOHNNY
I'm accompanying you as far as
Homestead.

BILLY
Homestead is south. Dawber County
is west.

JOHNNY
Thank you, Magellan. I know where
Homestead is.

BILLY
Then what happens there?

JOHNNY
I make arrangements.

Alex plants both hands on the table.

ALEX

You go to Homestead, we go back to Dawber, and nothing changes.

JOHNNY

I'll contact Bubs.

ALEX

He won't listen to you on the telephone.

JOHNNY

He used to.

ALEX

That was before his son died from the poison you brought into Dawber County.

Johnny stops packing.

BONES

Bubs's son?

Johnny reaches for his cigarettes.

JOHNNY

Not now.

BONES

When?

JOHNNY

When we're somewhere safer.

Alex laughs.

ALEX

Safer than the home you've been hiding in for twelve years?

Johnny points around them.

JOHNNY

This property has reinforced interior walls, three escape routes, an independent water supply, and enough weapons to hold off a small army.

GUNFIRE ERUPTS.

Every street-facing window EXPLODES inward.

Billy tackles Bones.

Alex dives behind the counter as bullets rip through cabinets. Plates burst. Cans spin from shelves. Tamale sauce sprays the wall.

Johnny drops to one knee with his .38 already drawn.

He does not look surprised.

ALEX

Small army?

JOHNNY

A figure of speech.

Another volley tears through the living room. The television implodes. Wood paneling splinters.

A bullet destroys the rum bottle inside the duffel.

Johnny stares at the ruined liquor.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Now I'm angry.

He crawls toward the doorway.

Bones raises his head.

Johnny shoves it down.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Stay low.

BONES

Who is it?

JOHNNY

I haven't asked.

Billy drags Bones behind the refrigerator. Alex crawls after them, cutting his palm on glass.

Outside, a car idles. MEN shout in Haitian Creole.

Johnny recognizes the voices and closes his eyes.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

The Haitians.

BONES

You said there was a funny story.

JOHNNY

The humor developed poorly.

ALEX

What did you do to them?

JOHNNY

Technically, nothing.

A bullet strikes the refrigerator.

Billy jerks away.

BILLY

What does technically mean?

JOHNNY

It means Etienne Baptiste stole money from them and blamed me.

ALEX

Did you have the money?

JOHNNY

For a short time.

ALEX

How short?

JOHNNY

Six years.

ALEX

You stole their money.

JOHNNY

I recovered misallocated funds.

Another burst punches through the wall.

Bones draws Johnny's Colt .45.

Johnny looks at the pistol, then his son.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Where did you get that?

BONES

Ma gave it to me.

JOHNNY

That's mine.

BONES

She said you left it.

JOHNNY

I was coming back for it.

BONES

When?

Johnny has no answer.

GUNMAN (O.S.)

Malone! We come for the money!

Johnny leans around the doorway.

JOHNNY

I gave it to Etienne!

GUNMAN (O.S.)

We don't work for Etienne!

Johnny looks back at the boys.

JOHNNY

That is new information.

The gunfire stops.

Shell casings roll across the front porch.

BILLY

They're reloading.

Johnny nods.

JOHNNY

And moving closer.

He crawls across the hallway and opens a narrow closet packed with wire, ammunition, and military equipment.

Alex spots two green blocks in a wooden crate.

ALEX

Are those mines?

JOHNNY

Defensive improvements.

ALEX

You have land mines in your closet?

JOHNNY

It isn't illegal if they aren't armed.

Johnny takes out a spool of wire.

BILLY

Are they armed?

Johnny crawls toward the front door.

JOHNNY

They're about to be.

Shoes move through the grass outside.

Bones starts after him. Alex catches his leg.

ALEX

Where are you going?

BONES

To help him.

ALEX

He knows what he's doing.

BONES

How do you know?

ALEX

Look at him.

Johnny works beneath the shattered front window while bullets pass above him.

Calm. Exact. He connects wire to hidden contacts and stretches a trip line across the entrance.

For a moment, he is the young Marine on Hill 861.

The fearlessness never left. It merely learned to wear a wig.

Johnny crawls back.

JOHNNY

When they come through the door,
stay down.

BONES

What happens?

JOHNNY

They regret their choices.

A shadow crosses the window. An UZI muzzle appears.

Johnny FIRES once.

The weapon vanishes. A man screams.

Gunfire resumes.

