

**T H E S H I E L D**

"Initiation"

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The Shield  
"Initiation"

TEASER

EXT. STREET - DAY

OVER OPENING CREDITS WE HEAR

TWO MEN ARGUING.

TWO 1-NINERS, early 20s and tough. Close enough to kiss.

FIRST 1-NINER

I'm right here. Right here, bitch.

The pretty HOMEGIRL, 18, they're fighting over hovers nearby.  
More GANG BANGERS watch in the b.g.

SECOND 1-NINER

Come on, then. A lot of talking out  
your neck is all you is. Lot of  
smack.

SHANE leans against his car, enjoying the show.

A CAR HORN beeps.

REZIAN (EPISODE #610) pulls up in his car. Shane walks to  
him.

As he passes, Second 1-Niner SWINGS ON HIS FOE.

Gang bangers SWARM in for a closer look.

Shane slides in the car.

EXT. - STREET - INT. REZIAN'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

REZIAN

(re: the fight)

You have no police instinct left.

SHANE

No guns out, I could give a shit.

REZIAN

To Protect and Serve. It is written  
on the squad cars.

SHANE

Sure. That's why I'm here.

THE FIGHT GOES TO THE GROUND.

REZIAN

Some competitors are receiving a shipment tonight. Heroin. I want them to receive it, and then I want it to disappear.

He hands Shane the address.

SHANE

Sure. I'll write it up as a C.I. tip. Have some unis make the bust.

REZIAN

No. You do it. Nothing official.

SHANE

Tonight? How many of these competitors would I expect to find?

REZIAN

Five.

SHANE

You shitting me? Five? That's me walking into a goddamn bloodbath.

REZIAN

Surely, you know others who can protect and serve for a price.

First 1-Niner, still on the ground, finds a beer bottle and BREAKS IT ON THE OTHER GUY'S HEAD.

The other bangers WHOOP at the hardcore move.

SHANE

Yeah, well, I'm between associates right now.

REZIAN

This is not my problem. It's yours. And a problem for you is a problem for the men you protect. Vic Mackey. Ronald Gardocki. And their families. Gardocki has a grandmother in a home not far ...

SHANE

Okay.  
(pause)  
Alright, damn it.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Shane walks past the street fight. First 1-Niner STOMPS his unconscious foe.

FIRST 1-NINER  
(exhausted)  
Yeah. What up now? What up now,  
bitch?

Shane walks past. He's almost to the car when he  
WHIPS OUT HIS GUN.

SHANE  
Get! Get the hell out of here!

The 1-Niners bail.

On the ground the beaten man SPITS BLOOD.

In his car, Rezia laughs.

EXT. THE CORAL COURTS - DAY

VIC, JULIAN and RONNIE walk through the parking lot of the Coral Courts, a seedy no-tell motel. TINA takes statements from a group of TRANNY HOOKERS.

DANNY walks out of an open motel room/crime scene.

VIC  
Just another day at He-She Hilton.

No smile from Danny. Something in that room has her spooked.

VIC (CONT'D)  
(concerned)  
What is it?

DANNY  
Nothing.  
(a beat)  
Dutch's caught a suicide over in  
the warehouses. I'm going over  
there.

Tina hears Dutch and pays attention.

TINA  
Need me to go?

DANNY

Finished with the statements?  
(sees the answer in her  
face) )  
Then back to work.

Tina storms off one way, Danny the other. Bad blood. The Strike Team can't believe it.

VIC

Over Dutchboy?

INT. MOTEL ROOM CRIME SCENE - MOMENTS LATER

The strike team walks in to a BLOODY MESS.

Three SHOTGUN-BLASTED CORPSES are strewn across the cheap motel room.

A WOMAN, 20s, with a SHAVED HEAD except for her BANGS, lays near the door. Two men, 20s, with shaved heads and tattoos are lying farther in. CLAUDETTE looks up from the M.E.s gathering evidence.

CLAUDETTE

Where's Shane?

VIC

On his way.

CLAUDETTE

I don't want this ... whatever it is between you to cause problems. I need you running at full strength for this one.

SHANE (O.S.)

We're a hundred percent.

He stands in the hotel doorway.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Sorry I'm late. You know the freeways.

CLAUDETTE

Id think you would too by now.  
(pause)

Rooms rented to Zach Taylor.

(indicates one of the  
corpses) )

A pound of meth and a duffle bag full of cash behind the bed - Zack had quite the operation going.

RONNIE

Rules out robbery.

Julian kneels over the body of the woman. He checks out her TATTOOS.

CLAUDETTE

Anne Zaleski. A few possession charges.

VIC

(re:Julian's tatoos  
inspection)

Shes a featherwood.

Claudette looks for an explanation.

VIC (CONT'D)

Featherwood. Neo-Nazi groupie.

SHANE

A skinhead with tits.

Ronnie inspects Zach Taylor's corpse.

RONNIE

Vic. Taylor's got Aryan Circle tats.

CLAUDETTE

Aryan Circle. Prison gang?

VIC

Run out of Lompoc. They split from the Brotherhood because the AB wasn't racist enough.

(beat)

Could be an inside beef between Third Reich enthusiasts.

SHANE

Could be Los Mags.

CLAUDETTE

Why?

Vic looks at Shane - it's a way-out theory.

VIC

Mexis started cutting into the white meth trade with cheaper stuff cooked over the border.

SHANE

I know where to get the skinny on the peckerwoods. Me and big boy (Julian) can shake em down while you chase down the Los Mags lead.

VIC

(incredulous)

Los Mags might be cutting in, but we haven't seen any blood of it yet, much less a slaughterhouse.

CLAUDETTE

Chase it down and make sure.

(beat)

And you haven't seen everything yet.

VIC

The radio said four victims. Where's the fourth D.B.?

Claudette nods towards the bathroom. The strike team walks back towards the bathroom.

