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GODFATHER OF HARLEM

SEASON 2

Episode **206**

"The Ballot or the Bullet"

Written by
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&
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FINAL SCRIPT

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GODFATHER OF HARLEM

"The Ballot or the Bullet"

#206

CAST LIST

ELLSWORTH "BUMPY" JOHNSON
VINCENT "THE CHIN" GIGANTE
MALCOLM X
ADAM CLAYTON POWELL JR.
JEAN JEHAN
MAYME JOHNSON
ELISE JOHNSON
MARGARET JOHNSON
BETTY SHABAZZ
STELLA GIGANTE
ERNIE NUNZI

FAT GINO
OLYMPIA GIGANTE
ROBERT MORGANTHAU
GERALD FINEMAN
DR. COOPER
SAM CRAWFORD
CECIL PARMENTER
DR. SUSAN BECK
MONSIEUR 98
MRS. GOODMAN (ON TV)
NEWS ANNOUNCER (ON TV)

NON-SPEAKING:

CHURCH CONGREGATION
KLANMEN (12)
CADRE OF COPS
PATIENTS
NURSE
PRISON GUARDS
TWO GUARDS (ALCATRAZ)
TECHNICIAN

GODFATHER OF HARLEM

"The Ballot or the Bullet"

#206

SET LIST

INTERIORS

ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
22 WEST
CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE
KITCHEN
JOHNSON APARTMENT
KITCHEN
OFFICE
LIVING ROOM
MALCOLM'S HOUSE
STUDY
LIVING ROOM
STONY HILL SANITARIUM
DAY ROOM
PRIVATE OFFICE
FEDERAL HOLDING CELL
ALCATRAZ
PRISON CELL
CORRIDOR
VISITOR'S AREA
HARLEM CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE
PALMETTO CHEMICAL
OFFICE
LE VOYAGE
MORGANTHAU'S OFFICE

EXTERIORS

DEEP WOODS - MISSISSIPPI
CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE
22 WEST
CLANCY'S DEW DROP INN
PARKING LOT
MALCOLM'S HOUSE

FADE IN:

THREE LARGE B/W PHOTOGRAPHS OF

James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, over which we hear the sermonizing voice of:

POWELL (O.S.)

Where are they? It's been fifteen weeks since we've heard from these three brave men, these "Freedom Riders," who traveled to Mississippi and disappeared after being arrested by the police.

We PULL OUT to reveal we are:

1 INT. ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY (D1)

1

Rev. Adam Clayton Powell speaks to a rapt congregation...

POWELL

They rode in buses from all over - black, white, Jew, Christian - to register black voters and show America we can attain equality if we do it together.

Shouts of "Amen" from the congregation as we see Mayme and Margaret sitting together, in their Sunday best.

POWELL (CONT'D)

They faced harassment and danger. And some, it seems, paid the ultimate price, at the hands of the Klan.

(raising his voice in righteous anger)

Although nobody would have even heard about this tragedy, if it were just three black men went missing. But because two white boys were involved, the nation has taken notice, even the FBI.

The CROWD shouts, "That's right."

POWELL (CONT'D)

But we'll take it, if it wakes this nation from it's slumber.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

The CROWD shouts, "Yes we will."

POWELL (CONT'D)

Let us pray, Lord Jesus bring these boys home, reunite them with their grieving parents...

Powell closes his eyes and bows his head in prayer... as we--

CUT TO:

A TELEVISION SCREEN

Where we see a SPECIAL REPORT (STOCK) where a devastated MRS. CAROLYN GOODMAN is interviewed.

MRS. GOODMAN (ON TV)

We both knew he was going to a dangerous situation, and we both knew there were things he was going to face, and we just embraced each other. As he was about to leave, and I felt his warm young body... We're heartbroken and want more than anything in the whole world to hear from our son.

We are--

2 INT. 22 WEST - DAY

2

BUMPY and MALCOLM watch the special report on television at the counter while sharing a coffee.

BUMPY

Two of those boys were from New York City. My wife helped organize and pay for the buses that sent them down there.

MALCOLM X

A suicide mission if ever I saw one. Those kids should have been armed with machine guns, not pamphlets.

BUMPY

One thing's for sure, they're not alive.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

MALCOLM X

Bodies ain't lost, either. The Klan knows exactly where they are. But the Sheriff's Department *is* the Klan, so no one talks. Certainly not to the FBI.

BUMPY

I could make 'em talk.

MALCOLM X

(chuckling)

That you could, but your methods would not be admissible in court.

BUMPY

Fuck court. We need more of that street justice.

MALCOLM X

Amen to that.

A NEWS ANNOUNCER speaks on the TV (STOCK FOOTAGE).

NEWS ANNOUNCER (ON TV)

Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney, were pulled over for speeding by deputy sheriff Cecil Parmenter, reputed to be a Klan member...

BUMPY

Nothing scares white people more than black people voting.

Malcolm regards Bumpy appreciatively.

MALCOLM X

Bumpy, remember when I said if the black gangster gains political consciousness, white America will fall to its knees?

BUMPY

Indeed I do.

MALCOLM X

Maybe you're getting political.

Off Bumpy mulling this, back to the news report which shows, in B/W, a Klan rally and a cross on fire.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

We catch a LIGHT REFLECTION (VFX) in BUMPY'S EYE that PULLS OUT TO BECOME:

A ROARING FIRE.

Red and yellow, with white hot tips. We are--

3 EXT. DEEP WOODS - PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI - NIGHT (N1) 3

A CROSS BURNS in the woods. KLANSMEN (12) in white hoods stand around it, chanting slogans.

Two men are pulling on their hoods to join the "celebration", and we'll identify them as SAM CRAWFORD, 40's, and CECIL PARMENTER, 30's. As they join their white supremacist brethren, the fire ENGULFS THE CROSS as we:

BLACK SCREEN.

UP WITH TITLES:

"GODFATHER OF HARLEM"

FADE UP ON:

4 INT. CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - NEW DAY (D2) 4

CLOSE ON - BULGING EYES

The very vision of madness. WE PULL OUT TO REVEAL they belong to CHIN GIGANTE staring at FAT GINO.

FAT GINO

That's a good one.

