

SAWGRASS WARS

"Malone's Back"
Episode 5 - 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. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - ENTRY CHECKPOINT - AFTERNOON

The prison gate CLANGS shut behind DEON CHILDRESS.

Deon slows. Something is wrong.

The GUARDS are too quiet. No jokes. No complaints about overtime. None of the crude remarks meant to remind visiting attorneys who controls the building.

At the first checkpoint, an OFFICER examines Deon's identification three times.

At the second, another GUARD waits behind a reinforced window.

CHECKPOINT GUARD
Telephone, briefcase, belt, keys,
and watch.

DEON
My briefcase contains privileged
legal documents.

CHECKPOINT GUARD
You'll get it back when you leave.

DEON
It does not leave my possession.

The guard rests a hand on his baton.

CHECKPOINT GUARD
Warden's orders.

DEON
I am here to see my client.

CHECKPOINT GUARD
Then you'd better cooperate.

Behind the guard, two additional officers wait in the corridor.

This is not a security procedure. It is a warning.

Deon puts the briefcase on the counter but keeps hold of the handle.

DEON

I want a written inventory of everything you take.

CHECKPOINT GUARD

You'll get a receipt.

DEON

I want the inventory before I surrender it.

The guard rolls his eyes and begins listing each item.

He opens the briefcase.

The emergency petition, Kenny's representation agreement, and Deon's notes about the prison are gone.

Tiana has them.

Deon conceals his relief.

The guard finishes the form.

CHECKPOINT GUARD

Sign.

Deon signs. The guard stores the briefcase and slides a visitor's badge across the counter.

A portly officer with a gray-streaked beard waits beside the metal detector. His nameplate reads DALY.

He carries a shotgun.

DALY

Attorney Childress?

DEON

Yes.

DALY

Follow me.

DEON

Where is Warden Kinder?

DALY

Busy.

DEON

Where is Kenny Gregory?

DALY
I'll take you to him.

Daly turns without waiting.

EXT. ALLIGATOR ALLEY - SUNSET

The wounded CADILLAC limps west through the Everglades, steam rising from its hood.

INT. CADILLAC - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

The temperature needle climbs toward the red.

BILLY
We're losing coolant.

Johnny peers through the cracked windshield.

JOHNNY
Keep moving.

BILLY
If the engine seizes, we'll stop permanently.

JOHNNY
If the police find that wreck before we leave Alligator Alley, the engine will be the least of our problems.

In the back seat, TIANA sits between Johnny and Bones. Wet clothes cling to her. Mud covers her legs. The cut above her left eye has swollen.

She holds Trent's two phones and Department of Corrections identification inside a plastic sandwich bag.

Her briefcase -- and every document Deon asked her to bring -- lies at the bottom of the canal.

TIANA
You fed Trent to the alligators.

JOHNNY
I removed an immediate problem.

TIANA
He was already dead.

JOHNNY

That condition prevented him from objecting.

Tiana turns to Bones.

TIANA

And you helped him.

BONES

Trent tried to kill you.

TIANA

You could've said no.

Bones studies his father.

BONES

I'm starting to learn that's an option.

Johnny hears the indictment.

TIANA

You destroyed evidence.

JOHNNY

I preserved the evidence that matters.

Tiana stares at his remorseless face.

He nods toward the plastic bag.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

His identification, telephones, keys, and the photograph proving he had been following you. A dead corrections officer on the highway would have brought every law-enforcement agency in Florida down on us before we reached Dawber County.

TIANA

You made me part of a cover-up.

JOHNNY

Trent made you part of a murder attempt.

TIANA

That doesn't give us the right to dispose of his body.

JOHNNY

No. It gives us the need.

The temperature needle touches red.

EXT. ALLIGATOR ALLEY - SHOULDER - MOMENTS LATER

The Cadillac rolls to a stop beneath a highway sign:

DO NOT APPROACH OR FEED ALLIGATORS.

Bones looks back toward the canal.

BONES

Little late for that.

Steam ERUPTS as Billy raises the hood.

Johnny removes his clean shirt and ties it around his waist. The collision has bent the frame inward. Coolant streams from a split in the radiator.

BILLY

We need water.

BONES

We're surrounded by it.

Billy looks at the canal.

BILLY

You first.

Alex searches the trunk. He finds a tool kit, two gallons of drinking water, and radiator sealant.

ALEX

Sanchez planned for everything.

Johnny takes the sealant.

JOHNNY

Sanchez believed preparation was the difference between an escape and a funeral.

Nearby, Tiana calls Deon.

Voicemail.

She tries his private number. No answer.

Then the law firm.

TIANA

This is Tiana Ross. Has Mr.
Childress called?

She listens.

TIANA (CONT'D)

When did he leave?

Another pause.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Did he say where he was going?

Tiana closes her eyes.

TIANA (CONT'D)

Yes, I know he went to the prison.
I'm asking whether he returned.

She listens again.

TIANA (CONT'D)

No. Don't call the police yet. If
he contacts the office, tell him to
call me immediately.

She hangs up. Johnny watches her.

JOHNNY

He never left the prison.

TIANA

You don't know that.

JOHNNY

His Mercedes is still there.

TIANA

How do you know?