Billy covers his head.

Bones presses his hands over his ears, the Colt against his cheek. His whole body shakes.

Johnny sees him.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Bones!

No response.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Look at me!

A bullet punctures the refrigerator. Milk sprays across the floor.

Bones squeezes his eyes shut.

Johnny crawls to him and grips his shirt.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You hear me, son?

Bones opens his eyes.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

When they stop firing, you shoot
through that window. Three rounds.
No more.

BONES

I can't see 'em.

JOHNNY

You don't have to hit anybody. We
need their heads down.

Bones tries to nod.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Three rounds. Then follow Alex and Billy into the back bedroom.

BONES

What about you?

JOHNNY

I'll be behind you.

The firing stops.

Johnny slaps the floor.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Now!

Bones rises to one knee with a roar and FIRES.

The first round strikes the wall. The second clears the window. A man cries out.

Bones keeps pulling the trigger.

Johnny grabs the gun after the fifth shot and forces the barrel upward.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I said three!

BONES

I hit one!

JOHNNY

You nearly hit the neighbors!

BONES

They're shooting at us!

JOHNNY

And Mrs. Alvarez next door isn't!

Footsteps thunder onto the porch.

A gunman hits the tripwire.

The EXPLOSION tears the front door from its frame.

Heat and pressure sweep through the house. The ceiling cracks. Dust, smoke, and plaster roll down the hall.

Johnny shoves the boys toward the rear.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Move!

INT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - BACK BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The boys pile inside. Johnny locks the door.

Bullets punch through the wood.

Billy and Bones shove an oak dresser against it. Someone slams the other side.

Alex spots iron bars over the only window.

ALEX

We're trapped.

Johnny opens the closet.

JOHNNY

We're prepared.

Behind tropical shirts, an attic ladder hangs from the ceiling.

Johnny pulls the cord. Wooden steps unfold.

BILLY

You planned this?

JOHNNY

I plan everything.

The door shakes.

Bones climbs first. The ladder GROANS.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Your mother feeding you concrete?

Bones disappears above. Billy follows.

Alex starts up, then looks back.

ALEX

What about the eighty thousand?

Johnny throws him the duffel.

Alex catches it.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You're trusting me with this?

JOHNNY

No. Bones is directly above you.

The dresser slides.

Johnny climbs behind Alex and pulls up the ladder.

INT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - ATTIC - CONTINUOUS

Darkness. Suffocating heat. Insulation clings to them.

Johnny opens a military lighter.

Wires run in every direction. Wrapped explosive packages attach to roof supports.

ALEX

You wired the whole house.

JOHNNY

I told you I plan ahead.

ALEX

You're gonna blow it up?

JOHNNY

It no longer seems like a sound
real-estate investment.

Bones peers through a small attic window.

BONES

Street looks clear.

JOHNNY

They're entering through the front.
They think the explosion was the
only surprise.

Men crash through the rooms below.

Johnny opens a metal box containing blasting caps, a timer,
and a white fuse.

BILLY

How much explosive is in here?

JOHNNY

Enough.

BILLY

Enough for what?

JOHNNY

Move.

Bones forces open the attic window.

EXT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES HOUSE - SIDE YARD - CONTINUOUS

The neighboring yard lies below. Eureka palms conceal the side passage.

Bones squeezes out feet first. His shirt catches and tears before he drops into the shrubs.

Billy follows.

Alex pushes the duffel through, then climbs onto the sill.

Johnny grabs his arm.

JOHNNY

Where are the car keys?

Alex produces them.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Keep the engine running. Do not wait if the Haitians come around the side.

ALEX

What about you?

JOHNNY

I'll be there.

ALEX

You just said not to wait.

JOHNNY

If I'm not there, I won't care.

The bedroom door crashes open below.

Johnny touches his lighter to the fuse.

It sparks.

Fire crawls along the white line.

ALEX

You're crazy.

JOHNNY

Your father used to say that.

Johnny shoves him out.

Alex lands badly and rolls into the fence.

Bones pulls him up.

BONES

Where's Pa?

ALEX

Coming.

Billy reaches the sidewalk.

BILLY

Car!

They run.

Men shout inside the smoking house. A body lies near the porch.

EXT. LITTLE HAVANA SIDE STREET - CONTINUOUS

Billy reaches the Caprice first.

BILLY

Keys!

Alex throws them.

