

SAWGRASS WARS

"The King Comes Home"

Episode 11 - Season One

Written by

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Based on the Sawgrass Wars novella series
by Kurt Weichert

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FADE IN:

EXT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - PRE-DAWN

SUPER: TWO WEEKS LATER

Darkness surrounds the prison walls.

A low murmur rises beyond them.

Then TRUCK HORNS.

Country music BLARES from loudspeakers outside the main gate.

Headlights roll down the access road as more pickups arrive.

INT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - BO'S CELL - PRE-DAWN

BOCEPHUS "BO" DAWBER sits on the edge of his bunk in a white undershirt and orange prison trousers.

Beyond the walls, the gathering crowd begins to chant.

CROWD (O.S.)

Bo! Bo! Bo! Bo!

Everything Bo owns has been arranged neatly beside him: a BIBLE, three LETTERS FROM ROSE, a photograph of RUFUS holding a largemouth bass and a SILVER WATCH.

The watch has been stopped for nine years.

Bo winds it anyway.

A PRISON GUARD appears outside the cell.

PRISON GUARD

Showtime.

Bo rises.

The guard unlocks the cell and steps aside.

PRISON GUARD (CONT'D)

Never seen anything like this. Must be two hundred people out there.

BO

More will be waiting at the county line.

PRISON GUARD
You running for governor?

Bo picks up the Bible.

BO
I already had a better job.

EXT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - ACCESS ROAD - DAWN

The crowd fills both sides of the road.

Old men wear faded DAWBER COUNTY FISHING COMPANY shirts.
Women hold homemade signs welcoming Bo home. Children too young to remember the smuggling years sit on their fathers' shoulders.

A banner stretched between two pickup trucks reads WELCOME HOME, BO.

Painted beneath it: DAWBER COUNTY REMEMBERS.

SHERIFF BUCK DAWBER watches from behind the windshield of his patrol car.

His eyes move across the old company shirts, the cheering families and the homemade signs.

ROSE DAWBER sits beneath a white canopy near the front of the crowd. Dark blue dress. Pearls. Silver-topped cane. Enough makeup to conceal most of what twelve years have done to her.

RUFUS stands beside her in a wrinkled dress shirt and a Florida Marlins cap. The tie Rose ordered him to wear hangs several inches below his open collar.

BILLY DAWBER waits behind them in the clean white shirt and dark trousers Rose selected. His hair has been combed flat, but the humidity already curls it above his ears.

Rose looks back at him.

ROSE
Stand straight.

BILLY
I am standing straight.

ROSE
You're slouching.

BILLY
I'm not.

ROSE
You look like you're waiting
outside the principal's office.

BILLY
That's about how I feel.

Rose tightens her grip on the cane.

ROSE
Today is important.

BILLY
To you.

ROSE
To this entire family.

Billy looks across the crowd.

BILLY
Half these people cursed Uncle Bo
when he went to prison.

ROSE
They were confused.

BILLY
They called him a drug dealer.

ROSE
They were ungrateful.

BILLY
Some of them testified against him.

ROSE
And now they're here.

Rose smiles.

ROSE (CONT'D)
That's power.

Rufus spots the patrol car and waves.

RUFUS
Uncle Buck!

Buck climbs out.

Rufus hurries over and hugs him. Buck embraces him.

RUFUS (CONT'D)
You taking me fishing?

BUCK
Soon.

RUFUS
You said that last month.

BUCK
I've been busy.

RUFUS
Fish don't care if you're busy.

Buck smiles.

BUCK
That's true.

Rose extends a hand from beneath the canopy.

Buck takes it, but she pulls him closer instead of releasing him.

ROSE
You brought the right car?

BUCK
The department cleaned it
yesterday.

ROSE
I meant the Cadillac.

BUCK
I'm the sheriff, Rose. I'm taking
him home in an official vehicle.

ROSE
He shouldn't leave prison in a
police car. People might get the
wrong idea.

BUCK
He's been in prison for twelve
years. I think they understand the
idea.

Rose withdraws her hand.

ROSE
Some things haven't changed.

BUCK
Most things haven't.

Rose glances toward the crowd.

ROSE
Bo will fix that.

Buck looks at Billy.

BUCK
You all right?

BILLY
Fine.

BUCK
Alex call?

BILLY
No.

BUCK
Bones?

BILLY
No.

BUCK
Johnny?

Billy shakes his head.

Buck studies him. Billy stares at the prison gate, abandoned by the friends who disappeared into the swamp with Johnny Malone two weeks earlier.

BILLY
He's going to want something from me.

Rose hears him.

ROSE
He wants to give you a future.

BILLY
I didn't ask for one.

ROSE
You don't know enough to ask.

Buck places a hand on Billy's shoulder.

BUCK
Whatever Bo wants, you can make
your own decision.

Rose gives him a sharp look.

ROSE
He is almost eighteen.

