

SAWGRASS WARS

"The Other Brother"
Episode 7 Season One

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:

INT. MAROON WAREHOUSE - GYM - DAY

An ancient ceiling fan turns with a tired metallic GROAN.

Below it, WILLIS CHILDRESS is just as relentless.

Sweat runs from his shaved head and soaks the waistband of his camouflage trousers.

His bare fists hammer a HEAVY BAG in relentless rhythm.

LEFT.

RIGHT.

LEFT HOOK.

The bag jerks with every blow.

SUDS plants enormous hands against the other side and struggles to hold it steady. Nearly six and a half feet tall, built like an overturned refrigerator, he wears the same pleasant expression whether repairing an engine or breaking a man's legs.

SUDS
What's wrong, bro?

WILLIS
Hold him steady.

SUDS
I'm trying.

Willis drives another fist into the bag.

A MUFFLED SCREAM comes from inside.

Suds looks down at the canvas.

SUDS (CONT'D)
He's still breathing.

WILLIS
That ain't what I asked.

Suds tightens his grip.

The abandoned produce warehouse has become equal parts clubhouse, repair shop, and fortress.

MEN repair boat engines in the loading bay. ARMED GUARDS watch the entrances. A card game continues in the next room despite the cries from the gym.

Everyone knows the rules.

Business belongs to Willis.

Loyalty belongs to the Maroons.

Betrayal belongs to the bag.

Willis strikes again.

Pain travels through his swollen right hand into an old forearm injury.

INT. BURNING ARMORED VEHICLE - DAY - FLASH CUT

Willis chokes on smoke as metal screams around him.

BACK TO SCENE

He buries the memory and punches harder.

The bag swings sideways.

WILLIS
Suds.

SUDS
I got him.

WILLIS
You don't got him.

The trapped man GROANS.

Willis steps back, breathing hard. He drinks twice from a water bottle, then pours the rest over his head.

He draws a large COMBAT KNIFE from the sheath at his back.

Suds smiles.

SUDS
This my favorite part.

Willis plunges the blade into the bottom of the bag and slices through the canvas.

TED "TEDDY" HENDERSON spills onto the concrete.

The University of Miami student lands in a heap. His expensive shirt is torn and bloody. One eye swollen shut. Lip split. Wrists bound behind him.

Teddy gasps for air.

Willis crouches.

WILLIS

You understand why you're here?

Teddy tries to answer. Only a dry rasp.

Willis grabs his hair and lifts his head.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

I asked you a question.

TEDDY

Yes.

WILLIS

Yes, what?

TEDDY

Yes, I understand.

MAROONS gather at the gym entrance.

Teddy sold their marijuana to wealthy University of Miami students, then moved it through country clubs and private parties from Coral Gables to Palm Beach.

His family name opened doors Willis's men could not approach without drawing police.

For six months, everyone made money.

Then Teddy decided the Haitians offered a better price.

He gave them Maroon names, delivery routes, and the location of two storage houses to prove his value.

One house belonged to a man with three children.

Willis pulls Teddy closer.

WILLIS

I thought we were partners.

TEDDY

We were.

WILLIS
Then you sold us out.

TEDDY
I didn't.

Willis drives a fist into Teddy's stomach.

Teddy folds around the blow and VOMITS onto the floor.

Suds looks at the mess.

SUDS
I just cleaned in here.

WILLIS
You ain't never cleaned nothing in
your life.

SUDS
I supervised.

Despite himself, Willis almost smiles.

He turns back to Teddy.

WILLIS
You thought because you went to
some rich-boy university, you were
smarter than us. You thought you
could make money off our work and
hand our people to the Haitians
when you found a better deal.

Teddy shakes his head.

TEDDY
That's not what happened.

WILLIS
What happened, then?

TEDDY
I owed them money.

WILLIS
That supposed to make me feel
better?

TEDDY
They threatened me.

WILLIS

And you gave them my people
instead.

TEDDY

I didn't know what else to do.

WILLIS

You could've come to me.

Teddy begins to cry.

TEDDY

My father will pay you.

Willis tilts his head.

WILLIS

Oh, he's going to pay.

He lays the knife against Teddy's throat.

Teddy stops breathing.

TEDDY

Please.

Willis presses until a thin line of blood appears.

WILLIS

Teddy, listen carefully, because I
don't like repeating myself.

Teddy stares up at him.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

You're going back to Miami. You're
going to tell your daddy that you
made a bad business decision. Then
he's going to pay every dollar you
owe us, plus interest.

TEDDY

He will.

WILLIS

You're also going to tell him that
the Maroons expect access to the
same clubs, parties, and rich
customers you promised us.