JOHNNY

The firm tracks company vehicles.

Johnny looks west toward Dawber County.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

You said he called you.

TIANA

He told me to bring Kenny's
representation agreement, the
emergency petition, and every note
from our investigation.

(MORE)

TIANA (CONT'D)

Then he called again and ordered me to turn around.

JOHNNY

Something changed while he was inside.

TIANA

He sounded frightened.

JOHNNY

Was Deon easily frightened?

TIANA

No.

JOHNNY

Then assume the threat was real.

Tiana looks at Deon's number on her phone.

TIANA

Before the call ended, he told me something else.

JOHNNY

What?

TIANA

If anything happened to him, I should call his brother.

Johnny stops pouring the sealant.

JOHNNY

Willis.

TIANA

You know him?

JOHNNY

I knew him when he was a boy.

TIANA

He isn't a boy now.

JOHNNY

No.

TIANA

He runs the Maroon Gang.

JOHNNY

I know.

TIANA

Deon told me never to involve
Willis in legal matters.

JOHNNY

This stopped being a legal matter
when Kinder sent Trent to kill you.

Tiana looks down at the evidence bag.

TIANA

Deon and Willis barely spoke.

JOHNNY

That doesn't mean they didn't love
each other.

TIANA

How do you know?

JOHNNY

Deon escaped Dawber County. Willis
learned how to rule the part
everybody else abandoned. Brothers
don't need to understand each other
to remain brothers.

Bones studies his father.

BONES

You speaking from experience?

Johnny ignores him.

Tiana removes one of Trent's phones from the bag.

TIANA

It's locked.

JOHNNY

Both?

TIANA

Yes.

Johnny holds out his hand. She hesitates, then gives it to
him.

He removes the battery. A strip of paper is taped beneath it -
- six handwritten numbers.

TIANA (CONT'D)

His passcode.

JOHNNY

Men who lead secret lives prepare
for the inconvenience of forgetting
which life they're living.

She enters the numbers. The phone unlocks.

The recent-call list contains repeated calls to one unlisted
number.

Johnny dials it from his own phone.

KINDER (PHONE)

Who is this?

Johnny says nothing.

KINDER (PHONE) (CONT'D)

Trent?

Johnny ends the call.

TIANA

That was Kinder.

JOHNNY

Yes.

TIANA

That proves Trent was working for
him.

JOHNNY

It proves Trent called him.

TIANA

Repeatedly.

JOHNNY

A prosecutor will want more.

TIANA

I'm a lawyer. I know what a
prosecutor wants.

JOHNNY

Then you know we need Kinder to
believe Trent is still alive.

Johnny returns the battery and phone.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

When Kinder calls, answer.

TIANA

And say what?

JOHNNY

Nothing. Let him hear the highway.

TIANA

That won't fool him for long.

JOHNNY

It only needs to fool him until we reach Widow's Walk.

Billy pours water into the radiator.

BILLY

What happens when we get there?

ALEX

We hide the Cadillac.

BILLY

And her?

He nods toward Tiana.

ALEX

She stays with us.

Tiana folds her arms.

TIANA

Nobody asked me.

JOHNNY

You can leave whenever you want.
The Everglades is that direction.

He points toward the sawgrass.

Bones steps between them.

BONES

She ain't going anywhere alone.

Tiana looks up at him.

TIANA

You always this protective?

BONES

No.

Johnny gives his son a sideways glance. Bones ignores it.

Billy pours in the last of the water and closes the hood.

BILLY

We might get another thirty miles.

ALEX

County line is twenty.

BILLY

And Widow's Walk?

ALEX

Twenty-seven.

Billy returns to the driver's seat.

BILLY

Then we walk the last seven.

EXT. DAWBER COUNTY LINE - NIGHT

The Cadillac clicks and groans along the highway. Steam escapes beneath the hood, but the needle stays below red.

Its headlights reveal a weather-beaten sign:

WELCOME TO DAWBER COUNTY where florida begins

Three bullet holes pierce the word WELCOME.

INT. CADILLAC - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Johnny sits upright.

Through the cracked windows comes sawgrass, salt water, mud, rotting vegetation, and distant wood smoke.

Home.

Johnny has imagined this return for twelve years -- in federal chains, with enough money to buy every acre Bo controlled, to kill Bo, or merely stand beside Sanchez's grave.

Never wounded, nearly broke, and surrounded by the children of men his revenge sent to prison.

Bones watches him.

BONES

You all right?

JOHNNY

No.

The first answer Johnny has given his son that requires no interpretation.

Billy drives beyond the sign.

TIANA

You destroyed the smuggling operation here.

JOHNNY

Yes.

TIANA

Deon said you saved this county first.

JOHNNY

Both things can be true.

TIANA

Why come back?

Johnny looks at Bones.

JOHNNY

I was invited.

Alex laughs.

ALEX

That isn't how I remember it.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK - SHELL ROAD - NIGHT

The Cadillac leaves the pavement and enters the shell road toward the marina.

The engine DIES fifty yards short.

INT. CADILLAC - CONTINUOUS

Billy turns the key. The starter only CLICKS.

BILLY

That's it.

BONES

We can push it.

