

IT TAKES TWO
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INT. APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT.

An assortment of kitchen knives, big and small, spread across the counter top.

Each knife has a price tag attached.

COLE ZALEWSKI, 40s, stands in front, looking in the mirror.

His slightly baggy eyes and bed-headed hair show that he's half awake.

He looks down and scans the knives from left to right. He notices a razor and picks it up. Glances at its price tag.

He mimics an act of shaving, then slides the razor to his Adam's apple.

He applies pressure and slowly runs the blade across his throat. Dark blood pours down his neck.

COLE'S POV:

He races out of the bathroom down the--

HALLWAY

Empty and long.

And into an opened door of the--

BEDROOM

Cole sleeps in his bed.

He looks uncomfortable as his nightmare continues. Beads of sweat on his forehead.

He PANTS. Jolts up, awake.

Brings his hand to his Adam's apple, checks out the fresh scar.

He opens a night stand drawer, rummages, pulls out a wallet size picture of him with STEVE ZALEWSKI, 40s, Cole's identical twin.

Cole peers at it. Steve's neck is scarred in the same manner.

Cole reaches for a mirror. Fingers his own new scar and compares the two.

The scars look absolutely identical.

A KNOCK at the door.

STEVE (O.S.)
Cole, it's me. Open up.

COLE
It's open.

HURRIED STEPS in the hall.

Steve barges in.

He paces to and fro. The floorboards creak under his steps.

Cole eyes him. Downbeat.

STEVE
Does Kate know you are here?

COLE
--Haven't told anyone. A deal is a deal.

STEVE
Where is she now?

COLE
What does that have to do with it?

STEVE
Need to make sure you're not bluffing. You ain't bluffing, are you?

Steve sits next to Cole. Inches toward him. There's sincerity in his voice.

Cole does not move. Doesn't even look up at Steve, his eyes pinned to the floor.

COLE
She's at her mother's. For coupla days.

STEVE
With the kid?

COLE
What do you think, you see the kid here with me?

STEVE
Haha, real funny.

Steve looks around:

STEVE
This place is better than your
shity hole tho'.

Cole appraises the room - the place looks rather shabby. Small, and filled with tattered necessities. But Cole nods his head.

COLE
Yeah. Bit better.

STEVE
Kate and the kids can afford all
the places in the world with that
money now.

COLE
Shut up. Just shut up.

Steve's eyes fixate on Cole's neck.

He grabs Cole's mirror, checks out his own scar. Compares the two.

STEVE
Good job brother.

Cole sits up in his bed. Closes his eyes. Remains like that for awhile.

COLE
The scar is too fresh - they're not
gonna buy it.

STEVE
We'll give it two days. When's Kate
coming back?

COLE
Like I said, in a couple days. I'll
do it before she's back.

STEVE
Who'll give her the money?

COLE
I took care of it.

Steve plops next to him. Eyes him for a moment.

STEVE
 ...Kate. Your precious Kate...

There's hurt in Steve's voice. Cole looks down.

COLE
 You have Barbara--

STEVE
 Barbara never was to me what Kate
 is to you.

The lack of reply from Cole signifies that Steve's spoken the truth.

STEVE
 ...You don't want me to make sure
 Kate gets it?

COLE
 She'll get it. Go home, Steve. I'll
 do it in two days, don't worry.

STEVE
 I'm not a criminal, Cole.

COLE
 You're a police officer, Steve.

STEVE
 Yet you need the money too.

COLE
 Go home before I change my mind
 about this.

Steve lets out a SIGH of frustration. Turns around. Strides out.

Cole sprawls across the bed. Brings both hands to his face in utter desperation.

Closes his eyes.

OVER BLACK

STEVE (V.O.)
 Belleview and 1st. Right after the
 game. Don't be late - he doesn't
 like that.

Sirens WAIL. The HUSTLE of laboured footsteps.

MALE VOICE 2 (V.O.)
Flatliners. Come on...

SOUND OF flatliners pounding of a chest.

MALE VOICE 2 (V.O.)
He's coming back.

SOUND of commotion. Rushed footsteps.

MALE VOICE 2 (V.O.)
Name. Remember your name?

COLE (V.O.)
Cole Zalewski. What happened?

Screeching of wheels. Creaking of doors opening and slamming shut.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)
AccidentanEmergency. HowmayIhelpya?

MALE VOICE 2 (V.O.)
He comes and goes. Doesn't remember much. We'll tell the cops he's out, so they leave him alone for now. ...wife is okay.

The screen frame twirls into--

INT. THE MIND OF COLE

A dark stain spreads, devouring bubbly red substance.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Cole lies in bed. Comatose. Connected to a heart monitor. Head thoroughly wrapped.

Tubes in his nose feed into an oxygen tank, needles in his arms travel to an IV next to him.

It's awfully quiet, save the slow DRIPPING of the IV fluid.

Steve, in green turtleneck that covers the scar, stands beside.

Bedside sits BARBARA, 40s, homely, Steve's wife. She gives Cole a kiss on the forehead.

BARBARA

Poor Stevie. He never shared his work problems. He should have.

She thumbs the scar on his neck. Turns to Steve (Cole to her)

BARBARA

Look at it, it's pink. Don't you think so. Might be infected, no?

Steve shakes his head.

Cole's eyelids twitch.

COLE (V.O.)

There's no way to tell us apart. The only thing is that scar. WAS that scar.

Close-up on Steve. His hand touches his neck - he makes sure the scar remains covered.

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK

Flash shots of old memories float by, some fast, some slow.

Steve, neck scarred, appears on one, then it dissolves and reappears again and this time Steve has no scar.

Cole appears in two others. With a scar on one. And without it on the other.

FLASHBACK

INT. GAMBLING ROOM - NIGHT

Dimly lit and filled with--

Gamblers, experienced looking and new, puff smoke and mingle.

Few men line up in a corner to have their bets down. In a loud whisper:

MAN 1

Twenty on Steve.

MAN 2

Thirty on Jackson. Steve's losing it.

A round table in the middle of the room.

Two hands on the table, across from each other, palms down, fingers apart, about to be engaged in a play of a knife game or what is commonly known as a five-finger fillet.

One belongs to Steve. A younger Steve, no scar, clean neck.

Steve owns the room here - he is the champion of a knife game.

A younger Cole stands in the corner, watches in silence. His neck is clear of the scar too.

The other hand belongs to GARRY JACKSON, 20s, a bold hot-shot, Steve's opponent.

Steve holds a metal folding knife in his other hand ready. Garry stares at the encryption on it which is quite visible. It reads "From One Champ to Another".

Steve tracks Garry's glance. Smiles.

STEVE

My lucky knife. Helps me win.

Garry looks Steve in the eye.

STEVE

No kidding. Not only the gene, it's the lucky knife too.

The REFEREE, 40s, a stout little man, dressed in something akin to a uniform, flicks a timer.

He lifts his hand in the air.

REFEREE

A simple stab. ...and...go.

Referee drops the hand with conviction.

Steve and Garry stab between the fingers in a consecutive mode - first finger, second, third, fourth and fifth.

REFEREE

Switch. One two, one three, one four.

Steve and Garry switch to another mode - it's now first and second finger, then first and third...

REFEREE

Two one, four one. Go.

Garry breaks a sweat. He glances at Steve's knife. And loses concentration - his knife hits his finger.

The Referee stops the timer, pounds on the table. The rivals stop.

The Referee points at Garry's cut.

REFEREE

Garry Jackson got cut. And the winner is...undefeated Steve Zalewski.

Steve gets up.

Leans over to shake Garry's hand.

Garry's bloodshot eyes are on Steve's knife.

GARRY

The lucky knife huh? What if you lose it some day?

Steve reaches into his pockets, pulls out an identical knife with the same inscription.

He winks at Garry:

STEVE

I was messing with ya. With your head.

Garry gives him an intense, unrelenting stare.

STEVE

It's all skill. Lucky knife! Ha! You're gullible though.

Veins pop up on Garry's face and neck.

He clutches his knife, dashes forward and slams the knife straight into Steve's neck.

Steve is fast to pull back. Garry's hand slips and the knife leaves nothing more than a deep cut.

Blood gushes out of the wound.

Steve brings his hand to the throat and gets it covered in blood. He stares at the hand in disbelief. Raises mad eyes at Garry.

There's commotion in the room. Someone seizes Garry from behind. He tries to break free but can't.

Few others block Garry from Steve.

GARRY

Good. Now you can't pull a twin act on us. At least.

Cole stares.

Hears Steve's shout in the background:

STEVE

You bastard. You'll pay for this.

All goes mute and it's only Cole's eyes open wild fixated on the bleeding wound that shapes into--

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The scar on Cole's neck.

Steve looms over Cole. His eyes slide down Cole's neck. Fixate on the scar.

Steve's hand instinctively reaches for his own neck, covered with the green turtleneck.

Barbara, teary eyes, reaches for a handkerchief. Blows her nose.

STEVE

What did the doctor say, Steve's gonna live?

BARBARA

They don't know.

Steve squints but before he asks any further she blabbers away.

In a whisper this time:

BARBARA

I asked the doctor. He's a nice man, he told me Steve's back but doesn't remember much... Others don't know.

(heart-wrenching sob)

Just because I'm the wife.

COLE (V.O.)

I recognized you, Barbara.

BARBARA
He might never remember...

STEVE
Who others?

BARBARA
Cops. Garrett.

She delivers a sob. Bends to adjust Cole's pillow.

BARBARA
He may never get better, he said.
Never be able to be normal again...
But he came back. Might be hearing
us, you know...

She gets up to leave. Glances at Steve (Cole to her).

BARBARA
Cole, are you staying? Is Kate
coming?

Cole's hand twitches. No one notices.

COLE (V.O.)
Kate. My Kate. Where's she...

STEVE
I'll stay with him, go home, Barb.

BARBARA
Funny, you said Barb. Steve
calls... used to call me Barb.

STEVE
Go home, Barbara. I'll stay with
Steve.

BARBARA
Cole, tell Kate to let me know if
something--

She delivers another sob.

BARBARA
--now that Steve can't help you
anymore...

COLE (V.O.)
Steve could never help us - Kate
would never accept help from Steve,
Barbara. What's the plan, Steve?
What happened to me? Shit.

The door to the room creaks open and DOCTOR BRUBAKER, 50s, appears at the door.

He regards Steve and Barbara.

BARBARA
This is Cole, Doctor.

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
Steve's twin?

Barbara delivers a high pitched sob.

BARBARA
...He and Stevie were always
together. Always.

Barbara moves toward the exit, grabs her purse on the way out. One last look at Cole (Steve for her) and she steps out. The door shuts behind her.

Brubaker comes up to Cole. Manually checks his pulse.

STEVE
Doesn't the machine do exactly
that.

Brubaker chuckles at that but says nothing.

STEVE
Doctor, I need to know what
happened. Did Steve say something?
I have to know. See, I don't think
he did this to himself.

Brubaker eyes Steve. Again says nothing.

STEVE
The one who wants him dead will be
back...to finish what was
started...

Brubaker thinks.

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
He doesn't remember what happened.
They already came asking.

STEVE
The police?

Brubaker gets up. Heads toward the door. The door shuts behind him.

As soon as the doctor out of ear-shot--

Steve moves toward Cole. Grabs a pillow from a couch.

STEVE

Kills me to say this but one of us should probably go. Would be easier if it was you. If you hear me - I think it might be Kate. Kate did this to you, Cole. And she'll try to finish what she started, don't you think?

