

SAWGRASS WARS

"No Sanctuary"
Episode 9 - 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:

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - REAR CANAL - NIGHT

JOHNNY guides the skiff toward the rear dock.

The outboard makes conversation impossible, but none is needed.

BONES sits at the bow with the shotgun across his knees. Three black marine cases rest beneath the center bench.

He has not looked at his father since they escaped the mangrove tunnel.

Johnny reduces throttle, cuts the engine, and lets the skiff glide.

PASTOR BUBS waits beneath the covered walkway.

He watches Johnny approach without surprise.

Johnny had hoped for surprise.

After twelve years, he would have settled for anything resembling happiness.

The skiff bumps the pilings.

Bubs studies Johnny's gray hair, bloody clothes, and bandaged leg.

BUBS
You look terrible.

Johnny secures the bow line.

JOHNNY
Everyone keeps saying that.

BUBS
Perhaps you should listen.

Bones steps onto the dock carrying the shotgun.

Bubs studies him.

BUBS (CONT'D)
Hello, Bones.

BONES

Pastor.

BUBS

You probably don't remember coming here when you were a little kid.

BONES

I remember enough.

Johnny lifts the first case.

Pain from his thigh nearly makes him drop it.

Bones takes it.

BONES (CONT'D)

I've got it.

JOHNNY

I can carry my own money.

BONES

Not without making that face.

JOHNNY

What face?

BONES

The one that looks like you're trying to pass a kidney stone.

Bubs almost smiles.

Johnny notices.

JOHNNY

Don't encourage him.

BUBS

I haven't said anything.

JOHNNY

You were thinking it.

Bones carries the case onto the dock.

Bubs looks at the other two.

BUBS

You found it.

JOHNNY

Most of it.

BUBS
How much survived?

JOHNNY
Three million.

BUBS
And the rest?

JOHNNY
Smiley.

Bubs looks toward the swamp.

BUBS
He's still alive? I thought the
trappers killed Smiley for eating
Bobby Boone last month.

BONES
Unfortunately, they euthanized the
wrong gator.

BUBS
You went into his water.

BONES
He went after our money.

BUBS
It was his water before it was your
money.

Bones returns for the second case. Johnny helps lift it onto
the dock.

Bubs lays his cane across the walkway.

BUBS (CONT'D)
That money does not enter the
church.

Johnny stops.

JOHNNY
Bubs.

BUBS
Not one dollar.

JOHNNY
It won't stay here.

BUBS

Then it can remain in the boat
until it leaves.

JOHNNY

A corrections officer just tried to
kill us.

BUBS

Then perhaps bringing the money
here was unwise.

JOHNNY

We needed somewhere close.

BUBS

You needed somewhere sacred enough
that your enemies might hesitate.

Johnny looks at the church.

JOHNNY

Will they?

BUBS

No.

Bones sets down the case.

BONES

You knew it was out there.

Bubs faces him.

BUBS

Yes.

BONES

All five million.

BUBS

I knew where your father and Kenny
placed it.

BONES

You could've taken it whenever you
wanted.

BUBS

Yes.

BONES

But you didn't.

BUBS

No.

Bones looks toward Johnny.

BONES

He told you to use it?

BUBS

He gave me permission.

BONES

For what?

BUBS

For the county. For families who lost their income after the arrests. Food, medicine, housing -- whatever I believed would help.

Bones steps closer.

BONES

My mother needed help.

Johnny feels the accusation without Bones looking at him.

Bubs holds the young man's gaze.

BUBS

I know.

BONES

We had weeks when the electricity got turned off. Ma worked two jobs. People in this county treated us like garbage because of him.

Bones points at Johnny.

BONES (CONT'D)

You had five million dollars sitting in the swamp.

BUBS

It wasn't mine.

BONES

My father said you could use it.

BUBS

Permission did not make it clean.

BONES

Clean?

BUBS

The money came from cocaine.

BONES

So did half the money in Dawber County.

BUBS

That did not make it right.

BONES

It could've kept our lights on.

BUBS

It also could have brought Bo Dawber, the cartels, and the federal government to your front door.

BONES

They came anyway.

Bubs lowers his eyes.

BUBS

Yes.

BONES

My mother shouldn't have had to ask.

BUBS

No, she shouldn't.

The admission silences Bones.

BUBS (CONT'D)

Your mother never asked me for Johnny's money. She wanted nothing from the business that took her husband away.

BONES

She wanted him.

Bones points at Johnny again.

BONES (CONT'D)

But he wasn't available.

Johnny absorbs it.