Shane pauses on the way there, picks up a CHILD'S TOY.

SHANE

Jesus.

They reach the bathroom, tear open the door. It's clean, except the shower.

BLOOD ON THE SHOWER CURTAIN.

Laying in the tub, the body of a FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY lies dead of SHOTGUN WOUNDS. Julian turns away. Shane and Vic stare head on.

SMASH TO BLACK

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. DONUT SHOP - INT. SHANES CAR - DAY

SHANE and JULIAN pull up in front of the store.

SHANE

Run in and get me a coffee, huh?

Julian gives him a look: seriously?

SHANE (CONT'D)

Aw, come on. I got to call a C.I.,  
get a location on these  
peckerwoods.

JULIAN

At least give me some money.

SHANE

Please. They love the blue in  
there. Just badge them and we're  
good.

Julian gets out.

Shane opens his CELLPHONE and pretends to talk.

He watches Julian inside the donut shop.

Julian orders, pulls out his WALLET and takes out CASH.

SHANE (CONT'D)

You're shitting me.

EXT. LOS MAGS NEIGHBORHOOD - INT. VICS CAR - DAY

Vic and Ronnie in the car in front of a Los Mags stash house,  
waiting.

RONNIE

Shane sure was in a hurry to  
partner up with Julian today.

VIC

Who else? You? Me? Julian's his  
only choice.

RONNIE

Whatever Shane is doing with the  
Armenians, he might be tired of  
doing it alone. Julian might fit  
the bill.

VIC

Julian? He's as clean as they come. No way he's going to get dirty.

RONNIE

There was a time I would have said the same thing about Lem.

A low blow. Vic kills the conversation.

A Los Mags banger, (CARLOS) walks towards the house they're parked in front of.

VIC

Show time.

EXT. LOS MAGS NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

Carlos sees them get out of the car and freezes: which way to run?

RONNIE

Don't even.

VIC

Where you heading, Carlos?  
We'll come with you.

CARLOS

(flustered)  
No. No, man, I'm just walking.

VIC

How long it going to take us to find the tweak?

Carlos can't hide his reaction.

RONNIE

Two minutes.

VIC

Good over-under.

CARLOS

(suddenly confident)  
You need a warrant to go in there.

VIC

(to Ronnie)  
You hear screaming in there?  
(a beat of silence)  
Yeah, I definitely hear screaming.

They run towards the door.

Carlos tries to call their bluff ... can't do it.

CARLOS

Okay, okay. What do you want?

They come back to him.

VIC

We got four dead at the Coral Courts. White folks, Carlos. A woman. A kid. You know that's a ride on the gurney.

CARLOS

So?

VIC

So, one of the victims was slinging blasts in you territory.

RONNIE

Some of your boys take off on the competition?

CARLOS

You kidding? Crank is a sellers market all the way. This stuff is ghetto Starbucks, man. We can have two on every corner and still make money. We got no need to drop bodies.

Vic sees he's telling the truth.

VIC

We hit this house next week. Move your Starbucks somewhere else.

INT. WHITE POWER ROCK CLUB - DAY

A SHITTY SKINHEAD BAND, guys in their 20s with the look of racist skins, does soundcheck on stage.

The bass drums logo: STEELTOE H8.

KENNETH, 24, soft under his hardcore costume, works the SOUND BOARD. A few FEATHERWOODS watch on.

Vic, Shane and Julian walk in. Seeing Julian, the band stops playing.

SHANE

Not a popular spot with the brothers.

KENNETH

You guys cops?

SHANE

No, we're just music fans. Looking for Kenneth Crosswhite. That you?

KENNETH

I've got all my permits.

SHANE

Yippee. Word is that this is a favorite spot to get your Nazi on. Maybe pick up some hundred-percent Aryan poontang.

JULIAN

Four people were killed today. A child. People like you.

STEELTOE H8 SINGER

We don't know anything about that, boy.

Julian turns to face him. Shane gives Julian a look like, you going to take that?

STEELTOE H8 SINGER (CONT'D)

Ken, man, you gonna let this nigger flap his lips in here?

Julian GRABS the singers legs and PULLS them out from under him.

FEEDBACK pops. The DRUM KIT scatters.

KENNETH

Okay, okay!

Shane lets Julian work. He's found a soft spot in the clean cop.

Julian YANKS the singer off the stage. The singer FACEPLANTS on the dance floor.

Julian reaches back to SLAP the guy ...

Shane steps in.

SHANE

Woo, boy. That was exciting.  
(to the band)  
I'd get while you can still walk.

INT. WHITE POWER ROCK CLUB - LATER

The band and the featherwoods have split. Ken, Julian and Shane remain.

SHANE

Zach Taylor was dealing heavy crank out of that motel room. Is that what got him killed?

KENNETH

I don't know about meth. I don't touch that shit.

SHANE

Citizen of the year.

KENNETH

(ignoring the dig)  
All I know is, Zach got out of Lompoc a while back saying he was a part of the Circle. But word got out that the Circle put a greenlight on him.

SHANE

What for?

KENNETH

Aryan Circle don't share that sort of info with dudes like me.

JULIAN

What about the other victims? Michael Bruer. Anne Zaleski? Her son?

KENNETH

Annie'd smoke your pipe for ten dollars in crank money. She'd make the kid wait in the bathroom while she did it. If there was meth in the room, that's why Annie was there. Mikey was probably just horny enough to foot her bill.

SHANE

The master race in action.

EXT. WHITE POWER ROCK CLUB - DAY

Shane and Julian head to the car.

SHANE

Those were some moves back there,  
man. Good stuff.

JULIAN

I shouldn't have let him get to me  
like that.

SHANE

You kidding? That's your strong  
spot. I've watched you, man. You  
weren't a real cop until you put  
some rage in your game. Use it.  
You ever moonlight?

JULIAN

What?