Billy slides across the bench seat and grinds the starter.
Twice.

The engine catches.

Bones climbs into the passenger seat. Alex throws the duffel onto the floor and dives into the back.

Johnny remains inside the yard.

JOHNNY

Go!

Billy shifts into drive.

Alex grabs his shoulder.

ALEX

Wait!

A HAITIAN GUNMAN rounds the house.

Bones leans through the window and fires. The gunman dives behind a car.

Johnny clears the fence and sprints toward them, surprisingly fast. Half of his false mustache still clings to his face.

Billy starts moving.

Johnny grabs the rear door. His foot slips.

Alex catches his wrist and hauls him inside as the Caprice accelerates.

Gunfire follows.

The rear window SHATTERS.

Johnny grunts and collapses across the seat.

Alex sees blood.

ALEX (CONT'D)

You're hit.

JOHNNY

Not again.

ALEX

Where?

Johnny reaches behind himself. His fingers return red.

Bones looks back.

BONES

They shot you in the ass?

JOHNNY

Drive faster.

BONES

You got shot in the ass in Vietnam too.

Johnny presses a magazine against the wound.

JOHNNY

Your mother had no discretion.

Billy whips through an intersection.

The house disappears behind them.

Bones fires through the empty rear window.

Johnny slaps the pistol down.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Stop shooting!

BONES
They're behind us!

JOHNNY
You're firing at an entire
neighborhood!

The sky turns ORANGE.

A deep EXPLOSION hits the Caprice like a wave.

The back of Johnny's house rises in fire. Windows burst. A
section of roof lifts, folds, and collapses.

Black smoke rolls over the palms.

The pursuing car swerves around debris.

Billy runs another intersection.

Sirens begin in the distance.

ALEX
You blew up your house.

Johnny removes the last strip of mustache.

JOHNNY
It was time to move.

BILLY
What about Carmen?

JOHNNY
She left before the shooting.

BILLY
All your things?

Johnny nods toward the duffel.

JOHNNY
Everything important is in there.

BONES
The eighty thousand?

JOHNNY
Among other things.

BONES
What other things?

JOHNNY
Passports. Account numbers.
Property records. Names of people
who owe me favors.

ALEX
Guns?

JOHNNY
No guns.

A metallic object shifts inside the bag.

Johnny sighs.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
One gun.

BILLY
Where are we going?

ALEX
Hospital.

JOHNNY
No hospitals.

ALEX
You've been shot.

JOHNNY
It passed through.

BONES
Through your ass.

JOHNNY
Yes, thank you.

BONES
What if you bleed to death?

JOHNNY
Then I'll die facedown, which seems
appropriate.

Billy merges into traffic. Police race toward Little Havana
in the opposite lanes.

Johnny lowers himself against the seat. His face has lost color, but his voice remains steady.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Take Flagler west. There's a warehouse near the airport.

ALEX

What's Dantes Marine Services?

Johnny darkens.

JOHNNY

A name I use for a company that once belonged to the finest man I ever knew.

BILLY

Who was Sanchez?

JOHNNY

One of us. He fought beside your fathers in Vietnam.

BILLY

What happened to him?

JOHNNY

Atticus Shelton killed him in 1991.

BONES

People say Atticus was the most feared man in Dawber County.

JOHNNY

He was. But Sanchez was the only man Atticus never frightened.

BONES

Why did Atticus kill him?

Johnny looks at Billy in the mirror.

JOHNNY

Because Bo Dawber ordered him to.

Billy stiffens.

BILLY

That's a lie.

JOHNNY

Bo made Sanchez's murder look like the cartel did it. Everybody believed him.

ALEX

But you didn't.

JOHNNY

No. I knew Bo was responsible.

ALEX

So you went to the federal government.

Johnny stares through the shattered rear window at the smoke over Miami.

JOHNNY

I gave the feds what they needed to destroy Bo's empire. I wanted revenge against Bo. I never intended to send my friends to prison.

BONES

But they went anyway.

Johnny's voice drops.

JOHNNY

They were collateral damage in a war I thought I could control.

The boys absorb the confession.

Johnny watches the road ahead.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Drive. It's time I went home.

EXT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES WAREHOUSE - DAY

A windowless warehouse hides behind Miami International Airport. No sign. No mailbox. A twelve-foot fence. Security cameras watch a steel gate from three directions.

The bullet-riddled CAPRICE stops beside a keypad.