Cole hand makes a feeble movement. Steve notices. He watches Cole.

STEVE

You can hear me, can't you... She has the money, hasn't she? There's her motive.

COLE (V.O.)

Kate? It can't be Kate. No. Not Kate. Please God. Not Kate.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. PARK - DAY

Cole, 30s, in a police uniform, approaches KATE, 30s, thin, pale.

She sits on a bench, near a pond, immersed in a book. The bench stands in the middle of the vast "RESTORATION, NO PASSING" area that's cordoned off by a yellow tape.

Cole clears his throat to get her attention--

She responds, without lifting eyes on him.

KATE

Yes, I know. I can't sit here.

COLE

You can't? Why?

That makes her smile. She looks up at him.

KATE

They are restoring the area, no?

COLE

I don't care what they are doing here.

She looks at his name tag on his uniform. It says COLE ZALEWSKI.

KATE

Well, officer Zalewski, what were you going to tell me then?

She shoves her book into her bag.

COLE

Shshsh. Don't move.

KATE

Or what, you'll arrest me?

COLE

There's a snake right behind your left foot. You don't want to startle it.

Kate springs to her feet. There's some movement underneath the bench.

Kate shudders as she watches the snake slither away.

COLE

There, you scared it. I thought I'd catch it for the wildlife control.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The heart monitor beeps as Cole's cardiogram goes beyond the range. Steve freezes.

STEVE

Cole? ...You're gonna make it, aren't you? That complicates it, true...

There is no movement from Cole any more.

STEVE

Well, I'd be damned if I wasn't
glad, brother. ...I'll not let her
finish you. I promise.

He tosses the pillow onto an armchair to cushion it up and
sinks in.

STEVE

What happened to all the money? I
ought to know, don't you think? All
I know is - it's in the wrong
hands.

Cole's hand twitches. The heart rate monitor BEEPS as the
heart rate intensifies.

Steve's lips curl into a soft smile.

STEVE

Have some rest for now.

INT. THE MIND OF COLE

The black stain cuts in two identical bits and the two
diminish in size within a moment.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Cole's eyes shut, eyelids twitching.

COLE (V.O.)

Both of us, Steve, are petty
thieves. I'm no better...

Steve stands next to a window and watches the road through a
small opening in the shutters.

Kate storms in. Throws a quick glance at Cole and Steve.
Addresses Steve:

KATE

I came as soon as I heard.

Cole's breast heaves.

QUICK FLASH

Kate comes up to Cole and kisses him on the lips. Her hand
slides down his arm, bumping on the tubing thrust in his
veins.

She crouches next to the bed, rubs her cheek against the palm of his hand.

Cole's eyes twitch.

BACK TO SCENE

Kate stands at the door, head turned to Steve. Real Steve.

KATE

I mean, I'm sorry for your brother,
Cole.

COLE (V.O)

She doesn't know he's Steve. I'm
Steve for her. ...Nobody knows.
Shit.

STEVE

You're back from your mother's?
Listen...the bag...you know... the
money... you took care of it?

Kate's face is blank - she does not understand.

KATE

Are you heading home? I mean that
place you're staying at...

Steve grabs Kate's arm, gives it a squeeze. Kate gasps at the treatment.

STEVE

It's important damit.

Kate pulls away.

KATE

What's going on? Get your hands off
me.

STEVE

I need to know what you did with
the bag, that's all. You did like I
told you?

KATE

Know what, get away from me, we're
not a couple anymore...

COLE (V.O.)
Not a couple? We had our
differences... what the hell
happened...

Kate strides toward the stand, next to Cole. Pulls out a
drawer, finds Cole's wallet.

She sifts through it. Stops at a picture of Cole and Steve
together. Glances at the ID - it says Steve Zalewski.

STEVE
What are you doing going though
Steve's stuff--

KATE
You swapped the id's too? Good
work.

Steve eyes her, silent.

KATE
You don't have to pretend with me.
Steve. Yep. I know. I'm tired of
pretending.

Cole's eyes twitch. The heart monitor BEEPS.

COLE (V.O.)
She knows. If she's my murderer I'm
not in luck. ...Oh, Kate...

She pulls out a picture. Glares at it.

KATE
Cole has the same picture. I wonder
if he carries mine in his wallet.
Or Davie's. Probably not, it's just
his bro, his pride, his own shit.
Cuz you're shit, right? You're both
shit. Same shit. ...the way he lied
to me to go play that damn game...

STEVE
--Does anyone else know?

KATE
Scared, aren't you? No, it's just
me. I can tell you apart. That
little scar don't mean nothing to
me.

Kate looks away. Heads toward the door.

A DOCTOR in a white robe strides in. Followed by few nurses.

DOCTOR
Everybody out. You may wait
outside.

Steve heads for the hall.

A few nurses, medical equipment in hands, hurry past him,
gather around Cole. Cole's eyes twitch.

COLE (V.O.)
What's your game, Kate? What's
going on?...You didn't do it, did
you?

OVER BLACK

Kate's face, eyes shining with despair.

FLASHBACK

INT. COLE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Cole, neck clear of the scar, paces to and fro. Listens to--
Kate on the phone.

KATE
Steve? Hi, you piece of shit...
Maybe he is, maybe he isn't. I
don't know.... Yeah try his cell,
don't call the house anymore, I
don't want to hear from you. Nor
see you. I want you out of my life.
Out.

She stops however and listens to what Steve has to say.

KATE
Well, thank you for taking me in on
your little what-you-call-it...the
twin act. Only I'm gonna tell on
you. You should've been more
careful.
(sarcastic laugh)
Learn to keep you mouth shut when
around me. ... two phony police
officers.

She slams down the receiver.

END FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Cole lies motionless in his bed. Same position as before. His eyelids twitch.

COLE (V.O.)
Another twin act... There was
another one...

The doctor checks the monitor readings. Observes Cole.

The doctor pulls Cole's hand out - it's bound above the wrists.

A nurse hands the doctor his medical tools. The doctor changes the bandage and by the stitches on his arm it can be told that Cole's veins have been recently cut.

Cole's eyes pop open. He sees the doctor and the nurse bustle around and closes his eyes.

They don't notice a thing.

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
I'd buy a suicide... but women cut
their veins open, not men. Men jump
off buildings.

He inspects the head wrappings.

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
This one's good for another day.
...he damaged his brain when he
fell to the floor. Better he had
smashed his brains properly and
that would be it.

The nurse observes, pity in her eyes.

COLE (V.O.)
Right, vein cutting is women's
business. Kate... She's a woman.
Steve... Steve would go for a
throat. ...Can't be Kate. Please...
Kate had a motive. ...Steve has a
motive too...

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
The arm looks better.

He points at the medical instruments that lay scattered on a portable stand, next to Cole.

The instruments include a scalpel.

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
Don't need these today.

He preps Cole's arm for a shot. The vein on the arm wouldn't bulge and he has to move to the other side. He tries the other arm.

The nurse bustles around.

NURSE
I'll check on him in an hour.

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
You do that. Truth be told he needs some rest. Those visitors come and go as they want...

He shakes his head in disapproval.

DOCTOR BRUBAKER
Wife and brother are okay, but there's brother's wife...cops...

They get ready to leave. The nurse rolls the instrument stand out. There's no scalpel on it but neither she nor the doctor notice.

They walk out and close the door behind.

The scalpel is buried in the folds of the bed coverings. Cole's left hand digs it out.

His eyes twitch. He opens them. He breaths deeply, looks around. Takes in the surroundings.

There's commotion in the hall and he listens. Waits for the footsteps to fade. They don't.

Steve barges into the room.

Cole's eyes are firmly shut, his breathing steady.

Steve moves toward the bed.

STEVE
Cole, if you hear me, - God knows what she'll do next... Your beloved Kate.

Steve moves bedside, holds Cole's right hand. Thumbs his pulse.

STEVE

I had to let them believe I'm you,
to find out what she's up to.

A chuckle.

STEVE

Was easy - now that you have a scar
too.

Cole makes a slight move and his eyes pop open.

The twins stare at each other.

The scalpel lies in the folds of the bedding and Cole's hand is firmly on it, ready to use the tool if necessary.

Cole makes a faint sound and it's obvious that he can talk if he makes an effort.

He motions for Steve to move closer. He licks his dry lips and Steve sees that it's hard for him to speak.

Steve inches toward him.

Cole, almost whispering:

COLE

The little village...
(deep breath)
north of Colorado...
(another deep breath)
we used to play as kids...

STEVE

Breckenridge? Shit, you gonna go
all mellow on me?

Cole mouths 'no'. Annoyed.

STEVE

That's where the money is?

Cole gives a faint nod.

COLE

Our hiding place.

STEVE

How did you get there this fast?
Someone took it there for you?

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)
It's a shitload of money, you can't
trust it with anyone.

Cole shakes his head.

COLE
Doesn't matter at this point.
Plus--

And he smiles to himself.

COLE
--I don't remember.

STEVE
Two hours there and back... You
don't just want me out of the way,
do you?

Cole just stares.

STEVE
We are brothers. You know that.

Cole nods.

Steve dashes for the door. Turns to Cole and there's somewhat
of a threat in his look. He points to Cole's scar.

STEVE
Remember, you're Steve for now.
...It's no time for games, Cole.
Right?

Cole nods.

COLE (V.O.)
Wrong. It's best to start playing
now.

His breathing gets heavy - he used up all his strength.

Kate storms in. Scans the room. Cole's eyes are closed.
Steve's lips curve into a crooked smile.

GARRETT, 50s, enters too. Shuts the door behind.

GARRETT
You shouldn't be here, Kate.

Kate nods toward Steve.

KATE
He shouldn't be here either.

GARRETT

That's true. But you asked for protection from Cole from us.

He looks at Steve. Steve lifts up his hands - surrenders to pressure.

STEVE

I'm gone. Won't see me here.

GARRETT

Hey Cole. Hope you understand. You can't be here until it's all settled and we know what happened...

He turns to Kate.

GARRETT

Kate...

She storms out. In the doorway:

KATE

Just let him know he should keep away from me. ...You've heard the inspector.
(chuckles)
Hubby.

Steve and Garrett follow her out.

The door shuts behind them.

Cole opens his eyes. Waits for their footsteps to fade.

COLE

Help me God.

Cole sounds much better and stronger than when Steve was around - he played Steve.

He regards the wall clock. It's 3:25.

He unwraps his head and tucks the blood stained bindings under the mattress.

He GRUNTS as he tries to slide his legs off the bed. But the legs won't budge. He clenches his teeth and tries harder. He pushes himself up. With great difficulty he sits up.

Takes a deep breath and clenches his fists - he can do this.

The heart monitor beeps - the cardiogram shows uneven again. He pounds on the keys of the machine and waits for the results.

The cardiogram seems to freeze - it shows steady wave, the beeping is gone too. He nods to himself, satisfied.

He rips the tubing off his nose and chest.

Then he tries to get up. Everything comes with a great effort but he progresses fast.

He looks dizzy from lying for too long, so he sits back down but then gathers with strength.

He gets up. His hospital gown catches his eye and he frowns.

He looks around for the clothes. There are none.

He repeats to himself:

COLE

You can do it. Have to. You. Can.
Do. It.

His legs listen now. He moves around with great difficulty. Very slow at first.

He trudges to a closet, pulls out a large blanket. Wraps it around, holding the ends together underneath the chin to conceal the scar.