SHANE

I've got this security gig tonight.  
I was going to cut Vic in on it,  
but after seeing you take that guy  
down ...

His phone rings. He hates to lose momentum with Julian ...

INT. THE BARN - DAY

Vic and Ronnie on the move. Vic has his cellphone to his ear.

VIC

One of the he-she hookers at the  
Coral Courts gave a description of  
the killer. Says he saw this guy  
waiting in his car and figured he  
was a john. Offered to blow him  
and got a sawed-off in his face.

INTERCUT WITH SHANE

SHANE

Let me guess - shaved head and tats  
just like the victim.

VIC

What'd you get?

SHANE

Looks like Zach Taylor did something to piss off the Aryan Circle. The peckerwood grapevine says they put a greenlight on him.

VIC

Something like that had to come from the top.

SHANE

Lompoc.

VIC

My guess. You and Julian stay on the street. I'll have Tina get the description to you.

SHANE

And you?

VIC

Going to see the head white man in charge.

INT. THE CHURCH OF LOVE EVERLASTING - DAY

A homemade church in a warehouse. The CORPSE of a man, 55 and regal if he wasn't HEADSHOT, sits in a chair, a pistol in his hand.

The wall behind him is covered in GORE.

DUTCH studies the body.

Behind him MADDY, a dowdy cultist in her 40s, grieves loudly. Other church members, including LAURA, 25 and nubile, watch from the doorway.

Danny talks to a man in the b.g.

MADDY

(hysterical)

Poppa! Poppa can't be in hell. He can't be.

Dutch looks her over. Not much family resemblance.

DUTCH

The victim was your father?

MAN (O.S.)

No. He was His Most Illustrious  
Poppa, Christ Reborn Amongst Us to  
Teach Eternal Love.

CHURCH MEMBERS

(by route)

Praise his name.

The man (ELIHU), 30s and charismatic, touches Maddy on the  
shoulder.

ELIHU

Be calm, Maddy.

He holds his hands out to Dutch.

ELIHU (CONT'D)

I am Elihu. I sat at Poppa's feet.

DUTCH

Right.

Maddy's still worried:

MADDY

Suicide. A sin. His Most  
Illustrious Poppa said it. A  
mortal sin. He can't be in hell.  
He can't be.

ELIHU

No, sister, he cannot.

Maddy calms down.

LAURA

He cannot die. Poppa walks among  
us always.

She goes to Elihu's side like a puppy.

DUTCH

Well, for one thing, he isn't a  
suicide.

ELIHU

No?

Dutch points to the SMEAR OF BLOOD AND BRAINS behind Poppa's  
head.

Two BULLET HOLES in the wall.

DUTCH

Not even the savior could manage to shoot himself in the head twice.

MADDY

Murder?

Dutch nods.

LAURA

Praise the Lord!

Dutch heads to the door. Danny follows.

DUTCH

Have the unis take statements from the congregation. Bring Elihu and the pretty one down to the station.

DANNY

(distracted)

Sure.

Dutch notices shes someplace else. He touches her arm.

DUTCH

Hey. You okay?

DANNY

Yeah. It's just, that kid today. I don't ever get used to the kids.

DUTCH

Help me today. Get your mind off it. They head towards the door.

DANNY

(smiling now)

Okay.

DUTCH

Great. Just meet me at the -

He opens the door. It's not the exit he expected, it's a STOREROOM. Filled with sex toys.

A FUCK-SWING, JELLY DILDOS, LUBES, VIBRATORS. The works.

DUTCH (CONT'D)

What kind of church is this?

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - INT. SHANES CAR - DAY

Shane and Julian pull up in front of a small, plain house. Shane checks the address Rezian gave him.

JULIAN  
What's this?

SHANE  
Security job. After hours. Just checking it out. You interested?

JULIAN  
I don't think so.

SHANE  
Think about it. Your wife's got a kid, right?

JULIAN  
Randall is my son.

SHANE  
Course he is. That's my point. Kid needs to be taken care of, you know?

Before he can finish, he's cut off by his CELL PHONE again.

SHANE (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Yeah?

He listens, hangs up.

SHANE (CONT'D)  
We gotta roll.

INT. LOMPOC VISITING ROOM - DAY

PERRY MASHBURN, 45, a buffed-up lifer. Vic and Ronnie sit across from him.

A hack stands on the other side of a GLASS DOOR.

VIC  
Perry. You're the thick dick in this place. A greenlight from the Aryan Circle means a greenlight from you.

RONNIE  
Come clean or we can make life difficult for you.

PERRY

(laughs)

Y'all just writing wolf tickets. I ain't soft like that smoke Antwon Mitchell. Don't need special favors from the hacks that you can take away. And every Mau-Mau and wetback in the joint's got a shank with my name on it. So how exactly you gonna make life difficult for me?

Vic tries a different route.

VIC

We know Zach Taylor ripped off the Circle. The greenlight was for him and him alone. I know you didn't tell anybody to kill a kid. But somebody did. That's who we want. A kid killer doesn't make the Circle look too good. That's the thing you have that can be taken away. Your rep.

Perry looks to make sure the hack at the door isn't listening in.

PERRY

Say this Zack dude borrows some heavy cash from somebody. Say he once he's in the world he spends it all on a brick of crystal, and forgets to repay his debts. Even talks about how certain people ain't got no reach on the outside. You could see how a man might put that name on a list. He might even say, make sure there's no witnesses.

VIC

Which someone took to mean kill everyone in the room.

PERRY

Some mad-dog son of a bitch. Like maybe someone with a murder jacket who ain't been out in the world long.

VIC

This mad-dog got a name?

PERRY

I'm no rat.

INT. LOMPOC RECORDS ROOM - DAY

Vic and Ronnie wait behind the counter of the records room.

RONNIE

What about Shane? Is it safe to let him run loose with Julian?

VIC

We'll stay on him. Right now, this is what matters.

A FILE CLERK approaches.