ALEX
You can push it.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK - CONTINUOUS

Bones and Billy take the rear bumper. Alex steers through the open driver's window while pushing from the side.

Johnny tries to help. His wound reopens.

Tiana catches his arm.

TIANA
You're bleeding again.

JOHNNY
I've been informed.

TIANA
Sit down.

JOHNNY
We need the car hidden.

TIANA
Bones can push it by himself.

Bones strains against the bumper.

BONES
She ain't wrong.

Johnny steps aside.

They roll the Cadillac behind the abandoned bait shop and cover it with a weathered boat tarp. From the road, it looks like another forgotten piece of Widow's Walk.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK - DOCK - NIGHT

Alex leads them toward the boathouse.

Tiana stops several feet away. The structure sags over black water. Mosquitoes cover the screens. An old campaign banner for SHERIFF BUCK DAWBER patches the roof.

TIANA
You live here?

ALEX
Temporarily.

Tiana eyes the banner.

TIANA

Does the sheriff know you have that?

ALEX

He didn't win that election because of signs.

Bones unlocks the door.

INT. WIDOW'S WALK BOATHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The lamp is still burning. Nothing appears disturbed.

Alex checks the rear room and loft, then lowers his pistol.

ALEX

Clear.

Tiana enters. Mildew, fish, gasoline, and old books. A sagging sofa. Tools, boat parts, and fishing equipment cover every surface.

TIANA

I nearly died for this?

ALEX

You nearly died because your boyfriend worked for a prison warden.

TIANA

Former boyfriend.

BONES

Very former.

Johnny lowers himself into the recliner. Bones sets the duffel beside him. Billy closes the curtains.

BILLY

No lights near the windows. Nobody goes outside unless we have to.

ALEX

You giving orders now?

BILLY

Somebody should.

Johnny raises a hand.

JOHNNY

Billy's right. Kinder knows Tiana survived, and traffic cameras caught the Cadillac entering the county.

ALEX

We lost the rear plate in the crash.

JOHNNY

That will delay identification, not prevent it.

Tiana places Trent's phones on the table.

TIANA

We need to contact law enforcement.

JOHNNY

No.

TIANA

You cannot keep saying no every time the law becomes inconvenient.

JOHNNY

The law is not inconvenient. It is compromised.

TIANA

Trent worked for Kinder. That doesn't mean every officer in Florida does.

JOHNNY

Kinder operates the prison. Bo controls people inside it. Sheriff Buck controls the county outside it. Which one do you trust?

TIANA

Deon.

JOHNNY

Then find him.

Tiana calls Deon again. Voicemail.

TIANA

Deon, it's Tiana. I was attacked on Alligator Alley. Trent was working for Kinder.

(MORE)

TIANA (CONT'D)

I have his phone and
identification. I'm safe, but I
need you to call me immediately.

She almost ends the message. Then remembers his last
instruction.

TIANA (CONT'D)

You told me to call Willis if
something happened. I haven't done
that yet. Please don't make me.

She disconnects.

Bones hands her a clean towel.

BONES

You can use the shower.

TIANA

There's a shower?

BONES

Sort of.

TIANA

What does sort of mean?

BONES

You stand in it and water comes
out.

TIANA

Then why sort of?

BONES

It ain't always the same color.

Tiana stares at him. Bones smiles.

Despite everything, she almost smiles back.

Billy finds dry clothes in an old storage trunk. Alex spreads
Kenny's coded map across the table.

JOHNNY

Put that away.

ALEX

We came here for the money.

JOHNNY

We came here because men tried to
kill us.

ALEX

Same reason.

JOHNNY

Not tonight.

ALEX

Kenny is inside that prison because of this map.

JOHNNY

And rushing into Kinder's facility will put all of us beside him.

ALEX

Tiana can get us inside.

Tiana removes her wet jacket.

TIANA

I cannot get anybody inside. Deon had the authorization.

ALEX

Then we use his name.

TIANA

I will not impersonate my employer.

ALEX

You don't have to impersonate him. Just act like a lawyer.

TIANA

I am a lawyer.

ALEX

Then it should be easy.

Tiana steps toward him.

TIANA

You think being intelligent excuses being obnoxious.

ALEX

No. Being right excuses it.

Johnny reaches across the table and folds the map.

JOHNNY

Enough.

ALEX
My father may be dying.

JOHNNY
I know.

ALEX
You don't care.

JOHNNY
I crossed the state because your
father may be dying.

ALEX
You crossed because Bubs might give
away your money.

Johnny puts the folded map inside his shirt.

JOHNNY
You want me to teach you how to
rebuild the operation?

Alex's anger pauses.

ALEX
Yes.

JOHNNY
Then learn the first rule.

ALEX
What?

JOHNNY
Never let desperation choose your
next move.

Johnny settles back into the recliner.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Tonight, we gather information.
Tomorrow, we act.

Trent's phone RINGS.

Everyone turns toward it.

The same unlisted number fills the display.

KINDER.

Tiana answers and activates the speaker. She says nothing.

For several seconds, only silence passes between them.

KINDER (PHONE)

Trent, if you can hear me, the situation has changed.

Johnny motions for everyone to remain quiet.