In the back seat, JOHNNY leans forward and enters six numbers.

Nothing.

He enters them again. A red light turns green. The gate rolls open.

BONES

You forget the code?

JOHNNY

I've been shot. Allow for typographical errors.

BONES

You can't make a typo with numbers.

JOHNNY

Drive inside, Billy.

BILLY guides the Caprice through. The gate closes behind them.

The warehouse appears abandoned. Dust covers the loading dock. Weeds split the pavement. Concrete blocks seal every window.

Billy stops beside a steel door.

BILLY

Somebody expecting us?

JOHNNY

No.

BILLY

Then who opened the gate?

JOHNNY

I did.

Johnny struggles with the rear door. ALEX helps him stand. Blood has soaked through the magazine pressed to his wound.

Bones retrieves the duffel bag.

BONES

Does Sanchez own this place?

Johnny looks at faded lettering above the loading dock.

JOHNNY

He did.

BONES

I thought he is dead?

JOHNNY

He is dead but his business lives
on in perpetuity.

BONES

Perpetuity? What does that mean?

JOHNNY

It means an endless stream of cash
payments to the business after the
owner dies. I was good accountant.

ALEX

You were a drug smuggler.

Johnny enters another code. The steel lock disengages with a
heavy CLUNK.

INT. DANTES MARINE SERVICES WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Overhead lights illuminate one row at a time.

A black CADILLAC. A white cargo van. An old military Jeep.
Steel cabinets line one wall. Maps of Florida, the Caribbean,
Colombia, and Central America cover another.

A medical table waits beneath bright lights.

ALEX

This is yours?

JOHNNY

It belongs to the company.

ALEX

Which belongs to who?

JOHNNY

Complicated men don't ask simple
questions about ownership.

ALEX

You own it.

JOHNNY

I have access to it.

Johnny removes his bloodstained shirt and lowers himself
facedown onto the medical table. He points to a cabinet.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Top drawer.

Alex finds antiseptic, bandages, gauze, tape, and medication.

ALEX

You planned on getting shot?

JOHNNY

I planned on eventually needing medical care without explaining myself to a hospital.

ALEX

You've done this before.

JOHNNY

More times than I recommend.

Alex cuts away the fabric around the wound. Bones stares.

BONES

You really got shot in the ass.

JOHNNY

Thank you for confirming it.

BONES

Same place as Vietnam?

JOHNNY

Approximately.

BONES

You have two scars?

JOHNNY

Symmetry is important.

Alex pours antiseptic onto a cloth.

ALEX

This will hurt.

JOHNNY

I've survived worse.

Alex presses it to the wound. Johnny's hands CLAMP around the table.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Gentler.

ALEX

You survived Vietnam.

JOHNNY

The Vietnamese were gentler.

Billy circles the Cadillac. He opens a locked drawer beneath the workbench.

Inside: keys, bundles of cash, passports under different names, property records, and two pistols.

BILLY

What is this place?

JOHNNY

A contingency.

BILLY

For what?

Johnny looks toward the ruined Caprice.

JOHNNY

The day my past found me.

Bones sets the duffel beside the medical table.

BONES

Looks like it found you.

A framed photograph hangs between the maps: five exhausted young SERVICEMEN in the mud of Vietnam.

JOHNNY MALONE. KENNY GREGORY. TIMMY DAWBER. THOMAS SCULLY. RODRIGO SANCHEZ.

BONES (CONT'D)

Which one is Sanchez?

Johnny points to the man at his right shoulder.

BONES (CONT'D)

He was your friend?

JOHNNY

My brother.

BONES

Not really.

JOHNNY

Blood isn't the only thing that makes brothers.

Billy studies TIMMY, his father. Thinner. Harder. Still recognizable.

BILLY

He looks normal.

JOHNNY

He wasn't. None of us were by then.

BILLY

But he wasn't crazy.

JOHNNY

Your father came home wounded in a place nobody knew how to treat. People called him crazy because that was easier than admitting what the war had done to him.

BILLY

Bo tried to help him.

JOHNNY

So did all of us.

BILLY

Bo said nothing worked.

Johnny looks at Billy but says nothing.

BILLY (CONT'D)

You used the FBI to destroy my family.

JOHNNY

I used them to destroy Bo.

BILLY

Where I come from, that's the same thing.

Billy throws the Cadillac keys onto the workbench.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Drive yourself.