VIC (CONT'D)

(to Ronnie)

It can wait.

FILE CLERK

One hit, detectives. Emil Stange. Aryan Circle confirmed. Released two months ago after ten years on a 2nd degree murder conviction.

EXT. LOMPOC PARKING LOT - DAY

Vic and Ronnie head to the car, Vic on his phone.

VIC

(into the phone)

We've got a name. Emil Stange. Aryan Circle killer out of Lompoc two months.

SHANE (O.S.)

Let me guess. Six-two, lots of ink.

VIC

What do you got?

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Shane stands in the middle of wreckage.

SHELVES of SNACK FOOD tipped over on the floor.

BLOOD on the counter next to a SMASHED CASH REGISTER.

SHANE

Another body. Gas station clerk,  
robbery gone bad. We've got it on  
tape.

Behind the counter, a CORPSE, 35, Asian male, in a gas-  
station uniform.

INTERCUT

Vic stops walking. He wasn't expecting this.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Looks like our boy Emil is on a  
spree.

SMASH TO BLACK

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

The strike team watches a TEEVEE behind the register.

ON THE SCREEN, we see a tattooed and scary skinhead, 30 (EMIL STANGE).

He holds a PISTOL to the clerks head.

CASH goes in a BAG.

Emil PULLS THE TRIGGER. SILENT GUNSHOT.

A CLOUD OF BLOOD AND BRAINS.

The clerk DROPS.

The image FREEZES.

Vic holds up a PRISON MUGSHOT of Emil to the screen. Perfect match.

RONNIE

That's our guy.

VIC

He's lost the shotgun.

JULIAN

We have any K.A.s?

VIC

Guy's been down for a decade. All his friends are in stripes.

SHANE

Me and Julian can head back to that club, now we got a name.

VIC

This time we all go.

INT. THE BARN - DAY

Tina catches up with Dutch.

TINA

Dutch! I ran that info for you.

Dutch stops.

TINA (CONT'D)

The Church of Love Everlasting.  
Tax exempt status paperwork is up  
to date. Assets around five  
million dollars. It's a legit  
church.

DUTCH

It's a sex club in a warehouse.

TINA

Hey, some people worship by  
handling snakes. Other people do  
it by ...

DUTCH

Handling snakes.

LAUGHS.

In the b.g., Danny lays a stink-eye on them.

DUTCH (CONT'D)

Did you find anything about this  
Elihu?

TINA

Real name Jesse McGowan. No priors.  
(a beat)  
Why him?

DUTCH

What's the first thing I taught you  
to ask?

TINA

Who benefits?

DUTCH

Right. Cui bono. This Elihu looks  
like the successor to, um, His Most  
Illustrious Poppa.

TINA

So he's the one who killed him.

DUTCH

That's what we're going to find  
out. We're going to talk to a  
disciple first. Hope that Elihu  
hasn't made his power play yet,  
maybe they'll talk.

TINA

We? Need my help?

Dutch hadn't meant it that way, but why not?

DUTCH

Sure, come on.

They head towards the stairs. Danny intercepts.

DANNY

Tina. Typed up all the witness statements from the Coral Courts?

TINA

The strike team already has a suspect.

DANNY

Since when does that mean we don't have to do our job too?

TINA

(fuming)

It doesn't.

She storms off again, passing an interested Claudette. Dutch and Danny walk up the stairs.

DUTCH

You're a little hard on her.

Danny's face tells Dutch, do not go there. Dutch gets the hint.

DANNY

Need some help with that suspect?

DUTCH

Sure.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Laura is calm, almost zonked. Dutch and Danny sit across from her.

DUTCH

Tell me about Poppa.

LAURA

Poppa is love. Christ. Christ means love. Poppa is Christ. So Poppa is love.

DUTCH

So you believe that Poppa was the second coming of Jesus.

LAURA

(spooky laugh)

No. Jesus was Jesus. Poppa is Poppa. Christ is eternal. Poppa teaches that Jesus gave love to everyone. That makes him Christ. So Poppa is Christ.

DANNY

I saw the closet behind the altar. Maybe your taking that love thing a little literally.

LAURA

Yes. Literally. Jesus loved everyone. Made love to everyone. Poppa teaches that Jesus was blessed to give love to everyone.

Laura strokes her breast.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Jesus gave love to women. With his penis like any man could.

She SMILES at Dutch.

LAURA (CONT'D)

But God blessed him. Gave him a way to give love to men as well.

Laura traces her hand from her breast to the side of her stomach.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Through the spear wound in his side.

Dutch and Danny are grossed out.

DANNY

Through his wound?

DUTCH

So you're saying Poppa ...

DANNY

Loved everyone?

Laura SMILES, serene.

DUTCH

What about Elihu? Does he love everyone too?

LAURA

What's so hard for you to understand? Papa says that love isn't water. You cannot drown in it. Love is air.

(looks at Dutch)

You must have so little love in your life.

An uncomfortable moment.

DUTCH

(changing the subject)

Laura. Did you notice? You keep referring to Poppa in the present tense. He was murdered. Don't you want us to catch his killer?

LAURA

(spookiest smile yet)

Poppa can't die. Poppa is Christ. Christ lives on. Now Elihu will be our Most Illustrious Poppa.

DUTCH

So now Elihu is Christ.

LAURA

Exactly.

INT. WHITE POWER ROCK CLUB - DAY

Steeltoe H8 and some of their friends STOMP Kenneth. They aren't pros at it, but he's getting hurt.

The strike team enters.

VIC

Hey!

The Steeltoe H8 singer sees Julian and beats feet. Ronnie collars him. Sees his banged up face. Shows it to Vic. Julian reacts, turns away guilty.

VIC (CONT'D)

What's with the beatdown? I thought you loved white people.

STEELTOE H8 SINGER

He's a race traitor. Talking to the cops. Not helping me when this gorilla attacked me.