Peeks into a large mirror in the closet door, checks the head for the blood cakes - there are none. He straightens his hair.

His gaze slides down his bare feet. He reaches into the closet for a pair of disposable slippers.

He opens up the door and looks out - his room is in a secluded corner and there's no one in a view.

There's some commotion on the other side of the long hall and he takes a moment to make sure that it's no one in particular.

He retrieves the scalpel.

He insert the scalpel into the lock of his door and cuts himself instead. He doesn't react much - it's a minor scratch. Finally he thrusts it in, works the lock.

To check his work he closes the door, then tries to open it. It budes - that doesn't satisfy him. He works on it some more.

Then he shuffles into the--

HALL

Shuts the door to his room and tries it to make sure that it's properly locked.

He strides along the hall.

He feels dizzy and has to stop. He leans against the wall. He works on his breathing. The determination in his eyes gleams through.

His cheek bone muscles contract and the veins around his neck strain as he pulls himself together and resumes his walk.

He reaches the end of the corridor - it's where the hall comes alive.

An absent-minded NURSE, 20s, sits behind a call desk, doing her nails. Cole sees her and pulls back to stay out of the view.

He hears:

A NURSE

Accident and Emergency. How may I help you?

He looks back and spots a small door that looks like the supplies cabinet.

He walks to it. Stops in front of it and looks right and left. Nobody watches.

He tries to pull it open, it won't budge. Thrusts the scalpel into the lock. There's a clicking SOUND and he pulls it open. Dives inside the--

SUPPLY ROOM

Looks around. Dumps the blanket.

COLE

Jackpot.

There's a stack of scrubs. He checks them out and they all are short-sleeve ones.

He finds a long sleeved undergarment which is also a turtleneck. Slides it on. Makes sure the scar is safely hidden.

COLE

Thanks for the tip, Steve. Now I'm Cole again.

HALL

Cole shuffles out.

Greenish scrubs over yellow turtleneck pullover - long sleeves conveniently cover the bound arm and medical rubber shoes. A mask dangles around his neck.

He marches toward the desk. The nurse lifts her head, her bored eyes fixate on him.

COLE

Listen, babe, I need to check with Steve's doctor. You have his schedule?

The nurse doesn't even shake her head. Her impartial eyes suggest that she knows nothing.

COLE

He's needed in the room.
(pronouncing)
Steve Zalewski's room. Three three nine.

She eyes him for a moment. Then lazily reaches for the receiver.

COLE

This is an emergency.

She rolls her eyes - it's always an emergency. Dials.

NURSE

Hey, Clara, who's Steve Zalewski's doctor? Bruebaker, right. Tell him he's needed in the room for me, will ya. Thanks.

Cole snatches the phone from her.

COLE

Hey, Clara...

CLARA

(on phone)

He is not in the building. I'll
send for his nurse.

COLE

No need. I'm his nutritionist, just
wanted to check with his physician.
Listen, you know when his doctor is
gonna be in the building?

He listens to the answer, his face lights up. Then he hangs
up.

He passes the phone back to the Nurse, winks at her.

COLE

Hey sweetie, who's his nurse again?

NURSE

Whose?

COLE

Steven Zalewski's.

She looks at the chart, then points at some name.

The nurse goes back to her finger polishing.

Cole mouths the name.

Strides down the hall. As confident as possible.

He reaches the--

NURSES STATION

Scans the name tags on couple of nurses and notices the MALE
NURSE he's looking for.

COLE

Hi. I'm Cole Friedrichson from the
West Wing, Steven Zalewski's second
opinion. Dr. Bruebaker asked me to
visit Steve. Please do not disturb
him today up until Dr. Bruebaker
pays him another visit. Is that
doable? And there's too many of the
relatives on the floor. Maybe tell
them to take it easy, huh? Here, in
Accident and Emergency we have to
let our patients rest, don't we.

The nurse nods throughout, very much in agreement on every account.

COLE

I'll be with Steve, observing him for twenty more minutes. After that please--

NURSE

Absolutely. I got it. One question, you sorta look like Steve--

Cole gives him a stern look.

COLE

Well, I'm his twin brother as a matter of fact.

NURSE

Oh, right. Right. Steve is lucky.

He wrinkles his forehead again.

NURSE

What's up with the last names though - Frederickson and Zalewski...

Cole is at a loss of words at first, but gathers himself together fast. Winks at the Nurse.

COLE

Use your nuggin. You're good though.

Cole gives him a thumbs up for "smart", heads toward his room.

The nurse disappears from behind some doors.

Cole stops in his tracks. Changes direction. Glances at the wall clock on the way - it's 4:10.

He shuffles through the opening that leads to the--

STAIR EXIT

He stops for another breath of air.

He continues down the stairs trying to make as little noise as possible.

EXT. GAMBLING PLACE - SHADY AREA - DAY

FIRST FLOOR WINDOW

The window is by a heavy metal door.

Cole, sweaty beyond belief, in a hospital wear, KNOCKS with impatience.

The window slides open.

BILL, 60s, face somewhat crooked, peers through. Frowns at Cole but moves toward the door.

The door creaks open. Cole steps in.

INT. GAMBLING PLACE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Bill appraises Cole.

Bill
Cole?

Cole nods.

Cole (v.o.)
Nice to be called by your own name
for a change.

Bill
They're trying to shut down the
business. After Steve's stupid
stunt...Say, he's in a hospital?

Cole regards Bill.

Cole
Stunt? ...Yeah that was stupid of
him.

Bill
Why would you agree to it? After
what happened when you pulled your
first twin act. Cost you your badge
didn't it?

Kate (v.O.)
Cost you your badge, didn't it?
Didn't it?!

Cole
Right.

QUICK FLASH

INT. POLICE QUARTERS - SPACEY ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Inspector Garrett, three star insignia, behind the desk, his eyes on a paper.

Cole (no scar), in a police uniform, stands in front of him. Eyes cast down.

There's a badge at his belt and a gun holstered at his waist.

Garrett clears his throat, a look of discomfort on his face for what he's about to say.

He meddles, fingers his glasses, then puts them on. Reads from the paper:

Garrett

Lieutenant Cole Zalewski is being charged with an underground money betting as well as the fraudulent act involving impersonating his twin brother, lieutenant Steve Zalewski, with the purpose of swindling unsuspecting citizen out of their monetary possessions.

Garrett takes his eyes off the paper.

Garrett

--Quite a con artistry from you two.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. GAMBLING ROOM

Cole and Bill walk through the--

HALL

Cole takes his time, his eyes on Bill.

Cole

The twin act... Steve came up with it, you know.

Bill squirms under Cole's unrelenting stare.

Bill

I'm sure he did. He's more of a crook than you, everybody knows that. The way you two managed to fool everyone in the room... The first twin act - I know Steve played the game first... as soon as he left for that bathroom, I knew... I swear I did.

(shining with pride)

I'm a bit of a crook myself.

Cole gives him a vacant look.

Cole

(unsure)

Yeah, right. The first time Steve played first.

Bill

Yeah, that's why that sly fox, Garrett, took your badge and left Steve's.

Cole

You're calling the inspector a sly fox?

Bill

The second time I didn't know though. Garry followed you all the way into the bathroom. And back. Say, did the Referee know? He's flagged, you know. Stupid move, I'd say--

Cole

--Referee's flagged? That must be unrelated to what Steve's done--

Bill

Oh no. I'm not going for that one. ...Say, why are you here?

Cole

Need to check on something.

Cole strides toward the--

GAMBLING ROOM

Looks around. All is the same minus the gamblers and the smoke.

He shuts his eyes. Brings both hands to his head, squeezing it as if trying to squeeze the stubborn memories out.

QUICK FLASH

A knife shuffles through the fingers.

The Referee oversees. Nods his square well-fed head. Observing from under his heavy eyelids. Squints.

BACK TO SCENE

GAMBLING ROOM

Cole looks around. The room is as empty as can be. Tables and chairs, nothing else.

COLE

Shit.

Cole dashes out for the bathroom.

Bill trails behind.

BILL

I get it - you're looking for something.

Cole gives him a cold stare.

COLE

You're saying Garry followed me into the bathroom?

BATHROOM

He steps in, scans the place. It's the kind that's never seen a woman's touch.

Cramped. Roach infested. Filthy puddles here and there.

The stalls extend all the way up to the ceiling.

Water DRIPS somewhere.

OVER BLACK

Blocks of memory.

Sounds of DRIPPING WATER.

Animated flash shots:

Knife stabs through the fingers spread on a table.

Male voice
(in loud murmur)
Someone told on us. The damned
snitch.

The Referee rises his arm and drops it at one, signalling the start.

The flash shots take Cole to--

FLASHBACK

INT. GAMBLING ROOM - DAY

Gamblers. Smoke. Dim light.

No Cole in sight.

Lowlifes down cheap whisky, faces turned to stone. In morbid silence.

All eyes glued to--

Steve (after the scar) and his OPPONENT shuffle knives through the spread apart fingers.

Referee
One four, two four, three four, go.

They switch to "one four, two four" mode.

They break sweat but keep going.

Referee
And... stop. One minute break.

They stop at once.

Neither has cut himself.

Weary, Steve gets up.

Heads out.

All eyes are on him. And on his neck. The scarred neck.

Steve's Opponent rises as well. Follows Steve through the small and dark--

HALL

Into the--

Bathroom

Steve taps a faucet open. Yellow water runs through his fingers.

He glances at his opponent. The opponent takes time washing his hands too.

Steve

You always wash hands before you pee?

Opponent

Do you?

Steve looks himself in a badly dented mirror, points at his scar in it.

Steve

I guess it doesn't matter now that I have this. And Cole doesn't.

The opponent eyes him but says nothing.

Steve

There's no point in following me.

He enters one of the stalls.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. GAMBLING PLACE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

There's a small opening in the wall, covered with a piece of metal akin to a lid on a garbage chute. Bill crouches toward it.

Bill's banter continues:

Bill
I went inside it the other day.
Just like Steve did, for your twin
act. You have guts I give you that.
Both of ya.

Cole regards the chute.

He walks toward the metal lid, the one Steve used to escape.
Lunges in but backs up - change of plans.

Bill
You know I wondered how the
opponent couldn't see you in the
stall.

Cole watches Bill walk inside the stall. Bill presses on the
ceiling, the sheetrock comes easily off - it's a suspended
tile ceiling.

Bill
I wouldn't have the strength to go
up there, but you obviously do. I'm
smart to figure it all out on my
own you know...

Bill flashes Cole a proud grin.

QUICK FLASH

STALL

Steve holds onto the tile frame on the ceiling and jumps
down. Gets up on the toilet and fixes the tile to cover up
the gap.

He EXITS the stall.

He crouches toward the garbage chute.

Lifts the lid. Dives in.

BACK TO SCENE

Cole
Yeah, that must be it. That's how I
did it after the first twin act.

Bill
So it was you who went on playing.
The way you played that day...
(MORE)

Bill (CONT'D)

Left every motherfucker in owe.
That was a wicked game. Say, you
can do Steve just perfect.

(mimicking Cole)

I look smarter than Cole though,
can't you tell? ...It's twenty
first century - two words "thumb
scanners" - some nice shit.

FLASHBACK - CONTINUOUS

The opponent pricks up his ears, hears Steve urinate. He enters one of the stalls too, doesn't shut the door to it. Starts urinating.

Cole (not Steve) emerges, his pants undone. Looks around. Peeps back into the stall and does a thumbs up to someone in the stall. Someone we don't see - Steve.