He storms toward the loading dock.

Alex picks up the keys.

ALEX

He'll come back.

JOHNNY

You sound sure.

ALEX

He wants answers more than he wants
to leave.

Johnny removes the framed photograph and places it in the
duffel.

Moments later, Billy returns and holds out his hand. Alex
gives him the keys.

BILLY

I'm driving.

Nobody argues.

EXT. ALLIGATOR ALLEY - AFTERNOON

A white BMW travels west through the Everglades. Storm clouds
gather over canals and sawgrass.

INT. TIANA'S BMW - MOVING - AFTERNOON

TIANA ROSS drives with one hand and holds a phone to her ear
with the other.

TIANA

I'm already on Alligator Alley.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. DAWBER CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION - CORRIDOR - AFTERNOON

DEON CHILDRESS speaks low, watching the corridor around him.

DEON

Where exactly?

TIANA

I passed the service plaza about
ten minutes ago.

DEON

Are you alone?

TIANA

Yes.

Deon goes silent.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Why do you keep asking me that?

DEON

I need you to listen carefully.
Kenny Gregory was removed from
isolation after an alleged suicide
attempt.

TIANA

Alleged?

DEON

Kenny didn't try to kill himself.

TIANA

How do you know?

DEON

Because Kenny Gregory would kill
everybody else in the building
first.

TIANA

If anything happens to me, call my
brother.

DEON

Willis?

TIANA

Don't sound so surprised.

DEON

You told me never to involve him in
your legal work.

TIANA

This isn't legal work anymore.

Voices behind Deon. A metal door SLAMS.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Where are you?

DEON

Still at the prison.

TIANA

I thought you were meeting me
outside.

DEON

Plans changed.

Something in his voice frightens her.

TIANA

Deon, what is happening?

DEON

Bring the emergency petition,
Kenny's representation agreement,
and every note from our
investigation.

TIANA

They're in my briefcase.

DEON

Do not show them to anyone.

TIANA

I know how attorney-client
privilege works.

DEON

This is not about privilege. There
are people inside this prison who
cannot know what we've discovered.

TIANA

What people?

The connection CRACKLES.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Deon?

DEON

Turn around.

TIANA

What?

DEON

Go back to Miami.

TIANA

You just told me to come.

DEON

I'm telling you not to now.

TIANA

Why?

The call dies.

INT. TIANA'S BMW - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Tiana calls back. Straight to voicemail.

Rain begins to strike the windshield.

In the mirror, a black CROWN VICTORIA maintains a steady distance.

INT. CROWN VICTORIA - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

TRENT DIETRICH watches Tiana's brake lights through the rain.

On the passenger seat: a CORRECTIONS INTELLIGENCE badge and a surveillance file filled with photographs of Tiana and Deon.

His phone rings.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WARDEN KINDER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

WARDEN KINDER stands behind his desk, speaking into a secure phone.

KINDER (PHONE)
Where is she?

TRENT
Thirty miles from the prison.

KINDER (PHONE)
Deon made a call.

TRENT
I saw her answer.

KINDER (PHONE)
What did he tell her?

TRENT
I don't know.

KINDER (PHONE)
Is she still heading west?

TRENT
Yes.

KINDER (PHONE)
Then stop her.

TRENT

How?

KINDER (PHONE)

I don't care.

TRENT

There are cameras at the prison. If she arrives and disappears--

KINDER (PHONE)

She cannot arrive.

TRENT

What do you want me to do?

KINDER (PHONE)

Make it look like an accident.

The call ends.

END INTERCUT.

Trent watches the BMW. Visibility deteriorates. Canals and swamps stretch beyond both guardrails.

Alligator Alley offers few places to stop -- and many places to disappear.

Trent accelerates.

INT. CADILLAC - MOVING - AFTERNOON

Billy drives west beneath the approaching storm.

Johnny lies across the rear seat, head against the door. Bones guards the duffel beside him. Alex rides up front with Kenny's coded map inside his jacket.

The Miami skyline has vanished. Concrete has given way to canals, sawgrass, and one long road through the Everglades.

Johnny reaches for a cigarette. Bones takes the pack.

JOHNNY

What?

BONES

You've been shot.

JOHNNY

In an unrelated location.

BONES

You ain't smoking.

Johnny starts to object, then sees his son's expression. He lowers his hand.

Billy notices in the mirror.

BILLY

He listens to you.