KINDER (PHONE) (CONT'D)

Deon Childress is still inside the prison. His associate never arrived. Kenny Gregory has been moved.

Tiana covers her mouth.

KINDER (PHONE) (CONT'D)

If the woman survived, finish the assignment and call me. If you fail again, don't come back.

The connection ends.

Nobody moves.

TIANA

He admitted Deon is there.

JOHNNY

He admitted nothing a court could use.

TIANA

I don't care about court.

JOHNNY

That makes two of us.

Tiana reaches for her shoes. Bones stops her.

BONES

Where are you going?

TIANA

To the prison.

BONES

You won't get through the gate.

TIANA

I have to try.

Johnny stands carefully.

JOHNNY

No.

TIANA

I am not one of your soldiers.

JOHNNY

No. You're Deon's responsibility,
and he sent you away because he
wanted you alive.

TIANA

He needs help.

JOHNNY

He needs us to understand why
Kinder is holding him.

TIANA

The money.

JOHNNY

Yes.

TIANA

What can Deon tell him?

JOHNNY

Nothing.

TIANA

Then Kinder will kill him.

The truth silences the room.

Johnny looks toward the distant glow above Reform
Correctional. His expression tells Tiana he has reached the
same conclusion.

BILLY

What do we do?

Johnny looks at Trent's phone.

JOHNNY

We give Kinder a reason to keep
Deon alive.

BILLY

What reason?

JOHNNY

We make him believe Deon is the
only person who can lead him to the
five million.

Alex understands first.

ALEX

And while Kinder interrogates him?

JOHNNY

We find Bubs.

TIANA

You're gambling with Deon's life.

JOHNNY

Yes.

TIANA

You don't get to do that.

Johnny meets her eyes.

JOHNNY

Kinder already did.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK - CHANNEL - NIGHT

A BOAT ENGINE moves through the dark channel.

Its lights are off.

The engine slows near the marina.

Then stops.

INT. WIDOW'S WALK BOATHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone goes still.

Johnny draws his revolver.

Alex extinguishes the lamp.

Bones moves beside Tiana.

In the darkness, water strikes the pilings.

Someone has followed them home.

INT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - HOLDING ROOM - NIGHT

DEON CHILDRESS waits alone.

The door opens.

A shotgun enters first. DALY follows it into the room.

DALY
You're coming downstairs.

Deon rises.

Daly escorts him into the corridor.

INT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - CORRIDORS - CONTINUOUS

They pass the visitation room. Deon stops.

DEON
Kenny usually meets me here.

DALY
Not tonight.

DEON
Why?

Daly keeps walking.

They enter an older section. Water stains mark the concrete walls. Fluorescent lights flicker behind wire cages.

No inmates. No other guards.

A ceiling camera watches them -- its indicator light dark.

DEON (CONT'D)
Where are we going?

Daly points ahead with the shotgun.

A wall sign displays two arrows:

INFIRMARY - LEFT

MORGUE - DOWNSTAIRS

Daly heads for the stairs. Deon does not move.

DEON (CONT'D)
Officer?

Daly looks back.

DALY

Come on.

DEON

Why are we going to the morgue?

Daly shifts the shotgun.

DALY

Because your client hanged himself.

Deon stares at him.

DEON

No.

DALY

Afraid so.

DEON

When?

DALY

Couple hours ago.

DEON

I spoke to this facility less than an hour ago. I was told Kenny was receiving medical treatment.

DALY

Things changed.

DEON

Who pronounced him dead?

DALY

Doctor.

DEON

What doctor?

DALY

The prison doctor.

DEON

Name.

Daly's expression hardens.

DALY

You want to see your client or
stand here asking questions?

DEON

I want Warden Kinder.

DALY

He'll talk to you afterward.

DEON

I am not entering that morgue
without him.

Daly looks past Deon toward the empty corridor.

DALY

You drove all this way.

Deon glances at the dead camera.

Every instinct tells him to return to the gate.

But if the body below is Kenny, Deon must identify it and
preserve whatever proves how he died. If it is not Kenny,
Deon needs to know why they are lying.

DEON

You go first.

DALY

Suit yourself.

Daly descends. Deon follows several steps behind.

INT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - MORTUARY STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

A black door bears white letters:

MORTUARY - AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

Daly unlocks it. Cold air spills into the stairwell.

He waves Deon inside.

INT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - MORTUARY - CONTINUOUS

Six stainless-steel drawers. An examination table. A deep
utility sink.

Bleach cannot disguise the odor of death.

A BODY lies beneath a white sheet. One hand remains exposed.
An identification band circles the wrist:

GREGORY, KENNETH.

Deon stays near the door.

DEON
What happened?

DALY
Used his bedsheet.

DEON
Kenny was in isolation.

DALY
That's right.

DEON
Isolation cells use tear-resistant
bedding.

DALY
Guess he found a way.

DEON
Where is the ligature?

DALY
Evidence.

DEON
Where are the photographs?

DALY
Being processed.

DEON
Why is his face covered?

Daly nods toward the body.

DALY
You wanted to identify him.

Deon approaches slowly.

The exposed hand bothers him.

Kenny broke two fingers during the 1991 arrests. They healed
crooked, leaving the smallest finger angled toward his palm.

The dead man's fingers are straight.