We are--

5 INT. CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 5

Chin tries other "lunatic expressions" for Gino's appraisal, getting thumbs up or down as the case may be. OLYMPIA enters and comes over to sniff Chin's tattered robe.

OLYMPIA

This stinks. Can you at least wear a clean one?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

CHIN

Do you not understand, that defeats
the fucking purpose? You want me to
spend the rest of my life in jail?
I am getting fucking arrested.

OLYMPIA

For what?

CHIN

(to Gino)
Hand me my slippers.

OLYMPIA

Tell me at least! Jesus!

CHIN

I got it all under control, it's
gonna be okay. Calm yourself.

He steadies himself on Gino's shoulder as he slips his bare
feet into the slippers. In the background, we hear sudden
BANGING on the door: "Open up! FBI!"

CHIN (CONT'D)

Where's that fucking Jew Lawyer when
I need him?!

6 EXT. CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

6

A comatose, drooling Chin is led toward the curb by FBI
AGENTS, as Olympia and Gino trail behind. ROBERT MORGENTHAU
waits beside a FED sedan with an arrest warrant.

MORGENTHAU

Vincent Gigante? I have a warrant
for your arrest.

OLYMPIA

Can't you see this man is sick?!

MORGENTHAU

(to agents)
Get him in the car.

They drag Chin toward a police car.

OLYMPIA

(ad-libbed)
He didn't do nothin!

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

FAT GINO
(ad-libbed)
He's a mental case!

Just then, a sporty car skids to the curb, and a harried-looking lawyer, JONAH FINEMAN, 50s, runs out waving a document.

FINEMAN
Hold on, officers! Release that man! Release him!

Fineman, out of breath, hands Morgenthau a writ.

FINEMAN (CONT'D)
I am Mr. Gigante's lawyer, Jonah Fineman, this is a writ from Judge Sawyer - my client is non compos mentis and is to be remanded to Stony Hill Sanitarium for immediate psychiatric evaluation.

Morgenthau grabs the document from Fineman, while Chin sneaks Fineman a dirty look for being late. Morgenthau reads it, his face showing frustration.

MORGENTHAU
Judge Sawyer, huh? Nice move, Mr. Fineman.
(beat; to cops)
Okay. Let him go. Game's not over yet, Mr. Gigante. Wouldn't get too comfy in those slippers.

7 INT. JOHNSON APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

7

Mayme bakes some cornbread, while Bumpy paces back and forth.

MAYME
It's too dangerous.

BUMPY
I'll send Chance, Pettigrew and Junie Bird.

MAYME
There's too many FBI down there, Best you stay away.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

BUMPY

FBI can't do shit. Nor can LBJ's
Marines. It's been over three months.

MAYME

Any black man from out of town who
steps foot in Mississippi will get
lynched, you know that.

BUMPY

(mulling this)
Maybe I need a white guy.

MAYME

Powell says it's LBJ's number one
priority. It's the government's
problem now, not yours.

BUMPY

I need you to go to Powell's office
and ask him for a favor.

Just then, the DOORBELL rings.

MAYME

That's probably Elise, took Margaret
to the park.

BUMPY

I'll get it.

Bumpy goes to answer the door. He is greeted there by ROBERT
MORGENTHAU and a few tough-looking FBI men.

MORGENTHAU

Bumpy Johnson? I have a warrant for
your arrest.

BUMPY

On what grounds?

MORGENTHAU

Drug trafficking 500 kilos of heroin
from Marseille to New York City.
Cuff him.

Mayme arrives, horrified, as the FBI men roughly handcuff
Bumpy in front of his wife.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

MAYME

What's going on here?! What's happening?!

BUMPY

(trying to calm Mayme down)
Call Duncan and arrange bail. Don't worry, I'll be fine.

MORGENTHAU

On the contrary. She should be very worried.

Mayme watches as they drag Bumpy out.

8 INT. MALCOLM'S HOUSE - STUDY - DAY

8

CLOSE ON Malcolm's face, in deep concentration - struggling to find the *right words*. Frederick Douglass' memoir sits on the desk, which is strewn with crumpled papers and a trash bin filled with failed attempts at a speech.

After a moment, inspiration washes over him and he fervently puts pen to paper. His moment of satisfaction is shattered by the sounds of BROKEN GLASS and Betty's SCREAMS.

9 INT. MALCOLM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

9

Betty, shaken, but unhurt, with a BRICK at her feet. Malcolm, adrenaline pumping, rushes to her aid.

MALCOLM X

Are you hurt?! Are you okay?!

BETTY

I'm fine.

MALCOLM X

Let me see. Are you cut?

He holds her, kisses her, looks her over to make sure she's fine. Betty is traumatized, but trying to be strong.

BETTY

This is the third time.

MALCOLM X

Did you see anyone? Who was it?

She shrugs, she doesn't know.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

BETTY

Thank God the children aren't here.

Malcolm, angry and frustrated, picks up the brick.

MALCOLM X

They're trying to intimidate me,
trying to keep me quiet.

BETTY

(resigned)

But you won't let them... will you.

A10 EXT./INT. MALCOLM'S HOUSE - DAY

A10

For a brief moment, we're shooting from outside the broken window looking in, before returning inside.

MALCOLM X

I can't back down, Betty. Those
Freedom Riders risked their lives
just to get people to vote. I can't
be expected to do any less.

BETTY

Nor should you. I'm just scared, is
all.

Malcolm studies his wife, admires her.

MALCOLM X

If you told me to stop. To just be
a minister. To lead a calm, quiet
life somewhere without struggling
for our freedoms, our rights, our
equality, I would do it.

BETTY

I'm not telling you that.

The brick has shifted her mood to fierce defiance.

BETTY (CONT'D)

You're fighting for us, for our kids,
for the future of our people. If
anything, I want you to fight twice
as hard.

Malcolm nods, invigorated for the task that lies ahead.

10 INT. STONY HILL SANITARIUM - DAY ROOM - DAY

10

Where MENTALLY ILL PATIENTS congregate, watched over by a NURSE and DOCTOR COOPER, 40's, like a scene out of CUCKOO'S NEST.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

Wearing a hospital gown and looking miserable, is Chin. He's particularly bothered by a PATIENT banging his head against the wall.

CHIN
Hey, cut it out!

The patient ignores him and keeps banging. Doctor Cooper approaches, accompanied by Jonah Fineman.

