

LOOSE ENDS

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

A man leans against the wall with his right leg propped up.

REY CONSTANZA

A young homicide detective with an innocence to his eyes that you don't find in urban detectives. An up-and-comer, burning with ambition.

CLOSE ON

him putting on a pair of police tactical gloves. In the center of the room sits a square table. Half sitting on the table is --

NICO MENDEZ

Early forties veteran police detective. His face tells it all - tough guy, reeks of complexity. A dirty cop who is nonetheless committed to ridding the community of scum thugs.

A DOOR OPENS ABRUPTLY...

JIMMY BONES, late thirties, low-life thug informant enters the room indifferently. He notices Rey by the door.

NICO

Sit down

JIMMY

What's this all about Nic?

NICO

What's this all about? What's that?
A new greeting of the day Jimmy?
What's this all about?

JIMMY

How you doing Nic?

NICO

I don't know Jimmy. You see I'm not doing so great. A lot of shit on my mind. The kind of shit you lose sleep over - you know what I mean?
How the hell are you?

JIMMY

Oh I'm Peachy.

(CONTINUED)

NICO
(chuckles)
Peachy? What the hell kind of shit
is that? Peachy. Didn't I tell you
were going to love this guy

JIMMY
Depends on what you mean by
trouble.

NICO
So what, you're a fucking comedian
now?

JIMMY
Coming here is not smart Nico. You
know this.

REY SLAMS THE DOOR. Jimmy's startled.

JIMMY
Who's this fool?

Their eyes are digging into each other.

NICO
Mind your manners Jimmy. This here
is my new protégé.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Nico's sitting in his car either dazed or grappling with a
very deep thought. Momentarily, Rey knocks on the passenger
side window. Nico barely noticing, then lowers the window.

REY
Lieutenant Nico Mendez?

NICO
Who's asking?

REY
I'm Detective Rey Constanza sir,
reporting for duty.

Nico smirks.

NICO
So what do want? A fucking medal?

(CONTINUED)

REY

No sir. Just told to report to you.

Rey extends a handshake and Nico responds in kind.

NICO

Welcome to shit-ville sport.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR, COFFEE SHOP PARKING LOT - LATER THAT DAY

Nico and Rey getting acquainted.

NICO

They say you have quite a record.
Police brutality, using excessive
force and then some.

REY

Who's they?

NICO

Let's just say I'm well connected.

REY

So I have anger issues. Don't we
all sir?

NICO

Stop with the formalities kid.
Nic'll suffice...

Rey nods.

NICO

...Did you ask for a transfer or
did you have no choice in the
matter.

REY

The latter. The way I see it
though, the transfer was an
opportunity to start fresh.

NICO

So you're looking for a fresh start
huh?

REY

Yeah. A new place to hang my hat.

(CONTINUED)

NICO

Here? Boy, you need to lay off the crack pipe kid. It's affecting your judgment.

REY

Nope. I'm beginning to feel right at home.

Rey looks intently, for a moment.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

The tension is building up.

JIMMY

I don't like this guy Nic. He's not one of us.

NICO

Don't get your panties in a bunch.

JIMMY

This is bullshit Nic and you know it.

NICO

Jimmy, you're trying my patience. Boy here needs a guide, a mentor of sorts - You feel me?

JIMMY

This shit'll never end will it?

NICO

It'll only change. You see, change is inevitable in a progressive society. It's constant. In this racket, you change or die. It's that simple. So do me a favor, get your head out of your ass and into the game.

Jimmy sighs, looks over at Rey and notices the tactical gloves.

JIMMY

What's with the gloves?

(CONTINUED)

REY

I'm a fashionista.

JIMMY

He puts his hands on me, you gonna have to deal with Slick.

NICO

Slick finds out you're here -- it's you that'll have to deal with Slick. Not me.

JIMMY

Nic! My intel is always good. My information gets you results. Why you recruiting new meat? You know how sensitive these matters are.

NICO

What are you my general manager? You just sit, shut the fuck up, and answer my questions. That's it.

Jimmy glares over at Rey.

REY

Your move sport.

JIMMY

Yeah, fine, whatever.

NICO

So, a lot of things are being said through the grape vine Jimmy, I happen to be close so I've picked up on a few things. You on the other hand - are even closer. So why don't you shed some light on what you know.

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Nico is behind the wheel and Rey sits in the passenger seat of a police sedan that lies skewed in a parking slot.

REY

You seem to be clueless.

NICO

That obvious?

(CONTINUED)

REY

So what makes you think I'm right for this?