BUCK
Almost.

BUCK (CONT'D)
Which means he still makes his own
decisions.

ROSE
He is a Dawber.

BUCK
He's Timmy's son.

ROSE
That is exactly why Bo wants him
close.

Buck studies her.

Rose turns back toward the gate before he can ask what she
means.

EXT. REFORM CORRECTIONAL - MAIN GATE - MORNING

The digital clock in Buck's patrol car reads 8:07.

The prison gates OPEN.

The chanting stops.

Bo emerges carrying a small cardboard box beneath one arm.

He wears a charcoal suit tailored before his imprisonment. It
hangs loosely from his shoulders now, but he walks as if it
still fits perfectly.

Nobody moves.

Then Rufus RUNS.

RUFUS
Daddy!

The crowd ERUPTS.

Bo sets down the box and catches his son in both arms.

Rufus nearly knocks him backward, but Bo steadies himself and holds on.

Rose watches from beneath the canopy. Her mouth trembles.

BO
Look at you.

RUFUS
I got bigger.

BO
You certainly did.

RUFUS
Mama says I'm too big.

BO
Your mama has always had opinions.

Rufus laughs.

Bo removes the Marlins cap, examines it and places it back on his son's head.

BO (CONT'D)
You been taking care of her?

RUFUS
Yes, sir.

BO
Then you've been doing my job.

Rufus hugs him again.

Over his son's shoulder, Bo finds Rose.

She rises slowly, leaning on her cane.

The cheering continues as Bo approaches.

They face each other after twelve years.

Bo touches her cheek.

BO (CONT'D)
You waited.

Rose stares at him.

ROSE

What else was I supposed to do?

He kisses her forehead.

The crowd applauds.

Buck watches Rose close her eyes.

For one fleeting moment, the hardness leaves her face.

Then Rose opens her eyes and sees Bo again.

The hardness returns.

ROSE (CONT'D)

You look thin.

BO

Prison food.

ROSE

I'll fix that.

BO

I knew you would.

Bo turns toward Billy.

The world around them seems to quiet.

Billy has Timmy's height now. Timmy's dark hair. Timmy's shoulders. The same level stare.

Bo steps closer.

BO (CONT'D)

You look more like your father
every day.

Rose inhales sharply.

Buck looks away.

Billy does not.

BILLY

That's what people tell me.

Bo places both hands on his shoulders.

BO

Timmy would be proud.

BILLY
You think so?

BO
I know so.

A flicker in Billy's eyes. He wants to believe Bo. The realization unsettles him.

Bo pulls him into an embrace.

Billy's arms remain at his sides for a beat. Then he returns it.

Cameras FLASH.

The crowd starts chanting again.

Bo raises Billy's right hand into the air.

The reaction grows louder.

Rose stands straighter.

The Dawbers have their future.

EXT. FLORIDA HIGHWAY - DAY

A PROCESSION OF TRUCKS follows Buck's patrol car south from the prison.

American flags snap from truck beds. Horns sound at every intersection.

People emerge from gas stations, feed stores and roadside diners to watch the convoy pass.

INT. BUCK'S PATROL CAR - MOVING - DAY

Bo rides beside Buck with the cardboard box in his lap.

He lowers the window and lets the warm air inside.

BO
Smells the same.

Buck keeps his eyes on the road.

BUCK
Some of it does.

BO
What happened to the old packing
house?

BUCK
Closed.

BO
The cannery?

BUCK
Closed.

BO
Dawber Marine?

BUCK
Bank took it.

Bo watches an abandoned storefront pass.

BO
And people wonder why they missed
me.

BUCK
Some people missed your money.

BO
There a difference?

BUCK
To you?

BO
To anybody.

They drive in silence.

Bo rests a hand on the cardboard box.

BO (CONT'D)
How did Kinder die?

Buck does not look at him.

BUCK
You read the report.

BO
I want to hear it from you.

BUCK

He kidnapped Bubs. Willis Childress
pursued him. Kinder turned with a
gun.

BO

And Willis shot him three times.

BUCK

That's right.

BO

One in the leg. Two in the chest?

Buck tightens his grip on the steering wheel.

BUCK

That's what the coroner found.

BO

Kinder must have been hard to stop.

Buck glances at him.

Bo smiles faintly.

BO (CONT'D)

Relax. Kinder was a greedy fool.

BUCK

He was your partner.

BO

He believed he was.

BUCK

He staged Kenny Gregory's death and
murdered Deon Childress.

BO

I heard.

BUCK

Did you know what he was planning?

BO

No.

Buck waits.

Bo turns toward the passing sawgrass.

BO (CONT'D)

You don't believe me.

BUCK
I didn't say that.

BO
You never had to say much.

BUCK
Somebody had to listen while you
talked.

Bo laughs. Genuine this time.

BO
I missed you, Buck.

BUCK
Did you?