DR. COOPER
Mister Gigante, you have a visitor.

CHIN
(to Dr. Cooper, re:
head-banger)
Can't you get that guy to stop doing
that?

DR. COOPER
If I could, he wouldn't be here.

CHIN
Maybe you should try cutting his
balls off and shoving them up his
ass.

Cooper backs away as Fineman sits beside Chin.

FINEMAN
How you holding up?

CHIN
Miserable. How long I gotta stay
here?

FINEMAN
This place is keeping you out of
jail. Unfortunately, Judge Sawyer
has just been transferred out of
state and his writ of non compos
mentis has been invalidated.

CHIN
How the fuck can they do that?

FINEMAN
Morgenthau. He's playing dirty. He
also selected a new doctor to
determine your "sanity".

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

CHIN
(worried)
Can they make this stick?

FINEMAN
I think so. Our discovery shows they have a deposition from a confidential informant.

CHIN
(alarmed)
Who?

FINEMAN
We won't know until they take the stand. Unless... you can find out somehow.

CHIN
Lemme check, I got a couple Feds in my pocket. Fuck, this is real bad.

FINEMAN
If for some reason you can't, I've been informed Morgenthau might be willing to make a deal.

CHIN
I ain't ratting out! Let me do what I do, and you just hold him off.

FINEMAN
Fine. Meanwhile, do everything you can to stay here. Try and convince this new doctor that you're nuts.

CHIN
Sure. How hard can it be?
(re: guy banging his head)
I'll just bang my head against the wall like that *sempliciotto*.

As Fineman and Chin look at the poor soul hitting his head against a wall...

11 INT. FEDERAL HOLDING CELL - DAY

11

BUMPY is in a standard issue blue prison jumper, alone in a comfortably large cell. PRISON GUARD #1 brings Morgenthau to the door, opens it, and allows him inside.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

The Guard leaves the door slightly ajar, as he and PRISON GUARD #2 keep watch from a discreet distance away.

MORGENTHAU

Sorry for arresting you in front of your wife.

BUMPY

No you're not. You did it on purpose.

MORGENTHAU

(smiles)

You have much to lose, which is why I'm hoping you'll listen to reason.

BUMPY

I don't snitch.

MORGENTHAU

You and Chin Gigante are guilty of importing hundreds of kilos of heroin. We're talking decades in jail.

BUMPY

I haven't seen any evidence yet. You got any witnesses?

Morgenthau nods out of respect for Bumpy's acuity.

BUMPY (CONT'D)

Who, Jehan? Monsieur 98? It ain't the Italians--

MORGENTHAU

Obviously, that's confidential, but I will tell you that we have multiple informants. I have a good case, Johnson. I urge you to not become a martyr for a lost cause.

BUMPY

What cause is that?

MORGENTHAU

This Omerta bullshit. Stop protecting the mob - work with me.

BUMPY

The only cause I'm interested in is my family and their safety.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

Morgenthau nods in agreement.

MORGENTHAU

I understand you donated money for the buses that took the civil rights activists down to Mississippi.

BUMPY

What's that got to do with anything?

MORGENTHAU

Schwerner and Goodman are Jews, as am I. In Jewish law, if two men are thirsty, and only one man has water, it's allowable for the one who has water to drink at the expense of the other.

BUMPY

(sardonic)

I appreciate that you're citing Jewish law to get me to snitch.

MORGENTHAU

Blacks and Jews share a common history of oppression. We are survivors. I'm offering you a lifeline.

BUMPY

You offering Chin a lifeline too?

MORGENTHAU

I'll do whatever it takes to see that justice is served.

BUMPY

For blacks and Jews, justice is a dish that's always served cold.

A moment here, of deep mutual respect.

MORGENTHAU

Jewish law also says that life is precious, before the eyes of God and before the eyes of your children. Don't let them have to see you waste your precious life behind bars.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (3) 11

Morgenthau rises and walks out. OFF BUMPY, considering the ramifications of returning to jail...

DISSOLVE TO:

IRON BARS

A stripe of light illuminating BUMPY'S FACE. We are--

12 INT. PRISON CELL - DAY (SCENE SHOT FOR EP. 101) 12

WIDER, to see him in the cell. Off his eyes--

CUT TO:

A CONCRETE CORRIDOR

We hear FOOTSTEPS echoing, *tap tap tap*. Now two girlish PINK SHOES come into frame, topped with bows.

13 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY (SCENE SHOT FOR EP. 101) 13

Revealing now MARGARET JOHNSON walking with great purpose in her white dress and a Chatty Cathy doll (white) nestled under her arm.

WIDER, we see MAYME JOHNSON, fashionable with an oversized Saks Fifth Avenue purse.

They reach massive iron bar doors. A buzzer sounds and the doors slide open. They enter.

A sign informs us this is... ALCATRAZ.

14 INT. ALCATRAZ - VISITOR'S AREA - DAY (SHOT FOR EP. 101) 14

TWO GUARDS (white) usher Mayme and Margaret into the visitation room, which features tables and chairs bolted to the floor. Bumpy sits, waiting.

BUMPY'S P.O.V. - WATCHING HIS WIFE AND CHILD

The Guards carefully search through Mayme's large purse, examining lipstick, compact, hair brush. The Guard looks to Bumpy, sees his focus.

The Guard tugs Margaret's Chatty Cathy away, ripping off a BUTTON from the doll. He cracks the doll's head off at the neck. Digs his finger in to search the innards. Margaret is stunned, shaken by this senseless act.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

That's when the tsunami hits.

Bumpy comes out of nowhere, punching the guard in the face as we SMASH CUT TO:

BUMPY JOHNSON

Waking up in a cold sweat. We are--

15 INT. FEDERAL HOLDING CELL - NEXT MORNING - PRESENT DAY (D3)

15

It was all a bad dream. Morgenthau is long gone.

A VOICE (O.S.)
(from afar)
Johnson! You've been bailed!

Bumpy rises from his seated position, fighting to submerge the memories.

16 EXT. 22 WEST - DAY

16

To establish.

17 INT. 22 WEST - DAY

17

Malcolm watches Elise with bated breath as she finishes reading the first draft of the speech he's written. She puts it down and regards him with admiration.

ELISE
This is the most powerful speech
you've ever written.

