

ACT I

1 INT. WASHINGTON D.C. GAS STATION - NIGHT 1

Two Black American teenagers walk into a convenient store. They are both quiet and not interacting with each other.

They walk through the aisles browsing.

THE STORE OWNER (63) comes from behind the register and follows the boys. He is a nervous white elderly man with bad vision.

The two boys grab random snacks off the shelves and head to the front of the store.

The store owner runs back to the register to check them out. He is still nervous.

The boys purchase their items and leave the store. The store owner is relieved.

2 EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. GAS STATION - NIGHT 2

The store owner locks up the convenient store for the night. He puts his keys back into his pocket.

A THUD SOUND.

A blunt object strikes him over the head. The Store owner falls unconscious.

Beat.

The store owner regains consciousness. He notices one of the boys standing over him. Everything is a blur.

The store notices that his clothes are drenched and that he has a strong odor. It makes him cough and gag.

In the distance, the other boy is standing next to a gasoline pump. The store owner hears the hinging of the pump.

STORE OWNER
What is this? Who are-

The store owner notices a match in the hand of the boy standing over top of him. The other boy walks back over and joins his partner.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
 Whatever it is you want - take it.
 I have a family, please.

The boys do not respond. They stare at him with eyes cold and void of emotion.

The boy strikes the match and drops it.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
 No wait!

The store owner bursts into flames. He SCREAMS.

STORE OWNER (CONT'D)
 HELP!!!

3 INT. MYSTERIOUS CAR - NIGHT 3

From a car window we see the store owner calling out for help.

Inside the car the entire time is a man in casual clothing. He watches the store owner burn to death.

He smirks.

This is REGGIE (early 20s).

4 INT. POLICE STATION, WASHINGTON D.C. - DAY 4

It's late afternoon and the station is filled with detectives and police officers.

The attack makes headline news. The report is seen on a television over the top of a police workroom.

OFFICER ARNOLD GAINES(39) watches from his desk.

Arnold looks through his phone still glancing at the tv every now and then.

VINCE
 Freeze!

Arnold jumps. He looks to the side of his desk to see his friend and fellow officer VINCE VALE (late 30s).

VINCE (CONT'D)
 Pretty wicked shit, right?

ARNOLD
It's not funny.

VINCE
Of course not. Just you know -
sick.

Arnold stacks his papers.

ARNOLD
Do yourself a favor and stick to
being a B ranked cop.

VINCE
(sarcastically)
Ouch.

A man in a well-ironed suit approaches. He has a fade and eyes as blue as his suit. This is the police chief's assistant DETECTIVE RON CLAY (mid 20s),

DETECTIVE RON
The chief wants to see you both.

Arnold and Vince follow Ron to the back of the station.

They approach a glass serine door with the name reading "Police chief David De Luca".

5 INT. POLICE CHIEF OFFICE, POLICE STATION - DAY 5

Ron, Arnold, and Vince enter the room.

We are introduced to POLICE CHIEF DONALD DE LUCA (50s). He is short, scary, and serious. His hair as gray as chimney ash.

He SLAMS a file on his desk.

DE LUCA
Trust you've both seen the news?

VINCE
Other than ...

DE LUCA
Innocent bodies are piling up
outside this station and not a
single fucking lead. I'd appreciate
it if you'd shut the fuck up, right
now.

VINCE

Chief, it's probably just another gang initiation. Those little fucks will be caught sooner or later.

DE LUCA

True - but it's getting dangerous. And that's why you both are on this case.

De Luca opens the file.

Arnold picks up the photos to look at pictures of dismembered body parts and heinous acts.

ARNOLD

No leads so far?

DE LUCA

And barely any witnesses. At least most in the area have claimed they've seen nothing. Most of the suspects however have been black adolescent males.

ARNOLD

County kids?

DE LUCA

I'm assuming.

Arnold takes another look at the photos. He's visibly disgusted.

6 INT. POLICE STATION, LOBBY - DAY

6

Arnold and Vince walk through the lobby after finishing up their day in the office.

In the background, police officers are shipping away a detainee.

ARNOLD

The chief was right to...

VINCE

I don't find this to be as grand of an opportunity as you do.

ARNOLD

You're mad because we got another case?

VINCE

I'm mad because this case will be the same like any other. We go around, ask people what they've seen, two little shits confess. Everyone goes home and then two more little shits take their place.

ARNOLD

Love the enthusiasm.

VINCE

I do the job. That's why the chief called me in same as you. We do what needs to be done.

Arnold holds his tongue. He's annoyed and done with the conversation.

VINCE (CONT'D)

Tell the wife and kid I said hello.

Vince gets into his car and drives off.

7 INT. ARNOLD'S HOUSE - DAY

7

Arnold walks into his house. There are warm colors and middle-class household items spread throughout...

In the living room, a young boy sits on the couch. This is GABRIEL GAINES aka GABE (18). Gabriel is typing on his laptop while listening to music. He's wearing casual clothing, vans, and his hair is in a freshly gel fade.

ARNOLD

Hey, did you have a great day at school?

GABE

What is a great day? High school is supposed to be horrible. If it's not you'll have no motivation to get out of it asap. Then, you'll be a bum walking through flea markets yelling at people saying "I used to be somebody!"

ARNOLD

So - did you have a terrible day?

GABE

Fucking awful.