BO
Every day.

BUCK
What about Timmy?

Bo's laughter disappears.

In the side mirror, Rose's Cadillac follows close behind.

BO
What about him?

BUCK
You think about him in there?

BO
I thought about everybody.

BUCK
That wasn't my question.

Bo turns back toward the window.

BO
Twelve years is a long time to
spend with ghosts.

Buck waits for more.

None comes.

BO (CONT'D)
What happened to Johnny?

BUCK
Disappeared.

BO
With the money?

BUCK
Some of it.

BO
How much?

BUCK
Nobody knows.

BO
You know.

BUCK
I know what went into the official
report.

Bo looks at him.

BO
And what didn't?

Buck's expression remains still.

BUCK
Johnny wasn't charged.

BO
Johnny never gets charged.

BUCK
He had an old FBI cooperation
agreement.

BO
He had a deal because he betrayed
everyone who trusted him.

BUCK
He believed you killed Sanchez.

BO
Johnny believed a lot of things.

BUCK
Mack Donnelly believes Johnny has
evidence against him.

Bo's eyes narrow.

BO
What kind of evidence?

BUCK
Mack didn't say.

BO
Where is Mack?

BUCK
Miami.

BO
Still chasing Johnny?

BUCK
Probably.

Bo leans back.

BO
Good.

BUCK
Why is that good?

BO
Because a man staring at Johnny
won't notice what's happening
behind him.

EXT. DAWBER COUNTY LINE - DAY

The convoy approaches a weather-beaten county sign.

The DAWBER HIGH MARCHING BAND waits beside it.

They launch into the school fight song as Buck slows the
patrol car.

INT. BUCK'S PATROL CAR - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Bo looks toward the football field beyond the school.

BO
They still play baseball here?

BUCK
When they can field a team.

BO
Timmy's record?

BUCK
Still stands.

Bo nods.

INT. ROSE'S CADILLAC - MOVING - CONTINUOUS

Billy drives. Rose rides beside him. Rufus sits in the back.
Rose stares toward the baseball diamond.

EXT. DAWBER HIGH BASEBALL FIELD - DAY - FLASHBACK

TIMMY DAWBER, 17, rounds third base in a white uniform
stained with red dirt.

The crowd rises as a baseball sails over the left-field
fence.

Beside the dugout, SCULLY laughs and shouts that Timmy
belongs in the major leagues.

INT. ROSE'S CADILLAC - MOVING - DAY - PRESENT

Billy slows.

BILLY
You all right?

ROSE
I'm fine.

BILLY
You look like you're going to cry.

ROSE
I don't cry.

Rufus leans forward from the back seat.

RUFUS
Mama cries.

Rose turns.

ROSE
Sit back.

RUFUS
I heard you cry when Daddy went to
jail.

ROSE
Put on your seat belt.

RUFUS
It's already on.

ROSE
Then stop talking.

Billy looks at her.

BILLY
Aunt Rose.

ROSE
What?

BILLY
Eileen didn't do anything to you.

Rose stiffens.

ROSE
I didn't mention Eileen.

BILLY
You didn't have to.

ROSE
That girl is Scully's blood.

BILLY
She was raised by Pastor Bubs and
Miss Millie.

ROSE
Blood is blood.

BILLY
Then what does that make me?

Rose stares at him.

BILLY (CONT'D)
My father came back from Vietnam
sick. Uncle Bo took over
everything. Uncle Buck followed
him. If blood is all that matters,
which one of them am I supposed to
become?

ROSE
You become the man your father
should have been.

The answer comes without hesitation.

Billy turns back toward the road.

Rose reaches across and touches the back of his neck.

Her voice softens.

ROSE (CONT'D)
You didn't know him before.

BILLY
I know.

ROSE
He was beautiful.

Billy looks at her in the rearview mirror.

BILLY
So were you.

Rose withdraws her hand.

Outside, the marching band plays louder.

EXT. DAWBER HIGH BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

A HOMECOMING CELEBRATION fills the field.

Barbecue smoke drifts over the bleachers. Volunteers serve sweet tea beneath striped tents. The town council occupies folding chairs along the first-base line.

Former deputies, fishermen, farmers and men who once transported cocaine through the Everglades gather behind the dugout.

MERLE SHELTON stands with the remnants of his family near left field.

DALE BRODY remains on the opposite side of the diamond.

They watch each other more closely than they watch Bo.

Forbee Battenberg's seat is empty, but a handwritten note and an expensive bottle of Scotch wait beside the podium.

Other seats remain empty.

No Pastor Bubs. No Millie. No Eileen.

Bo notices every absence.

He climbs onto a temporary stage erected over home plate.

The crowd CHEERS.

Bo waits at the microphone.

The cheering continues.

He waits longer.

Prison taught him patience.

At last, the crowd quiets.

Bo places both hands on the podium.