TEDDY

Yes.

WILLIS

You work for us. You don't work for the Haitians. You don't work for yourself. Do you understand?

TEDDY

Yes.

Willis removes the blade. Teddy sobs out a breath.

WILLIS

If you cross us again, Suds is going to cut you into enough pieces that your daddy will need a map to put you back together.

Suds nods pleasantly.

SUDS

I'm good with puzzles.

Teddy stares at him in horror.

Willis rises.

WILLIS

Take him home.

Four Maroons lift Teddy.

Willis catches one by the arm.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

Put him in the back seat. Don't throw him in the truck bed.

MAROON

Why not?

WILLIS

Because he ain't dead. And don't let him die on the way. His father's no use to us if his son arrives in a coffin.

They carry Teddy out.

Suds watches them leave.

SUDS

You really would've let me cut him up?

WILLIS

No.

Suds looks disappointed.

SUDS

Then why'd you say it?

WILLIS

Because Teddy believed me.

Willis's radio CRACKLES.

BIGZ (RADIO)

Boss?

Willis presses the button.

WILLIS

What?

BIGZ (RADIO)

Got a woman out here asking for
you.

WILLIS

I know a lot of women.

BIGZ (RADIO)

Says her name is Tiana Ross.

Willis wipes his face with an old handkerchief.

WILLIS

What does she want?

BIGZ (RADIO)

She won't tell me.

WILLIS

Then send her away.

BIGZ (RADIO)

She says it's about Deon.

Willis stops.

Suds notices.

WILLIS

What about him?

BIGZ (RADIO)
She said she needs to tell you
herself.

Willis clips the radio to his belt.

WILLIS
Get the floor cleaned.

SUDS
That sounds like a job for somebody
else.

WILLIS
Find somebody else, then.

INT. MAROON WAREHOUSE - LOADING BAY - MOMENTS LATER

Willis walks through the loading bay, flexing his throbbing
fist.

The workers stop and watch. Willis gives them nothing.

Deon probably sent Tiana to lecture him. That is how his
brother handles disagreements now -- lawyers, appointments,
words like liability and consequences.

INT. DEON'S LAW OFFICE - DAY - FLASHBACK

DEON sits across from Willis after dismantling a weapons
case, discrediting two deputies, and keeping his brother out
of prison.

DEON
This is the last time.

BACK TO SCENE

It was not the last time.

With Deon, it never was.

EXT. MAROON WAREHOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Willis steps outside.

A battered pickup waits beyond the gate. One door is a
different color. Swamp mud cakes the tires.

An old Shelton vehicle.

TIANA ROSS stands beside it. Her clothes are wrinkled and stained. A cut crosses her forehead. She still carries the confidence Willis saw in Deon's Miami office.

BIGZ stands nearby with a rifle.

BIGZ
She wouldn't let me search her.

TIANA
You tried to put your hands under
my blouse.

BIGZ
That's where people hide guns.

TIANA
That's where you were going to lose
your fingers.

Willis raises a hand.

WILLIS
Go inside, Bigz.

BIGZ
Boss--

WILLIS
Go.

Bigz walks away muttering.

Willis stops before Tiana.

WILLIS (CONT'D)
What are you doing in a Shelton
truck?

TIANA
It was the only transportation
available.

WILLIS
That don't answer my question.

TIANA
It's a long story.

WILLIS
Then start talking.

Tiana looks toward the warehouse. Two Maroons load Teddy into the rear seat of a sedan.

TIANA
What happened to him?

WILLIS
My business.

TIANA
He looks like he needs a hospital.

WILLIS
He needs better judgment.

The sedan drives away.

Tiana faces Willis.

TIANA
Did you receive a call from the
prison?

The question hits hard enough to make him forget Teddy.

WILLIS
What call?

TIANA
From Deon.

WILLIS
No.

TIANA
From anyone?

WILLIS
What happened?

TIANA
I need you to come with me.

WILLIS
You drove all the way out here in a
stolen Shelton truck to tell me
that?

TIANA
Yes.

WILLIS
Where is Deon?

Tiana's composure falters for less than a second.

Willis sees it.

Cold enters his stomach.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

Where is my brother?

TIANA

He went to Reform Prison to see
Kenny Gregory.

WILLIS

Why the hell was Deon talking to
Kenny Gregory?

TIANA

Our firm represented him.

WILLIS

Why?

TIANA

Because Kenny was our client.

WILLIS

That ain't an answer.

TIANA

It's the only answer that matters.
Deon was an attorney. Kenny was
scheduled for release and believed
the guards were threatening him.

WILLIS

Kenny Gregory helped destroy this
county.