Bubs moves closer.

BUBS

I helped your mother whenever she allowed me. So did Millie. We used food purchased with church donations and money earned by people who worked for it. We did not use money that came from destroying other families.

BONES

You decided that for everyone.

BUBS

Yes.

BONES

You didn't have the right.

BUBS

Perhaps not.

Bones expected resistance. Bubs's willingness to accept blame leaves him nowhere to put his anger.

BONES

You watched people suffer.

BUBS

I watched the drug trade destroy people I baptized. I buried children whose parents became addicted. I counseled women beaten by men who owed money to Bo Dawber. I watched families celebrate shipments because the money paid their bills, then curse those same shipments when their sons became customers.

Bubs looks at the cases.

BUBS (CONT'D)

I could not heal that wound with the knife that made it.

BONES

It's money. It ain't poison.

BUBS

Then why has everyone who touched it ended up dead, imprisoned, or hunted?

Bones looks at Johnny.

Johnny has no answer that can help either of them.

Bubs turns to Johnny.

BUBS (CONT'D)

You should have destroyed it.

JOHNNY

Five million dollars?

BUBS

Yes.

JOHNNY

I'm an accountant, not a saint.

BUBS

No one has ever confused you with one.

Johnny looks at the empty airboat slip.

JOHNNY

Where's the airboat?

BUBS

Agent Donnelly took it.

Johnny stiffens.

JOHNNY

Mack was here?

BUBS

With Agent Reyes.

JOHNNY

How long ago?

BUBS

Not long before the shooting began.

Bones raises the shotgun.

BONES

They followed us.

JOHNNY

Yes.

Bubs looks between them.

BUBS

You left two federal agents in the swamp?

JOHNNY

Their fuel line was hit.

BUBS

By whom?

JOHNNY

Merle Shelton's cousin, Waylon Wiggins.

BUBS

The corrections officer?

JOHNNY

He brought armed men. He told Mack the warden wanted the money.

Bubs closes his eyes.

BUBS

Deon.

Johnny nods.

JOHNNY

It confirms Kinder is involved.

BUBS

Confirms? You believe Deon is dead?

JOHNNY

I believe anyone who could have exposed the warden was marked for death.

Bubs leans harder on the cane.

He does not collapse. Cry. Shout.

He becomes very still.

BUBS

Does Willis know?

JOHNNY

Tiana told him.

BUBS

Where is he?

JOHNNY
At Alex's boathouse.

BUBS
Then why isn't he here?

JOHNNY
He will be.

INT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER
Johnny dials the telephone.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WIDOW'S WALK BOATHOUSE - NIGHT
Alex answers on the second ring.

ALEX
Hello?

JOHNNY
Gethsemane. Bring everyone.

ALEX
Did you find it?

JOHNNY
Three million survived.

ALEX
What happened to the other two?

JOHNNY
Nature collected a fee.

ALEX
Are you and Bones all right?

JOHNNY
We ran into Mack.

ALEX
Donnelly?

JOHNNY
And Kinder's people. Waylon Wiggins
was wearing his corrections uniform
when he tried to kill us.

ALEX
I'll tell Willis.

JOHNNY
Tell him to bring the Maroons.

ALEX
How many?

JOHNNY
All of them.

Johnny hangs up.

Bubs stands in the office doorway.

BUBS
You intend to bring an army onto
church property.

JOHNNY
I intend to prevent one from
killing us.

BUBS
Violence will not enter my
sanctuary.

JOHNNY
Violence doesn't ask permission.

BUBS
This is still God's house.

JOHNNY
Kinder doesn't believe that.

BUBS
Do you?

Johnny looks through the window at Bones and the cases.

JOHNNY
I stopped believing anyone owned
anything in Dawber County.

BUBS
That is not an answer.

JOHNNY
It's the only one I have.

CUT TO:

INT. WARDEN KINDER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

WAYLON WIGGINS enters with blood on his uniform and glass embedded in his cheek.

BO DAWBER sits on the leather couch drinking Scotch.

KINDER stands behind his desk.

Neither offers Waylon a chair.

KINDER

Well?

WIGGINS

Malone found it.

Bo leans forward.

BO

How much?

WIGGINS

Three cases. Looked like a million in each.

BO

There should be five.

WIGGINS

Two were lost in the swamp.

Kinder darkens.

KINDER

How do you lose two million dollars?

WIGGINS

One case was floating open. Money everywhere. Something got to it.

KINDER

Something?

Wiggins pulls the glass from his cheek.

WIGGINS

Gator, probably.