BO

I left Dawber County twelve years
ago in handcuffs.

A few people shout angrily about the federal government.

Bo raises one hand.

BO (CONT'D)

Now, I made mistakes.

The admission silences them.

BO (CONT'D)

I trusted the wrong people. I
allowed men from outside this
county to bring their poison
through our home. I told myself we
were creating jobs. I told myself
we were protecting families. I told
myself we were only taking
advantage of a business that would
happen with or without us.

Bo looks across the familiar faces.

BO (CONT'D)

But every man can find a way to
make greed sound like service.

Buck stands beside the stage, watching.

The speech is better than he expected.

That worries him.

BO (CONT'D)

I paid for those mistakes. My family paid. This county paid. While I was gone, our businesses closed. Our young people left. Our churches struggled. Families that once worked together began fighting over scraps.

Merle glances toward Dale.

Dale stares back.

BO (CONT'D)

I cannot change what happened. But I can promise you this: I did not come home to rebuild a smuggling operation.

A murmur moves through the crowd.

BO (CONT'D)

I came home to rebuild Dawber County.

Applause begins.

BO (CONT'D)

We will reopen businesses. We will put boats back on the water. We will bring jobs to our children. We will support our churches, our schools and our sheriff's department. Everything we build will be legitimate, and everything we earn will remain here.

The applause becomes THUNDEROUS.

Rose watches from the front row.

Rufus claps above his head.

Billy remains still.

Bo extends a hand toward him.

BO (CONT'D)

And we will prepare the next generation to lead.

Everyone turns.

Rose pushes Billy forward.

He resists for only a moment, then walks onto the stage.

Bo places an arm around his shoulders.

BO (CONT'D)

This is my nephew, Billy Dawber.
Timmy's boy.

The crowd cheers again.

Billy looks across the field.

Beneath the scoreboard, his father's name remains painted:
TIMOTHY DAWBER - STATE CHAMPION - 1967.

Bo leans close enough that only Billy can hear.

BO (CONT'D)

You start Monday.

Billy keeps smiling for the crowd.

BILLY

Doing what?

BO

Learning.

BILLY

I've got other plans.

BO

Not anymore.

Bo raises Billy's hand.

Cameras FLASH.

Billy sees Rose crying in the front row.

This time, she does not hide it.

EXT. DAWBER HIGH BASEBALL FIELD - NIGHT

The celebration winds down beneath the field lights.

Bo has shaken every hand, accepted every apology and
remembered the names of children born while he was in prison.

Behind the visitors' dugout, Buck watches Merle Shelton and
Dale Brody leave through separate gates.

Bo joins him.

BO
They still trying to kill each
other?

BUCK
Not today.

BO
That changes tomorrow.

BUCK
Probably.

BO
I want them together.

BUCK
They won't like it.

BO
They don't have to.

Buck looks toward the parking lot.

Billy stands beside EILEEN SCULLY'S Oldsmobile. She arrived
late to collect clothing and donations for Bubs and Millie.

Across the field, Rose watches them. Her disapproval carries
the distance.

Bo follows Buck's gaze.

BO (CONT'D)
Scully's girl?

BUCK
Eileen.

BO
She grew up pretty.

BUCK
She grew up good.

BO
Bubs and Millie did that.

BUCK
They raised her after her father
died.

Bo looks at him.

BO
You still believe Scully's dead?

BUCK
Don't you?

Bo smiles without answering.

Billy opens Eileen's car door.

Before climbing inside, Eileen looks across the field and sees Bo watching her.

Her smile disappears.

BUCK (CONT'D)
What do you want with Billy?

BO
What Rose wants.

BUCK
An heir?

BO
A future.

BUCK
He's not yours.

BO
No. He's Timmy's.

BUCK
That ought to mean something.

BO
It means everything.

Buck steps closer.

BUCK
If you hurt that boy --

BO
You'll do what?

The brothers face each other in the darkness behind the dugout.

Buck holds his ground. For the first time, Bo sees open resistance in his little brother.

Bo places a hand on his shoulder.

BO (CONT'D)
We're all that remains, little brother.

BUCK
Billy remains.

BO
That's why I need him.

BUCK
For what?

BO
To make sure the Dawber name
outlives us.

Bo releases him and looks across the emptying field.

BO (CONT'D)
Who belongs to Johnny?

Buck considers the question.

BUCK
More people than you think.

Bo watches Billy climb into Eileen's car.

Merle Shelton's truck disappears down one road.

Dale Brody's truck heads down another.

Pastor Bubs's empty seat remains beside the field.

Bo smiles.

BO
Then we'll remind them who they
belonged to first.

INT. DAWBER HOUSE - KITCHEN - PRE-DAWN

A clock reads 5:42 A.M.

BILLY sits at the breakfast table while ROSE stands over him.

She has already selected his pale blue shirt, pressed khaki trousers and polished leather boots.