TIANA

He still had constitutional rights.

WILLIS

Those white boys poisoned this
place and got rich doing it. Then
Johnny Malone burned everything
down and left the rest of us to
starve. Why would Deon help any of
them?

TIANA

Because that was his job.

WILLIS

That was always Deon's problem. He
cared more about doing his job than
remembering where he came from.

Tiana's eyes harden.

TIANA
That isn't true, and you know it.

WILLIS
You come onto my property and tell
me what I know?

TIANA
He spent half his career keeping
you out of prison.

Willis steps toward her.

Bigz and the gate guards watch closely.

Tiana does not retreat.

WILLIS
Be very careful.

TIANA
I'm not here to fight with you.

WILLIS
Then tell me where my brother is.

Tiana reaches into her jacket.

Every rifle at the gate rises.

TIANA
Easy.

She removes a small cellular phone.

TIANA (CONT'D)
This came in before he went inside
the prison.

She plays a message.

Static.

Then Deon's voice.

DEON (RECORDED)
Tiana, something isn't right. They
changed the meeting room, and
nobody will tell me why. If I don't
call you in ten minutes, call my
brother.

The message ends.

Willis stares at the phone.

WILLIS
Play it again.

She does.

DEON (RECORDED)
If I don't call you in ten minutes,
call my brother.

The recording stops.

Willis looks at the dirt beneath his boots.

WILLIS
When did he leave that?

TIANA
Yesterday.

WILLIS
And you're just coming now?

TIANA
I spent most of yesterday trying
not to get killed.

WILLIS
What does that mean?

TIANA
I drove toward the prison after
receiving the message. A
corrections vehicle followed me
onto the old Alligator Alley.

Willis listens without moving.

TIANA (CONT'D)
They forced my car off the road. It
went into the water. They shot at
me when I tried to get out.

WILLIS
Who?

TIANA
Prison guards. Or men dressed like
them.

WILLIS
How'd you get away?

TIANA
Johnny Malone.

Willis laughs once -- empty and humorless.

WILLIS
Johnny Malone is dead.

TIANA
No, he isn't.

WILLIS
Then I'm talking to a crazy woman.

TIANA
I've been with him.

WILLIS
Malone's been gone twelve years.

TIANA
He came back.

Willis searches her exhausted face for dishonesty.
He finds none.

WILLIS
Where's Deon?

Her eyes fill. She holds his gaze.

TIANA
The deputy warden called me from
Deon's phone. He said an inmate
attacked Deon inside the prison.

Willis waits for the rest. Tiana struggles to give it to him.

TIANA (CONT'D)
Deon's dead.

The world narrows around Willis.

The guards vanish. The warehouse vanishes. Even the heat
vanishes.

Only Tiana and her sentence remain.

Willis shakes his head.

WILLIS

No.

TIANA

The prison also claims Kenny
Gregory hanged himself.

WILLIS

No.

TIANA

Johnny believes Kenny's death was
staged. He thinks Kenny is still
alive somewhere inside.

WILLIS

Johnny Malone thinks a lot of
things.

TIANA

He was scheduled to be released.

WILLIS

Men do stupid things.

TIANA

Deon entered that prison to meet
with him. He never came out alive.

WILLIS

Maybe that call was a lie.

TIANA

His car is still in their visitors'
parking lot.

WILLIS

Then I want to see him.

Willis walks away.

He reaches the road and stops.

His brother cannot be dead.

Deon survived by avoiding every bad decision Willis made.
Deon studied while Willis fought. Went to church with Bubs
and Millie while Willis disappeared into juvenile detention.
Graduated college and law school. Opened a Miami office with
his name across the glass.

Willis carries one of Deon's business cards in his wallet.

He has never told anyone.

On the back, Deon wrote a private number and two words:
ANYTIME. NO QUESTIONS.

Willis called it more times than he will ever admit.

Tiana approaches slowly.

TIANA

Willis.

He spins toward her.

WILLIS

No. Guys like me die.

She says nothing.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

Guys like Deon don't die. They
become senators. Maybe president.
They get their picture on
television and come back here
wearing some expensive suit,
telling everybody how they escaped
Dawber County.

His voice breaks.

Willis looks away. He will not let his men see him cry.

TIANA

I'm sorry.

WILLIS

You don't know he's dead.

TIANA

I know.

WILLIS

You saw his body?

TIANA

No.

WILLIS

Then you don't know anything.

TIANA

I know someone tried to kill me
after Deon went inside that prison.

(MORE)

TIANA (CONT'D)

I know they staged Kenny Gregory's death because of Johnny Malone's five million dollars. And I know Deon's last message told me to call you.