DEON

That isn't Kenny.

Daly tightens his grip on the shotgun.

Deon backs away from the table.

A SHADOW moves behind him.

He turns.

FESTER, a wiry inmate with wild eyes, emerges from the corner holding a sharpened piece of metal.

Deon raises his arm. The shiv slices through his sleeve and opens the flesh beneath.

Fester lunges again. Deon catches his wrist.

They CRASH against the examination table. The covered body rolls beneath the sheet.

DEON (CONT'D)

Help me!

Daly closes the mortuary door.

Deon understands.

Fester drives his forehead into Deon's face. Pain explodes behind Deon's eyes.

The shiv comes free.

Deon seizes Fester's shirt and SLAMS him into the steel drawers. One drawer slides open, revealing an empty tray.

Fester grins.

FESTER

You fight good for a lawyer.

DEON

You picked the wrong one.

Deon strikes him in the throat. Fester staggers but stays upright.

Deon moves toward Daly.

Daly raises the shotgun.

DALY

Stay where you are.

DEON

You brought me here to be killed.

DALY

I said stay back.

Fester attacks again.

Deon turns too late.

The blade carves deeply across his neck.

Heat becomes cold.

Blood splashes the white sheet, the floor, and Daly's uniform.

Deon presses both hands to the wound. He tries to speak. Only air escapes.

His legs fail.

Daly catches Deon and gently lowers him onto a sheet of plastic beneath the table.

They knew exactly where he would fall.

Fester stands over him, breathing hard.

FESTER

You said this clears what I owe.

Daly raises the shotgun.

DALY

Inmate Fester, Warden Kinder thanks
you for your service.

Fester's grin vanishes.

BOOM!

The shotgun blast hurls Fester against the mortuary drawers.
Blood and buckshot mark the steel.

Daly pumps the shotgun and waits.

Fester slides to the floor.

Deon is still breathing.

Barely.

DALY (CONT'D)

Damn.

Daly sets down the shotgun and presses a gloved hand against Deon's wound.

Not to save him. To make certain the bleeding continues.

Deon loses all feeling. Sounds recede.

Daly calls for the cleanup team.

GUARDS enter with a rolling bin, fresh plastic, and cleaning chemicals. Nobody looks surprised.

One removes the false identification band from the corpse's wrist. Another wheels the body beneath the sheet away.

It is not Kenny.

Deon was right. Kenny remains alive somewhere inside the prison.

That gives Deon a final moment of peace.

FLASHBACK - EXT. DAWBER COUNTY COURTHOUSE - DAY - YEARS AGO

TEN-YEAR-OLD DEON stands alone after his father is sentenced for murdering his mother.

PASTOR BUBS kneels in front of him.

BUBS

You can come home with us.

MILLIE stands beside him holding a paper bag containing a sandwich, an apple, and a clean shirt.

Across the street, YOUNG WILLIS watches.

Willis refuses to cry. Refuses to cross the road.

Deon goes with Bubs.

Willis stays behind.

FLASHBACK - EXT. BUS STATION - DAY - YEARS LATER

Deon boards a bus for college.

Across another street, Willis watches.

Deon sees him. Neither brother waves.

BACK TO MORTUARY

The guards lift Fester's body.

Daly places the shiv near Fester's hand and positions his body over Deon.

The staged scene says everything: an inmate murdered a visiting attorney, and a guard heroically stopped him.

Daly leans close.

DALY

Should've stayed in Miami.

Deon's lips move beneath Fester's body.

One final, soundless word:

Willis.

Fester's dead eyes stare down at him.

Deon Childress stops breathing beneath the body of the man hired to kill him.

INT. WARDEN KINDER'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

WARDEN KINDER watches the mortuary cleanup on a small monitor.

The supposedly disabled camera has been transmitting to one location.

Kinder sits behind his desk sipping Scotch.

BO DAWBER occupies a leather chair near the window. His orange prison uniform is professionally tailored. A gold watch rests on his wrist.

An uncuffed prisoner drinking eighteen-year-old Scotch in the warden's office is an unusual sight.

At Reform Correctional, unusual privileges have prices.

On the monitor, Daly positions Fester's body.

BO

You're enjoying this.

KINDER

I think I am.

BO

Didn't know you had it in you.

KINDER

You should have seen my unit in Vietnam.

BO

Someday you'll have to tell me about it.

Bo takes another drink.

BO (CONT'D)

Malone never shut up about his time over there.

KINDER

You really hate Johnny Malone.

BO

Does it show?

Kinder laughs.

KINDER

That's why I like you, Bo. Ice water in your veins.

Bo looks at the monitor.

BO

You killed Pastor Bubs's boy.

KINDER

Deon Childress was not his son.

BO

Blood isn't the only way people become family.

KINDER

Sentimental.

BO

Practical. His death creates problems.

KINDER

Deon knew too much.

BO
He knew nothing about the location.

KINDER
He knew Kenny.

BO
Half the county knows Kenny.

KINDER
He threatened federal action.

BO
Lawyers threaten things. That's how
they bill clients.

Kinder reclines.

KINDER
You would have let him leave?

BO
I would have let him believe he was
leaving.

Kinder studies Bo. Neither man smiles.