A plate of eggs and bacon waits in front of him.

Billy stares down at the boots.

BILLY
Those were my father's?

ROSE
He wore them before Vietnam.

BILLY
They fit me.

ROSE
Of course they do.

Rose pours coffee into his cup.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Your uncle believes a man should
arrive before he is expected.

BILLY
Uncle Bo doesn't have an office.

ROSE
He will.

BILLY
He doesn't have a business.

ROSE
He will.

BILLY
He doesn't have any money.

Rose sets down the coffeepot.

ROSE
He has a name.

BILLY
So do I.

ROSE
Yes. Which is why you are going
with him.

RUFUS enters wearing pajama pants and his Marlins cap.

RUFUS
Daddy says we're going fishing.

Rose does not look at him.

ROSE
Your daddy has work to do.

RUFUS
He promised.

ROSE
Bo promises everybody everything.

The words escape before Rose can stop them.

Billy looks at her.

Rose turns toward the sink.

ROSE (CONT'D)
He'll take you when he has time.

Rufus opens the refrigerator and stares inside.

BILLY
You want eggs?

RUFUS
No. I want pudding.

ROSE
You can't have pudding for
breakfast.

RUFUS
Why?

ROSE
Because I said so.

Rufus looks at Billy.

Billy slips an unopened cup of chocolate pudding from the
refrigerator and hands it to him.

Rose glares.

BILLY
What? He's a grown man.

ROSE
Then he should eat eggs.

Rufus smiles and carries the pudding to the table.

A HORN sounds outside.

Rose straightens Billy's collar.

ROSE (CONT'D)
Remember who you are.

Billy steps away from her.

BILLY
I'm trying to figure that out.

EXT. DAWBER HOUSE - DAWN

An old black LINCOLN waits in the driveway.

It once belonged to a county commissioner. Now the paint is faded, the passenger window cannot close and the idling engine rattles the dashboard.

INT. OLD LINCOLN - CONTINUOUS

BO waits in the passenger seat with a leather folder on his lap.

Billy climbs behind the wheel.

BILLY
This is what we're driving?

BO
For now.

BILLY
I thought you owned a Cadillac.

BO
Your aunt sold it.

BILLY
What happened to all the other cars?

BO
Lawyers.

BILLY
The house on River Road?

BO
Lawyers.

BILLY
The marina?

BO
Federal government.

Billy starts the engine.

BILLY
What do you still own?

Bo rests a hand on the leather folder.

BO
People's confidence.

BILLY
You can't drive that.

BO
No. But it can buy a better car.

EXT. COUNTY ROAD - MORNING

The Lincoln pulls away.

INT. OLD LINCOLN - MOVING - MORNING

Billy drives.

BILLY
Where are we going?

BO
Gethsemane.

Billy looks at him.

BILLY
Pastor Bubs didn't come to your
homecoming.

BO
I noticed.

BILLY
Miss Millie just lost Deon.

BO
I know.

BILLY
They don't want to see you.

BO
Most people don't know what they
want until somebody explains it to
them.

Billy tightens his hands around the steering wheel.

BILLY
Is that what I'm doing with you?

BO
Learning.

BILLY
You keep saying that.

BO
And yet you keep asking questions.

Bo looks through the cracked passenger window.

Dawber County passes in shades of gray and brown.

Empty storefronts line the road. Weeds break through the old packing-house lot. A ruined seafood restaurant leans toward the canal beneath a collapsed roof.

BO (CONT'D)
We used to employ four hundred people between here and the water.

BILLY
Smuggling drugs.

BO
Fishing. Packing. Trucking. Cold storage. The drugs came later.

BILLY
And ruined everything.

BO
The arrests ruined everything.

Billy glances at him.

BILLY
You don't think the drugs had anything to do with it?

BO
Drugs didn't close those businesses. Federal agents did.

BILLY
Because you were using them to move cocaine.

Bo smiles faintly.

BO
You sound like Bubs.

BILLY
He raised me too.

BO
No. Buck and Rose raised you.

BILLY
Pastor Bubs helped.

BO
Bubs helps everyone. That's how a church works.

BILLY
He helped Eileen.

Bo turns toward him.

BO
So that's where this is going.

BILLY
Where?

BO
The Scully girl.

BILLY
This isn't going anywhere.

BO
You left my homecoming with her.

BILLY
She was taking supplies back to the church.

BO
And you helped.

BILLY
Yes.

BO
Did you spend the night?

Billy's head snaps toward him.

BILLY
No.

BO

Keep your eyes on the road.

Billy faces forward again.

BILLY

You don't get to ask me that.

BO

If you work for me, I get to ask anything that might become a problem.

BILLY

Eileen isn't a problem.

BO

Every beautiful woman eventually becomes somebody's problem.

Billy's face reddens.

Bo sees it and smiles.

BO (CONT'D)

Relax. I'm not Rose.