MALCOLM X
It's not quite finished yet, but it
puts the white man on notice, and
calls upon civil rights leaders and
people of all faiths, from all over
the world, to take action.

ELISE
(ironic)
Now you'll have enemies on all four
corners of the Earth.

MALCOLM X
Freedom should not be a word in our
vocabulary if we're not willing to
die for it.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ELISE

Like those Freedom Riders?

MALCOLM X

Those kids were on a bus ride to hell. My speech is a bus ride into the hearts of the black community. Without black nationalism, we will never take charge of our political future.

Elise smiles, but looks down, troubled.

MALCOLM X (CONT'D)

What's bothering you?

ELISE

This speech could get you killed. Especially if you broadcast it on the radio.

MALCOLM X

I've dealt with threats before.

ELISE

I hear people talk at the mosque. I've seen the FBI follow you around like a dog sniffing at a bone.

MALCOLM X

When I look into the eyes of my children, there isn't anything I wouldn't do to give them the kind of justice that's been denied us.

ELISE

I feel the same way when I look at Margaret.

MALCOLM X

Then you understand my purpose.

Off Elise, still fearful, as we MOVE TO...

18 INT. CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

18

Ernie enters the kitchen looking for Stella...

ERNIE

Hey Stella! We gotta go.

He finds her whisking dough in a large bowl.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

ERNIE (CONT'D)

Hey, hey! C'mon, what're you doing?

STELLA

Making cookies.

ERNIE

Put that down and let's go.

She shoots him a dirty look, and returns whisking then plopping dough balls onto a cookie sheet.

STELLA

My father had me committed to that same "looney bin" and I ain't going back. And I deserved to be there about as much as he does now.

ERNIE

He could go to jail--

STELLA

Good! That's where he belongs. In jail. It'll be better for all concerned, even you - although you're too stupid to realize it.

ERNIE

Hey, don't talk like this, this is serious. This fuckin' guy Morgenthau is ruthless.

Stella turns to him, glares at him for a moment.

STELLA

Who's "Morgenthau"?

ERNIE

The district attorney. C'mon, your father really wants to see you. He needs your support.

STELLA

(laughing)

Support? You're too funny.

Ernie grabs the cookie spoon from her hand and tosses it into the sink.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

ERNIE

Let's go--

He grabs her arm, as she whips around. Suddenly they are very close. As she fights him, he can't help himself but kiss her. She goes with it. It's very hot, and after a moment, the two break away, breathless.

STELLA

Tell my father I was busy.

ERNIE

Doing what?

STELLA

Baking cookies.

Ernie nods, takes a deep breath. Confused, aroused, and not sure what the hell's on Stella's mind.

STELLA (CONT'D)

And by the way. Don't ever try that again.

19 INT. JOHNSON APARTMENT - DAY

19

Bumpy receives a joyful welcome from Mayme, then Margaret runs into his arms.

MARGARET

Daddy! I was so worried about you!

BUMPY

I'm okay, little one.

MAYME

Your father's home now, everything's going to be fine.

MARGARET

Will you have to go back to jail?

MAYME

Margaret, why don't you finish your homework. We'll all sit down to dinner soon and talk then, okay?

MARGARET

Okay. I love you Daddy.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

BUMPY

Honey, don't worry. I ain't never going back to jail.

She runs off as Mayme follows Bumpy into his office.

MAYME

What if you *do* go? That little girl's going to be devastated.

BUMPY

I will handle this.

MAYME

It's that goddamn drug business. That's what gets you sent to jail, not the other things. What in the world are you going to do?

BUMPY

The government wants to turn me into their puppet. Attach strings to my limbs and make me dance. I won't do it. That's not freedom, it's enslavement.

MAYME

I waited eleven years while you were in Alcatraz. I'm not sure I can do that again.

BUMPY

You won't have to. I promise.

Bumpy kisses her, trying to reassure her, when the DOORBELL rings. Mayme tenses up.

MAYME

Who's that?

BUMPY

My new lawyer.

20 INT. JOHNSON APARTMENT - OFFICE - LATER

20

Jonah Fineman, Chin Gigante's lawyer, sits uncomfortably across from Bumpy in his office.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

FINEMAN

I must admit, I was surprised to get your call.

BUMPY

You're Chin Gigante's lawyer, I'd like you to be mine.

FINEMAN

Representing you might create an acute conflict of interest.

BUMPY

Morgenthau already tried to get me to snitch, no doubt he'll try Chin. We both need to nip that in the bud. Our interests are the same.

FINEMAN

With all due respect, Mister Gigante hates your guts.

BUMPY

Almost as much as I hate his. But there's something we can do for each other of mutual benefit.

FINEMAN

I'm listening.

BUMPY

And I'm not talking. Yet. Not until attorney client privilege kicks in.

FINEMAN

I'm very expensive.

BUMPY

I can afford it.

FINEMAN

And I don't want to know about anything illegal.

BUMPY

You're joking, right?

FINEMAN

I have to say that.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (2) 20

Bumpy takes out a check book and starts to write.

BUMPY
Five thousand dollar retainer good
enough?

FINEMAN
(beat)
Bumpy Johnson, I'm very happy to
represent you. So, what is it you
have in mind?

21 INT. SANITARIUM - DAY ROOM - DAY 21

In background, the various CRAZIES do their thing. Chin's
lawyer, Fineman, enters.

FINEMAN
Mr. Gigante, how you holding up?

CHIN
The fuck you think?

FINEMAN
Right. Well, your appointment with
the government shrink, a Dr. Susan
Beck, is in about an hour. Do try
to convince her you belong here.

Fineman gestures to the nearby lunatics.

CHIN
Got it covered. I forced that
finocchio doctor to give me some
crazy pills.

He extends his hand, which has two orange pills.

CHIN (CONT'D)
Maybe I should take them now.

FINEMAN
Good idea.

Chin reaches for some water on a table as Fineman looks around
the room, drifting off into a memory.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

FINEMAN (CONT'D)

You know, my mother was in a place like this. She was never the same after her shock treatments.

CHIN

(glaring)

Hey. You reach out to my Federal contacts?

FINEMAN

I did. And they confirmed that there is an informant. One with immunity from both the Feds and Interpol.

CHIN

Interpol? Then it's gotta be one of the fuckin' frogs. I knew it.