NICO

You're a dirty cop.

REY

Well, we all got a little dirty in us.

NICO

(smiles)

Yeap. It's pretty clear you're not one to follow the rules. You apply the law as you see fit. People are scared to you. More importantly though, you got guts kid.

REY

Read my file?

NICO

Like I'm sure you read mine player.

REY

Yes indeed.

NICO

Now that the dirty laundry is out, what say we get to talking a little business. I need you to run my district. To start, eighty-twenty...

REY

You cut right to the chase.

NICO

It's the only way.

REY

But eighty twenty? How about Fifty-fifty?

NICO

I'm making the offers here brother.

REY

Hey, if I'm gonna be doing the heavy liftin fifty-fifty is reasonable. Don't you think?

Nico sighs in disbelief.

(CONTINUED)

NICO
Sixty-forty. And that's my final offer.

REY
Alright. Fair enough.

Nico chuckles as he shakes his head.

NICO
Shit, I'm getting soft.

Nico takes a moment and looks at Rey for a second.

NICO
You seem familiar to me kid.

REY
People say I got one of those faces.

NICO
Forget about it. Let's focus on business.

REY
What are you working on?

NICO
I gotta an off the books informant I've been working for some time now. A good one. But he's high maintenance. He's got dumb ass requests that I approve and in return, I get good intel.

REY
Who is he?

NICO
Jimmy. Jimmy Bones. He's a lower-level player but well connected.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

Jimmy is against the wall and Rey is frisking him.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

There's no need for this shit.
We're in your neighborhood. How
long we've been meeting like this
Nic?

NICO

The kid just wants to be sure -- on
account he's new and all. Make sure
you're clean.

JIMMY

God damn-it. Don't talk to me about
being clean.

NICO

Bring it down a notch Jimmy.

JIMMY

Yeah, my thoughts exactly.

Rey completes his frisk.

REY

He's clean.

JIMMY

You happy now?

REY

(sarcastically)
I'm ecstatic.

NICO

(smiling)
I love this guy.

JIMMY

Sounds like you two should get a
room then.

NICO

Considering the circumstances I'm
gonna let that shitty-ass remark
slide. But remember, you're not
running this show. You don't have
enough power. You want to keep up
this arrangement, I suggest you
show some god-damn respect.

JIMMY

Yeah, sure, respect -- you got it.

(CONTINUED)

NICO

Okay then. Slick's doing some shit behind my back. You want to stop beating around the bush and enlighten me?

CUT TO:

EXT. POLICE STATION PARKING LOT - DAY

Nico hands a file to Rey. Rey inspects the file meticulously as Nico chatters away.

NICO

There's this guy, Slick. He likes to creep up in my district from time to time.

REY

It's quite a file he's got here.

NICO

Oh, it could be larger. I'm the reason it's not.

REY

So he owes you?

NICO

You could say that.

(beat)

I've been keeping an eye on this fool and brother, things are not as they seem. We've had our dealings for some time now, so for the kind of business I know he's running, he shouldn't be as well off as he is.

REY

What's the connection with Jimmy?

NICO

He's Slick's cousin. Jimmy see's all and hears all. Slick knows this. He doesn't trust the kid. Being that the case, we need to start applying some pressure. I need to be taken more seriously.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

Rey is talking with someone we don't yet reveal.

REY

You want to hear the truth? I was sent here because I have no tolerance for shits like you. With me in the hood you gonna need to be a survivor. Survivors go far. How far do you want to go? You want to be at the top of your game? Or do you want to fall prey to my wrath.

We reveal the unknown person as Jimmy.

JIMMY

One day I'm gonna be at the top. You mark my words.

REY

And what day might that be?

JIMMY

Some day.

REY

You got talents Jimmy. You now things no one else does. I'll give you that. And if you continue to enlighten me with those talents, you might just achieve your goal. But bare in mind -- although information has a price, I don't pay. On the flip side, withholding information has a price as well. That's when you get taken out of the equation. You following me?

JIMMY

Closely.

REY

You're the future Jimmy. Hell, we both are. So lets get it right.

JIMMY

What would you have me do?

REY

Nico wants something from you.

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY
He always does.

REY
But this time around, you gonna
give him more than something -- the
mother of information.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

Rey STRIKES Jimmy.

JIMMY
Is that the best you got?

REY
I'm just warming up.

NICO
Jimmy, "I know nothing" is not the
answer I wanna hear. You got ears
to the ground 24/7. I know this. So
start talking.

JIMMY
Nic, this was never necessary.