BONES

First time.

JOHNNY

Don't become accustomed to it.

Alex unfolds the map.

ALEX

You'll help us find the five million?

JOHNNY

If it's still there.

ALEX

You said you knew where it was.

JOHNNY

I know where we buried it. That was twelve years ago.

ALEX

Who could've moved it?

JOHNNY

Bubs.

BONES

You left five million dollars with a preacher?

JOHNNY

I left him access to it. The money was supposed to provide for the families after the arrests -- mortgages, legal expenses, medical bills, whatever our people needed.

ALEX

Then why is everybody still poor?

JOHNNY

Because Bubs decided the money was poisoned.

ALEX

Blood money.

JOHNNY

That's what he calls it.

ALEX

He never touched it?

JOHNNY

According to Deon, not one dollar.

ALEX

Then it's still in the swamp.

JOHNNY

Unless somebody else found it.

ALEX

What about the rest of your money?

JOHNNY

What rest?

ALEX

The millions everybody says you hid overseas. Swiss accounts?

Johnny turns toward the window.

JOHNNY

Accounts I haven't touched since 1991.

ALEX

Why not?

JOHNNY

Because the DEA never stopped watching me. I made an agreement with the FBI, not the DEA. As far as the DEA is concerned, I escaped with a fortune they couldn't recover.

BILLY

And Mack Donnelly.

Johnny's jaw tightens.

JOHNNY

Mack doesn't care about the law anymore. He cares about proving I beat him.

BONES

So the money just sits there?

JOHNNY

Until I settle matters in Dawber County and know you're safe.

ALEX

I don't just want the five million.

Johnny looks at him.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I want you to teach us.

JOHNNY

Teach you what?

ALEX

How to rebuild the operation without making the mistakes you and our fathers made.

Johnny studies the three boys.

JOHNNY

You think our mistakes were accounting errors?

ALEX

I think you built the most profitable smuggling network in Florida.

JOHNNY

And then I destroyed it.

ALEX

That means you know how to do both.

Rain lashes the windshield. The wipers drag across the glass without clearing it.

BILLY

Storm's getting bad.

Johnny looks ahead. Several hundred yards away, Tiana's BMW slows. Trent's Crown Victoria follows closely.

JOHNNY

Back off.

Billy eases off the accelerator.

The Crown Victoria moves into the passing lane -- but remains beside the BMW.

ALEX

What's he doing?

Johnny sits upright.

JOHNNY

Nothing good.

INT. TIANA'S BMW / CROWN VICTORIA - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

The Crown Victoria appears beside Tiana through the rain. Its passenger window lowers.

Tiana recognizes Trent.

TIANA

Trent?

She lowers her window a few inches. Rain blows inside.

Trent points to the shoulder and motions for her to pull over.

Tiana calls him. He answers.

TIANA (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

TRENT

I've been following you.

TIANA

Why?

TRENT

Deon called me. He said you shouldn't go to the prison.

TIANA

He told me the same thing.

TRENT

Pull over.

TIANA

Why?

TRENT

There's something wrong with your rear tire.

No warning on Tiana's dashboard. Beyond the narrow shoulder, a high fence borders black canal water.

TIANA

The car feels fine.

TRENT

It's wobbling. Pull over before you lose control.

TIANA

I'll stop at the next service area.

TRENT

Pull over now.

His voice has changed. The attentive boyfriend is gone. What remains is cold and commanding.

TIANA

Who told you I was going to the prison?

Trent doesn't answer.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Deon didn't call you. You've been following me since Miami.

TRENT

Do what I said.

Tiana accelerates. Trent matches her speed -- then STEERS INTO HER LANE.

The Crown Victoria SLAMS the BMW's left side.

Tiana SCREAMS as the BMW swerves toward the barrier. She corrects and regains control.

TIANA

Are you insane?

Trent hits her again. The BMW fishtails across the wet pavement.

Tiana drops the phone and grips the wheel.

Headlights race toward them from behind.

INT. CADILLAC - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Billy sees the Crown Victoria strike the BMW.

BILLY
He's running her off the road.

JOHNNY
Slow down.

BILLY
If we slow down, he'll push her
through the fence.

JOHNNY
Then pass them.

BILLY
There's no room.

The BMW swerves into their lane. Billy hits the brakes.

The Cadillac begins to slide.

JOHNNY
Don't fight it! Steer into the
skid!