Vic smacks him on his bruise.

VIC

You're a real credit to your race.

INT. THE BARN - DAY

Dutch does paperwork at his desk. Claudette enters.

DUTCH

(showing her a form)

We pulled over fifty different sex toys out of that church closet.

CLAUDETTE

Must have been some service. What's your read on it?

DUTCH

His Most Illustrious Poppa, aka Richard Heend. Charismatic. Used sex to manipulate weaker minds into giving him everything they had. Both sexes.

CLAUDETTE

Really?

DUTCH

Don't ask. This Elihu character, seems like he's another charismatic who knew a good thing when he saw it. Seems like he used his own love to convert one of the sheep, Laura.

CLAUDETTE

So? How is it going to break?

DUTCH

Elihu isn't going to talk. Laura, though, she's weak. Put another strong man in front of her, she'll break.

CLAUDETTE

Oh, no. I remember the last time you tried that route. A woman died.

DUTCH  
(angry)  
Marcy was a long time ago.

CLAUDETTE  
Take a run at Elihu. Make him  
talk.

INT. SECOND INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Dutch questions Elihu.

DUTCH  
You and Poppa were lovers?

ELIHU  
Yes. But not the way you mean.  
The Church is love. Christ is love  
...

DUTCH  
Yeah, I've got that part. So, if  
you loved Poppa so much, why'd you  
shoot him?

Dutch fishes for a reaction. He doesn't get one.

DUTCH (CONT'D)  
We tested your hands for gunshot  
residue. When the tests come back,  
what are they going to say.

ELIHU  
I think I'd like to see my lawyer  
now.

INT. WHITE POWER ROCK CLUB - DAY

The Strike Team has lined up the skinheads and featherwoods  
against a wall. Vic marches Emil's mug shot up and down the  
line.

VIC  
We get a location on this guy, or  
we lock all of you up for the  
night.

RONNIE  
Explain your tattoos to the 1-  
Niners.

SHANE  
If you can talk with your mouth  
full.

Kenneth eyes the mug shot.

KENNETH

That guy. He was here a few nights ago.

VIC

That's it?

FEATHERWOOD

Yeah, he was creepy. Wanted me to go home with him, so I could be his real first piece of action in ten years.

VIC

And after you shot him down?

She shrugs.

VIC (CONT'D)

Somebody give me something. Or we put your white power to the test in the pen.

The Steeltoe H8 singer steps up.

STEELTOE H8 SINGER

I talked to him. Said he was going to Little Armenia to get laid.

VIC

Little Armenia? Why there?

STEELTOE H8 SINGER

Cause it was the cheapest white pussy money can buy.

EXT. WHITE POWER ROCK CLUB - DAY

The Strike Team on the move.

VIC

(to Julian)

Call in to see if there's anything new on Emil.

Julian nods and steps aside. Ronnie and Vic move in on Shane.

VIC (CONT'D)

Make the call.

SHANE

What?

VIC

We don't have time for the bullshit. You have an in with the Armenians. This guy likes Armenian pussy, and he's not hard to pick out of a crowd. Whatever shit you're in, you still enough of a cop to catch a kid-killer. Make the call.

SHANE

(a beat)

It's not what you think. I can't ask favors. It'll cost.

VIC

Not my problem.

SHANE

Yeah, no. It is.

VIC

Just make the call, goddamn it.

EXT. WHITE POWER ROCK CLUB - LATER

Shane has made the call. He walks back to join the group.

SHANE

Yeah, that brothel up on Fountain just sent a woman over to a guy fits that description. I've got the address.

EXT. EMIL'S HOUSE - EVENING

A shitty East Hollywood tract house.

The strike team, GUNS OUT.

Ronnie and Shane take position outside the front door.

Vic and Julian come around the side.

The sound of VIGOROUS HUMPING comes from an open window.

Vic sneaks a look in the window.

INT. EMIL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

EMIL STANGE is going at it doggie style with an ARMENIAN HOOKER, 21.

EXT. EMIL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Vic MOTIONS for Julian to stay under the window.

INT. EMIL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Shane, Ronnie and Vic enter.

They silently CLEAR the main room.

The sounds of humping continue.

They BURST in the bedroom.

VIC

Freeze!

EMIL PULLS THE HOOKER INTO A CHOKE HOLD, moving from doggie style to human shield.

He CLAWS for a PISTOL on the dresser.

RONNIE

Don't do it!

HE DOES IT. BUT -

JULIAN BURSTS THROUGH THE SCREEN from behind Emil.

EMIL'S PISTOL FLIES.

He loses his grip on the girl.

Julian HEAVES and BRINGS EMIL THROUGH THE WINDOW, throwing his bare ass on the turf.

EXT. EMILS HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The strike team joins Julian, who kneels on Emil's back while slapping CUFFS on him.

EMIL

(still struggling)

Of all the lowdown shit! I was  
banging that chick!

SHANE

Ask her for a discount.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Claudette and Dutch. Tina and Danny float in the b.g.

CLAUDETTE

How'd your run at Elihu go?

DUTCH

He lawyered up fast. Smart.  
Waiting for lab results on gunshot  
residue.

CLAUDETTE

You wont be getting that tonight.  
You have enough to charge him?

DUTCH

No. Look, I let him go, he's got a  
chance to solidify his position as  
the new Poppa. If he gets a  
chance, there's no way any of them  
give him up. I'm telling you, I  
can break the girl.

CLAUDETTE

(quietly)

Maybe this little love triangle  
you're sitting in has you  
overconfident again.

DUTCH

(offended)

Excuse me?

CLAUDETTE

I've got eyes.

So do Danny and Tina -- and they're using them to shoot  
daggers at each other.

DUTCH

I know what I'm doing.

CLAUDETTE

You know I respect you as a  
detective. But, son, you never did  
understand women.

Before it can escalate, they're interrupted by Vic marching  
Emil into the Barn, followed by the Strike Team.