NICO
We're under new management Jimmy.
Didn't I tell you change was
inevitable? So tell me what Slick's
up to.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Back to Nico and Rey.

REY
How did Slick get to the top?

NICO
Inherited it from his pop's. We
used to call his pop's, "Moleman".

REY
Moleman?

(CONTINUED)

NICO

Yeah. I hate to give scum any credit but that one was clever. Never did business outside. It all took place in his multimillion dollar home. We sent in an undercover. Our best. Officer Angelo Ramirez. When Moleman started checking every single man for wires, including his own men, that UC never showed up again. Son of a bitch vanished.

REY

So what happened?

NICO

That sort of thing triggers a meeting. You know what I mean? Needless to say, Moleman and I came to an understanding.

REY

And what understanding might that be?

NICO

For a nominal fee I make sure to keep him off the books.

REY

Just like that?

NICO

There was only one problem.

REY

Your partner right?

NICO

Yeah. My partner played by the book.

Rey stares intently at Nico.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

Jimmy's face SLAMS against the table. Rey's about to strike him again when --

JIMMY
Ok Stop! I'll talk.

NICO
Now that's what I want to hear.

JIMMY
It's something big.

NICO
That's even better.

JIMMY
Years ago a man made a deal with Moleman.

NICO
Moleman?

JIMMY
Yeah. Remember? He used to own the territory.

Nico looks concern.

NICO
I know who the Moleman was.

JIMMY
Let me tell you what happened. The Moleman made a deal with cops to survive. One cop was on board, the partner wasn't. You see, the partner was old school. Wanted to do things by the book. Making deals with criminals was not in his job description. He was ready to talk. Next thing you know, he's dead. You want to hear what I know Nico? I know the name of the cop who killed him.

CUT TO:

INT. PARK - DAY

Back to Rey and Jimmy.

JIMMY

If Nico knows more than he should, everybody's going to point the finger at me. Slick ain't gonna be too happy about that and I don't want those kinds of problems. Nico wants you cause he's losing power, getting old and shit. He needs someone like you to do the dirty work. So you know what? You can beat me til you're blue in the face -- I'm not saying nothing.

REY

I might have something that can make it easier for you Einstein. Save you from doing hard time and all. I believe there can be a win-win situation here.

He grabs a folded sheet of paper from his jacket and gives it to Jimmy.

JIMMY

What's this?

REY

An old story you can use to buy your way out.

JIMMY

You don't get it. Nico'll kill me.

REY

Right now, the way I see it, you're already dead. Now, you let him know what he needs to know and you might live to see another day. You lie to him, he'll probably laugh and let you go -- cause you got nothing to sell. Now, you tell him the truth, he'll keep you alive to verify the source. Essentially what you're buying here is time.

JIMMY

What's in it for you?

Rey pointing to the paper.

(CONTINUED)

REY
I need to hear what he has to say.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

BACK TO SCENE.

Nico angrily pushes Jimmy against the wall.

NICO
Where'd you get that story from?

JIMMY
Take it easy Nico.

NICO
Don't tell me how to take things.

JIMMY
That's all I heard.

NICO
Who told you?

JIMMY
Some guy.

NICO
I want to hear a name. You give me
a fucking name!

REY
You better start talking Jimmy.

JIMMY
Alright, alright! There's this guy;
you know? He says he's the son of
the dead cop and he wants
vengeance.

Nico tones it down a notch releasing his grip on Jimmy. He casually steps back.

NICO
Where's this guy right now?

JIMMY
Shit I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

NICO
What's he look like?

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

CLOSE ON Rey listening to Nico intently.

NICO
The last time I saw that little kid
he gave me a look I'll never
forget. It was as if he knew his
dad's death was because of my
dealings with Moleman.

REY
What did you tell him?

NICO
That his dad was a great man who
died in the line of duty. That's
the truth. You want to find a role
model in our station? Check the
record of that man. Best cop ever.

REY
But you never found the man behind
the trigger, right?

NICO
It's a cold case.

REY
What happened to the kid?

NICO
I would check in on him from time
to time. Did my best to look after
them. One day him and his mom just
picked up and left. Never heard
from them again. For some time, I
wondered if he'd ever have an
interest in finding out the truth.

REY
And what truth might that be?

NICO
The person who killed his father.

(CONTINUED)

REY

Would you help him.

NICO

I crossed a line a long time ago kid. A line you're also willing to cross. The thing is, once you cross it, you find that the line between good and evil become synonymous to one another. To find out what really happened that day, he'll have to cross that line too.