Chin takes his pills with water as Fineman nods.

CHIN (CONT'D)

The fuck do we do now?

FINEMAN

(beat)

Something interesting came up. I've recently become counsel to a man you hate more than anyone in the world.

CHIN

What're you talkin' about?

FINEMAN

Bumpy Johnson. And he just might be the key to your salvation...

22 INT. HARLEM CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - DAY

22

Mayme sits before Powell in his office.

MAYME

I want to thank you for seeing me on
such short notice, Congressman Powell.

POWELL

(all charm)

You know there isn't anything I
wouldn't do for you, Mayme.

MAYME

Glad to hear it. Because I have a
big favor to ask.

POWELL

If this has to do with your husband's
problem with Robert Morgenthau, my
hands are tied.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

MAYME

I know that. But there might be something *your friend* can do.

POWELL

My friend? Which "friend" are we talking about?

MAYME

Your friend... the President of the United States.

POWELL

(laughing)

That friend. The President will want nothing to do with Bumpy Johnson.

MAYME

Of course. I'm talking about what Bumpy Johnson can do for your friend. We both know LBJ's number one priority is to find those Freedom Riders.

POWELL

What the hell does that have to do with Bumpy?

MAYME

He thinks he can do it. He just needs to know who the FBI thinks are the chief suspects.

POWELL

(scoffing)

He thinks he can do what hundreds of FBI agents and Marines can't?

MAYME

They're bound by the law. Bumpy doesn't necessarily have that problem.

POWELL

That's right! He's a criminal. I shouldn't be having this conversation.

MAYME

Bumpy wanted to help before he got arrested. But I dissuaded him, I thought it was too dangerous.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

MAYME (CONT'D)

But now, maybe it can help him.

(beat)

I'd do anything to help my husband,
you can understand that.

Powell considers this for long moments.

POWELL

I've always believed that justice
delayed is justice denied. And those
poor boys have been missing for almost
four months.

He reaches into his desk drawer and removes a thick file
labeled "FBI".

POWELL (CONT'D)

I do recall receiving an FBI file on
the current leads in the case, but I
can't seem to recall where I put it.
I seem to have misplaced it. Let me
look for it.

He turns his back on her and pretends to search the room.
Mayme takes the file. In this moment she adores Powell.

MAYME

(rising to leave, exiting)

Well, perhaps you'll let me know
when you find it.

23 INT. JOHNSON APARTMENT - DAY

23

CLOSE ON: THE FBI FILE. Bumpy pulls photographs and field
reports from the thick file. We see some awful Klan photos
first (TBD), then photos of Sam Crawford and Cecil Parmenter.

BUMPY

(reading file)

Reports suggest Klan members Cecil
Parmenter and Sam Crawford, both
local police officers, were part of
the crew who murdered and hid the
bodies of the Freedom Riders.

Bumpy's attention turns when Elise enters.

ELISE

Hello, Daddy. I just stopped by to have
a word. Do you have a few minutes?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

BUMPY

Elise, I'll always have time for you.

He hastily slides the photos of the Klansmen from view. She smiles, but seems tentative as she sits with him.

BUMPY (CONT'D)

Whatcha got, baby?

ELISE

I remember the day they took you to Alcatraz. I think I was twelve. I said goodbye like you were going off to dinner or maybe a weekend vacation. It wasn't till a whole week later that I realized... you weren't coming home.

BUMPY

They ain't gonna get me this time. I promise.

Elise shakes her head, there's so much she wants to say.

ELISE

I just feel like maybe my whole world is falling apart. I'm worried about you... I'm worried about Malcolm.

BUMPY

(alarmed)
Why Malcolm?

ELISE

He showed me a speech he wants to give. It's brilliant... but so provocative.

BUMPY

You expect anything less?

ELISE

He already has so many enemies. I tried to convince him not to give that speech, but he won't listen.

BUMPY

He's stubborn.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

ELISE

Yeah. Just like someone else I know.

BUMPY

(a grin)

Well, sometimes maybe you gotta let stubborn men do their thing.

Off Elise, realizing she has to let it go, as we MOVE TO...

24 INT. MALCOLM'S HOUSE - STUDY - DAY

24

Malcolm's hard at work in his study, revising his speech. The phone rings. At first he ignores it, but after finishing his thought he picks it up.

MALCOLM X

Hello.

UNKNOWN VOICE ON PHONE

The brick was just a warning.

MALCOLM X

Who is this?

UNKNOWN VOICE ON PHONE

Next, we're gonna fire bomb your house.

Malcolm, in a panic, stands up and, while holding the phone, looks out his window.

MALCOLM X

Coward, tell me who you are.

UNKNOWN VOICE ON PHONE

You better shut up or we'll shut you up for good.

The person hangs up.

MALCOLM X

Hello? Hello?

Malcolm in frustration slams the phone down. He stares at the incendiary speech on the table. Conflicted.

25 INT. PALMETTO CHEMICAL - OFFICE - DAY

25

Bumpy sits at his desk across from Ernie and Fineman, who both look slightly nervous being there.

ERNIE

Been told you wanted to see me.

BUMPY

That's right.

Bumpy looks Ernie over - isn't too impressed.

BUMPY (CONT'D)

(to Fineman)

I asked Chin for three men.

FINEMAN

This is all he can spare. Besides which he has great confidence in this man. Take it or leave it.

BUMPY

(to Ernie)

Ever been down south?

ERNIE

No sir.

BUMPY

It won't be easy convincing those Klansman to talk.

ERNIE

(smirking)

Don't worry about that.

Bumpy slides Ernie a packet with various items. Ernie takes out the photos of Crawford and Parmenter.

BUMPY

The first is Sam Crawford, the Sheriff of Neshoba County. He's a Grand Wizard in the Klan. The other is a deputy, Cecil Parmenter. There's a plane ticket in there to Mississippi, you'll be there by six PM. The Feds believe these men know where those missing kids are buried.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

ERNIE

I'll get it out of him. I don't like the fuckin' Klan any more than you.

BUMPY

Oh yeah?

ERNIE

I read an article in Life Magazine. The Klan, the Nazis, they're all the same. They need someone to pick on to feel good about themselves.

BUMPY

Show them no mercy.

ERNIE

What's mercy?