Bo smiles faintly.

BO

Smiley.

KINDER

What?

BO

Never mind.

KINDER

Where are the other three cases?

WIGGINS

Malone and his boy escaped with them.

KINDER

You let an injured accountant and a teenager get away?

WIGGINS

Mack Donnelly was there.

Bo's smile disappears.

BO

With Reyes?

WIGGINS

Yes.

Kinder rounds his desk.

KINDER

You fired on federal agents?

WIGGINS

Your order was to stop anyone who found the money.

KINDER

My order was not to start a war with the DEA.

WIGGINS

It was already a war.

Bo watches Waylon.

BO

Did Mack see the cases?

WIGGINS

Yes.

BO

Then he knows Johnny has the money.

KINDER
He knows everything.

WIGGINS
He doesn't know where Johnny took
it.

Bo looks at him.

BO
Gethsemane.

Wiggins nods.

WIGGINS
That would be my guess.

Kinder goes to the window.

KINDER
We go tonight.

Bo stands.

BO
No.

Kinder turns.

KINDER
The money is exposed. Donnelly will
call Miami, and this county will be
crawling with agents by morning.

BO
You don't touch Bubs.

KINDER
Bubs put himself in the middle.

BO
He stayed out of our business for
twenty years.

KINDER
He knew where the money was.

BO
And never spent a dollar.

KINDER
That makes him a fool, not
innocent.

Bo sets his glass on the desk.

Silence.

Waylon looks between them.

BO

Take the money from Johnny. Kill
Johnny if you have to. But no one
harms Pastor Bubs or anyone inside
that church.

Kinder smiles.

KINDER

You're giving orders in my prison?

BO

I'm reminding you of our agreement.

KINDER

Our agreement concerns the money.

BO

Our agreement concerns whatever I
say it concerns.

Kinder's smile vanishes.

For years, Bo let Kinder believe the prison belonged to him.
Kinder provided liquor, meals, telephone calls, and private
rooms where Bo conducted business.

In return, Bo promised him a fortune.

Both understand the partnership ends when Bo walks free.

Neither expects the other to survive long afterward.

Kinder looks at Waylon.

KINDER

Officer Wiggins, would you excuse
us?

Waylon stays put.

Bo looks at him.

BO

Go clean yourself up.

WIGGINS

Yes, sir.

Waylon turns.

KINDER

Waylon.

He stops.

KINDER (CONT'D)

Report to the vehicle bay in thirty minutes.

Waylon glances at Bo.

WIGGINS

What for?

KINDER

We're recovering state property.

WIGGINS

That money doesn't belong to the state.

KINDER

Tonight it does.

Waylon looks at Bo.

BO

No one touches Bubs.

Waylon nods.

WIGGINS

Yes, sir.

He leaves.

Kinder waits for the door to shut.

KINDER

Your people seem confused about who runs this prison.

BO

They know exactly who runs it.

KINDER

Then perhaps you should remember.

Bo moves close enough that Kinder must raise his chin.

BO

Two weeks from now, I walk out of here.

KINDER

If nothing interferes with your release.

BO

Is that a threat?

KINDER

It's an observation.

Bo smiles.

BO

You've enjoyed having me here, Vernon. The Scotch. The conversations. Pretending men obey you because they're frightened.

KINDER

They are frightened.

BO

Of the uniform.

Kinder glances at the door.

KINDER

And Waylon?

BO

Waylon is loyal.

KINDER

To whom?

Bo retrieves his glass.

BO

That's the question, isn't it?

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - PARKING LOT - AFTER SUNSET

The Maroons arrive.

Pickups and battered sedans fill the dirt lot. Willis exits the lead vehicle with Suds. Bigz and the others open trunks of rifles, shotguns, and ammunition.

Tiana arrives with Alex and Billy.

Pastor Bubs waits on the steps.

Willis approaches alone.

For the first time tonight, he does not look angry.

He looks lost.

Bubs descends one step.

BUBS

Willis.

WILLIS

Pastor.

BUBS

Where is Deon?

Willis looks toward Tiana. She comes forward.

TIANA

We don't have his body.

Bubs tightens his grip on the cane.

BUBS

But you believe he's dead.

TIANA

Yes.

BUBS

Tell me.

Tiana recounts the final message, the prison's claim that Kenny killed himself, Deon entering Reform, the prison's denial, the attack on Alligator Alley, and Wiggins in the swamp.

Bubs listens without interruption.

When she finishes, he looks at Deon's photograph through the open doors.

WILLIS

Deon believed the law could protect people.