He steps toward sinks, zips up his pants. Chuckles as he sees his opponent urinate.

Cole washes his hands, glancing at the opponent.

The Opponent stops urinating and comes out.

He doesn't take time to wash hands. Doesn't know that the twins switched.

He follows Cole back to the--

GAMBLING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cole walks toward the table. The Referee stops him before he can get back to his chair.

Referee

Cole, sorry man, got to take a look
at that scar.

Cole points at his neck. Sneers - can't believe it.

Cole

Oh, come on. You mean I'm Cole and
this is a tatoo on my neck?

Referee's mind is set - no mindless talk will set him off track.

Cole points at the Opponent who's back in his seat.

Cole
He was behind every step of the
way.

Cole meets the Referee's glare and continues clowning:

Cole
I look smarter than Cole though,
can't you tell?

Referee
Can't let the twin act happen for
the second time. Too much money at
a stake.

Cole inches toward the Referee. Lifts his head exposing the
scar.

Referee leans forward to examine it.

Cole
It's twenty first century - two
words "thumb scanners"...

Referee
Yep. Only you and Cole like to
screw with those too, don't you?

Cole
Okay. Two more words - "retina
scanners..."

Referee is done examining. He pulls back.

Referee
You're clear.

Addressing the gamblers and Cole's opponent:

Referee
It's Steve.

Cole chuckles. Sits.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. GAMBLING PLACE - BATHROOM

Bill taps Cole's shoulder.

Bill
Hey Cole...

Cole turns around.

Bill
Say, you mind if I ask you
something?

Cole
Go ahead.

Cole walks into a toilet stall.

Bill
Was it your wife who ratted you and
Steve out?

Cole (o.S.)
What?

Bill
The first time. The first twin act,
couple years ago... Was it her?

TOILET STALL

Cole looks around. Lifts the lid of the toilet tank.

Bill (o.S.)
That's what they say.

Cole leans against the stall wall. Memories overpower.

OVER BLACK

Kate's face, eyes shining with despair.

Cut to:

FLASHBACK

INT. COLE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Cole, neck clear of the scar, paces to and fro. Listens to--
Kate on the phone.

KATE

Well, thank you for taking me in on your little what-you-call-it...the twin act. Only I'm gonna tell on you. You should've been more careful.

(sarcastic laugh)

Learn to keep your mouth shut when around me. ... two phony police officers.

She slams down the receiver.

Cole shuffles out into the balcony.

EXT. APARTMENT BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

Cole holds a cell phone to his ear and paces to and fro. On the other end of the line is Steve.

COLE

Man, I promised her I'd never play again...

STEVE (ON PHONE)

Sorry, Cole. I thought she knew. You tell her everything...

COLE

Well, I don't. Should have told her everything.

STEVE (ON PHONE)

Hey Cole...Why did you agree to a twin act, you're way too pristine for that...

Cole stops. Takes a breath. Regret registers.

COLE

Beats me.

STEVE (ON PHONE)

...See you at the game.

COLE

Try to understand who the snitch might be. It's not her if you're wondering.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. GAMBLING PLACE - BATHROOM

Cole exits the stall. Heads for another one.

Cole
That one is crapped.

Bill peeks inside.

Bill
Only decently crapped.

He shakes his head. Leaves.

Cole emerges.

He walks out through the--

HALL

Small and grungy.

Into the--

HALLWAY

Cole's eyes search for a clock. There's one and Cole regards the time. It's 4:45.

Cole approaches Bill who shuffles the knife through his fingers.

Bill stops the game, lifts his eyes at Cole.

Bill
Would you mind showing how you do
it?

Cole is not going to. He gives him a long look.

Cole
Stop bullshitting about Kate, you
hear?

A sinister smile plays on the Bill's face.

Bill
Got it. ...Yesterday tho' you were
all about "bitch Kate this and
bitch Kate that".

Cole freezes. A thought registers. He holds his hand out for the knife for a round of shuffling.

Bill hands him the knife.

Cole
Got a timer?

Bill pulls a timer from out of the depths of his desk. Flicks it on.

The timer starts ticking and Cole stabs the knife through the fingers.

The man watches with admiration.

Cole is good at it - focused and in control. He stops in two some minutes.

Cole
Keep your head clear. Don't think.

Bill has his hand ready for practice. His fingers are spread too much and Cole points that out:

Cole
That's "too spread". It's harder
this way.

Bill nods appreciative. Follows Cole's advice. Cole hands him the knife.

Bill starts shuffling. The knife slices his finger on twentieth second.

Cole
Forget I'm watching. It's the
nerves.

Bill shuffles again. Holds a bit longer this time.

Cole
Sit against the light. Don't let it
blind you. Remember Steve and I
always use the same chair.

Bill remembers. Shuffles deeper into the corner turning against the light. Shuffles again.

Cole
I'd do classes... If I'm ever out
of this mess.

Bill is done with the game.

Bill
What mess? You too?

Cole
Say, you know where I went
yesterday after I bulled about
Kate?

Bill
I dunno. Your place... The place
they found Steve... What kind of a
question is it--

Cole
The place they found him?
(not sure)
...Bellevue and 1st?

Bill eyes Cole intrigued.

Bill
No, not Bellevue and 1st. It's
Beechnut and Bissonet. What kind of
question is that?

Cole dashes out. The door squeaks shut behind him.

Through a little opening in the window shutters Bill watches
Cole stride away. As soon as Cole covers a safe distance, he
reaches into the depths of his desk and fishes his cell out.

Bill dials.

BILL
Hey chief. He left. Most probably
heading for Beechnut. Mentioned
some address, long story, don't
ask. Bellevue and 1st.

It's Garrett on the other end of the line.

GARRETT (V.O.)
Thanks Billy. We'll check it out.

EXT. SHADY AREA - STREET - CONTINUOUS

Cole rushes away from the gambling place.

COLE

Kate... or Beechnut... Beechnut
should be crammed with police..

He covers quite some distance in a matter of seconds.

COLE (V.O.)

Kate or Beechnut... Kate. My Kate.
Kate will think I'm me. Cole. Just
like that man, Bill...

Feverish, he shouts out as if to reinforce his newly made
decision:

COLE

With Steve out of the way...

He adds more speed, almost jogs now.

Desolate streets.

Cole walks faster. An avenue with few cars flying by comes
into view.

Cole rushes toward it.

INT. COLE'S BUILDING - CLOSED STAIRCASE - DAY

Cole grabs a key under the door mat. Thrusts it into the
lock.

The door squeaks open and Cole shuffles in.

INT. COLE'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Kate walks out of the living room with a large duffel bag.

KATE

Steve?

She looks him over, notes the scrubs he's wearing.

KATE

What is it, Halloween night?

He scans the room. Spots DAVID, 5, who stands in the door of
his room, looking lost.

DAVID

Mom, I think it's Daddy.

Cole lights up.

COLE
Davie, my man.

Kate snaps at David:

KATE
Inside. Quick.

David disappears into his room.

Cole's eyes riveted to the bag.

COLE
Is that the money?

Kate chuckles. Bolts for the--

KITCHEN

She pulls a gun out of a drawer. Aims at Cole.

There's a walkie talkie on the counter. She grabs it with her other hand. Her finger hovers over the red alarm button.

She stares at Cole through the kitchen opening and there's a threat in her eyes.

KATE
I'm calling them. Get out.

COLE
Okay. Okay. You keep calling me Steve though?

KATE
Whoever you are, get out.

COLE
I'm Cole.

KATE
We've been over it tonight, Steve.
I know. I told you I do - I can
tell you two apart.

COLE
Not really.

Kate places her finger on the trigger.

COLE
...Okay. Alright. No one else knows
I'm Steve except for you, right?

KATE

Take a guess.

COLE

Tell me this, why you hate me so much?

KATE

Maybe because you didn't want to share Cole with me. 'Sharing' is not your forte, is it, Stevie.

Cole's eyes widen, he leans against the wall, slumps down - he understands now.

KATE

I see you're getting comfortable here.

COLE

I was close with Steve. I mean with Cole. Before...before you came between us.

KATE

Oh, I'm sorry. I really am. For coming between you... near you... At all. I'm sorry for my screwed up life. I'm sorry I have a child from Cole. I'm sorry I met Cole and I'm sorry that you are in my life, my worst wedding present...

Her hand darts for the button.

Cole rushes forward.

COLE

Just one thing - is that the money?

KATE

You sound like a retard, Steve. You won't learn about the money from me.

The duffel bag is not zipped and as Cole gets a tad closer to her he sees it's filled with clothes.

He eyes her and there's sadness in his eyes.

COLE

I'm not Steve.

He exposes his neck.

COLE
Unfortunately now that both of us
have a scar...

KATE
Shut up, Steve, it's getting funny.
Why're you here again?

Cole thinks.

COLE
...Cole told me you have the money.

KATE
Cole? Cole is comatose. I told you
to ask the Referee - he knows. You
never listen.

She gives Cole a smug look.

Cole leans against the wall. Holds on to his head.

OVER BLACK

Flash shots of memories float by. Animated.

Palms on a table, fingers spread out. Knives lay close.

Referee motioning for the start. His eyelids heavy. Eyes
narrowed... sparkling evil.

Steve's smug smile.

FLASHBACK

INT. GAMBLING ROOM - NIGHT

INSERT: ON THE DAY COLE JUMPED INTO THE GAME FOR STEVE.

Cole with a scar is about to take a place behind the table.
He preps up, gets his knife ready.

Referee
Steve, sorry man, got to take a
look at that scar.

Cole chuckles, points at his neck.

Cole
Oh, come on. You mean I'm Cole and
this is a tatoo on my neck?

Referee peers at someone in the room. Someone unobtrusive
sits alone in the dark corner and watches.

Cole traces the Referee's look and notices the man in the
corner. Cole gives him a nod.

END FLASHBACK

INT. COLE'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY - DAY

Cole shakes the flashback off.

COLE
Who's that man? Darn it.

KATE
You mean the Referee? You should
ask, huh?

She presses on the alarm. Talks into the radio:

KATE
Cole's here. Get him outa here
before I shoot him.

COLE
So they don't know I'm Steve?

Kate sneers.

Sounds of hurried footsteps going up the stairway.

Kate observes Cole, her look somewhat haughty.

Cole looks around the room. There is a coat on a rack. He
reaches, grabs it. Bends for a pair of shoes.

He glances at Kate.

COLE
I suppose you won't mind?

Kate sighs, annoyed but somewhat amused.

COLE
I thought you'd buy I was Cole.

KATE
Yeah, I got it. You underestimate
me.

BANG. --Kate pushes the trigger.

With a smug smile on she watches blood seeping out from
Cole's thigh.

KATE
This is for the twin game. The
first twin game.

Cole moves his leg, it's seemingly a mild scratch. He glances
at the hole in the furniture behind him.

KATE
You were always lucky. ...You know
how hard it was for us after that
first twin shit? Do you have any
idea?!

Cole averts his eyes.

KATE
Shy all of the sudden?

Cole backtracks slowly. Glances at the door.

Kate chuckles.

KATE
I had to cut vegetable for Pong
Chang damit. Pong Chung! For us to
meet the ends.

COLE
Davie... Mind the bad words--

KATE
Oh, you want to be funny, huh?
Listen to me, listen closely - if
Lee is not here in one minute I'll
finish you. Today. And I'll finish
your brother too don't you worry.
For being so great to you.