WILLIS

The five million is a ghost story.

TIANA

It's real.

WILLIS

Says who?

TIANA

Johnny.

Willis faces her.

WILLIS

Malone was a con man. He destroyed his partners and disappeared with their money.

TIANA

He says the money is still here.

WILLIS

Where?

TIANA

I don't know.

WILLIS

Then why are you here?

TIANA

Because Johnny believes the people who killed Deon are coming to Dawber County to find it.

WILLIS

Let them come.

TIANA

They're working with surviving members of the Brody and Shelton families.

WILLIS

Those two families spent the last two days killing each other.

TIANA
Some of them survived.

WILLIS
They always do.

TIANA
They'll kill anyone between them
and that money.

Willis looks toward the warehouse.

WILLIS
Then they picked the wrong county.

TIANA
Johnny has a plan.

WILLIS
Johnny Malone always has a plan.
Everybody else ends up in prison
while he walks away.

TIANA
He wants to speak with you.

WILLIS
I don't want to speak with him.

TIANA
Then speak to him for Deon.

Willis's jaw tightens.

WILLIS
Don't use my brother to move me
around.

TIANA
I'm not. Deon spent his entire life
getting you out of trouble. Now I'm
asking you to help me find out who
killed him.

Willis steps within inches of her.

WILLIS
If you are lying to me, there will
not be any law firm, federal
agency, or police department
capable of protecting you.

TIANA
I'm not lying.

WILLIS

If this is some trick Malone put
together to get his hands on my
people--

TIANA

It isn't.

WILLIS

If I don't like what I hear, you
won't wake up tomorrow.

TIANA

Then you can kill me tomorrow.
Today, you're coming with me.

For the first time, Willis sees Deon in her.

Not the education. Not the expensive language or faith in the
law.

Her refusal to back down when common sense says run.

Deon possessed the same infuriating quality.

Willis turns toward the warehouse.

WILLIS

Suds!

Suds appears in the doorway, still smiling.

SUDS

Yeah?

WILLIS

Bring my car.

Suds eyes Tiana and the Shelton truck.

SUDS

Where we going?

WILLIS

To hear a dead man tell us where my
brother is.

TIANA

Johnny isn't dead.

WILLIS

We'll see.

Willis points toward the loading bay.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

Bigz and the others follow us in the truck. Rifles, shotguns, everything.

TIANA

If we arrive with an army, Johnny may think you're attacking him.

WILLIS

I want him to think about it.

Suds disappears inside.

Willis removes Deon's business card from his wallet.

The edges are soft from years of being carried. The faded words remain:

ANYTIME. NO QUESTIONS.

Tiana sees it.

TIANA

He loved you.

Willis returns the card.

WILLIS

We didn't understand each other.

TIANA

That isn't the same thing.

WILLIS

No.

The warehouse doors open.

A black sedan rolls out, followed by two pickups filled with armed Maroons.

Suds parks before Willis and climbs out.

SUDS

Tank's full.

Willis opens the driver's door. Tiana walks toward the passenger side.

WILLIS

You aren't driving.

TIANA

Why?

WILLIS

Because you put your last car in
the Everglades.

TIANA

Someone forced me off the road.

WILLIS

That's what everybody says after an
accident.

Under any other circumstances, Deon would have laughed.

The thought hurts more than Willis expected.

INT. WILLIS'S SEDAN - CONTINUOUS

Willis takes the wheel. Tiana sits beside him.

Suds and Bigz join the armed vehicles behind them.

Willis starts the engine but does not shift.

WILLIS

If Deon is alive, I'm bringing him
home.

Tiana looks ahead.

TIANA

And if he isn't?

Willis stares down the road into Dawber County.

WILLIS

Then Johnny Malone is going to give
me the names of every person
involved.

TIANA

And after that?

Willis shifts into drive.

WILLIS

After that, I'm going to kill every
last one of them.

EXT. MAROON WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The gates open.

Willis drives out first.

The Maroons follow him toward Johnny Malone.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK MARINA - AFTERNOON

The MAROON CONVOY stops fifty yards from Alex Gregory's boathouse.

Alex's pickup, the battered Shelton truck, and an abandoned county utility truck sit near the marina. Behind the old bait shop, a boat tarp conceals the damaged Cadillac.

Beyond them, the boathouse rests on pilings above dark water.

INT. WILLIS'S SEDAN - CONTINUOUS

WILLIS kills the engine.

WILLIS
That where he is?

TIANA nods from the passenger seat.

TIANA
Johnny, Bones, Alex, and Billy
Dawber are inside.

Willis turns sharply.

WILLIS
A Dawber?

TIANA
Billy helped save my life.