BUBS

No. He believed people were worth protecting.

WILLIS
And it got him killed.

BUBS
It may have.

WILLIS
You raised him to trust the system.

BUBS
I raised him to do what was right
when the system failed.

Willis looks away.

WILLIS
He was better than me.

BUBS
He chose a different road.

WILLIS
He got out.

BUBS
He always intended to come back.

Willis turns.

WILLIS
For what?

BUBS
For you.

Willis laughs bitterly.

WILLIS
He spent half his time keeping me
out of prison.

BUBS
He believed you could become more
than what Dawber County expected.

WILLIS
He was wrong.

BUBS
Deon rarely believed that.

Willis's eyes fill. He wipes them before the Maroons see.

WILLIS
When I find Kinder--

BUBS
I know.

WILLIS
No, you don't.

Bubs reaches the ground and rests a hand on Willis's shoulder.

BUBS
I know what rage feels like when it
convinces you it is love.

Willis looks at the hand.

WILLIS
It's revenge.

Johnny approaches from behind the church.

JOHNNY
We need to prepare.

Bubs turns.

BUBS
You will not turn Gethsemane into a
battlefield.

JOHNNY
Kinder is already coming.

BUBS
You don't know that.

JOHNNY
Waylon saw the money. He'll report
to the warden. Kinder has one
chance before the DEA fills this
county with agents.

Willis looks at the skiff.

WILLIS
The three million still aboard?

JOHNNY
Yes.

WILLIS
You want to move it?

JOHNNY

No.

Alex joins them.

ALEX

You're using it as bait.

Johnny nods.

JOHNNY

Kinder believes we'll hide it or
move it before morning. We let him
see exactly what he expects.

Bubs looks at the armed Maroons spreading around the grounds.

BUBS

People worship here.

JOHNNY

That's why we keep the fighting
away from the sanctuary.

BUBS

No fighting belongs anywhere on
this land.

Willis points toward the road.

WILLIS

Tell that to the men who killed
Deon.

Bubs looks at Tiana.

BUBS

You should leave.

TIANA

I'm staying.

BUBS

Deon would want you safe.

TIANA

Deon wanted this exposed.

Billy stands near the doors.

BILLY

What about Mack and Reyes?

Johnny looks toward the swamp.

JOHNNY
They're stranded.

BILLY
Should we get them?

Willis laughs.

WILLIS
They're federal agents hunting the
same money.

ALEX
They were also attacked by Kinder's
men. That makes them witnesses.

Johnny considers it.

Mack wants him in handcuffs. Reyes wants answers. Neither can
be trusted with the money.

But if Waylon kills them, Kinder controls the story.

Johnny looks at Suds.

JOHNNY
Take a boat and two men. Follow the
western channel until you find
Reyes and Donnelly.

Willis frowns.

WILLIS
We're rescuing the DEA now?

JOHNNY
We're rescuing Agent Reyes.

WILLIS
What about Donnelly?

JOHNNY
If Mack happens to be standing
beside her, try not to run him
over.

Suds smiles.

SUDS
No promises.

JOHNNY
Bring them here.

Tiana looks at Johnny.

TIANA

You want federal agents at the church while we're sitting on three million dollars?

JOHNNY

I want Kinder to see them.

Alex understands.

ALEX

He can attack us or withdraw. If he attacks while DEA agents are present, he exposes the entire operation.

Willis shakes his head.

WILLIS

Kinder's men already shot at them once.

JOHNNY

Which means he may believe he has nothing left to lose.

Bubs looks toward the road.

BUBS

That is the kind of man you brought to my church.

JOHNNY

No. Bo brought him. I'm trying to make sure he doesn't leave.

Suds and two Maroons head for the boats.

The others take positions beyond the churchyard.

Johnny opens a marine case and removes bundles of cash, placing them in an empty canvas bag.

Willis watches.

WILLIS

What's that?

JOHNNY

Something Kinder can see.

WILLIS

You're leaving the rest in the skiff?

JOHNNY

For now.

WILLIS

Risky.

JOHNNY

That's why it will look real.

Bones approaches with the shotgun.

BONES

What do you want me to do?

JOHNNY

Stay inside with Bubs.

Bones stares.

BONES

No.

JOHNNY

You're injured.

BONES

My hand's injured.

JOHNNY

You nearly shot two federal agents.

BONES

I didn't.

JOHNNY

Because I stopped you.

BONES

Then stop me again.

Johnny lowers his voice.

JOHNNY

I need you to protect Bubs.

Bones looks at the pastor.