She aims at the other thigh.

--OFFICER LEE, 30s, appears in the open door. Takes in the
situation.

--Kate lowers the pistol.

KATE
I'll save this one for your twin.

Cole puts on his old coat he just grabbed. Nods to the officer.

Gives Kate one last look.

COLE (V.O.)
You're in the game, Kate. What game though?

LEE
Cole, I think we agreed to no contact for now...

COLE
Why?

Lee fidgets, uneasy.

COLE
What? You think I did it to Steve?

LEE
No, we don't...nobody thinks that. It's just Kate feels uneasy with you around and she asked for protection and the referee is not ours yet--

COLE
Referee... Referee again... What did he do?

Lee stares at Cole. Fidgets.

LEE
He was in a deal. With you and Steve.

Cole nods. Turns away.

COLE
She called me Steve by the way. Why's that?

Lee stands bewildered, throws a look at Kate as if asking for help.

Kate's lips curl into a sneer. She SIGHS heavily - she acts annoyed.

She emerges from behind the counter. Walks into the hallway. Motions for the door pressuring Cole to leave.

He does.

STAIRCASE

Lee escorts Cole out. They head down, for the exit.

They hear Kate shout:

KATE
The key? Who gave it to you?

Cole stops, looks up at her, thumbs the key. Pockets it.

COLE
Use your nuggin. You're a smart one, huh.

KATE
Cole gave it to you, right?
Bastard.

But Cole doesn't grace her with an answer. He skips down the stairs fast.

Lee rushes behind. Their exchange leaves Lee confused. He wrinkles his forehead - Cole is her husband, entitled to the key.

DOWN THE STAIRWAY

Cole changes his clothes on a fly.

UP THE STAIRWAY

Kate walks inside.

APARTMENT HALLWAY

Kate leans against the wall, her eyes gleam with menace.

She reaches for a key box. Looks through the keys. There's only one with inscription KATE on it.

She thinks.

Tidies up - back to calm self.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Cole bursts out. Officer Lee in his tracks.

Cole looks around. Turns to Lee.

COLE

Shit, forgot my cell. Got a cell on
you?

Lee reaches into his pocket, but retrieves the hand and
shakes his head.

COLE

Come on, man. Just one call. I've
never got to call my mom. Tell her
about Steve... Left my cell at home
and don't want to go back. You've
seen Kate... heck you won't let me
go back yourself...

Lee reluctantly reaches into his pocket again.

Hands Cole his blackberry.

Cole dials a number out of Lee's view. 322 223 322 223 - a
fictitious number.

Cole brings the phone to his ear.

He talks to a dial tone.

COLE

Hey Mom? It's Cole. Hi. Listen...
Something bad happened. To Steve.

Cole steps away as if compelled to keep the conversation
personal.

Lee understands and look away.

Cole walks faster. Getting further and further from Lee.

He turns to check on Lee and, noticing the suspicion on his
face, he runs.

When at a safe distance he looks up at the sky.

COLE (V.O.)

Thanks Mom.

Lee bolts after him. SHOUTS:

LEE

Hey Cole. A cell phone? Are you for real?

But Cole is a good deal away.

COLE

I'll get it back to you. Promise.
Take good care of Kate. It's an order.

Lee cringes his face at that. Stares after Cole as he rounds a corner.

AROUND THE CORNER

Cole stops. The rush of the run put a strain on him and he takes couple of breaths to get his heartbeat together.

A bitter chuckle.

COLE (V.O.)

As if Kate needs someone to take care of her.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cole looks around. He puts on the coat and pants on top of the scrubs he's been wearing. Slips into his own shoes. Leaves the hospital rubber ones on the street.

A beggar watches him and smiles at his fortune.

Cole's hand reaches for his neck.

KATE (V.O.)

You sound like a retard, Steve.

COLE (V.O.)

"Steve"! --she knows it's me in the hospital. And she asked for protection from Steve. Didn't tell them it's Steve - probably a smart move, but why... Should've made up some 'domestic violence' stuff...

He gets up.

COLE

She's got the money--

QUICK FLASH

The duffel bag in Kate's hands. The zipper slides open - the bag is filled with clothes.

BACK TO SCENE

Cole bends his fingers.

COLE (V.O.)
--Properly hidden. ...She got rid
of me. ...She wants Steve out.
Jailed. Or dead.

He strides further.

Reaches for Lee's blackberry. Dials. Then changes his mind.
Hangs up.

Realization registers.

COLE
To keep all of it to herself.

Cole stops struck by the thought.

OVER BLACK

Kate's reflection in a mirror floats into the abyss of
immeasurable space and breaks into shards.

A heart-wrenching SCREAM follows.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. COLE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Arms akimbo, Cole watches from the living room.

Kate, who chops vegetable in the kitchen, SCREAMS in pain.

He rushes toward the kitchen counter. Looks over at Kate. She shows the cut on her finger - a seemingly small cut that made her scream. He lifts eyes at her - Kate is in tears.

KATE
Who would have known I'd cut onion
in my forty's.

Cole walks into the--

KITCHEN

There are few buckets of fresh cut vegetables on the floor. He pulls some tupperware out of a pantry and fills the containers with the vegetables.

Turns to Kate - blood drips out of her wound onto the veggies.

COLE

You're dripping on the onion.

KATE

And you lost your badge.

She slams the knife against the cutting board in a fury. Takes a breath to calm herself down but bursts out in tears.

KATE

Say it. Say it if you think it. "My wife wants money. She wants to sit home and have me earn the money." Why shouldn't I? Why? I have to care for the children...not do this.

Cole is his usual calm self. He stops organizing the vegetables and approaches her.

He pats her on the shoulder. She shakes him off, almost violently. Bursts into hysteria.

She swipes the cut vegetable off the board and bolts out of the kitchen.

KATE (O.S.)

You go work for restaurants. I'm not gonna do it anymore.

COLE

I didn't ask you to.

KATE (O.S.)

You have to provide for us.

COLE

I do what I do. I'm a janitor. Many janitors have families that accept them--

KATE (O.S.)

I did not marry a janitor. All you had to do is say 'no' to your brother. That's all. No. No, Steve. Repeat after me "No, Steve". "No twin act".

Cole stares at the vegetable on the floor and says nothing. Cleans up Kate's mess, distracted by her sobbing.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Cole looks around--

It's a small corner street, stationed between three story buildings. Dirty walls, covered in graffiti. Litter and spit here and there.

He leans against the wall. Slides down in utter desperation.

COLE

It's Kate. My Kate.

His lip quivers, eyes well. And he can't control the sob. He wipes off his eyes with the palm of his hand.

The beggar in his new rubber shoes surveys trash bins nearby. He looks at Cole and smiles.

COLE

My wife tried to kill me. I think.

He brings both hands to his head, cringes - it seems to hurt.

COLE

See I used to be a cop, then I lost my badge... we didn't have enough money for a while and she's had enough.

BEGGAR

My best friend tried to kill me yesterday, you don't see me complaining.

The beggar wonders off.

BEGGAR

For a burger. No one likes
starving.

Cole looks himself over, shakes his head. For a moment there's "nothing to live for" look on his face. Then his eyes catch a glimpse of his bound arm. His chin tightens.

He reaches into his coat, pulls out a wallet. Looks through it. There's a picture of him with Steve, happy faces on both, Cole's arm around Steve's shoulders.

COLE (V.O.)

Poor Steve. ...Maybe he deserves
it? ...He doesn't.

He gets up. Looks around. Rubs his chin - what to do next?

He checks the time on Lee's blackberry.

COLE

Five thirty.

He uses the blackberry to search for hospitals by the zip-code. Finds "MEMORIAL HERMAN". Checks the directions. Fills in his own zip-code - it returns directions on how to get there.

He selects "by foot" option and looks at the time it'll take him. It returns 20 minutes. He takes a breath as if doubting his strength. Takes a moment to pull himself together.

Then he types BEECHNUT in the search window. Presses ENTER.

Fills in his zip-code and checks directions to the place. Selects "by foot" and it returns twenty five minutes. He checks out the time again. It shows 4:55.

He returns to the hospital page. Checks out their phone. Dials and waits.

RECEPTIONIST

Memorial Herman. How may I help
you?

COLE

Hi there. Accident and Emergency
please.

A transfer dial. Someone picks up.

INT. HOSPITAL - COMMON AREA - DAY

NURSE
Accident and Emergency.

INTERCUT

COLE
Hi. My brother, Steve Zalewski, is
in room 399. I'll be meeting with
his doctor tomorrow - wondering if
he's going to check on him today.

NURSE
No, he's not going to. We were
gonna check on your brother--

COLE
You don't have to. I was with him
an hour ago, talked to his nurse
about it. He needs rest from all
the medical assistance...you
know...

Cole delivers his best goofy laugh. The nurse understands.

NURSE
I know. Okay. We'll check on him
later.

COLE
Thanks.

Cole taps Hang Up.

Using the map on the blackberry as a compass he strides
ahead.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Quiet, only few passers-by.

Cole looks around. It's several buildings, in close proximity
to each other.

Cole looks from one to another...unable to remember.

He approaches a building. Looks up, examines the windows.

There's a MAN on the porch that leads to the entrance doors.
Cole approaches. Looks him in the eye.

COLE

Hi.

Man lifts his eyes at Cole. Doesn't return the greeting.

COLE

Something happened in this building
yesterday...

MAN

Not this one.

He points at the right one.

MAN

You don't want to go in there -
it's crammed with cops. Someone
whacked one of their own. They
treat cases like that with love.

The Man continues his ramble but Cole darts toward the
building.

In! His fastest.

INT. BUILDING - STAIRCASE - DAY

Cole takes in the surroundings--

It's dark inside.

Narrow spiral stairway. Two doors on each floor. All painted
brown. And the walls are brown too.

He feels and looks dizzy, holds onto the railings, leans over
and looks down. Into the brown spiral abyss.

QUICK FLASH

INT. BUILDING - DAY

Cole and Steve climb up the spiral narrow stairs. Cole looks
around, flinches - the brown walls are badly stained.

STEVE

It's here.

He points at a brown door. Reaches into a pocket for the key.
Works the lock. The door gives way.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. BUILDING - APARTMENT DOORSTEP - DAY

Cole holds on to the railing uneasy about going in.

He prods the door, it slides open.

Cole steps into the--

HALLWAY

Empty and long. And brown, much like the whole building - it's as if the hallway is a part of the stairway.

He steps into the open door of the--

BEDROOM

He scan the room, eyes open wild.

QUICK FLASH

Cole, dishevelled, baggy eyes, lies in bed. His eyelids twitch from the bad dream he's having.

He pants, the beads of sweat appear on his forehead. He wakes up. Sits up. Walks to the bathroom.

BACK TO SCENE

Cole notices A DETECTIVE, who jots something down in a notebook.

The Detective lifts his eyes at Cole. Smiles at him.

DETECTIVE

Hey, Zawleski. Long time no see.

Cole nods to him, heads for the bathroom. But the Detective sprouts in front of him.

DETECTIVE

No, not the crime scene.

Cole is ready to respond when a hand taps him on a shoulder. Cole turns around - it's inspector Garrett.

GARRETT
Hey Cole. You can't go there, you
know that.

COLE
Why?

GARRETT
It's not your case.

COLE
It was my brother. I think if I see
that bathroom...

GARRETT
Haven't you seen it? ...I thought
you were gonna come here right away
after you've seen Billy--

COLE
Billy? ...Bill...Bill is the
snitch, right?