WILLIS
That don't make him less of a
Dawber.

TIANA
He isn't his uncle.

WILLIS
Ain't decided that yet.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK MARINA - CONTINUOUS

Willis exits.

The MAROONS emerge behind him. SUDS carries a shotgun. BIGZ and the others fan out, watching the windows, dock, and sawgrass.

WILLIS
Stay out here.

Suds frowns.

SUDS
All of us?

WILLIS
If I start shooting, come inside.

SUDS
What if somebody else starts
shooting?

WILLIS
Then come inside faster.

Willis looks at Tiana.

WILLIS (CONT'D)
Lead the way.

They cross the marina through the smell of gasoline, fish scales, and an approaching storm.

A television plays inside the boathouse. A REPORTER describes another American advance into Baghdad.

INT. WIDOW'S WALK BOATHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JOHNNY MALONE sits on a worn couch facing the television.

He looks smaller than Willis remembers the legend.

Gray at the temples. Bandages beneath borrowed trousers. A pistol on the table -- close enough to reach, far enough away to appear polite.

ALEX GREGORY studies a chart on the workbench. BILLY DAWBER watches from the kitchenette.

BONES MALONE leans against the wall.

Bones moves first.

He puts himself between Willis and his father.

Willis stops.

EXT. DAWBER COUNTY SCHOOL - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

YOUNG BONES walks toward a group of older boys waiting to punish him for what Johnny did to their families.

He does not run.

He takes the beating.

MONTAGE - BONES GROWS

Bones becomes a state champion wrestler.

His shoulders broaden enough to fill a doorway.

Every boy who once beat him receives a visit.

People stop using Johnny Malone's name when Bones is near.

BACK TO SCENE

Willis understands violence.

He sees it in Bones's eyes.

WILLIS

You've got a lot of nerve coming
back here.

Bones steps closer.

BONES

I wouldn't come any nearer to my
father.

Willis looks him over.

WILLIS

Why are you protecting him? He hurt
you and your mother as much as he
hurt everybody else in this county.

BONES

That's between him and me.

WILLIS

Then move.

BONES

No.

Johnny rises carefully.

JOHNNY

Bones.

His son does not look back.

BONES

Sit down, Dad.

JOHNNY

I can handle this.

BONES

You've been shot.

JOHNNY

I noticed.

Willis eyes the bandage.

WILLIS

Somebody beat me to it?

JOHNNY

Several people tried.

WILLIS

Maybe they had the right idea.

Bones closes the distance. Willis holds his ground.

The boy is larger, but Willis fought larger men in the Army, on the streets, and in rooms where nobody followed rules.

He also knows Bones wants him to move first.

BONES

You touch him, and I'm putting you through that wall.

Willis examines the thin wooden paneling.

WILLIS

That ain't much of a threat. A hard sneeze could put me through that wall.

Billy hides a smile.

Bones hears him and glances away.

Willis uses the half-second to step around.

Bones catches his shoulder. Willis turns sharply.

Johnny moves between them.

JOHNNY

That's enough.

Bones stares at his father's hand against his chest.

BONES

Get out of my way.

JOHNNY

Not until you calm down.

BONES

I am calm.

JOHNNY

You're breathing like a bull.

Willis smiles.

Johnny points toward the kitchen.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Go get everyone something to drink.

Bones stares in disbelief.

BONES

What?

JOHNNY

We've got business to discuss.

BONES

You want me to serve drinks?

JOHNNY

I want you to give yourself thirty seconds before you do something stupid.

Willis takes the large recliner.

WILLIS

I'll take a beer.

Bones's face reddens.

BONES

Get it yourself.

WILLIS

You ain't much of a host.

Bones turns and PUNCHES the wall.

The impact sounds like a shotgun blast.

His fist goes completely through the paneling.

Silence.

Bones pulls his hand free. Splinters cling to bleeding knuckles.

BONES

That could've been your face.

Willis looks at the hole.

Then Johnny.

Johnny sighs.

JOHNNY

He takes after his mother.

WILLIS

I was about to say.

Tiana closes the door before the Maroons rush in.

TIANA

Everyone stop measuring themselves.
Deon is dead.

The humor vanishes.

Willis stares at Johnny.

WILLIS

I want the truth.

Johnny turns off the television.

JOHNNY

So do I.

WILLIS

Did Warden Kinder kill my brother?

JOHNNY

I believe he ordered it.

WILLIS

Believing ain't knowing.

JOHNNY

The prison staged Kenny's death as a suicide, but I believe Kenny is still alive. Deon went inside asking questions. An hour later, they called his murder an inmate attack.

Tiana places a cellular phone on the table.