CLAUDETTE (CONT'D)

That our motel shooter?

VIC

It's him.

Claudette hails Tina, who comes over.

CLAUDETTE  
Get one of the Coral Courts  
witnesses over here for a positive  
ID.

INT. BARN OBSERVATION ROOM

Vic and Claudette with a TRANNY HOOKER. They look at Emil  
sitting in an interrogation room on the TEEVEE SCREEN.

CLAUDETTE  
So?

TRANNY  
Nope. Nu-uh, that ain't him.

VIC  
What?

CLAUDETTE  
Are you sure?

TRANNY  
Honey, I got right in his face when  
I offered him a suck. And those  
tattoos are all wrong. It ain't  
him.

INT. THE BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Claudette pulls Vic into the hallway.

CLAUDETTE  
(to Vic)  
You said you positively ID'd this  
guy.

VIC  
I did. Off of the security tape at  
the gas station. Hundred percent,  
that's our guy.

CLAUDETTE  
So that means we have two different  
skinhead shooters?

VIC  
Which means ones still on the  
loose.

SMASH TO BLACK

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Vic and Shane stand across from Emil, who's HANDCUFFED to the table.

VIC

You've been here before. How about you make it easy on all of us and confess right now? Get back to Lompoc in time for your next meal.

EMIL

I want a phone call.

SHANE

Talk first.

Emil looks to Vic: do we have a deal? Vic nods.

EMIL

I killed the chink at the gas station. So what?

Yeah, they already knew that.

VIC

The Coral Courts?

EMIL

Heard about it on the news.

VIC

Bullshit. You're an old-school warrior for the Circle. Perry Mashburn isn't going to greenlight anyone out in the world without you knowing it.

EMIL

(smiles)

See, that's the thing. I'm old school. Any greenlights I heard about lately, the reward was, off the punk and get inducted. Wasn't no veteran who did that.

VIC

So the Coral Courts trigger - they're a wannabe?

Emil shrugs.

EMIL

Guess so. I ain't a pig, so I  
could give a shit. How about that  
phone call?

INT. THE BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Vic and Shane leave the interrogation room. Vic collars ASHER  
(EPISODE #605).

VIC

Give that guy a phone call and then  
throw him in the cage. And call  
Lompoc. I need the names of Aryan  
Circle associates - not members -  
who got sprung out of Lompoc  
lately.

Asher is on it. Shane stops Vic on the stairs.

SHANE

Hey. We need to talk.

VIC

I doubt that.

SHANE

I had to promise a favor to get the  
location on Emil. And I need your  
help.

Vic looks around. This is no place to talk about this.

VIC

Come on.

INT. STRIKE TEAM HEADQUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

Vic shuts the door behind them.

VIC

I'm not in the mood to do favors.

SHANE

Well, I put my ass on the line for  
this, so maybe you ought to be.

VIC

What'd I say? Not my problem.

SHANE

Hey, do I have to remind you?  
About a little file I got that  
brings us all down?

VIC

Wrong. That file, that's what keeps me from killing you. But that's all it buys.

SHANE

You think I need you? I can get someone else to help me. I can get Julian.

VIC

No way Julian rides with you.

SHANE

Then I get Asher or one of the other unis. It's not a problem.

VIC

What makes you think you can just twist one of them up?

SHANE

Because I watched you do it to us.

'VIC

I didn't turn you into anything.

SHANE

What about Ronnie? What about Lem? Remember Lem when we met him? Clean as a doctors hands. But you took care of that.

(beat)

All it took was a woman-beater to turn Lem loose. You saw that. And you used it. Lem never met you, he'd be on his way to Captain by now.

VIC

Maybe you should have thought about that before you killed him.

SHANE

I think about it every day.

VIC

You stay away from Julian.

Ronnie comes to the door. They all three look at each other.

SHANE

Or what? You can't hurt me, I  
can't hurt you. It's a goddamn  
Mexican standoff, Vic.

VIC

For now. But you're alone. Stay  
that way.

INT. THE BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Shane surveys the cops floating around. Asher and Danny talk  
in a corner. Dutch reads a file at his desk. Julian drinks  
coffee in the kitchen.

INT. STRIKE TEAM HEADQUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

Ronnie and Vic. Ronnie shuts the door.

RONNIE

What was that?

VIC

He wants us to help, some favor he  
promised the Armenians.

RONNIE

And?

VIC

And nothing.

RONNIE

The file.

VIC

I'm not letting him call the shots,  
no matter what.

INT. THE BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Tina finds Shane.

TINA

Lompoc just got back to us with  
that info Vic wanted.

Shane looks around. No Vic.

SHANE

You tell Vic yet?

TINA

No.

SHANE

How many names on the list?

TINA

Just one. Henry Shermer.  
Caucasian, two years in for B&E,  
released last week.

The MUG SHOT shows a blonde man, 23 (HENRY SHERMER), pre-skinhead makeover.

TINA (CONT'D)

An Aryan Circle associate,  
definitely not a full member.

Dutch approaches.

DUTCH

Tina, could I get a minute?

SHANE

(to Tina)

Thanks. Don't worry, I'll tell  
Vic.

Shane heads for the kitchen and Julian.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Dutch leads Tina in. Danny is already sitting with Laura.  
Danny and Tina aren't happy to see one another. Laura smiles.  
The calmest one in the room.

DUTCH

Okay, Laura. Jesse McGowan

LAURA

(interrupting)

Elihu.

DUTCH

(firmly)

McGowan. He is set to take control  
of your church, and five million  
dollars.

LAURA

Money is nothing. Love is ...

DUTCH

(interrupting)

Yeah, yeah.

(to no one in particular)

Hand me that file.

Danny and Tina both go for the file. THEIR EYES LOCK.

Danny hands Dutch the file.

Laura sees it: they fight over him.