BONES

He doesn't want protection.

JOHNNY

That never stopped anybody in
Dawber County.

Bubs approaches.

BUBS

You are not putting your son
between me and gunfire.

Johnny looks at him.

JOHNNY

My son has spent his entire life
paying for my decisions. I'm trying
to give one of those decisions a
purpose.

Bones absorbs it.

BONES

I'll stay near the church. Not
inside.

Johnny nods.

The best agreement he will get.

Lightning tears across the sky.

The storm reaches Gethsemane.

Rain pounds the church roof and pours through the oaks. Armed
men vanish into darkness.

Johnny waits beneath the covered walkway, watching the road.

Three million dollars rests in the skiff behind him.

Willis and the Maroons wait in the swamp.

Suds is bringing Mack Donnelly and Aisha Reyes into the trap.

INT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - CONTINUOUS

Bubs enters and pulls the bell rope.

The CHURCH BELL tolls across the water and sawgrass.

Johnny turns from the walkway.

JOHNNY

What are you doing?

BUBS

Warning anyone close enough to hear.

JOHNNY

About the storm?

Bubs pulls again.

BUBS

No.

The bell rings over Gethsemane.

BUBS (CONT'D)

I'm warning them that there are still people inside God's house.

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - COUNTY ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Far down the road, HEADLIGHTS emerge through the rain.

Not one vehicle.

A CONVOY.

Johnny raises his pistol.

INT. DEA MIAMI FIELD OFFICE - OSCAR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SUPER: TWENTY-THREE MINUTES EARLIER

The call reaches OSCAR FUENTES.

AISHA'S voice breaks through static.

AISHA (PHONE)

Shots fired. Two federal agents attacked.

Oscar presses the phone closer.

OSCAR

Where are you?

AISHA (PHONE)

West of Gethsemane. Church airboat disabled.

OSCAR

Who attacked you?

AISHA (PHONE)
Corrections Officer Waylon Wiggins
and at least two armed accomplices.

Oscar stands.

OSCAR
Where's Mack?

AISHA (PHONE)
Here.

OSCAR
Is anyone hurt?

AISHA (PHONE)
Not yet.

OSCAR
What were corrections officers
doing in the swamp?

Static swallows her answer.

Then three words break through.

AISHA (PHONE)
Malone is alive.

Oscar closes his office door.

OSCAR
Repeat that.

AISHA (PHONE)
Johnny Malone is alive. We saw him
with approximately three million
dollars.

Oscar looks through the glass at the overworked field office.

Most agents are assigned to cartel murders, surveillance, or
post-September 11 task forces.

Only two are available.

OSCAR
Stay where you are. I'm bringing
support.

AISHA (PHONE)
We need someone at Gethsemane.
Wiggins will report to Kinder.

OSCAR
I'll contact the sheriff.

AISHA (PHONE)
Mack says Buck Dawber belongs to
Bo.

OSCAR
Mack thinks everybody belongs to
Bo.

The connection fails.

AISHA (PHONE)
Oscar, listen to me. This is bigger
than--

The call drops.

Oscar tries to reconnect.

Nothing.

He grabs his coat and enters the bullpen.

INT. DEA MIAMI FIELD OFFICE - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

OSCAR
Carson. Lewis. You're with me.

AGENTS CARSON and LEWIS look up.

CARSON
Where are we going?

OSCAR
Dawber County.

Lewis eyes the storm outside.

LEWIS
What happened?

Oscar dials the Dawber County Sheriff's Department.

OSCAR
A temporary setback became a Mack
Donnelly shit show.

INT. DAWBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - BUCK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

SHERIFF BUCK DAWBER listens as Oscar explains the attack on two DEA agents near Gethsemane and requests that Buck secure the church, find Mack and Reyes, and detain Wiggins.

Then Oscar mentions Johnny Malone.

Buck rises slowly.

BUCK
You're certain?

OSCAR (PHONE)
Reyes saw him.

BUCK
And the money?

OSCAR (PHONE)
Three million. Possibly more.

Buck looks through the blinds at rain sweeping the lot.

BUCK
Where is my brother?

OSCAR (PHONE)
Still at Reform Prison.

BUCK
You spoke to Bo?

OSCAR (PHONE)
Mack did.

Buck understands.

Bo sent them toward Gethsemane.

OSCAR (PHONE) (CONT'D)
Sheriff?

BUCK
I'm here.

OSCAR (PHONE)
Can you secure the church?

BUCK
How many corrections officers?

OSCAR (PHONE)
At least three. Possibly more.