BILLY

What does that mean?

BO

It means I don't blame children for their fathers' sins.

Billy looks at him again.

BILLY

Do you blame fathers for their own?

Bo's smile disappears.

BO

Drive.

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - MORNING

The Lincoln approaches a church scarred by violence.

Bullets have chewed through the white siding. Plywood covers three windows. A section of churchyard remains scorched where Kinder's vehicle burned.

Yellow crime-scene tape clings to a cypress tree beside the canal.

VOLUNTEERS carry lumber, paint and tools around the property.

EILEEN stands on a ladder above a damaged window in denim shorts, an oversized Gethsemane Baptist Church T-shirt and a red bandanna tied around her hair.

The Lincoln drifts toward the edge of the road.

BO
Careful.

BILLY
What?

BO
You nearly drove into the ditch.

BILLY
I saw it.

BO
You were looking at her.

BILLY
I was looking at the church.

BO
The church isn't wearing shorts.

Billy pulls into the gravel lot.

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - CHURCHYARD - CONTINUOUS

Bo climbs out carrying the leather folder.

Eileen looks down from the ladder. Her expression changes when she recognizes him.

Bo crosses the churchyard as if he owns it.

Billy follows several steps behind.

PASTOR BUBS emerges from the open front doors holding a hammer. A fresh bandage covers his forearm.

He sees Bo and stops.

The volunteers fall silent one by one.

BO
Morning, Bubs.

BUBS
Bo.

BO
I came to see what you need.

BUBS
What makes you think we need
anything from you?

Bo looks at the shattered windows and bullet holes.

BO
I have eyes.

BUBS
This church has survived worse.

BO
I remember.

Bubs places the hammer on a stack of lumber.

BUBS
What do you want?

BO
To talk.

BUBS
We're talking.

BO
In private.

BUBS
Anything you have to say can be
said in front of my congregation.

Bo glances toward the volunteers.

BO
Some things belong between men who
have known each other a long time.

Bubs stares at him, then turns toward the church.

BUBS
My office.

Bo follows.

Before entering, he looks back at Billy.

BO
Make yourself useful.

The door closes behind them.

Eileen climbs down from the ladder.

EILEEN
Your first day?

BILLY
How can you tell?

EILEEN
You look miserable.

BILLY
He wants me to learn.

EILEEN
Learn what?

BILLY
He hasn't told me.

EILEEN
That sounds like Bo.

BILLY
You barely know him.

EILEEN
Everybody here knows Bo Dawber.

Billy picks up Bubs's hammer.

BILLY
What needs doing?

Eileen points toward the damaged window.

EILEEN
You know how to frame?

BILLY
No.

EILEEN
I thought Dawber men knew how to do everything.

BILLY
That's what we tell people.

She smiles.

Billy looks at the plywood, then at her.

BILLY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry about Deon.

Her smile disappears.

EILEEN
Thank you.

BILLY
You were close?

EILEEN
He was my brother.

BILLY
I thought Willis was his brother.

EILEEN
He was.

Eileen picks up a piece of lumber.

EILEEN (CONT'D)
Pastor Bubs and Miss Millie took me
in after my father died. Deon was
already older, but he never treated
me like some child they brought
home because they felt sorry for
her. He helped me with school.
Taught me how to drive. Scared away
every boy who came near the house.

Billy tries to smile.

BILLY
Sounds useful.

EILEEN
It was not.

BILLY
Maybe he knew something.

EILEEN
About boys?

BILLY
About Dawber boys.

Eileen glances toward the church.

EILEEN
I don't think Deon would approve of
this.

BILLY
Of what?

EILEEN
You standing this close to me.

Billy steps closer.

BILLY
What about you?

EILEEN
I haven't decided.

He hands her the hammer.

BILLY
You left the homecoming with me.

EILEEN
You were driving my car.

BILLY
You let me.

EILEEN
Alex needed help.

BILLY
Alex always needs something.

Eileen's expression softens at the mention of him.

EILEEN
He didn't use to.

BILLY
You still haven't heard from him?

EILEEN
No.

BILLY
Me either.

EILEEN

Do you think he's safe?

BILLY

If he's with Johnny, probably not.

EILEEN

Bones will protect him.

BILLY

Bones would throw himself in front
of a bullet for Alex.

EILEEN

And you?

Billy looks toward the swamp.

BILLY

I don't know if Alex would let me.

Eileen studies him.

A look passes between them. Their missing friends hang in the
silence. Bones and Alex are gone. Billy remains.

EILEEN

You had a choice.

BILLY

Did I?

EILEEN

We always have a choice.

BILLY

That sounds like Pastor Bubs.

EILEEN

He raised me.

Billy nods toward the church.

BILLY

Aunt Rose blames your father for
what happened to mine.

EILEEN

I know.

BILLY

She says Scully talked him into
going to Vietnam.