A shared look of agreement. Ernie grabs the packet and exits the office. Fineman hands Bumpy a sheet of paper.

FINEMAN

Mr. Gigante wanted me to send you a message.

BUMPY

What's that?

FINEMAN

We found the rat.

26 INT. CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE - DAY

26

Olympia is making food. Stella comes in, smiles, in a seemingly good mood.

STELLA

Wow, that smells delicious.

Stella sticks her finger in a pot to taste the sauce. Olympia slaps her hand.

OLYMPIA

Quit it! That's for your father. I'm making it so he doesn't have to eat that shitty nuthouse food.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

STELLA

I ate that "shitty nuthouse food"
for two months.

(with a smile)

Thanks to him.

OLYMPIA

God in heaven when will you stop!
Don't you have any feelings for your
father who's facing life in jail!?

STELLA

(with sincerity)

When I was a little girl I worshipped
him. He was so big and strong. I
thought he could do no wrong. I was
wrong about that, but I'll never
stop feeling that way about him.
He's my dad.

OLYMPIA

Aw. That's sweet.

STELLA

At the same time, I can't help feeling
that him in the nuthouse is payback
for what he did to me.

OLYMPIA

He's not your enemy. He wants what's
best for you.

STELLA

And I want what's best for him. Don't
worry. He'll find that out soon enough.

Olympia studies Stella's inscrutable expression, not sure
exactly what this means.

27 INT. STONY HILL SANITARIUM - PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

27

A stern-looking woman, DR. SUSAN BECK, 40s, reads through a
file as Chin Gigante, exceedingly high from his orange pills,
gazes around the office in wonder.

DR. BECK

It says here a Dr. Cooper diagnosed
you with psychotic schizophrenia.
When did you first experience
symptoms, Mr. Gigante?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

Chin is preoccupied with grabbing at an imaginary butterfly that floats around his head.

DR. BECK (CONT'D)
Mr. Gigante?

CHIN
(marveling)
Butterflies!

DR. BECK
I asked a question.

CHIN
Can you see that? The walls are
breathing...

Chin licks the chair. Doctor Beck takes notes.

DR. BECK
Did this doctor prescribe anything
for your condition?

CHIN
(disgusted)
It tastes like human flesh.

DR. BECK
How often do you have these
hallucinations?

CHIN
I took the pills.

DR. BECK
What pills?

CHIN
It's called "LS" - something.

DR. BECK
LSD? Who gave you LSD? Did Doctor
Cooper give you LSD?

CHIN
Stop reading my thoughts. Stop it!

Chin's having a bad trip, trying to keep it together. Dr.
Beck puts her pen down.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

DR. BECK

Did you take LSD to try and convince
me you're legally insane?

Chin tries to be quiet, then bursts into giggles.

DR. BECK (CONT'D)

Mr. Gigante, you probably don't
realize, LSD has many qualities in
common with sodium pentathol, a truth
serum. Did you take LSD to try and
convince me you're legally insane?

CHIN

(wrestling with it,
and then finally)

Yes!

Doctor Beck makes notes on her pad.

28 INT. MALCOLM'S HOUSE - STUDY - DAY

28

Pages of Malcolm's speech flip through someone's hand. The
final page turns to reveal... Betty. She reshuffles the
pages and we see the title:

"The Ballot or the Bullet"

MALCOLM X (O.S.)

Betty, what're you doing?

She turns to him, eyes filled with admiration.

BETTY

It's magnificent.

MALCOLM X

You read it?

BETTY

Every word. The call to unity, the
political power that they try to
steal from us, the call to black
nationalism.

MALCOLM X

I can't give this speech.

BETTY

Why not?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

MALCOLM X

Elise was right. Broadcasting this will provoke violence against us. I can't allow that for your sake. Or the children.

Betty rises, comes close.

BETTY

Come here.

They hug.

BETTY (CONT'D)

This is your path, Malcolm. It would be wrong to deny it. The children and I will be fine.

29 INT. HARLEM CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - NIGHT (N3)

29

CLOSE - ON FIRE, which we realize is the match that Powell uses to light Morgenthau's cigar. WIDER NOW, the lights are dim, the day is over. The men smoke and sip whiskey.

MORGENTHAU

I'm not sure I heard you correctly, Congressman, what exactly are you asking me to do?

POWELL

I'm not quite sure why you've wrapped Ellsworth Johnson into this prosecution.

MORGENTHAU

Because he's guilty of drug trafficking.

POWELL

Yes, and that's certainly against the law, but the purpose of this investigation was to loosen the hold of the *Italian* Mafia on this city.

MORGENTHAU

Absolutely. Vincent Gigante just failed a "sanity" assessment by our certified doctor. Johnson and Gigante are in a partnership. Both men are equally guilty. I have to follow the law.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

POWELL

Of course you do. And just as much as the law on earth is stamped in black and white, the laws of heaven are perhaps more fluid.

MORGENTHAU

I'm not sure I understand.

POWELL

Bumpy Johnson, it seems, is doing some valuable work for the Federal Government as we speak.

30 EXT. CLANCY'S DEW DROP INN - NIGHT

30

To establish.

31 EXT. PARKING LOT - MISSISSIPPI - NIGHT

31

Signage indicates that this is the parking lot of "Clancy's Dew Drop Inn". Klansmen Sam Crawford and Cecil Parmenter (seen in teaser), exit the bar dressed in their robes, hoods in hand, strolling toward their car.

PARMENTER

Are you drunk?

CRAWFORD

I ain't drunk, you're drunk.

PARMENTER

Get a move on - meeting starts in fifteen minutes.

A HANDHELD POV finds the Klansmen, and as this POV approaches with great aggression we reveal it's Ernie, gun in one hand, leather sap in the other. He shoots Parmenter in the foot, then brutally saps Crawford.

ERNIE

Change of plans, fellas.

32 OMITTED

32

33 INT. LE VOYAGE - NIGHT

33

Jehan and Monsieur 98 share a meal in the back. They're surprised to see Bumpy, Chance and Pettigrew enter.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Chance and Pettigrew position themselves nearby while Bumpy takes a seat at the table.

JEHAN

I'd invite you to sit down, but I see you're already seated.

BUMPY

You heard Chin Gigante and myself got arrested?