BUCK
Warden Kinder involved?

OSCAR (PHONE)
We believe so.

Buck takes his hat from the desk.

BUCK
I'll handle it.

OSCAR (PHONE)
Buck, this is a federal
investigation.

BUCK
Then you better drive fast.

He hangs up.

INT. DAWBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - OUTER OFFICE -
CONTINUOUS

Four DEPUTIES wait. Buck selects the three he trusts most.

He calls Billy.

Voicemail.

Again.

Nothing.

DEPUTY
Sheriff, dispatch has something.

Buck takes the radio.

DISPATCHER (RADIO)
Multiple vehicles traveling south
from Reform Prison. One Department
of Corrections. Another registered
to a Brody-controlled company. Last
known direction, Gethsemane.

BUCK
Any units near the church?

DISPATCHER (RADIO)
Negative.

BUCK
Billy Dawber been spotted?

A pause.

DISPATCHER (RADIO)
A witness saw him riding toward
Gethsemane earlier.

Buck closes his eyes.

BUCK
Get the cars.

INT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - OFFICE - NIGHT

ALEX GREGORY has turned the office into a command post.

A county road map covers one wall. Marine charts cover the desk. A police scanner hisses beside a radio linked to Maroons surrounding the property.

TIANA sits at the phone, recording names, times, and everything known about Kinder's operation.

BILLY watches the lot through the blinds.

PASTOR BUBS hangs up a second phone.

BUBS
Millie is safe.

TIANA
Where?

BUBS
She drove three elderly congregants
to the county storm shelter before
sunset. I told her not to return.

TIANA
Did you tell her about Deon?

BUBS
I told her enough to keep her away.

His voice tightens.

BUBS (CONT'D)
I will tell her the rest face-to-
face. That is, if we survive
tonight.

The church bell TOLLS overhead.

Alex marks Maroon positions.

ALEX
South road?

MAROON (RADIO)
Four vehicles. Maybe five.

ALEX
Canal?

MAROON (RADIO)
Two boats near the eastern
crossing. Engines off.

ALEX
Do not fire unless they cross the
fence.

Alex sets down the radio.

Johnny watches from the doorway.

JOHNNY
You've done this before?

ALEX
No.

JOHNNY
You look comfortable.

ALEX
I make plans.

JOHNNY
Plans change when people start
shooting.

ALEX
Then I'll change the plan.

Johnny smiles faintly.

Kenny's son inherited his father's confidence and his
mother's intelligence.

Beneath both, something belonging to neither:

Alex thinks like an accountant.

He identifies resources, anticipates loss, and moves people
where they produce the greatest advantage.

Bones enters behind Johnny.

BONES

What do you want me doing?

Alex points toward the sanctuary.

ALEX

Stay with Bubs.

Bones looks at Johnny.

BONES

You told him to say that?

JOHNNY

No.

BONES

He doesn't give me orders.

Alex looks up.

ALEX

Then stand wherever you want and
get shot.

Bones steps toward him.

Johnny moves between them.

JOHNNY

Not now.

BONES

When?

JOHNNY

After the men trying to kill us
leave.

Bones glares and returns to the sanctuary.

Alex watches him go.

ALEX

He's going to be a problem.

JOHNNY

He's my son.

ALEX

That doesn't contradict what I
said.

HEADLIGHTS appear through the rain.

Billy leaves the window.

BILLY
They're here.

Alex takes the radio.

ALEX
All positions. Hold.

Outside, the bell continues ringing.

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The convoy enters with high beams glaring.

A DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS VAN stops near the gate. Two unmarked trucks move behind it. A fourth vehicle blocks the county road.

WARDEN KINDER exits the van in a raincoat over civilian clothes.

WAYLON WIGGINS steps out beside him. Clean uniform. Tape over the cut on his cheek.

Ten ARMED MEN spread across the lot -- corrections officers and Brody gunmen.

Kinder raises a loudspeaker.

KINDER
Johnny Malone.

His voice carries across the church grounds.

KINDER (CONT'D)
We know you have the money. Send it out and no one gets hurt.

Johnny stands beneath the overhang, concealed by darkness.

JOHNNY
You staged Kenny Gregory's death and killed Deon Childress.

Kinder faces the voice.

KINDER
Those men died inside a correctional institution.

JOHNNY

That's one way of saying it.

KINDER

Kenny committed suicide.

JOHNNY

And Deon?

Kinder does not answer.

Tiana steps beside Johnny.

TIANA

You tried to kill me too.

Kinder lowers the loudspeaker.