KINDER
One month until your release.

BO
Plenty of time for both of us to
get what we want.

Their glasses meet. Their eyes do not.

Kinder turns back to the monitor.

KINDER
Daly did well.

BO
Daly talks when he drinks.

KINDER
Then he'll stop drinking.

BO
That isn't what I meant.

KINDER
I know.

Bo sets down his glass.

KINDER (CONT'D)

You're sure Bubs can lead us to the money?

BO

He's the only man alive who can interpret the complete route.

KINDER

Kenny drew the map.

BO

Kenny remembers pieces. Bubs knows how those pieces fit together.

KINDER

Five million dollars buried in a Baptist preacher's swamp. That's one hell of an offering.

BO

The money isn't Bubs's. Johnny gave him access so he could help the families after the arrests.

KINDER

And he never touched it?

BO

He sees it as blood money.

KINDER

What man leaves five million dollars buried for twelve years?

Bo leans closer.

BO

A better man than either of us.

Kinder stiffens. Bo notices and smiles faintly.

KINDER

And if he refuses when my guards question him?

BO

You don't touch Bubs.

KINDER

Is that a threat?

BO
It's the last friendly warning
you'll receive.

For several seconds, the only sound is Deon's blood washing into the mortuary drain through the monitor speaker.

Kinder forces a hollow laugh.

KINDER
Just let the guards know when
you're ready to return to your
cell.

Bo drains his Scotch and stands.

BO
No cameras tonight?

KINDER
Maintenance issue.

BO
No entry in the visitor log?

KINDER
Deon never arrived.

BO
What about his Mercedes?

KINDER
We'll move it.

BO
Tiana knows he came here.

KINDER
Trent was supposed to handle Tiana.

BO
Supposed to?

Kinder reaches for his phone.

Trent has not reported.

Bo notices.

BO (CONT'D)
You lost your man.

KINDER
I haven't lost anyone.

BO
If Tiana survived, somebody saved
her.

KINDER
Who?

BO
Johnny.

KINDER
You think Malone is back?

BO
I think he never stopped watching
Dawber County.

Bo walks to the office door.

BO (CONT'D)
No, you won't.

Kinder's eyes narrow.

KINDER
What makes Johnny Malone so
dangerous?

Bo stops.

BO
He will let you believe you've won.

KINDER
And then?

BO
He'll burn down everything --
including his own empire -- just to
make sure you lose.

Bo opens the door.

KINDER
You still haven't explained why he
did it.

Bo looks back.

BO
He blamed me for Sanchez.

KINDER
Did you kill Sanchez?

Bo smiles.

BO
Everybody knows the cartel killed
him.

He leaves.

Kinder watches the closed door.

Bo did not answer.

EXT. WIDOW'S WALK - CHANNEL - NIGHT

The unseen boat engine moves closer.

INT. WIDOW'S WALK BOATHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Johnny stands beside the darkened window, revolver ready.

Alex guards the rear door. Billy and Bones wait on opposite
sides of Tiana.

The unseen boat drifts past the marina.

Nobody aboard speaks.

The engine restarts farther down the channel and disappears
into the swamp.

Everyone remains still.

Tiana's phone RINGS.

DEON'S name fills the display.

Relief sweeps across her face. She answers.

TIANA
Deon?

DEPUTY WARDEN MARSH (PHONE)
Is this Tiana Ross?

TIANA
Yes. Who is this?

DEPUTY WARDEN MARSH (PHONE)
Deputy Warden Marsh at Reform
Correctional.

Johnny lowers his revolver. He recognizes the rehearsed tone.

TIANA

What happened?

DEPUTY WARDEN MARSH (PHONE)

There was an incident involving Mr.
Childress.

TIANA

What kind of incident?

DEPUTY WARDEN MARSH (PHONE)

An inmate attacked him inside a
secure area. One of our officers
responded immediately.

TIANA

Let me speak to Deon.

DEPUTY WARDEN MARSH (PHONE)

I'm afraid that isn't possible.

Tiana grips the phone.

TIANA

Is he alive?

The pause tells her first.

DEPUTY WARDEN MARSH (PHONE)

I'm sorry, Ms. Ross.

Tiana's knees buckle. Bones catches her before she reaches
the floor.

The deputy warden continues speaking, but Tiana no longer
hears the words.

She lowers the phone.

Johnny already knows.

TIANA

Deon's dead.

Nobody moves.

Tiana presses both hands to her face. Bones holds her
upright.

Billy removes his hat.

Johnny stands in the darkness with the sons of the men his
revenge once sacrificed.

INT. WIDOW'S WALK BOATHOUSE - LATER

Tiana remains in Bones's arms.

Nobody tells him to release her. Nobody knows what to say.

TIANA

He told me to turn around.

Bones holds her more tightly.

TIANA (CONT'D)

I should've kept going.

BONES

They tried to kill you.

TIANA

If I'd reached the prison--

BONES

You'd be dead too.

TIANA

I could've helped him.

JOHNNY

No. You couldn't.

Tiana lifts her head.

TIANA

You don't know that.

JOHNNY

Kinder sent Trent to stop you. Your survival depended on not reaching that prison.

TIANA

I abandoned Deon.