JEHAN

Vraiment. Which is why we're leaving town tomorrow. If they came for you, it's likely we were compromised as well.

BUMPY

How do I know you're not skipping town cause you cut a deal with the Feds?

MONSIEUR 98

Fuck you.

Jehan raises a hand to silence his partner.

JEHAN

Non, mon ami. He has every right to ask us these questions.

MONSIEUR 98

(to Bumpy)

You believe we would inform the FBI?

BUMPY

You tell me.

MONSIEUR 98

The Sicilians would track us down and cut us to pieces.

JEHAN

We are not suicidal, Bumpy. I'm surprised you can't guess who is behind this.

BUMPY

Who's that?

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

JEHAN

Why Bonanno, of course. He hasn't forgotten the little show you put on for him at your club.

BUMPY

Bonanno wouldn't snitch.

JEHAN

Against his own, maybe, but what rule or code prevents him from telling the FBI about you?

As Bumpy considers this, we MOVE TO...

34 INT. 22 WEST - NIGHT

34

Malcolm sits at a booth with his microphone with a radio station call sign (TBD). Behind him are various members of his MMI and other followers. A RADIO TECHNICIAN nods, indicating all is set to go. Malcolm, a tad nervous, checks his speech and speaks into the mic.

MALCOLM X

Ladies and gentlemen, this is Malcolm X, coming to you from 22 West. Tonight I wanna talk about freedom. How we gonna get it. And the price we have to pay for it.

He tosses a glance to an adjacent booth, where we see Betty and Elise, watching. He gives them a wink.

MALCOLM X (CONT'D)

1964 threatens to be the most explosive year America has ever witnessed. The most explosive year. Why? It's also a political year. It's the year when all of the white politicians will be back in the so-called Negro community jiving you and me for some votes. The year when all of the white political crooks will be right back in your and my community with their false promises, building up our hopes for a letdown, with their trickery and their treachery, with their false promises which they don't intend to keep.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

MALCOLM X (CONT'D)

As they nourish these
dissatisfactions, it can only lead
to one thing - *an explosion*.

35 INT. HARLEM CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - NIGHT

35

Morgenthau stares disapprovingly at Powell.

MORGENTHAU

If Bumpy Johnson isn't prosecuted,
the case against Gigante will fall
apart too.

POWELL

I'm sure Mister Gigante will give
you plenty of opportunities to arrest
him in the future.

MORGENTHAU

Let me make sure I'm hearing you
clearly. Are you saying you draw a
distinction between black and white
criminals?

POWELL

No, just a distinction between good
and bad people.

MORGENTHAU

I'm not interested in judging
someone's character, Congressman,
just whether or not they've broken
the law.

POWELL

And I've sworn to uphold the law.
All I'm saying is, sometimes criminals
are capable of good deeds.

36 EXT. MISSISSIPPI WOODS - NIGHT

36

Crawford and Parmenter are tied to two side-by-side trees.

CRAWFORD

What the fuck do you want?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

ERNIE

All's you gotta do is tell me where those Freedom Rider boys are - dead or alive.

CRAWFORD

You jus' don't know who you're messin' with boy.

ERNIE

Yeah, I do. Two fuckin' hillbillies who dress in bedsheets.

PARMENTER

You're a dead man.

Ernie saps Parmenter, breaking his nose and spewing blood over the front of his KKK robe.

ERNIE

Sieg heil, motherfuckers.

37 INT. LE VOYAGE - NIGHT

37

Bumpy faces Jehan and Monsieur 98.

BUMPY

If you're saying Joe Bonanno ratted me out, you're wrong. He's a bastard for sure, but he don't squeal.

MONSIEUR 98

We did not betray you.

BUMPY

Not we. *You.*

Monsieur 98 is furious.

MONSIEUR 98

You are insane.

JEHAN

I've known this man for years. We fought in Algeria together. He would never betray us.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

BUMPY

He gave you up pretty quick after I cut his face. Maybe he's getting me back for that.

JEHAN

If I thought he was doing that, I'd kill him myself.

Monsieur 98 swivels his head to Jehan. Stunned.

38 INT. 22 WEST - NIGHT

38

Malcolm continues to talk, growing in fervor.

MALCOLM X

It's time for us to submerge our differences and realize it is best for us to first see that we have the same problem - a problem that will make you catch hell whether you're a Baptist, or a Methodist, or a Muslim or a nationalist. We're all in the same boat and we all are going to catch the same hell from the same man. He just happens to be a white man.

Betty and Elise watch in rapt attention.

MALCOLM X (CONT'D)

Now in speaking like this, it doesn't mean that we're anti-white, but it does mean we're anti-exploitation, we're anti-degradation, we're anti-oppression. And if the white man doesn't want us to be anti-him, let him stop oppressing and exploiting and degrading us.

39 INT. HARLEM CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - NIGHT

39

Morgenthau remains unconvinced.

MORGENTHAU

You're protecting Ellsworth Johnson. What's he doing that's so important?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

POWELL

I don't know. Maybe nothing. It's a gray area, is all. You remember that during World War Two, Lucky Luciano helped rid New York Harbor of Nazi saboteurs.

MORGENTHAU

He did that to get out of jail. Not exactly altruistic.

POWELL

Who cares, if it saved hundreds of lives.

MORGENTHAU

I appreciate the relativity of ethics, Congressman. As a Jew, I support Civil Rights from the depths of my soul. But I'm a prosecutor, not a Talmudic scholar. I can't afford to spend a lifetime arguing if a man steals a loaf of bread to feed his starving children, is he a criminal?

POWELL

If you were black, you wouldn't even ask that question.

40 EXT. MISSISSIPPI WOODS - NIGHT

40

Crawford and Parmenter wriggle against the heavy coil of rope as Ernie liberally douses their Klan robes with gasoline.

ERNIE

I bet this is what a negro feels like when you got him all tied up, huh? If I hadda ladder I woulda lynched you both. But this is gonna have to do.

CRAWFORD

We don't know nothing about no fuckin' jewboys and niggers from New York.

ERNIE

You fuckers wouldn't last two days in Harlem. Now you're starting to get me pissed off. Where are they?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

CRAWFORD

I don't know!

Ernie removes a cigarette from his pocket and lights it with a zippo. He takes a long, deep drag.

ERNIE

Take your time, boys. I got all fuckin' night.