Billy turns the wheel. The rear swings sideways. Alex braces
against the dashboard. Bones pulls the duffel over his head.

The Crown Victoria STOPS across the roadway.

Billy has nowhere to go.

CRASH!

The Cadillac's front corner smashes into Trent's rear bumper,
driving the Crown Victoria into the BMW.

Tiana's car spins across the shoulder, tears through the
fence, and disappears over the embankment.

A tremendous SPLASH rises from the canal.

The Cadillac rotates and stops against the guardrail.

Silence. Steam hisses beneath the crumpled hood.

Johnny raises his head.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Everybody alive?

BONES
My nose hurts.

JOHNNY
You're alive.

Billy's hands remain locked around the wheel.

BILLY
I hit them.

JOHNNY
The black car stopped in front of
you.

BILLY
The woman went into the water.

Alex opens his door. Johnny grabs him.

JOHNNY
Wait.

ALEX
We have to help her.

JOHNNY
The man in the Crown Victoria did
that deliberately.

ALEX
How do you know?

JOHNNY
Because accidents don't usually
require three attempts.

Trent climbs from his car holding a pistol.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Down!

A bullet punches the Cadillac's windshield.

Billy ducks. Bones draws the Colt. Johnny catches his wrist.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Not through the glass.

Alex crawls across the front seat and exits through the driver's door, keeping the Cadillac between himself and Trent. Bones follows.

EXT. ALLIGATOR ALLEY - CANAL - CONTINUOUS

The BMW is sinking. Only its roof remains above black water.

Tiana emerges through the broken driver's window, gasping. She clings to the roof.

Behind her, something moves.

An ALLIGATOR'S HEAD breaks the surface.

ALEX

Bones!

Bones looks toward Trent as another bullet strikes the Cadillac.

Then he looks at Tiana.

He runs for the embankment.

JOHNNY

Cover him!

Billy grabs the second pistol from beneath the seat and fires twice toward the Crown Victoria.

Trent disappears behind his car.

Bones slides down the muddy bank.

Tiana clings to the sinking BMW, water at her shoulders.

TIANA

Help me!

BONES

I'm comin'!

Bones wades into the canal. Mud swallows his legs to the knees.

Alex reaches the broken fence and sees the alligator approaching Tiana.

ALEX

Bones, hurry!

BONES

I am!

The BMW shifts. Tiana loses her grip and disappears.

Bones lunges and catches her arm as she surfaces. She seizes his shirt.

BONES (CONT'D)

Don't pull me under!

TIANA

There's something behind me!

BONES

I know.

The alligator closes in. Bones raises the Colt.

The animal submerges.

TIANA

Where did it go?

BONES

I don't know.

TIANA

You don't know?

BONES

It went underwater!

Bones wraps an arm around her and drags her toward the embankment. The mud fights every step.

Behind them, the BMW disappears. Bubbles rise where it had been.

Alex climbs down the slope and reaches for Tiana.

A bullet strikes the fence beside his head.

Trent advances toward the embankment, pistol aimed at Tiana.

Johnny fires from the Cadillac. The round strikes near Trent's foot.

Trent turns and fires. Johnny collapses behind the engine block.

BONES (CONT'D)

Pa!

Trent continues toward the canal.

Tiana sees him.

TIANA

Trent?

He aims at her.

The truth reaches Tiana before the bullet: the meeting, the romance, every question about Deon and Kenny -- all of it an assignment.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Why?

Trent hesitates.

Bones pushes Tiana into Alex's reach. He turns and FIRES.

The round hits Trent in the chest. He staggers.

Bones FIRES again.

Trent falls beside the broken fence. His pistol slides into the canal.

The alligator surfaces less than ten feet from Bones.

Tiana SCREAMS.

Bones shoves her up the embankment and scrambles after her. Alex catches Tiana beneath the arms. Billy helps drag her onto the shoulder.

Bones climbs last.

The alligator LUNGES. Its jaws clamp onto the heel of his boot.

Bones kicks free, leaving the boot behind. The animal rolls into the water.

Bones collapses beside Tiana. She coughs canal water onto the pavement.

BONES

You all right?

TIANA

You shot Trent.

BONES

He was gonna kill you.

TIANA

That was my boyfriend.

Bones looks toward the body.

BONES

You need better taste in men.

EXT. ALLIGATOR ALLEY - CRASH SITE - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny searches Trent's pockets while Alex watches the highway.