JOHNNY

You followed his final instruction.

TIANA

And he died.

Johnny accepts her anger.

JOHNNY

He died protecting you and Kenny.

TIANA
How do you know?

JOHNNY
Because Deon entered that prison
knowing something was wrong. He
sent you away anyway.

Tiana looks at Trent's phone.

TIANA
I have to call the police.

JOHNNY
You have to call Willis.

The name stops her.

TIANA
I can't tell Willis over the
telephone.

JOHNNY
No.

TIANA
You know what he'll do.

JOHNNY
Yes.

TIANA
He'll start a war.

JOHNNY
Kinder already started it.

Tiana wipes her face.

TIANA
I want proof before I tell Deon's
brother.

JOHNNY
You have Trent's phone.

TIANA
That connects Kinder to Trent. It
doesn't prove Kinder ordered Deon's
murder.

JOHNNY
Then we find proof.

TIANA

How?

JOHNNY

By finishing Deon's work.

TIANA

I don't work for you.

Johnny turns toward her.

JOHNNY

Do you still want to practice law?

TIANA

What?

JOHNNY

Somebody has to finish what Deon started.

TIANA

I am not becoming your lawyer.

JOHNNY

You're Ivy League educated, you survived an assassination attempt, and you're already hiding in a boathouse with four criminals.

TIANA

I'm not a criminal.

Johnny looks around the room.

JOHNNY

Then we desperately need your diversity.

TIANA

You cannot hire me without my consent.

JOHNNY

You're hired.

TIANA

I just said--

JOHNNY

Argue with me later. That'll be your first billable hour.

Tiana stares at him.

TIANA

I don't even know if I still have a job.

JOHNNY

You do now.

TIANA

I don't want it.

JOHNNY

Honey, I'm all you've got.

TIANA

Honey? I am an Ivy League-educated attorney with a whole hell of a lot of qualifications.

JOHNNY

Exactly why you're hired.

Tiana almost laughs. The sound catches in her throat and becomes another sob.

Bones guides her to the sofa.

LATER

Tiana sits beneath a blanket, staring at Deon's name on her phone.

Johnny faces the three boys. The black duffel rests on the table between them.

JOHNNY

What are you going to do with the eighty thousand?

BONES

Spend it.

JOHNNY

On what?

BONES

Stuff.

JOHNNY

Excellent financial plan.

Alex unfolds Kenny's coded map.

ALEX

We buy land.

JOHNNY

What kind?

ALEX

Near the old Battenberg sugar
plantation. Secluded, road access,
and reachable through the swamp.

BONES

That describes all of Dawber
County.

ALEX

We need enough room for trucks.

Johnny's approval vanishes.

JOHNNY

What trucks?

ALEX

The ones moving product inland.

JOHNNY

What product?

Alex smiles.

ALEX

You know. Yayo.

Bones lights up.

BONES

Like Scarface. Get the yayo!

Johnny puts both hands over his face.

JOHNNY

For the love of God.

ALEX

It's a good plan.

JOHNNY

You're not peddling drugs.

ALEX

That's what you did.

JOHNNY

I was a financier.

ALEX

You organized an international cocaine network.

JOHNNY

I'm an accountant.

ALEX

Since when did you become such a bullshitter?

Johnny lowers his hands.

JOHNNY

I have always been a professional bullshitter. That's how I became rich.

Bones stops smiling.

BONES

Your bullshit had consequences. For me. For Ma. For everybody here.

JOHNNY

I know.

BONES

Knowing ain't the same as fixing it.

JOHNNY

No.

Johnny looks at the duffel.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I'll give you this money now. When I settle matters here and safely access the Swiss accounts, I'll give you a million dollars on one condition.

BONES

What condition?

JOHNNY

You leave Dawber County.

BONES

I can live with that.

ALEX

No.

BONES

Why not?

ALEX

It's an exit payment. He wants us to disappear so he doesn't have to deal with us.

JOHNNY

You really do understand me.

ALEX

A million dollars is nothing compared to what we can make.

BILLY

Both of you have lost your damn minds.

ALEX

You want to stay poor?

BILLY

I want to stay out of prison.

ALEX

That's why Johnny teaches us.

Billy looks at Johnny.

BILLY

Because that worked so well for our fathers.

The room goes quiet. Johnny absorbs the blow.

ALEX

We won't repeat their mistakes.

BILLY

You already are.

ALEX

How?

BILLY

You think being smarter makes you untouchable.

ALEX

It helps.

BILLY

So did Bo.

ALEX

I'm smarter than Bo.

BILLY

That sounds exactly like something
a Dawber would say.

ALEX

I'm not a Dawber.

BILLY

No. You just want to become one
with better bookkeeping.

Alex steps toward him. Bones moves between them.

BONES

Not now.

BILLY

Two days ago, you wanted nothing to
do with Johnny's money.

BONES

I met him.

BILLY

And that fixed everything?

BONES

No. It gave me a chance.

BILLY

It's a trap.

BONES

Then help us avoid it.

BILLY

I'm not moving cocaine.

ALEX

Nobody asked you to.

BILLY

You will.

Johnny studies the three young men.

JOHNNY

You boys have no boats.

ALEX

Widow's Walk.