The Klansmen stare in terror at his flaming Zippo.

41 INT. LE VOYAGE - NIGHT

41

The mood is very tense as Bumpy lays out his case.

BUMPY

I have it on good information that your man here is cooperating with Robert Morgenthau.

MONSIEUR 98

That's a lie!

JEHAN

Where is your proof? You can't accuse a man without proof!

BUMPY

According to my lawyer, Morgenthau's informant cut a deal with the Feds... and Interpol. Which means he was seeking immunity here... and Marseille.

MONSIEUR 98

(to Jehan; in French)

Jean, c'mon. This is me. You know I'd never. I would never. I would rather die first.

Bumpy places his gun on the table with a heavy thud.

BUMPY

(to Jehan)

You said you'd kill him yourself.

42 INT. 22 WEST - NIGHT

42

Everyone stares at Malcolm in awe. The radiant power of his speech is undeniable.

MALCOLM X

Every time there's an election the races are so close that they have to have a recount. They had to recount in Massachusetts, it was so close. And the same with Kennedy and Nixon when they ran for president. Well, what does this mean? It means that when white people are evenly divided, and black people have a bloc of votes of their own, it is left up to them to determine who's going to sit in the White House and who's going to be in the dog house.

He pauses, sips his water.

MALCOLM X (CONT'D)

It's time now for you and me to become more politically mature and realize what the ballot is for; what we're supposed to get when we cast a ballot; and that if we don't cast a ballot, it's going to end up in a situation where we're going to have to cast a bullet. The type of black man on the scene in America today doesn't intend to turn the other cheek any longer.

Betty and Elise share a look - concern.

MALCOLM X (CONT'D)

It's either a ballot or a bullet. It'll be ballots, or it'll be bullets. It'll be liberty, or it will be death. The only difference about this kind of death -- it'll be reciprocal. No, if you never see me another time in your life, if I die in the morning, I'll die saying one thing: the ballot or the bullet, the ballot or the bullet.

43 INT. HARLEM CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE - NIGHT

43

Powell and Morgenthau continue to joust.

MORGENTHAU

Ellsworth Johnson's behavior is immoral.
And if we're being religious, morality
is key to mishpat, or Jewish law.

POWELL

Jesus was a rabbi, so I've made a
study of your religion, Mr.
Morgenthau. And in Judaism, morality
relates to a man's inner
consciousness, not only his deeds.

MORGENTHAU

Unless his deeds are importing heroin.
Do you ever stop to consider how
this man is destroying our city?

Off Powell, who can offer no response...

44 EXT. MISSISSIPPI WOODS - NIGHT

44

Ernie's down to the butt of his cigarette.

ERNIE

I ain't sure if anyone's told you
yet, but you guys lost the Civil
War. Last chance.

PARMENTER

Fuck you!

Ernie flicks his zippo/cigarette at Parmenter, immediately
setting him on fire. He shrieks. The flames ENGULF his
twisting, agonized body. Crawford's in shock.

ERNIE

Where are the Freedom Riders?

Off Crawford, as the flickering flames of his burning comrade
play over his terror-stricken face--

45 INT. LE VOYAGE - NIGHT

45

Jehan stares at the gun on the table with dread.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

BUMPY

Pick it up.

(off Jehan)

Pick it up or Chance will put a bullet
in your head.

Jehan glances to Chance, who simply glares. He gingerly
picks up the gun.

MONSIEUR 98

(to Jehan; in French)

What're you doing? You mustn't
believe them! Jean! No!

JEHAN

I am sorry. I did not think you'd
betray me. Forgive me.

He raises the gun to Monsieur 98's head. Squeezes the trigger
when suddenly--

BAM!

A small red dot appears between *Jehan's* eyes. He topples to
the side, leaving a stunned Monsieur 98. Bumpy has a second
gun, a small pistol, in his hand.

BUMPY

Your boss was a rat.

(re: the gun in Jehan's hand)

Don't worry, it wasn't loaded.

MONSIEUR 98

What is this?!

BUMPY

He was willing to kill you to cover
himself. He's got warrants in two
countries, which is why he cut a
deal.

Monsieur 98's wild eyes dart from Chance and Pettigrew, back
to Bumpy. Quivering with fear.

MONSIEUR 98

Please. I'll do anything. What do
you want from me?

The question hangs in the smoky air for a moment. Then a
grin creases Bumpy's face.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

BUMPY

I want you to work for me.

Off Monsieur 98, stunned...

CUT TO:

A TELEVISION

With a NEWSCASTER or VO NEWS VOICE over footage.

NEWSCASTER (ON TV)

Ending four months of speculation,
the bodies of James Chaney, Andrew
Goodman and Michael Schwerner were
found underneath an earthen dam on
Burgess Farm, in Neshoba County,
Mississippi.

46 INT. JOHNSON APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NEW DAY (D4)

46

Bumpy, Mayme and Margaret watch the grim news.

NEWSCASTER

The activists were found only after
an informant, discussed in FBI reports
only as Mister X, passed along a tip
to Federal authorities.

Mayme gives Margaret a comforting hug.

MARGARET

I was hoping they would find them
alive.

MAYME

We all were, honey.

MARGARET

Thank God for Mister X.

Bumpy and Mayme share a knowing look.

BUMPY

Yeah, Mister X did his job.

MARGARET

I'm going to get ready for school.

Margaret clears off, leaving Bumpy and Mayme alone.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

MAYME

So the Feds just dropped the case
against you and Chin?

BUMPY

For now. Their witness disappeared
on them, from what I heard. But I
don't think we can rest easy. There
might be more than one.

47 INT. OFFICE - DAY

47

Morgenthau is on the telephone.

MORGENTHAU

Listen, my case has fallen apart for
the time being. As soon as I can,
I'm going to refile. But next time
you're going to have to testify.

48 INT. CHIN'S TOWNHOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

48

CAMERA rolls up the phone cord.

STELLA (O.S.)

That's not what we agreed. I told
you everything I know. Don't ever
call me again.

Stella hangs up the phone. OFFSCREEN, we can HEAR Chin and
Olympia entering from outside.

OLYMPIA (O.S.)

We're home!

CHIN (O.S.)

Stella?!

Off Stella, inscrutable...

FADE OUT.

(TO BE CONTINUED)