Garrett says nothing and stares back.

Cole's eyes fall on the bed. It's untidy - just the way he
left it.

He makes a couple steps toward the bathroom despite
Detective's resistance.

A dim yellow light comes from the open bathroom.

OVER BLACK

SIRENS BLARE

Flash shots of Steve and Kate stream by and disappear as fast
as they came.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. BROWN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cole's cellphone BUZZES off. Cole reacts, answers. It's Kate.

KATE (V.O.)
Did he leave?

COLE
Yeah, get inside.

The sound of the key JIGGLING in the key lock.

Kate walks into the bedroom. Tidies up the room.

KATE
I can't believe you agreed to this
shit.

COLE
Don't make me regret that I've told
you.

KATE
You had no choice. Steve would
pretend he's you, get the money and
disappear. ...So you know - I
rather walk the streets than put
that money to use.

Cole gets up.

COLE
No he will not. That's the point -
he's not. You hear me?

He suddenly straightens up.

COLE
I said "do you hear me?"

KATE
Do you hear yourself? I agree with
Garrett. He'll try to get rid of
you first. ...I won't let him kill
you. I can't.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. BROWN BEDROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Cole stands in front of Garrett who eyes him curiously. As if
joking:

GARRETT
You know Cole, at the end you'll
have to prove that you're Cole.

He gives Cole another long look before he speaks again.

GARRETT

And not Steve.

COLE

At the end? What end? You're kidding, right?

GARRETT

Yeah, I am. It's twenty first century. Thumb scanners are extremely popular.

Garrett watches Cole somewhat amused. But Cole looks rather pleased with the news.

COLE

Well, I say, bring it.

GARRETT

Where are you heading now? Did you meet with the Referee? We are looking for him, you know.

Cole takes few steps back. Walking backwards, he steps back into the--

HALL

Garrett follows.

COLE

Why would you need him, I wonder?

GARRETT

Or you don't know? He has been with Steve on the betting deal. He's been attracting big fish to a game. They placed good bets, generous bets. ...for Steve and the Referee. Or should I say YOU and the Referee?

Cole takes off.

Garrett shouts after him:

GARRETT

Belleview and 1st - you said it. I wonder why you gave that away...

Cole mumbles to himself.

COLE

Gave away the Referee? I didn't.
It's a random address--

He fixates on the brown wall. The memories overpower.

QUICK FLASH SEQUENCE

INT. BROWN BEDROOM

Steve nears Cole. No one can hear them but Steve still uses his whisper voice to add weight to what he's about to say:

STEVE

Referee will tell you where. You
get the money and come right back.

INT. GAMBLING PLACE - BATHROOM - DAY

Referree nears Cole.

REFEREE

Belleview and 1st. Straight after
the game. Your last game, right?
Don't be late.

EXT. BELLEVIEW AND 1ST - DAY

Cole stands by the street signs denote the Belleview and 1st intersection.

REFEREE (V.O.)

A man in a hat will leave the bag
by the pole.

A man in a hat appears, drops the bag without stopping and rounds a corner. Cole grabs it. Rushes for the cab.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. BROWN BEDROOM - DAY

Garrett turns to the Detective who continues to take notes, impartial to what just happened.

GARRETT

Steve got Lee's blackberry - he's trackable. That was some stupid move. Except... I think he did it on purpose. Some stupid purpose...

A walkie-talkie holstered on Garrett's belt comes alive. Garrett reaches for it listens to a police officer.

OFFICER

(filtered)

We've checked out Belleview and 1st. It's the Referee's lair. Over.

GARRETT

Have you seen him? Over.

OFFICER

(filtered)

Yes. Briefly. We need evidence, can't scare him off. Over.

GARRETT

I got you. Evidence is on the way. Over.

Garrett fishes some gadget out of his pocket. Flicks it on. It shows a red moving dot on a map.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Cole opens a door of a taxi.

INT. TAXI CAB - CONTINUOUS

Scurries in.

COLE

Belleview and First.

He glances at the time and winces. It's 6:15.

INT. BROWN APARTMENT - HALL - DAY

Garrett studies Cole's route. He fingers it to enlarge the view - the dot is moving toward Belleview and 1st.

The walkie-talkie seems to die off when it comes back to life again.

OFFICER

(filtered)

Sir, sorry sir, Lee's blackberry shows at Beechnut. But that's impossible Sir. As far as we know he took a trip to Colorado and is on his way back. Sir. Over.

GARRETT

How can that be?

OFFICER

(filtered)

I don't know, sir. Over.

GARRETT

I just checked on Cole...

Garrett fishes out his cell. Scrolls the contacts, presses the dial button when reaches Memorial Hermann.

Garrett and the Detective exchange puzzled glances.

DETECTIVE

He was here.

Garrett is about to put away the talkie when it signals another connection. Same voice speaks again.

OFFICER

(filtered)

Sir, I assume it's Cole with the blackberry--

GARRETT

--Refrain from assumptions.

OFFICER

(filtered)

Yes Sir.

GARRETT

I'll take the one with the blackberry. Referee and the other one are yours. Over.

He shoves the radio back in its casing on his waist. Nods to the note-taking officer and strides out.

INT. CAB - MOVING - DAY

Cole rummages in the pockets of his coat. Fishes out few ten dollar bills. Counts. Keeps the taxi fare ready.

COLE
 Cabs these days are awfully
 expensive.

The driver eyes Cole in the back of his rear view window.

DRIVER
 I noticed you were conversing with
 cops. Got yourself in a rumble?

COLE
 Why is that?

DRIVER
 I was standing here for a long time
 watching out for a passenger...

Cole looks back - there's no tail. Cole leans back. Eyes the
 blackberry in his hands. The time now is 5:25.

Stares ahead. Recollects:

KATE (V.O.)
 I won't let him kill you.

COLE (V.O.)
 Kill me? So it might be him...

He closes his eyes.

QUICK FLASH

An assortment of kitchen knives, big and small, with price
 tags on, spread across the counter top.

Cole, half awake, stands in front.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. CAB - MOVING

Cole jolts forward.

COLE
 That makes so much sense.

DRIVER
 Excuse me?

He thinks, then wags his finger at Cole.

DRIVER

What kind of a rumble? With dogs
right?

COLE

Right. Only I'm a dog too.

The driver bites his lip. Cole checks on something on the
blackberry.

COLE

Change of plans. Four two one two
Bering drive. I'll pay double,
please hurry.

He dials Kate. There's a dial tone.

KATE

Hello--

COLE

Kate, you're in trouble.

KATE

Yeah, ever since I married your
brother--

COLE

Kate, I am the brother.

KATE

You mean the deranged one? You both
are deranged, you know.

Cole snaps the phone shut.

COLE (V.O.)

No use.

He taps the driver on the shoulder.

COLE (V.O.)

I need to be there. When he comes.

To the driver:

COLE

It's a change of plans again.

EXT. BROWN BUILDING STREET - DAY

Cole exits the cab. Pays the driver.

COLE
Hey, take the blackberry to
Bellevue and 1st, would ya. I have
to be someplace.

The cab takes off. Cole stops another cab. Gets in.

ANOTHER TAXI CAB

Cole plops on a back seat.

COLE
Memorial Herman. Fast.

The driver sighs but yanks the gear.

The tires screech as they make a u-turn.

EXT. BELLEVIEW AND 1ST - DAY

Referee rushes out a building. A black limo waits for him
around the corner.

He rushes toward it, gets to the back seat.

INT. LIMO

He addresses the LIMO DRIVER:

REFEREE
Everything's been quiet?

LIMO DRIVER
As usual.

EXT. LIMO

The limo peels off.

Three police cars come out of nowhere and block the way.

A DEPUTY talks into a microphone.

DEPUTY
Please exit the vehicle with your
hands in view.

The limo driver yanks the gear shift, they veer onto the
pavement.

They back up to two other police cars.

Referee bursts out, a pistol in his hand. A gunshot seizes him, the bullet gets him in the leg. He holds on to the leg and limps further. Hurries back inside the building.

EXT. BELLEVIEW AND 3RD - UNMARKED CAR - DAY

Two agents, dressed in casual, follow the cab where Cole left Lee's blackberry. They keep at a distance though.

Steve appears from around a corner. He reacts to shooting on Belleview and First and strides away.

The agents light up.

AGENT 1

It's him.

Steve notices the taxi cab and the unmarked car. Dashes toward the taxi cab, leaps right in front of it.

The driver brings the cab to an abrupt halt, rolls down his window.

DRIVER

Watch where you going.

Steve darts toward him. His hand jerks around his waist, he pulls out a pistol.

STEVE

Get out. Fast. One, two...

He drags the meek driver out.

The unmarked car screeches to a stop. Two agents flee from both sides, guns drawn. Steve winks at them.

STEVE

You wish.

He slides in, pushes on the gas.

The agents charge at the tires. Bolt inside, follow Steve.

Steve checks the rearview - no other cars on this stretch of the road. He veers onto an embankment, makes a u-turn, accelerates and smashes into the unmarked car.

It's a pro job, the unmarked car is totalled. Steve appears whole. The agents are alive too.

One of the agents bursts out, takes aim and shoots. The other one's leg is stuck underneath the compartment and he tries to drag it out.

Steve gets out of reach.

ANOTHER STREET

Steve stops the cab, bursts out. Looks around. Spots a Honda Civic idling at a curb, driver puffing a cigarette.

Steve rushes to it, pistol drawn.

UNMARKED CAR

One of the agents pulls out his walkie-talkie.

AGENT
He escaped. Over.

GARRETT (V.O.)
Was it Steve?

Garrett can be heard giving orders to his people:

GARRETT (V.O.)
Lee's blackberry. Cruise the streets, he couldn't have gotten too far.

AGENT
Couldn't tell if it's Steve.

GARRETT (V.O.)
Think about his next step. No one's escaped just yet. Congrats on the Referee by the way. Over.

The agents exchange glances.

GARRETT (V.O.)
Move.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

ENTRYWAY

Cole looks around. An elevator door chimes and there's a sound of a descending elevator.

Cole bolts for the--

STAIRS

Runs up the stairs. Past the--

SECOND FLOOR

Up to the--

THIRD FLOOR

Yanks open the door that leads to the floor.

THIRD FLOOR - COMMON AREA

He strides past the smiling nurse.

He notices his Nurse who approaches.

COLE'S NURSE

Hi. You're a nutritionist, right--

Cole leaves, the look of his face warns to keep away.

He strides further along the--

HALL

Fast approaching his room. #399.

He looks around and when no one watches he thrusts the scalpel into the lock. Presses on it.

It breaks open.

ROOM

Cole leaves the door barely open.

He bolts for his bed. Takes off his coat and shoves it under the bed.

Holds to the scalpel.

The phone in his room rings. He looks at the number and there's a gleam of hope on his face.

He rushes to answer:

COLE
Kate. You called.

Kate is crying on the other end of the line.

KATE
They traced another Steve, so I
figured it was you today--

COLE
--It doesn't matter now. You stay
put. Is Lee there with you?

KATE
I'm close to the hospital.

COLE
No. You don't come here. No, Kate.
Where's Lee?

But Kate cuts him short.

KATE
I'm almost there. Managed to fool
Lee. Like I said, Cole... "I won't
let him kill you. I can't" Remember
when I said it? I meant it.

She hangs up.

He slips under the cover. Hurriedly shoves the oxygen tubes
back into his nose. Closes his eyes.