JOHNNY

No pilots.

ALEX

We find one.

JOHNNY

No suppliers.

ALEX

You still know people.

JOHNNY

Most of them want me dead.

ALEX

Start with the ones who don't.

JOHNNY

No protection.

Bones straightens.

BONES

You have me. I shot Dale Brody,
killed Trent, and pulled Tiana out
of a gator canal.

JOHNNY

That doesn't make you protection.

BONES

What does?

JOHNNY

Discipline.

BONES

Teach me.

The request lands harder than any accusation.

JOHNNY

You want me to teach you how to
rebuild the operation?

Alex nods.

ALEX

Yes.

JOHNNY

Then you follow my instructions exactly. You don't improvise. You don't lie to me.

ALEX

Fine.

JOHNNY

You already lied.

ALEX

I said yes.

Johnny turns to Bones.

JOHNNY

You learn discipline. You control your temper. You stop pointing guns at people unless you intend to fire.

Bones places the Colt on the table.

BONES

Yes, sir.

Johnny faces Billy.

JOHNNY

You don't have to participate. But when this begins, people will use you to reach us. Especially Bo.

BILLY

My uncle raised me.

JOHNNY

I know.

BILLY

He isn't everything you say.

JOHNNY

I hope you're right.

BILLY

You don't.

JOHNNY

No. I don't.

ALEX

So we're doing this?

Johnny looks through the window toward the swamp he spent twelve years avoiding.

Behind him, Alex rolls up the map. Bones guards the money. Billy remains at the window.

They are already moving forward.

JOHNNY

Yes.

Alex and Bones slap hands.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

That is the last celebration until
we have something worth
celebrating.

BONES

We're back in business.

JOHNNY

We are not back in anything.

BONES

You just said yes.

JOHNNY

I agreed to teach you.

BONES

Teach us what?

Johnny looks at Kenny's map.

JOHNNY

How to build an organization nobody
can burn down.

ALEX

Where do we start?

JOHNNY

Kenny. We keep him alive.

ALEX

Kinder wants the map.

JOHNNY

We give him one.

ALEX

A false map.

JOHNNY
Now you're learning.

ALEX
What about the real money?

Johnny touches the faded markings.

JOHNNY
Kenny and I hid it. We're the only
living men who stood in that boat
and watched it sink.

ALEX
But Bubs knows.

JOHNNY
He knows it exists. I left him a
sealed envelope containing the
recovery instructions.

ALEX
Did he open it?

JOHNNY
If he did, he can combine the
instructions with Kenny's map. If
he didn't, the envelope is still
inside his Bible.

Alex starts toward the door. Johnny catches his arm.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Kinder and Bo are watching
Gethsemane. We approach Bubs now,
we confirm he's the key.

ALEX
So the five million stays buried.

JOHNNY
Until we can protect him.

ALEX
What finances us?

Johnny taps the duffel.

JOHNNY
Operating capital.

BONES
Can I buy a truck?

JOHNNY

No.

BONES

A boat?

JOHNNY

No.

BONES

A gun?

JOHNNY

You have one.

BONES

What can I buy?

JOHNNY

Breakfast.

Bones considers this.

BONES

Good start.

Tiana lowers the blanket.

TIANA

What about Willis?

JOHNNY

At sunrise, you go to him.

TIANA

Alone?

JOHNNY

He won't speak honestly if I'm there.

TIANA

What do I tell him?

JOHNNY

The truth. Deon was murdered inside Kinder's prison. Trent was sent to kill you. Kenny is still alive, and the same people are coming for him.

TIANA

And Johnny Malone wants his help?

JOHNNY

Yes.

TIANA

Willis hates you.

JOHNNY

Everybody hates me. It saves time
when meeting new people.

TIANA

If Willis joins us, he'll want
revenge.

JOHNNY

We'll give him a plan.

TIANA

Why Willis?

JOHNNY

Deon spent his life protecting his
brother from the law.

Johnny looks toward the distant prison.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Now Willis can return the favor.

INT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - PRIVATE WING - LATER

Bo sits alone playing solitaire.

Kinder enters carrying a surveillance photograph. Bo places a
red queen beneath a black king.

BO

What?

KINDER

A vehicle connected to Dantes
Marine Services crossed into Dawber
County tonight.

Bo's hand stops.

BO

Who was inside?

KINDER

Tiana Ross.

BO
Trent failed.

KINDER
Apparently.

BO
Who else?

KINDER
Alex Gregory. Billy Dawber. Bones
Malone.

Kinder places the photograph on the table.

The image is grainy, but the wounded man sitting beside Bones is unmistakable.

JOHNNY MALONE.

Bo stares at the ghost who has occupied his thoughts for twelve years.

Kinder pours himself a drink.

KINDER (CONT'D)
You were right.

Bo gathers the playing cards into a single pile.

BO
About what?

Kinder smiles.

KINDER
Malone's back.

Locks engage outside the private wing, one after another, like distant gunfire.

Bo looks toward the narrow window. Darkness covers the swamp beyond the prison walls.

Then he looks again at the photograph.

BO
No. Johnny Malone never came back
from Vietnam.
(beat)
But whatever's wearing his face
just started another war.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE FIVE