TIANA

They tried to kill me before I could reach him.

Willis does not take his eyes off Johnny.

WILLIS

Who did it?

JOHNNY

Vernon Kinder has guards working for him. Trent was one. There will be others.

WILLIS

Give me their names.

JOHNNY

I will when I have them.

WILLIS

You expect me to wait?

JOHNNY

I expect you to kill the right men.

Willis rises.

WILLIS

You don't get to tell me how to handle my brother's murder.

JOHNNY

No. I'm telling you that killing the first prison guard you find will warn everyone else.

WILLIS
I want them warned.

JOHNNY
Then you'll never learn who gave
the order.

WILLIS
You just said Kinder gave it.

JOHNNY
I said I believe he did.

Willis moves closer.

WILLIS
You used to be more certain of
yourself.

JOHNNY
I used to mistake certainty for
intelligence.

WILLIS
That supposed to impress me?

JOHNNY
No.

Johnny looks at the armed men outside.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
I'm impressed you brought an army.

WILLIS
You said men were coming.

JOHNNY
They are.

WILLIS
Then why are you sitting around
watching television?

JOHNNY
Because frightened men move too
quickly. I'm trying not to be one
of them.

Willis looks through the window at the tarp-covered Cadillac.

WILLIS
How's that working out?

JOHNNY
Still evaluating.

Alex folds the map.

ALEX
Warden Kinder isn't acting alone.

Willis turns.

WILLIS
You Kenny Gregory's boy?

ALEX
Alex.

WILLIS
I know who you are.

ALEX
Then you know my father is still
inside that prison because of the
same money.

WILLIS
Your father helped Bo Dawber flood
this county with cocaine.

ALEX
He also helped build half the
businesses that disappeared after
the arrests.

WILLIS
Drug money built them.

ALEX
Money built them. Drugs destroyed
them.

Willis studies him.

Alex carries his mother's Battenberg manners, but his eyes
belong to someone raised around docks, card games, and men
who lie for a living.

Johnny's kind of eyes.

WILLIS
You trying to teach me about Dawber
County?

ALEX

No. I'm trying to tell you we have the same enemy.

WILLIS

You ain't got the same enemies I do.

ALEX

Warden Kinder killed your brother because he thought Deon knew where my father hid Johnny's money. That makes this the same fight.

Willis glances at Johnny.

WILLIS

The boy always talk for you?

JOHNNY

Usually before I want him to.

WILLIS

Maybe because he's smarter than you.

Johnny smiles faintly.

JOHNNY

He might be.

Bones hears that. His injured hand tightens.

Billy returns with beers and gives one to Willis.

Willis takes it without thanks.

WILLIS

You Timmy Dawber's boy?

Billy nods.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

Your uncle involved in this?

BILLY

I don't know.

WILLIS

That ain't a no.

BILLY

Bo has been in prison for twelve years.

WILLIS

And he's run half the county from
his cell.

Billy looks at Johnny.

BILLY

He gets released in a few weeks.

JOHNNY

That's exactly why this is
happening.

Willis opens the beer.

WILLIS

Explain.

JOHNNY

Kinder has given Bo special
privileges for years. Private
meetings, alcohol, access to
telephones -- anything that made Bo
useful.

WILLIS

And what did Bo give him?

JOHNNY

Names. Favors. Connections. The
promise of five million dollars.

Billy shakes his head.

BILLY

My uncle doesn't share.

JOHNNY

No. He doesn't.

BILLY

Then why work with the warden?

JOHNNY

Because each man believes he can
kill the other after they find the
money.

Willis drinks.

WILLIS

Maybe I save them both the trouble.

JOHNNY

That would satisfy you for an afternoon. I'm trying to accomplish something larger.

WILLIS

Here we go.

Willis sits.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

Johnny Malone's got himself another grand plan.

Johnny lowers himself onto the couch.

JOHNNY

How much money do you need?

Willis laughs.

WILLIS

For what?

JOHNNY

To rebuild the Maroons.

WILLIS

We don't need rebuilding.

JOHNNY

You're stuffing college students into punching bags because you need access to their fathers' customers.

Willis stops smiling.

WILLIS

How do you know about Teddy?

JOHNNY

I pay attention.

WILLIS

You been back in Dawber County one day.

JOHNNY

And I already know your distribution network is trapped between county roads watched by the Dawbers and coastal routes controlled by the Haitians.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You've got manpower, but no political protection, no legitimate transportation company, and not enough money to expand.

WILLIS

You wearing a wire?

Johnny stands and lifts his shirt.

His chest is covered in gray and black hair. Bandages circle his waist and thigh.

Willis recoils.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

Good Lord. Put that down.