He hears Kate's voice as if coming from the past. Same words
but the intonation is different.

KATE (V.O.)
Do you hear yourself? I won't let
him kill you. I can't.

OVER BLACK

A piece of mirror floats by. Cole's reflection on it. Cole
holds the razor.

He mimics an act of shaving, then slides the razor to his
Adam's apple.

He applies pressure and slides the blade across his throat
slowly, blood pours down his neck.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

INT. BROWN BEDROOM - DAY

Cole lies in bed, his eyes glued to a brown wall.

A KNOCK at the door.

COLE

It's open.

Steve who wears a green turtleneck appears.

STEVE

You're ready to leave.

COLE

Let me grab the knives real quick.
I still can return them.

He lazily gets up. Steve follows him into the--

BATHROOM

Cole points at the assortment of knives.

COLE

I kept the price tags on.

STEVE

What about the money? Is it in good
place?

COLE

I took care of it. ...you think
they'll take these back? I hardly
used them.

He thumbs the razor.

STEVE

Why would you care about the money
now? You're practically a
millionaire.

Cole gives a nervous laugh.

COLE

Right. I forgot. Habit.

STEVE

You know, Cole, we could start our lives again. Together. Huh? In Mexico. We'll make tons of money on a twin act. Hell, the knife-game alone is a gem--

He notices the expression on Cole's face. --The answer is "No".

At once he grabs Cole from the back. He got Cole's neck in a dead lock.

Steve snatches the razor out of Cole's hand.

Cole clutches at Steve's arms but to no avail. His face turns dark red, the veins bulge out.

STEVE

Why waste good knives then.
(mocking)
Brother.

Slides the knife down Cole's wrist, pops the veins open.

STEVE

Don't worry, I'll make it look like a suicide.

Continues holding Cole till Cole's eyes close and knees weaken. Drops Cole to the ground. Smashes Cole's head against the tiled floor.

Steve taps the faucet open, sticks his hands under the runny water, washes the blood off.

Walks back into the--

BEDROOM

--to the window, checks out the building entrance. No one's around.

He takes a note of Cole's wallet on a night stand. Sifts through it. Satisfied, dashes out.

BATHROOM

Cole lies in a pool of blood still dripping from his hand.

His hand moves feebly. Tries to reach into the pocket of his jeans and pull out the cell phone.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Steve walks in.

Cole makes a note of the pistol shaped bulge around Steve's waist.

COLE

Armed?

STEVE

Just like every other police officer.

Steve closes the door behind him and the door locks. Steve notices, tries it but it wouldn't budge. He shrugs his shoulders.

He walks toward Cole. Grabs a pillow on the way.

STEVE

You lied to me, brother. There's no money there. They got Referee. You bluffed.

Cole opens his eyes.

COLE

You tried to kill me. Or was it a suicide?

STEVE

Look who has his brains back. Now what, brainiac? You wanted to return those knives? Bullshit. You were testing me. You got what you wanted. Too bad I didn't do a better job.

COLE

But you didn't.

Steve stops in his tracks.

STEVE

Well... you do look better. Than the way I left you in that bathroom.

COLE
Is that a problem?

Steve thumbs the pillow.

STEVE
Yeah, it's a problem.

COLE
Don't. Steve. ...You tried it
once... We can forget what
happened...

Steve darts toward Cole and pushes the pillow on him.

Cole's hand slides from under the covers and stabs Steve's leg, turning the scalpel in the wound, shredding the muscle to pieces.

The pain hits Steve sharp. He turns red, his hands drop soft. The pillow goes down with a plop.

Steve swallows hard. Cole is back to normal - realization registers.

Steve's hand jerks for the waist, apparently for the gun, but finds only the casing. Cole disarmed him already - the gun appears in Cole's other hand.

Steve leaps away, covering the distance from the bed to the door in half a second. He points at Cole's scarred neck and sniggers.

Steve tries the door - it's locked. He tries it with all his might and it budes. He turns to Cole and his lip curls into a sneer.

Cole has the gun trained on him.

At the sight of that, Steve stops - change of plans.

STEVE
Who would believe you? You're
'Steve' remember.

He slides the turtleneck down - there's no trace of a scar.

STEVE
Laser treatment does wonders. And
now the moment of truth, the money.
Tell me where it's at and I
disappear.

He walks toward Cole. Points at a gun, snide look on his face.

STEVE

Put that away will ya. You ain't gonna use it.

Cole stares at him. He is not going to use the gun.

He lowers his hand.

COLE

Now that it's finished--

STEVE

It's not finished. You're the one with a scar. And you have my gun.

Cole eyes the gun. Lifts his eyes at Steve. Slowly.

STEVE

What's worse - you know you are not going to use the gun.

Cole sighs. Shakes his head.

COLE

How did we get here, Stevie?

STEVE

Or don't you try melodramatic bullshit on me. You lost - that's all there's to it.

COLE

The only thing - Kate knows it's you. She told you she knows, didn't she.

The door to the room squeaks open. It's Kate.

She steps in.

A gun fires and the bullet hits her in the chest.

STEVE

Now she doesn't.

Cole is the one holding the gun pointed at Kate.

He's swamped with maddening fear for her.

There's commotion in the hall.

All goes MUTE for Cole.

Cole throws away the gun but before he does the police rushes in, filling every corner of the room.

Cole tries to reach Kate but he can't. Several officers loom over him.

Few of them seize Steve.

Others tend to Kate.

The police surround Cole and he can't see through. He manages to get a glimpse of white robes. He screams something to them and to Kate but it's a muted scream.

He looks up and sees Steve--

Who laughs in his face.

Handcuffed, Steve is escorted out of the room.

The room comes ALIVE for Cole now.

He hears Steve utter--

STEVE

Wanted to set me up, haven't you.

--on his way out.

Two cops accompany Steve on each side. Few tail him out.

The room is not as crowded now and Cole watches the action around Kate.

He jerks toward her but he can't move his arms to push away the cops that hold him down.

Only now Cole notices his arms. They are handcuffed behind his back.

He eyes the cops that seized him. They try to lift him up to his feet but he wouldn't let them. He staggers to keep all of his weight down.

COLE

With Kate. I need to be with her.

Nurses hoist Kate on a stretcher. Give her oxygen.

Nurses take her away.

Cole, held by the cops, follows her out into the--

HALL

The cops push Cole toward the elevators.

The nurses take the stretcher in the other direction.

One of the nurses checks Kate's pulse.

NURSE

It's dropping quickly.

The other wraps a blood pressure cuff around her arm.

Cole watches them vanish behind MEDICAL PERSONNEL ONLY.

The elevator DING. Cole and the cops cram in.

The elevator doors close.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE QUARTERS - GARRETT'S OFFICE - DAY

Cole and Steve, both handcuffed, sit across from Garrett.

GARRETT

I have an idea who is who. The one without the scar is Steve?

STEVE

What?

GARRETT

We expected that. When we asked you, one of you, to act as the undercover.

Cole and Steve's eyes meet. And for once Cole doesn't avert his eyes.

FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE QUARTERS - GARRETT'S OFFICE

Garrett, at his desk, eyes on a paper.

Cole (no scar), in police uniform stands in front of him. Eyes cast down. There's a badge at his belt and a gun holstered at his waist.

Garrett reads from the paper:

GARRETT

Lieutenant Cole Zalewski is being charged with an underground money betting as well as the fraudulent act involving impersonating his twin brother, lieutenant Steve Zalewski, with the purpose of swindling unsuspecting citizen out of their monetary possessions.

Garrett takes his eyes off the paper.

GARRETT

Quite a con artistry from you two.

Cole digests the information, eyes still on the ground.

COLE

So it will be--

GARRETT

Cole... turn in your badge please.

Cole does as he told. Places it on Garrett's desk. Garrett's eyes slide down his waist.

GARRETT

And...

Cole takes off his gun too.

COLE

Of course.

He places it on Garrett's desk. Takes few steps back.

COLE

I regret it. Deeply.

GARRETT

Of course.

COLE

Are there other charges? What about Steve?

GARRETT

Since it was you who stepped into the game, it was impossible to save you. You understand?

COLE

Not really.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. GARRETT'S OFFICE - PRESENT TIME - CONTINUOUS

Steve and Cole stare daggers at each other. Garrett chuckles at that.

GARRETT
Finally at odds. Steve never
favoured you much though.

STEVE
He did.

GARRETT
Okay. This little play is over. We
will prove it.

STEVE
How?

GARRETT
Cole would know.

Garrett's eyes are on Cole. Who obviously doesn't have a clue.

COLE
I don't.

STEVE
(sarcastically)
Imagine that. Two Steves and no
Cole.
(hollering)
Hey Cole...

He continues clowning. To Garrett:

STEVE
Have YOU seen Cole. Oh, my bad, you
said one of us is Cole. Which one?

Garrett reaches for an office phone on his desk and presses an intercom for his secretary.

SECRETARY
(on the intercom)
Yes?

GARRETT

Please ask Lee to have two Steves
out. Sort them out, will ya.

He turns to Cole. Shoots him a questioning look.

COLE

I don't remember how. ...not the
only thing I can't remember.
Frankly, I don't care. Kate took a
bullet cause I'm an idiot.

Garrett nods. And Steve interferes:

STEVE

It's "frankly I don't give a damn".
Let's keep it crisp, shall we.

Lee walks in and Cole and Steve get up. He pushes the twins
toward the exit.

STEVE

Be nice to me, Lee. We'll be
working together for years to come.

They head out the door.

As soon as they leave, Garrett dials his secretary again.

GARRETT

Is there any news on Kate?

SECRETARY

(on the intercom)
Looks like she's gonna be alright.

Garrett lifts the receiver. Talks into it:

CARRETT

Can she talk?

He listens to the Secretary's response.

GARRETT

Thank you.

He hangs up and there's a weary look on his face.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

There's some equipment on the table, a thumb scanner, a
retina scanner and a still camera.

Lee and two other officers seat Steve and Cole next to a thumb scanner.

The thumb scanner is plugged in and running.

Steve chuckles as he eyes the equipment.

STEVE

Hope you all remember - my brother Steve here liked to screw with those... None of what we've taken in the past are authentic.

Lee gives him a cold look.

LEE

You go first then.

Steve's lip quivers.

Cole eyes Lee and the thumb scanner. Remembers:

OVER BLACK

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Please put your thumb on the scanner.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Lee stands next to a scanner.

Takes the cuffs off Steve.

LEE

Please put your thumb on the scanner. And no funny business, I'm warning you.

Steve points at Cole.

LEE

Yeah, that refers to both of ya.

Cole watches Steve approach the scanner.

Steve's thumb touches the scanner. Presses firmly into it.

FLASHBACK

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Cole's thumb is on the scanner. No handcuffs whatsoever.

Garrett stands next to him.

GARRETT

You understand what it's for,
right?

COLE

Steve's not gonna go for my life.
Come on.

GARRETT

Wanna bet?

COLE

Yeah. Let's bet on the lump I'll
get from the twin act.

That makes Garrett chuckle.

COLE

...Senators betting on a knife-
game, who would have believed that.

GARRETT

That part is hard to digest, true.

COLE

That part is easier to digest than
the part about Steve.

GARRETT

Steve will bite the bait. ...Know
what I'd be happy if he didn't. I
really would.

Cole has a "ready to bail-out" look in his eyes and that bugs
Garrett. Another thought strikes him again:

COLE

And what if he decides to go for
the money? Like you said - get rid
of me, get the money and
disappear...