KINDER

You should've stayed in Miami.

TIANA

Thank you. That sounded almost like
a confession.

Kinder signals a man.

The man opens the electrical box and cuts power.

GETHSEMANE GOES DARK.

The bell continues ringing.

Battery lanterns glow inside the sanctuary.

Johnny lifts a canvas bag where Kinder can see it.

JOHNNY

This what you came for?

Kinder raises the loudspeaker.

KINDER

Bring it into the parking lot.

JOHNNY

You come get it.

KINDER

I'm not negotiating.

JOHNNY

That's unfortunate. You're
surrounded.

Kinder scans the trees.

KINDER
I don't see anyone.

JOHNNY
That's the point.

KINDER
You're bluffing, Johnny.

Wiggins leans toward him.

WIGGINS
Bo said not to touch Bubs.

Kinder covers the loudspeaker.

KINDER
Bo isn't here.

BUBS (O.S.)
I am.

Pastor Bubs steps through the church doors.

Bones follows with the shotgun.

Kinder looks at the old pastor.

KINDER
This does not concern you.

BUBS
You brought armed men onto church property.

KINDER
You are harboring fugitives and stolen drug money.

BUBS
The only criminals I see are wearing state uniforms.

Maroons LAUGH from the darkness.

Kinder hardens.

KINDER
Step inside, Pastor.

BUBS
No.

Bones moves slightly ahead of Bubs.

Wiggins notices.

WIGGINS
That Malone's boy?

Kinder nods.

KINDER
Take them both.

Wiggins does not move.

A BRODY GUNMAN crosses the fence.

Alex's voice whispers through Maroon radios.

ALEX (RADIO)
Wait.

The gunman advances toward the canvas bag. A second follows.

Johnny remains under the overhang.

The first man reaches the bag and opens it.

Bundles of cash rest atop stacks of cut newspaper.

BRODY GUNMAN
It's a decoy.

A rifle CRACKS from the darkness.

The tire beside him EXPLODES.

Then another.

The corrections van drops as both front tires flatten.

Kinder's men OPEN FIRE.

Windows SHATTER across the church.

Johnny tackles Tiana as bullets rip through the wooden entrance.

Bones shoves Bubs through the sanctuary doors.

The MAROONS return fire from the tree line.

Muzzle flashes encircle the lot.

Kinder dives behind the van.

Wiggins stays beside him.

WIGGINS

You said nobody would be inside!

KINDER

I said get the money.

INT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The telephone dies in Tiana's hand.

TIANA

They cut the line.

WILLIS speaks into the radio.

WILLIS

Bigz, move toward the road. Nu Nu,
stay hidden. Do not let them reach
the dock.

Billy picks up a rifle.

BILLY

What about me?

ALEX

Side entrance. Watch Bones.

BILLY

Bones doesn't need watching.

ALEX

He needs witnesses.

Billy runs out.

Alex adjusts positions on the map as reports pour through the radio.

He cannot see the battle.

He can hear all of it.

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - REAR CANAL - CONTINUOUS

A Maroon boat reaches Gethsemane from the western channel.

SUDS cuts the engine and lets it glide into the slip.

MACK and AISHA ride aboard.

Gunfire erupts beyond the church.

SUDS

We might've missed the quiet part.

Aisha draws her pistol.

AISHA

How many men do you have here?

SUDS

Enough.

AISHA

That isn't an answer.

SUDS

It usually is.

The boat touches the dock.

Aisha exits first. Mack follows.

MACK

Stay behind me.

AISHA

I outrank you.

MACK

This isn't paperwork.

They move toward the rear entrance.

An ARMED MAN appears from behind the church.

Mack FIRES twice.

The man falls beside the walkway.

Aisha checks him.

AISHA

Corrections uniform.

MACK

Welcome to Dawber County.

INT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - FELLOWSHIP HALL - CONTINUOUS

They enter.

Tiana crouches beside the office door.

Aisha catches her arm.

AISHA
Where's Malone?

TIANA
Outside.

AISHA
The money?

TIANA
On the skiff.

Mack looks toward the rear dock.

Tiana sees it.

TIANA (CONT'D)
Don't even think about it.

MACK
About what?

TIANA
You know exactly what.

A shotgun blast destroys the windows.

Glass covers the floor.

GUARD DALY enters through the side door, blood on his forehead and pistol raised.

His nameplate catches Mack's eye.

MACK
Daly.

Daly aims at her.

Aisha shoves Tiana aside.

Daly FIRES.

The bullet strikes Aisha beneath the shoulder and spins her into the wall.