EILEEN

My father flew missions that saved
Timmy's life.

BILLY

He also brought him home.

EILEEN

I was a baby when my mother died. I
hardly remember my father.
Everything I know comes from
stories told by people who either
loved him or hated him.

BILLY

What do you believe?

Eileen considers the question.

EILEEN

I believe dead men are easy to
blame because they can't defend
themselves.

Billy looks toward Bubs's office.

BILLY

My family does that a lot.

INT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

MILLIE sits alone in the first pew.

She has not left the church since learning Deon was dead
except to meet with investigators.

A framed photograph rests beside her. DEON stands outside his
Miami law office in an expensive suit, wearing the broad
smile he reserved for Millie.

Bo sees her through the open sanctuary doors.

He stops.

Bubs waits beside his office.

BUBS

You wanted privacy.

Bo looks at Millie again.

BO

Does she know I'm here?

BUBS

She knows.

BO

She doesn't want to see me.

BUBS

No.

INT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - BUBS'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bo enters. Bubs follows and closes the door.

The room still bears the attack.

Desk drawers hang open. Books and papers cover the floor. A bullet passed through one wall and lodged in the wooden cross behind Bubs's chair.

Bo touches the bullet hole.

BO

Kinder did all this?

BUBS

Men working for him.

BO

I told him not to come here.

BUBS

You told him the money might be here.

Bo lowers his hand.

BO

I gave him an opinion.

BUBS

You sent a wolf to my door and told him not to bite.

BO

I didn't send him.

BUBS

You gave him a reason to come.

BO

Kinder would've come with or without me.

BUBS

That what you told yourself when
you worked with the Colombians?

Bo looks at him.

BO

I came to help rebuild your church.

BUBS

Why?

BO

Because this county needs it.

BUBS

This church was here while you were
in prison.

BO

And look what happened.

Bubs steps closer.

BUBS

What happened was a man you
empowered murdered the boy Millie
and I raised.

BO

I didn't know Kinder would touch
Deon.

BUBS

You knew what kind of man he was.

BO

I knew he wanted the money.

BUBS

You encouraged him.

BO

I warned him to leave you alone.

BUBS

But Deon wasn't important enough to
mention?

Bo does not answer.

Bubs lowers his voice.

BUBS (CONT'D)

You sat in that prison with Kinder.
You drank with him. You used his
privileges. You let him believe the
money belonged to both of you.

BO

Kinder believed whatever benefited
Kinder.

BUBS

And now he's dead, so you get to
place everything on him.

BO

He staged Kenny's death and
murdered Deon.

BUBS

And you put him on the road that
led here.

Bo opens the leather folder.

Inside: contractor estimates, handwritten pledges and plans
for the DAWBER COUNTY RESTORATION FUND.

BO

I can have the windows replaced by
Friday. A new roof within a month.
Forbee Battenberg will contribute
lumber and equipment. I've spoken
to three business owners willing to
cover the rest.

BUBS

In exchange for what?

BO

Nothing.

Bubs laughs once.

BUBS

I have known you since you were a
boy. You have never done anything
for nothing.

BO

I want the church strong again.

BUBS

You want to stand beside it.

BO

What's wrong with that?

BUBS

You want people to see you
rebuilding what your greed helped
destroy.

Bo closes the folder.

BO

I stood before this county
yesterday and promised legitimate
business.

BUBS

I heard.

BO

I meant it.

BUBS

Then conduct legitimate business.

BO

I need the community behind me.

BUBS

There it is.

BO

I'm asking you to support jobs, not
crimes.

BUBS

You're asking me to lend you God's
credibility.

BO

I'm asking you to help save this
county.

Bubs looks toward Deon's photograph in the sanctuary.

BUBS

BUBS (CONT'D)

I was a prisoner for six years. You
served longer, but time isn't the
only measure of captivity. Men
offered food if I would cooperate.
Medicine if I would give them
names. Dry clothing if I would
repeat their lies.

BO
This isn't Vietnam.

BUBS
No. In Vietnam, my enemies were
honest about what they wanted.

Bo's jaw tightens.

BO
I'm not your enemy.

BUBS
You are when you mistake
forgiveness for permission.

The office door opens.

Millie stands there.

She looks smaller than Bo remembers, but grief has sharpened
her eyes.

Bo rises.

BO
I'm sorry about Deon.

Millie stares at him.

MILLIE
He loved you.

The words hit Bo harder than anger.

MILLIE (CONT'D)
He believed there was something
good in every person. Even you.

BO
Millie --

MILLIE
He said prison might change you.

BO
It did.

MILLIE
Then tell me the truth. Did you
know Kinder was looking for
Johnny's money?

BO

Yes.

MILLIE

Did you tell him it might be here?

Bo looks at Bubs.

Then back at Millie.

BO

Yes.

Millie nods slowly.

Bubs moves toward her.

She raises one hand and stops him.