He finds Department of Corrections identification, an unmarked badge, two phones, and a photograph of Tiana entering Deon's law office.

He gives her the photograph.

TIANA

This was taken weeks ago.

JOHNNY

He was watching you.

TIANA

Who are you?

She takes in Johnny's bloody trousers, the revolver, and the three young men.

Then she recognizes Alex.

TIANA (CONT'D)

You're Kenny Gregory's son.

ALEX

How do you know me?

TIANA

I work for Deon Childress.

Johnny steps closer.

JOHNNY

Why were you going to the prison?

TIANA

Deon called. He said something happened to Kenny.

ALEX

What?

TIANA

They claimed he attempted suicide.
Deon said it was a lie.

Alex's face hardens.

ALEX

Where's Deon now?

TIANA

At the prison.

Johnny looks at Trent's identification.

JOHNNY

Not for long.

Tiana tries to stand. Her knees fail. Bones catches her.

BONES

Easy.

TIANA

What's your name?

BONES

Bones.

TIANA

Of course it is.

SIRENS sound in the distance.

BILLY

Police.

JOHNNY

Not necessarily.

ALEX

What do we do?

Johnny surveys the wreckage. The Cadillac can move, but steam pours from its radiator. The Crown Victoria is ruined. The BMW is gone.

JOHNNY

We take the Cadillac.

BILLY

It won't make Dawber.

JOHNNY

It only needs to get us off the highway.

Johnny looks at Trent's body.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Bones, help me move him.

TIANA

What are you doing?

JOHNNY

Keeping you from spending the night explaining why your boyfriend followed you onto Alligator Alley and tried to murder you.

TIANA

We need to call the police.

Johnny holds up Trent's corrections identification.

JOHNNY

He was the police -- or close enough that the distinction won't save you.

TIANA

Moving his body makes us criminals.

Johnny looks at the ruined cars, broken fence, and black canal.

JOHNNY

That decision was made when he fired the first shot.

Bones takes Trent beneath the arms. Johnny grabs his legs, wincing as his wound pulls.

They carry the body through the broken fence.

TIANA

Stop! You can't do this!

Johnny removes Trent's phones, identification, keys, and the surveillance photograph.

He and Bones roll the body down the embankment.

Trent strikes the water facedown.

For a moment, nothing.

A dark shape moves beneath the surface. Then another.

Trent's body jerks sideways.

Tiana covers her mouth.

An alligator seizes his shoulder and pulls him deeper. A second strikes from the other side. The canal erupts in mud, blood, and white foam.

The surface settles. Trent is gone.

JOHNNY

That man came here to kill an innocent woman. Don't waste your conscience mourning him.

Bones stares into the canal.

BONES

I wasn't.

JOHNNY

Good. Because the gators weren't either.

The sirens grow louder.

INT. CADILLAC - MOVING - LATE AFTERNOON

Bones helps Tiana into the rear seat. Johnny climbs beside her. Alex and Bones crowd into the remaining space. Billy takes the wheel.

The Cadillac starts. Steam rises over the hood.

Billy drives through the broken fence and rejoins the highway.

Through the shattered rear window, Tiana watches the canal recede.

She shivers beneath a jacket, trying to understand how everything changed in a matter of minutes.

She looks at Johnny.

TIANA

You still haven't told me who you are.

JOHNNY

Johnny Malone.

Tiana goes pale. She knows the name.

TIANA

You're supposed to be gone.

JOHNNY

So is Scully. People are often mistaken.

TIANA

Where are you taking me?

JOHNNY

Dawber County.

TIANA

I need to get to Deon.

JOHNNY

So do we.

Billy checks the temperature gauge.

BILLY

We need another vehicle first.

Johnny looks toward the western horizon. The storm is passing. A thin strip of red sunlight burns beneath the clouds.

Behind them, police vehicles approach the collision.

Ahead: the prison, Kenny, Deon, Warden Kinder, and the county Johnny destroyed twelve years ago.

Bones sits barefoot beside Tiana. His empty boot fills with canal water on the floor.

TIANA

You saved my life.

BONES

You would've done the same.

TIANA

No. I don't think I would have.

Bones smiles.

The wounded Cadillac continues west, leaking coolant and carrying five people who never intended to become allies.

They have not yet crossed into Dawber County.

The war has already reached them.

CUT TO BLACK.