Mack shoots Daly in the chest.

Body armor catches most of it, but the impact throws him back.

Bones appears from the sanctuary and fires into Daly's thigh.

Daly collapses SCREAMING.

Mack kneels beside Aisha. Blood spreads across her blouse.

MACK (CONT'D)
Stay with me.

AISHA
I'm not dying.

MACK
You don't know that.

AISHA
It went through.

Tiana pulls back Aisha's jacket and inspects the wound.

TIANA
She's right. There's an exit.

Bubs enters with the church medical kit.

Mack looks toward Daly.

The guard crawls toward his pistol.

Bones kicks it away.

BONES
Move again, and the next one goes
through your head.

Daly looks up.

DALY
You're Malone's boy.

Bones chambers another shell.

BONES
That sounded like moving.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
Bones.

His son stops.

Johnny stands in the doorway.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
How bad?

TIANA
She needs a hospital.

Aisha grabs Mack's sleeve.

AISHA
Stay on Kinder.

Mack looks through the broken windows.

Kinder's men retreat toward the road as Maroons close around them.

Then Mack sees Johnny glance toward the dock.

Toward three million dollars.

Aisha follows his eyes.

AISHA (CONT'D)
Mack.

MACK
I'm securing the evidence.

AISHA
You stay here.

MACK
I'll be back.

AISHA
Mack!

He is already moving.

Johnny watches him disappear through the fellowship hall.

For a moment, neither acknowledges the other.

Then Johnny follows.

EXT. COUNTY ROAD - SHERIFF'S CONVOY - NIGHT

Buck hears gunfire before he sees Gethsemane.

He accelerates.

Three patrol cars follow through the storm.

The dark church appears beyond the trees, lit by muzzle flashes and headlights.

Buck's radio fills with confused reports: corrections officers, Brody gunmen, Maroons, federal agents inside.

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Buck drives through the gate and blocks the lot with his patrol car.

The siren SCREAMS.

He exits with a shotgun.

BUCK
Dawber County Sheriff's Department!
Put down your weapons!

Nobody listens.

A CORRECTIONS OFFICER turns toward him.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER
Sheriff, they've got us pinned.

BUCK
Lower your weapon.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER
We're under Warden Kinder's
authority.

BUCK
You're in my county.

The man hesitates.

A figure moves beside the church.

BILLY -- carrying a rifle.

BUCK (CONT'D)
Billy!

Billy turns.

A Brody gunman raises his weapon at him.

Buck FIRES.

The blast throws the gunman against the prison van.

Billy stares at his uncle.

Buck runs to him.

BUCK (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing here?

BILLY
Trying not to get killed.

BUCK
Put down the rifle.

BILLY
Kinder's men murdered Deon and
they're holding Kenny.

BUCK
I said put it down.

Billy lowers it.

Buck looks toward the church entrance.

Bubs kneels beside Aisha while Tiana presses towels to the wound.

BUCK (CONT'D)
Who's hit?

BILLY
DEA. Agent Reyes.

Buck turns toward Kinder.

The warden emerges from behind the van.

KINDER
You shot one of my men.

BUCK
I shot an armed man aiming at my
nephew.

KINDER
Your nephew is assisting drug
traffickers.

BUCK
My nephew is standing in a church
you brought ten gunmen to.

Kinder points toward the rear.

KINDER
Johnny Malone has three million
dollars in narcotics proceeds.
(MORE)

KINDER (CONT'D)

I am recovering it under state authority.

BUCK

You run a prison, Vernon. You don't seize drug money.

KINDER

He's harboring fugitives.

BUCK

Johnny isn't a fugitive.

Kinder tightens.

Buck looks at Wiggins.

BUCK (CONT'D)

Put it down.

Wiggins keeps his pistol raised.

WIGGINS

Sheriff--

BUCK

Bo told you no one touches Bubs.

Wiggins glances at Kinder.

Buck steps closer.

BUCK (CONT'D)

Didn't he?

WIGGINS

Yes.

Kinder looks at him.

KINDER

You answer to me.

Wiggins slowly lowers the gun.

WIGGINS

Not about this.

Kinder raises his pistol toward Wiggins.

Buck aims the shotgun at Kinder.

BUCK

Your night is over, Vernon.

WILLIS (O.S.)

Not yet.

WILLIS CHILDRESS steps from the darkness and presses a knife to Kinder's throat.

Blood covers Willis's hands. His eyes hold no humor.

WILLIS (CONT'D)

First, the warden is going to tell
me what he did to my brother.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE NINE