JOHNNY

You asked.

WILLIS

You look like something Jane Goodall ought to be studying.

JOHNNY

I'm part Italian. What do you expect?

WILLIS

I expect grown men to own razors.

Johnny lowers the shirt and sits.

JOHNNY

Are you satisfied?

WILLIS

About the wire. Not the hair.

Tiana folds her arms.

TIANA

Can we return to the murder conspiracy?

Willis points at Johnny.

WILLIS

How much?

JOHNNY

Two million dollars.

Silence.

Even the Maroons outside seem still.

Willis searches Johnny's face.

WILLIS

You offering me two million
dollars?

JOHNNY

I'm offering it to the Maroons.

WILLIS

For what?

JOHNNY

Help me stop Kinder and his guards
from taking the five million hidden
in the swamp.

WILLIS

So the money is real.

JOHNNY

Yes.

WILLIS

Where?

JOHNNY

Close enough.

WILLIS

That ain't an answer.

JOHNNY

It's the only one you're getting
until we have an agreement.

Willis leans back.

WILLIS

I heard you hid five million. Why
do I only get two?

JOHNNY

Because it's my money.

WILLIS

According to who?

JOHNNY

The man who hid it.

WILLIS

You hid drug money on Maroon land?

JOHNNY

I didn't say that.

WILLIS

You didn't have to.

Alex looks at Johnny.

Willis catches it.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

The boy knows.

JOHNNY

Alex knows enough to be dangerous.

ALEX

I know the routes. Not the exact location.

Willis turns to him.

WILLIS

What routes?

Alex unfolds the map.

ALEX

Three canals lead toward Gethsemane. Only one stays deep enough this time of year for a loaded skiff. Kinder's men will need trucks to move the cash once they reach dry land. That limits where they can come ashore.

He indicates a narrow strip of land.

ALEX (CONT'D)

If they approach from the prison, they'll use the eastern service road. If they're working with the Brodys, they may come through the old hunting lease.

Willis joins him.

WILLIS

What about the north canal?

ALEX
Too shallow.

WILLIS
For a normal boat.

Alex looks at him.

ALEX
You have airboats.

WILLIS
Six.

Johnny joins them.

JOHNNY
That's why I need the Maroons.

Willis studies the map.

WILLIS
If you know where they're coming,
why not call the police?

Billy laughs.

Everyone looks at him.

BILLY
Sorry. That was funny.

JOHNNY
The sheriff's department still
belongs to the Dawbers. The state
police would ask too many
questions. The FBI might protect us
long enough to seize the money. The
DEA would take the money and spend
the next ten years trying to prove
I touched it.

TIANA
And you haven't?

JOHNNY
Not since 1991.

Willis looks up.

WILLIS
You've got more somewhere.

Johnny folds the map.

JOHNNY
We're discussing the five million.

WILLIS
You didn't live twelve years on
nothing.

JOHNNY
I'm an accountant.

WILLIS
You're a thief with a calculator.

JOHNNY
Those professions overlap more than
you'd think.

WILLIS
How much do you have?

JOHNNY
Enough.

WILLIS
Where?

JOHNNY
Not here.

WILLIS
Swiss accounts?

Johnny says nothing.

Willis smiles.

WILLIS (CONT'D)
I knew it.

JOHNNY
The two million is more than enough
for your assistance.

WILLIS
Assistance?

JOHNNY
You provide men and equipment. We
keep Kinder away from the money,
identify everyone involved in
Deon's murder, and make sure the
truth reaches the right
authorities.

Willis stares.

WILLIS
You want to arrest them?

JOHNNY
I want them exposed.

WILLIS
I want them dead.

JOHNNY
I assumed.

WILLIS
You got a problem with that?

JOHNNY
I have a problem with leaving
bodies all over Dawber County
before we restart the most
lucrative enterprise this place
ever had.

Billy slowly lowers his beer.

Tiana closes her eyes.

TIANA
Johnny.

Alex smiles.

Willis notices.

WILLIS
What enterprise?

Johnny glares at Alex.

JOHNNY
The boys have an idea.

ALEX
It's more than an idea.

Bones returns with ice around his hand.

BONES
We're rebuilding the operation.

Tiana looks at Johnny.

TIANA
You agreed to this?

JOHNNY
I agreed to discuss a tightly
controlled investment.

Alex laughs.

ALEX
You agreed we could make more than
five million.

JOHNNY
That is not the same thing.

BONES
We want to move product through the
old routes. Bo, Kinder, the
Sheltons, and the Brodys are
already fighting each other. When
it's over, nobody controls the
county.

ALEX
We will.

Billy stays quiet.