Dutch SMILES, now the confident one. He flips open the file.

DUTCH (CONT'D)

We tested the hands of everyone in  
the church. Gunshot residue. What'd  
we find?

Laura pauses. She knows, but she doesn't want to say.

DUTCH (CONT'D)

(loud)  
What'd we find, Laura?

LAURA

(lame)  
I don't know.

DUTCH

Yes you do. You know McGowan had  
gunpowder all over him.

Dutch SPRINGS OUT OF HIS CHAIR.

DUTCH (CONT'D)

You know he shot Poppa.

IN LAURA'S FACE:

DUTCH (CONT'D)

Because you helped him, didn't you?  
You betrayed Poppa, goddamn it.

DANNY

Dutch ...

Dutch wheels on her.

DUTCH

Don't get in my way. I'm the  
detective here.

Danny is speechless. He turns back to Laura ...

DUTCH (CONT'D)

If Poppa is Christ, then what's  
that make you? What's it make you?

Laura CRIES.

LAURA

Judas. It makes me Judas.

Dutch leans back satisfied. Danny looks at him like she doesn't recognize him.

DUTCH

Which of you pulled the trigger?

LAURA

Him. He just made me watch.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Vic and Ronnie exit their office. Vic waves over Tina.

VIC

Any word from Lompoc?

TINA

What, Shane didn't tell you? Ronnie and Vic trade glances.

VIC

Tell us what?

TINA

I guess him and Julian went to pick him up.

Vic and Ronnie trade glances.

EXT. HENRY SHERMER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shane and Julian open the trunk of the car. Shane hands Julian LEM'S SHOTGUN.

JULIAN

This belonged to Lem.

SHANE

You know how to use it?

Julian RACKS A SHELL for an answer.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Well, this Hitler-loving asshole killed a kid today. He makes a move, don't hesitate.

JULIAN

I won't.

SHANE

I mean it. This guy gets back to Lompoc, he's a hero. Aryan Circle will make sure he lives soft. It's not right.

JULIAN

No. It's not.

Shane PULLS HIS PISTOL.

SHANE

Then lets go.

INT. HENRY SHERMER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

HARDCORE MUSIC blasts from a stereo.

Henry Shermer bounces alone under a NAZI FLAG.

His head is freshly shaved, his TATTOOS still look wet.

A SHOTGUN on the kitchen table.

Shane BURSTS in the front door ...

Shermer GOES FOR THE SHOTGUN ...

Shane's got the drop on him. He moves between Shermer and his sawed-off.

He raises his pistol in the air. He nods towards the back.

Shermer gets it. Shermer RUNS.

EXT. HENRY SHERMER'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - CONTINUOUS

Julian covers the back. He peeks in a window.

Shermer FLIES out the back door.

He CRASHES into Julian.

They're on the ground scrambling for the shotgun.

JULIAN

(a cry for help)  
Shane!

INT. HENRY SHERMERS HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Shane stops in the dark at the back door. He watches the fight.

EXT. HENRY SHERMERS HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT

Julian catches an ELBOW TO THE FACE.

Now he's angry. He yells, primal.

He's on top now.

Shane slips quietly out the back door. He keeps watching.

Julian gets himself off the ground.

THE SHOTGUN IN HIS HANDS. He's got it pointed at Shermer, bloody on the ground.

Everything stands still for a second.

Julian's finger is on the trigger.

A CAR DOOR SLAMS in the front of the house. Shane knows what that means. He moves next to Julian.

SHANE  
Freeze, asshole!

Shane stands next to Julian, pistol raised.

Julian snaps out of it. He's a cop again.

JULIAN  
Get on your back!

SHANE  
On your back.

Shane moves in with the cuffs.

Vic and Ronnie come around the side of the house, guns drawn.

VIC  
Shane!

SHANE  
We got 'em. Julian did.

Julian stands, unsure of what just happened.

EXT. HENRY SHERMERS HOUSE - NIGHT

Julian leads Shermer to Shane's car. The rest of the Strike Team follows. Ronnie notices the shotgun.

RONNIE  
Is that Lem's?

Julian nods.

VIC  
Keep it.

JULIAN  
He was a good cop.

VIC  
He was.

Julian puts Shermer in the car.

VIC (CONT'D)  
Why don't you take him in solo?  
You earned it.

Julian looks around, unsure. He nods.

JULIAN  
Okay.

VIC  
Now, he threw down with a cop, so  
you bring him in any condition you  
want.  
(beat)  
But something tells me he'll look  
just like this when you put him in  
the cage.

EXT. HENRY SHERMERS HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Julian is gone. Ronnie and Vic turn on Shane.

VIC  
You stay away from him. Whatever  
goes down.

SHANE  
Yeah.

VIC  
It ends with us.

Shane studies the ground. Comes clean:

SHANE  
It's a safe house. Heroin. They  
want me to take it down. You can  
throw the junk in the sewer for all  
I care. But there's five of them.  
I can't do it alone.

VIC

No favors.

SHANE

Hey, Julian is off-limits. Fine.  
But we're married. Til death do us  
part. Hell, not even then.

VIC

The long haul.

SHANE

This is going to happen. And if I  
go down, we all go down.

VIC

I told you. That file keeps my  
bullet out of your brain. But  
that's it.

SHANE

I don't do this thing tonight, I'm  
dead. I do it alone, I'm dead.

VIC

Then it all comes down. So be it.

SMASH TO BLACK

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. THE BARN - CAGE - NIGHT

Julian leads Shermer to the cage. Emil Stange is waiting with open arms.

The two skinheads embrace.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - NIGHT - INT. SHANES CAR

Shane parks his car across the street from the house/ heroin depot.

Shane wears a VEST. His pistol is on the shotgun seat.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - MOMENTS LATER

Shane on the front porch.

Through the front window of the house, we see three DRUG DEALERS, Russian and in their 30s. They've just made a big score. They're shooting VODKA.