REY

I wonder what he'll find.

CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Nico HITS the table. He's angry as hell. Jimmy's anxious and Rey is calm but serious.

NICO

I've been here long enough to make sure I know more than anybody. And now you show up and tell me this boy is coming for me.

JIMMY

He's not a boy anymore. He's all grown up and he's pissed. Thing is, if he come's here to revenge his dad, and kills you, cause you're guilty, who's gonna keep Slick and all of us off the records?

NICO

I didn't kill my partner. Moleman had him killed. He vowed to kill his family as well if I didn't agree to his terms.

REY

Nic, if you're clean in all this you have nothing to worry about.

NICO

You want to know when I crossed the line kid? The day my partner died I made a turn in the wrong direction in order to guarantee the safety of his family. That's right!

(CONTINUED)

JIMMY

Bullshit!

NICO

I know I'm dirty, but for the right reasons. The kid's just gonna have to believe me or die.

REY

I don't believe you.

Nico looks puzzled.

In a split second Rey draws his gun and --BANG! The bullet strikes Nico in the chest. He tumbles backward, struggling weakly to pull his gun as blood bubbles in his mouth.

NICO

Jesus, I've been shot.

He tries to rise, but can't. Without hesitation Rey fires again striking him on the shoulder.

Jimmy is shocked. Nico wounded and shakened -- glares at Rey.

REY

I finally caught up to the man who pulled that trigger.

NICO

Now I see why you looked so familiar. Your file was lacking a few details.

REY

Some details were left out.

NICO

Your name for starters.

REY

I had to change many things to get to this moment.

NICO

How did you know?

REY

A little birdie. You were always on the top of my list though.

(CONTINUED)

NICO
Welcome to the other side kid...

Rey raises the gun to Nico's face. Nico is in complete command of himself and nowhere near scared.

NICO
...Hope you can find some peace
after this.

REY
Oh I will.

A final shot POINT BLANK into the Nico's forehead. A stream of black liquid spouts from the hole. Nico lays motionless.

Jimmy is still in shock.

JIMMY
Oh man! You killed Nico.

REY
Yes, I did.

JIMMY
Oh no, this is bad, this is real
bad!

Rey is grabbing Nico's hand with the gun simultaneously when Jimmy approaches.

REY
Hey hey, you need to step back.
This is a crime scene, you
understand?

JIMMY
Fucking-ay it's a crime scene. You
just killed the guy. Who's gonna
protect us now? Nico was keeping us
out of the system. Cops are gonna
come for us now! We're gonna get
nailed for this!

REY
Calm the fuck down! Can you stay
where you are?

JIMMY
What difference does it make?

REY

It makes all the difference shit-
for-brains.

Suddenly, Rey points Nico's gun at Jimmy. BANG! BANG!

Jimmy is shot. His body falls quickly to the ground.

REY

You're at the top now. People are
gonna talk about you.

Jimmy is gasping for dear life.

REY

I will erase whatever's left of the
Moleman and all his dealings. I'm
fulfilling my father's will and
nobody's gonna stop me. Take that
last thought with you motherfucker.

He spits out blood and exhales his last breath -- he's dead.

Rey wipes his fingerprints off his gun and puts the gun in
Jimmy's hand.

REY

Good bye Jimmy.

Rey gets up, grabs his leather jacket off the chair and puts
it on. He fixes his look on his shield and then looks at
Nico's prostrate body.

EXT. OUTSIDE - DAY

He walks out the door victoriously. Unexpectedly, the voice
of someone we don't yet reveal cries out to him. Rey glances
over and eyes meet with a homeless man.

HOMELESS MAN

Can you spare some change sir?

Rey smiles. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a twenty
dollar bill -- why not? He walks up to the homeless man and
hands him the twenty dollar bill --

REY

I'm feeling generous today.

As he walks away toward us, behind him the homeless man
stands and IN SLOW MOTION, pulls out a 45 caliber pistol
fitted with a long silencer. Then, BANG, BANG, BANG. Rey
falls slowly to his knees and then to the ground, dead.

A BLACK LINCOLN TOWN CAR pulls up and picks up the homeless man.

INT. CAR - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A cell phone rings. The homeless man answers the phone. On the other end a voice --

VOICE (O.S.)
Is it done Angelo?

ANGELO
No more loose ends Moleman. No more loose ends.

INT. BAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Back to Nico and Rey sitting at the bar.

NICO
That undercover officer Angelo, never showed up again, alive or dead. It's like he vanished.

END OF FLASHBACK

FADE TO BLACK.