Willis looks at him.

WILLIS
What does the Dawber think?

Billy's expression hardens.

BILLY
My name is Billy.

WILLIS
That wasn't my question.

Billy looks at the map.

BILLY
My uncle Bo believes this county
belongs to him. My uncle Buck has
spent his life enforcing that
belief.

WILLIS
And you?

BILLY

I haven't decided what I believe.

Willis nods.

WILLIS

That makes you the most honest
Dawber I ever met.

Johnny taps the map.

JOHNNY

The old operation became too large,
too careless, and too violent.
Everyone confused fear with
loyalty. We would not repeat that.

WILLIS

You already used the word we.

Johnny looks irritated.

JOHNNY

So?

WILLIS

Sounds like you made your decision.

JOHNNY

I haven't.

Bones sits across from him.

BONES

Yeah, you have.

Johnny studies the boys: Bones guarding his father, Alex
guarding the map, and Billy standing apart beneath the weight
of his name.

Willis extends his hand.

WILLIS

Two million.

JOHNNY

After the money is recovered.

WILLIS

And the men who killed Deon?

JOHNNY

You'll get every name I find.

WILLIS
No warnings.

JOHNNY
No.

WILLIS
No police protection.

JOHNNY
I can't control what the government
does.

WILLIS
But you can control what you tell
them.

Johnny looks at the offered hand.

JOHNNY
I've played that game before.

WILLIS
You started that game.

Johnny accepts his hand.

Willis tightens his grip.

WILLIS (CONT'D)
If you betray me, I won't put you
in a bag.

JOHNNY
That's reassuring.

WILLIS
I'll feed you to the gators myself.

Johnny holds his gaze.

JOHNNY
Atticus used to say things like
that.

WILLIS
I ain't Atticus.

JOHNNY
No. He would've tried to kill me
before hearing the offer.

WILLIS
Maybe I'm getting soft.

JOHNNY

You brought twelve armed men.

WILLIS

Eleven. Suds counts as two.

Outside, Suds smiles through the window as though he heard them.

Johnny releases Willis's hand.

JOHNNY

Tiana, find everything you can about Kenny and Deon's deaths. Autopsy reports, guard schedules, surveillance records, prison logs.

TIANA

Kinder will bury all of it.

JOHNNY

Then find someone who dislikes him.

TIANA

That won't be difficult.

Johnny turns to Billy.

JOHNNY

You need to learn what your father knows about Bo's arrangement with the warden.

Billy's face changes.

BILLY

You want me to spy on my uncle?

JOHNNY

I want you to decide which side you're on.

Billy sets down his unopened beer.

BILLY

He's still my uncle.

JOHNNY

I know.

Johnny turns to Alex.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Find every route into Gethsemane
that can carry a truck.

ALEX

Already working on it.

JOHNNY

Bones, you're with me.

BONES

Where are we going?

Johnny takes the pistol from the table.

Willis looks toward the black water beneath the dock.

WILLIS

You going after the money?

JOHNNY

I'm going to see whether it's still
where I left it.

WILLIS

You want my men with you?

JOHNNY

Not yet.

WILLIS

That smart?

JOHNNY

Probably not.

Johnny checks the pistol and pushes it into his waistband.

Bones picks up a shotgun. Alex reaches for the map.

Johnny stops him.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You stay here.

ALEX

If you're going into the swamp, you
need me.

JOHNNY

I need someone capable of thinking
more than thirty seconds ahead to
coordinate with Willis.

Bones frowns.

BONES
You saying I can't think?

JOHNNY
I'm saying you punched a wall five
minutes ago.

BONES
The wall started it.

Willis laughs. Bones glares at him.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK BOATHOUSE - DOCK - CONTINUOUS

Johnny opens the door.

Storm clouds gather over the sawgrass, turning the afternoon
sky nearly black.

Willis follows him onto the dock.

WILLIS
One more thing.

Johnny stops.

WILLIS (CONT'D)
If the prison lied and Deon's still
alive, you pay the two million
anyway.

JOHNNY
Agreed.

WILLIS
And if you're right?

Johnny looks back.

JOHNNY
Then we make sure his killers
regret it.

Willis nods.

The first thing Johnny has said all afternoon that sounds
like a promise.

Johnny climbs into a skiff. Bones unties the line and
follows.

The engine turns over.

TIANA

Where exactly are you going?

Johnny pushes away from the dock.

JOHNNY

Fishing.

The skiff accelerates into the canal.

Willis watches father and son disappear into the approaching storm.

Behind Willis, eleven armed Maroons wait for orders.

Ahead, Johnny Malone vanishes into the swamp.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE SEVEN