GARRETT

Think. What kind of brother that
makes him?

Cole nods.

COLE

...What if it's only the twin act?
And Steve steps aside. You'll get
the Referee and the money...

GARRETT

If he doesn't try to kill you we'll
have both of you in forces. Like I
said, all we need is the Referee.
Just lead us to him.

Cole takes a long silence. Finally he and Garrett lock eyes.

GARRETT

I tell you what... If he agrees to
the twin act you just lead us to
Referee and then bail out. We'll
leave Steve alone.

Cole looks hopeful. Then another thought strikes him.

COLE

What about Kate?

GARRETT

What about her?

COLE

If I am an undercover I'll have to
let her know. Considering Steve is
my brother...

GARRETT

No one should know. Not even Kate.
Only you and I. Not even Lee.

Garrett nears Cole.

GARRETT

Come on. Go for it. Maybe Steve is
a good man - prove me wrong.

He inches closer, looks him straight in the eye. Whispers:

GARRETT

We'll have Kate under protection.
Lee will make sure she's safe.

COLE

Whatever. There's a little chance
of it all happening anyway.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - PRESENT TIME - CONTINUOUS

Lee puts the handcuffs back on Steve. Steve is calm and arrogant.

It's Cole's turn. They let him move closer.

Cole places his thumb on the scanner. Lee checks it.

LEE
Inspector Garrett is waiting for
you.

They don't cuff him back.

Steve eyes them suspicious.

STEVE
What the fuck?

But the two officers take him away.

Lee and Cole walk out.

INT. POLICE QUARTERS - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Cole walk along.

COLE
I'm Cole. I know you may not
believe me...

Lee laughs.

LEE
You're Cole, alright. We've just
affirmed.

Cole doesn't understand.

COLE
I don't remember everything.

Lee gives him a long look.

LEE
If you don't wanna look dumb - it
was agreed you two have to be
scanned just to be sure. Especially
with Kate out--

COLE

What? What do you mean--

LEE

--She's alive. She's just not able to confirm you're Cole, that's all. We'll go with it to trial, remember.

COLE

I don't remember. She's alive! How do you know?

Cole spots the exit sign. Bolts toward it but Lee clutches his arm.

Lee smiles.

LEE

Come on Cole. Please. Garrett is gonna tell you about her.

And Cole reluctantly agrees to follow Lee.

GARRETT'S OFFICE

They walk in. Garrett motions for Cole to sit.

GARRETT

Well done, Lieutenant. I forwarded the case to the Chief.

COLE

How's Kate?

Garrett eyes shine with kindness.

GARRETT

Let's go see.

But Cole takes a seat:

COLE

--I need to know. About Steve...What happened. He's my brother...

GARRETT

He never was a good brother. Deep down you know that, right.

COLE

I know nothing. You kept his badge... took away mine.

GARRETT

That's why we didn't take his badge. I needed him to finish what he had started. He's been rogue for quite a while, Cole.

Garrett scrutinizes Cole. Cole averts his eyes.

GARRETT

It wasn't easy to convince you. ...he never was a good brother.

COLE

Yet I'm a cad for getting convinced to frame my brother, don't you think?

Garrett chuckles:

GARRETT

This is why you agreed to it. To prove us wrong. ...The operation - wasn't an easy task either. We had to have everyone else convinced too...

COLE

Kate too?

GARRETT

Yeah, you had to fool Kate. I gave you the card when you turned in your badge. It's still in your wallet, I've checked.

Cole reaches for his wallet. There's a business card with the name Gonzales, public sanitation on it.

Cole stares at the card. Recollections stir up.

He listens to voices in his head:

GARRETT (V.O.)

(filtered)

Find this man. He'll get you the least paying position. Possibly a janitor.

COLE (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 Hope this' leading to something
 meaningful.

Cole stares at Garrett then back at the card.

COLE
 I agreed to that, didn't I? Poor
 Kate.

GARRETT (V.O.)
 (filtered)
 You'll literally meet ends for a
 bout a year. ...won't be easy, Kate
 won't like it.

QUICK FLASH

INT. COLE'S APARTMENT

GARRETT (V.O.)
 And we all know Kate. She's
 straight forward about her likes
 and dislikes.

Cole watches Kate as she cuts veggies in the kitchen, scoops
 them off the cutting board straight to the floor.

KATE
 Who would have known I'd cut
 vegetables in my forties.

BACK TO SCENE

Garrett walks over to Cole and edges toward him.

GARRETT
 You agreed to that. And I know how
 hard it was on both of you.
 (chuckles)
 The other part didn't bother you
 too much though.

COLE
 Which part are we talking about?
 "Being a cad of a brother" part?

GARRETT

The knife game part. If you were not an undercover you wouldn't be able to play--

COLE

--I know. I got to follow all the games.

QUICK FLASH

INT. GAMBLING ROOM

Cole watches Steve shuffle the knife through his fingers, arrogant sneer across his face.

GARRETT (V.O.)

Participate sometimes.

Steve cuts himself. He gets up and Cole takes the place. Starts with the knife.

BACK TO SCENE

COLE

...I can't stop playing. I'll see if I can legalize this shit.

GARRETT

Talk it over with Kate.

Cole nods. Averts his eyes.

COLE

Won't be easy to do it without Steve.

GARRETT

Steve tried to shoot your wife.

Cole diverts his eyes. Thinks. Struggles with his thoughts:

COLE

Kate would probably do the same. I can't blame him - I set him up...

GARRETT

You were not sure of him yourself. You agreed to the twin act to prove yourself he's a good brother.

COLE

I agreed to the twin act, right.
You asked me to, you made me go for
it. You staged it...

GARRETT (V.O.)

Then you offer Steve another twin
act. Since he's got a scar you'll
have to--

FLASHBACK

INT. BROWN BATHROOM

Cole brings a razor to his Adam Apple.

GARRETT (V.O.)

Scar your neck in the same manner.

Cole presses on the razor, the blood spatters out of the
wound.

BACK TO SCENE

COLE

That makes me a trained monkey,
nothing else.

GARRETT

I was sure Steve would eventually
do it--

COLE

Why? Why were you so sure?

GARRETT

What would Steve gain from the twin
game? Nothing - he said he had to
do it for the Referee, he owed him
or something.

COLE

You failed too you know. You failed
to protect your undercover. You let
him attempt to kill me--

GARRETT

In this line of work--

COLE

Well, if you knew that was about to
happen...

GARRETT

I'm sorry. That's all I can say.

COLE

Accepted.

GARRETT

It's important that you understand what kind of person your brother is. As soon as you mentioned the twin act he decided to go for it. Did he cash in? No. That was his plan from the very beginning. Kill you, get the money from Kate and disappear. It's not like you set him up, that was his plan! Get it?

Cole averts his eyes. Keeps silent.

He gets up. Garrett follows.

GARRETT

One question. Why didn't you let us know about the address - Belleview and 1st.

COLE

That would mean the end of the game right there. You'd get your Referee, right? ...I wanted to play to the end. ...wanted to know if I have a brother...

OVER BLACK

GARRETT (V.O.)

We need you to keep an eye on Steve.

COLE (V.O.)

I always keep an eye on Steve. You know, I'm an older brother born full twenty seconds earlier...

Off Stage Cole laughs and Garrett groans.

QUICK FLASH

Garrett slides him the picture of Steve. Close up on Steve's scar.

Cole rejects the picture.

COLE

I have a dozen of my brother at home.

Cole looks away throughout the speech. There's emptiness in his eyes.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. HOSPITAL - ROOM - DAY

Kate, pale, eyes closed, tubes run from her nose to an oxygen tank.

Needles in her arm connect to an IV nearby.

The other arm has a blood pressure cuff on connected to a heart monitor.

Cole sits next to her.

Lee and Garrett are around and Cole looks at them, a plead in his eyes.

They quietly leave.

Cole stares at her for a while. Finally he brings himself to talking:

COLE

Kate? I hope you can hear me.
...I'm sorry. I brought you into this, Garrett's orders were not to tell you. I shouldn't have. If I didn't you wouldn't be here now. I just couldn't bear it any longer, couldn't stand your pain... -you hated the life we lived so...

The EKG reading shows irregular. It beeps.

Kate's eyes flutter open. She fixates on Cole.

Tears appear in them but she smiles through them.

Cole smiles back at her. He takes an oxygen mask off her face. Laughs out loud.

Garrett walks in.

Notices Kate. Gives her the thumbs up.

He come up to Cole smacks him on the shoulder.

GARRETT
Congrats man.

Cole nods. Happy.

GARRETT
I just received the news from the
chief. You're being reinstated...
back to forces...

Kate blinks her eyes. Cole watches her.

COLE
She's tired. We'll talk about it.
Just not now.

GARRETT
Sure, Captain.

COLE
Captain?

Garrett nods.

GARRETT
Yeah, right. Captain.

Garrett steps out. Closes the door to the room.

Cole smiles at Kate. Finds her hand, covers it with his.
She's too feeble but there's a return movement.

COLE (V.O.)
Kate...She's beautiful...And smart.

He bends over and plants a kiss on her cheek.

COLE
(aloud)
Beautiful and smart. I'd never have
pulled it off without you.

She smiles faintly, moves her lips. He brings his ear close
to her.

KATE
I love you.

COLE
I love you too. ...More than I love
Steve.

And she frowns.

COLE
Okay, okay that was a stupid
distasteful joke. You-name-it poor
joke. Come on - Steve is a scumbag.

But she's back to smiling.

Then Cole is struck with the thought.

COLE
Listen, the money...I'm too
embarrassed to ask Garrett... what
happened--

But he notices her raised eyebrows.

COLE
We don't have it, do we?

She raises her brows further up.

COLE
Yeah, might be something wrong with
me but I'd love to have some of it.

Her hand twitches.

COLE
Okay, I'm kidding.

She breathes hard.

The EKG shows uneven and beeps.

COLE
I am kidding. I know you wouldn't
have that money. I'm lucky to have
you, you should have been a cop -
too prim, man...

She motions for him to come close. Whispers in his ear--

FLASHBACK

INT. BROWN BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cole hands officer Garrett the duffel bag with the money. He looks deep into Garrett's eyes.

COLE
Kate... I told her everything.
She's been here and she knows all
about Steve --

GARRETT
Oh boy. We agreed you wouldn't--

COLE
--Just make sure nothing happens to
her.

GARRETT
...I will.

Garrett examines the duffel bag. Unzips it - the bag is filled with stacks of neatly packed crisp hundred dollar bills.

COLE
Four million - all I got from the
Referee.

Garrett moves toward the--

HALL

At the door:

GARRETT
Stay safe. You know... Steve may
try to...

COLE
I know.

Cole shuts the door after Garrett.

LATER

Cole lies in bed, his eyes glued to a brown wall.

A KNOCK at the door.

COLE
It's open.

Steve who wears a green turtleneck appears.

STEVE
You're ready to leave.

COLE
Let me grab the knives real quick.
I still can return them.

Steve follows Cole into the--

BATHROOM.

Cole points at the assortment of knives.

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO SCENE

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Cole stares at Kate, deep in thoughts.

COLE
They are planning to jail Steve.
I'd ask Garrett to leave him alone
if not for you. He tried to kill
you.

Kate moves her lips. Cole understands, inches toward her.

KATE
(laboured whisper)
I know.

She smiles. Squeezes his hand and there's a tear in her eyes.

FADE OUT.