Shane takes a deep breath. Checks his pistol.

Behind Shane: Vic and Ronnie sit in Vic's car half a block up the street.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - INT. VICS CAR - NIGHT

Vic and Ronnie watch Shane.

RONNIE

He's going to do it.

(beat)

We're letting him go in alone? He dies and we're screwed. The file.

VIC

He dies and we go see Mara before the news gets out. She'll give us the file.

RONNIE

Mara?

VIC

She says he tells her everything.

RONNIE

What if she doesn't want to tell us?

VIC  
She'll talk.

The way he says it shakes Ronnie. He thinks he's picked the right side, but he wonders.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Shermer is relaxed for a man with four murder charges pending. Claudette and Julian sit across from him.

SHERMER  
Two jigs. This place Affirmative  
Action HQ or what?

CLAUDETTE  
(ignoring the jibe)  
Four bodies. A child. You've got  
the needle coming, son.

SHERMER  
Maybe. Maybe not. Yall's system  
works slow, with all the Jew  
lawyers gumming everything up so  
they can bill more hours. And all  
the while, I'll be a goddamn hero  
in the joint.

CLAUDETTE  
But a child? Just a child.

SHERMER  
I'd been sitting in that goddamn  
parking lot, shemale weirdos  
everywhere, three hours. Knew Zach  
was in a room, didn't know which  
one. I saw that meth skank, I knew  
she was there to score. So I went  
in. Sorry she brought the kid with  
her. But it ain't my fault his  
mommas a crank whore now, is it?

CLAUDETTE  
If someone ordered you to do it,  
give us the name. It's the only  
way to keep you of death row.

SHERMER  
(laughs)  
It's a little late for me to get  
off the train. Get me my goddamn  
lawyer.

INT. THE BARN - NIGHT

Dutch watches as Asher locks Elihu in the cage. In the b.g. of the cage, Shermer kneels in front of Emil, as if being blessed by him.

Claudette and Julian watch the ceremony.

Danny walks by Dutch, ignoring him. He takes her arm.

DUTCH

Hey. Nice work in there.

DANNY

What was that? You kind of went nuts.

Emil whispers in Shermer's ear. Claudette and some unis watch the strange ceremony.

DUTCH

I thought it would work better if you didn't know.

DANNY

(pissed)  
Nice work.

Emil lifts Shermer to his feet.

DUTCH

Hey. I'm sorry.

DANNY

You know, I used to think you were the last nice guy around here.

Emil places his arms on Shermer's shoulders.

DUTCH

I am.

SHERMER (O.S.)

(yelling)  
I swear it!

Danny walks to the cage.

DANNY

Hey, want to keep your initiation ceremony or whatever down a little?

Shermer turns to face Danny. Emil looms behind him.

SHERMER

Too late. I'm inside the Circle  
now.

EMIL

Yeah. He is.

Emil WRAPS HIS ARMS AROUND SHERMER'S THROAT.

He SHAKES HIM like a terrier with a rat.

Danny runs for the cage door.

CLAUDETTE

Get that door open!

Emil LIFTS Shermer off the ground.

SQUEEZES.

Shermer kicks his life out.

The other inmates push themselves into corners.

Danny and Dutch get inside the cage.

Julian and the other cops aren't far behind them.

Danny CLUBS Emil's knee.

He goes down still choking Shermer.

Julian and Danny pull them apart.

They THROW Emil against the cage.

Dutch kneels next to Shermer.

Shermer's barely drawing bubbling breaths.

DUTCH

His trachea is crushed.

(yelling)

Get me an ink pen. We can perform a  
tracheotomy.

Shermer SPASMS and GOES STILL. Dutch leans back and looks to  
Danny. She doesn't look back.

CLAUDETTE

Call an ambulance.

Julian cuffs Emil's hands behind his back.

EMIL

Fulfilling that contract made him a part of the Circle. But the Circle don't kill kids.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - NIGHT

Shane peeks in the window.

HEROIN ON THE TABLE.

Vic and Ronnie keep watch in their car.

Shane goes in the front door.

He's got an EMPTY DUFFLE BAG on his shoulder. His gun is out.

INT. HEROIN DEPOT - CONTINUOUS

The three Russian heroin dealers drink and laugh.

SHANE COMES AROUND THE CORNER, PISTOL UP.

SHANE

Against the wall! Do it now!

They back up. Hand in the air.

One YELLS a threat in Russian, meaningless.

Shane TOSSES BRICKS OF H into the duffle bag.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Just keep calm.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - INT. VICS CAR - CONTINUOUS

Vic and Ronnie wait for Shane to come back out.

A CAR PULLS PAST THEM and parks across the street from the depot.

Two more RUSSIAN DRUG DEALERS get out of the car and begin to cross the street.

VIC

Two more.

RONNIE

They go in there ...

VIC

Shane's dead.

INT. HEROIN DEPOT - CONTINUOUS

Shane's almost finished.

One of the drug dealers thinks he sees an opportunity and turns to take on Shane.

Shane sees it coming and FIRES A SHOT over the dealer's head.

SHANE

Get back!

All three drop to the floor.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - CONTINUOUS

At the sound of the gunshot the two drug dealers pause in the street and draw pistols.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - INT. VICS CAR - CONTINUOUS

They see the pistols out.

VIC

Goddamn it.

He shifts into drive and SLAMS ON THE GAS.

EXT. HEROIN DEPOT - CONTINUOUS

Shane leaves the depot weighted down to see two men with guns in the street in front of him. He's dead meat.

A car engine ROARS and Vic's car comes barreling down on the two dealers.

CRUNCH.

THE MEN GO FLYING.

VIC KEEPS GOING ...

Shane runs into the street.

The two wounded dealers lay in the street MOANING.

A BONE STICKING OUT OF A LEG.

Shane runs to his car.

He PEELS OFF into the night.

END OF SHOW