MILLIE

My boy went into that prison
because Kenny Gregory needed help.
Kinder killed him because of money
you helped him find.

BO

I never wanted Deon hurt.

MILLIE

That is how men like you excuse the
bodies. You never want anyone hurt.
You only create the reason.

Bo lowers his eyes.

For the first time since leaving prison, he appears
uncertain.

Millie picks up the leather folder and studies the estimates
and pledges.

Then she hands it back.

MILLIE (CONT'D)

We will not take money stolen from
anyone.

BO

It's legitimate.

MILLIE

We will verify every dollar.

BO

Fine.

MILLIE

No Dawber name on the building.

BO

I didn't ask for one.

MILLIE

No speeches from this pulpit.

Bo looks at Bubs.

Bubs remains silent.

MILLIE (CONT'D)

No campaign signs. No photographs
of you handing Pastor Bubs a check.
No telling people this church owes
you.

BO

And if I agree?

MILLIE

We will accept help from anyone
willing to give it honestly.

Bo extends his hand.

Millie does not take it.

MILLIE (CONT'D)

You don't get forgiveness because
you bought lumber.

BO

I know.

MILLIE

Do you?

Bo closes the folder.

BO

I'll have the contractor here
tomorrow.

Millie steps aside.

The meeting is over.

EXT. GETHSEMANE BAPTIST CHURCH - CHURCHYARD - DAY

Billy and Eileen finish framing the first window.

Sweat darkens Billy's shirt. Sawdust covers his hair.

Bo emerges and examines the crooked wooden frame.

BO

Who taught you to measure?

BILLY

Eileen.

Bo looks at her.

BO

Then who taught you?

Eileen hands Billy the tape measure.

EILEEN

Pastor Bubs.

BO

That explains it.

Bubs follows Bo into the churchyard.

BUBS

The frame is fine.

BO

It leans.

BUBS

The church leans.

BO

Then we'll straighten both.

Bo walks toward the Lincoln.

Billy remains beside Eileen.

Bo stops.

BO (CONT'D)

You coming?

BILLY

I want to finish.

BO
You work for me.

BILLY
I'm helping the church.

BO
That is working for me.

Bubs steps between them.

BUBS
No. It's working for the church.

Bo looks from Bubs to Billy.

BO
Ten minutes.

He continues toward the car.

Eileen waits until he is out of earshot.

EILEEN
You don't have to go.

BILLY
Yes, I do.

EILEEN
You said that Saturday.

BILLY
He's my uncle.

EILEEN
That doesn't make him your owner.

Billy drives a nail into the frame harder than necessary.

BILLY
He knows things about my father.

EILEEN
So does Sheriff Buck. So does Rose.
So does Pastor Bubs.

BILLY
They only tell me the parts they
want me to know.

EILEEN
And Bo won't?

Billy looks toward the Lincoln.

BILLY
At least with him, I know there's a
price.

Eileen touches his arm.

EILEEN
You don't have to become Timmy.

BILLY
Aunt Rose wants me to.

EILEEN
You don't have to become Uncle
Buck.

BILLY
Buck wants me to stay away from Bo.

EILEEN
You don't have to become Bo either.

Billy looks into her eyes.

BILLY
Then who am I supposed to be?

Eileen smiles gently.

EILEEN
Billy would be a good place to
start.

For several seconds, neither moves.

RUFUS (O.S.)
Billy! Daddy says ten minutes is
done!

Billy laughs despite himself.

He sets down the hammer.

BILLY
I'll see you tonight?

EILEEN
Maybe.

BILLY
That means yes?

EILEEN

It means maybe.

Billy starts toward the car.

Bubs waits beside the church steps.

As Billy passes, Bubs speaks quietly.

BUBS

Your uncle doesn't offer anyone a future.

Billy stops.

Bubs looks toward Bo.

BUBS (CONT'D)

He offers them a debt.

Billy glances back at Eileen.

Then he climbs behind the wheel.

INT. OLD LINCOLN - CONTINUOUS

Bo sits in the passenger seat reading the contractor estimates.

Rufus has somehow joined him and now occupies the back seat with a bag of donated cookies.

Billy settles behind the wheel.

BO

What did Bubs say?

BILLY

That I should watch myself around you.

BO

Good advice.

Billy starts the engine.

BILLY

You heard him?

BO

I didn't need to.

Bo looks toward the church.

Millie stands in the doorway with one hand resting on Bubs's shoulder.

Eileen returns to the ladder, but her eyes remain on Billy.

BO (CONT'D)
Pretty girl.

Billy's hands tighten around the wheel.

BILLY
Don't.

Bo smiles.

BO
There's hope for you yet.

BILLY
Where are we going now?

BO
Battenberg Plantation.

BILLY
Why?

Bo closes the folder.

BO
To see an old friend before his
family destroys everything he
built.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE ELEVEN