

GODFATHER DEATH

CHARLES (37) stands on the sidewalk, cradling his baby boy, ALEX. He looks on as a MAFIA FUNERAL PROCESSION leaves the cathedral across the street.

Charles' expression reveals the emotional turmoil within.

THAN (O.S.)
Penny for your thoughts?

Charles turns to face an impeccably dressed THAN (late 50's). Than's inescapable eyes settle on Charles, on Alex.

Charles scoffs at the offer.

Than notices a NOTE pinned to the blanket wrapped around Alex. He opens it, uninvited, and reads to himself.

He closes the note. Than and Charles regard one another.

THAN
A weighty decision, to be sure.

CHARLES
He deserves a fair chance.

THAN
Fair? Condemning him to a life of poverty and servitude is fair?

Than indicates the pall bearers.

THAN
Or are you considering the alternative? Something more... prosperous?

CHARLES
Who are you?

THAN
I am sometimes called Than, but you know me by another name. (beat) And you know why I'm here.

Charles hesitates. Than inches closer.

THAN
I am nothing if not fair. Isn't that what you want for your son?

Charles deliberates, considering his options, before handing his son over to Than.

2 INT. MANSION - NIGHT 2

ALEX (8) pores over a medical book in a room lit by CANDLELIGHT. Than stands over him, stern, but approving.

3 INT. MANSION - DAY 3

ALEX (13) dissects a cat under Than's supervision. Than reaches down and touches the cat, SPARKS emanating from his finger. The cat comes to life. Alex runs away, screaming.

4 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY 4

ALEX (18) is in biology class. He tries the spark trick on a dead frog, and the frog spasms. Works like a charm.

5 INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY 5

Medical school, graduation day. ALEX (26) accepts his diploma. Magna Cum Laude. Than looks on, proud.

6 INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY 6

The ER is a flurry of activity. Alex, now DR. ALEXANDER FRANKLIN (33), follows a gurney as he's briefed by a nurse.

NURSE

Head trauma, broken left arm,
broken ribs, internal bleeding.

Camera flashes go off. Reporters are everywhere.

ALEX

What's with the press?

NURSE

That's Senator Richardson on the
table, doctor.

Alex accepts the challenge with eager anticipation.

7 INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY 7

Alex leads the trauma team with absolute precision, but it isn't enough. The senator FLATLINES.

Alex spies Than, peering into the ER. He's about to collect his due.

(CONTINUED)

Alex's mind races. All those reporters. He's not about to allow this one to slip through his fingers.

Subtle, unnoticed, Alex touches the Senator's chest.

An electric SPARK. A BLIP on the monitor. The senator inhales a deep, resurrecting breath.

Alex smiles, satisfied. Than frowns and disappears.

8

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - DAY

8

Alex strolls, beaming. A hand on his shoulder. He turns.

ALEX

Come on, Than. I couldn't just-

He stops. Not Than, but ALICIA, a twenty-something beauty with the face (and body) of an angel.

ALICIA

You couldn't just what?

ALEX

Sorry. I thought... who are you?

ALICIA

Alicia. Alicia Richardson.

Alex nods, understanding. Alicia moves closer.

ALICIA

I just wanted to say thank you.

She kisses him on the cheek.

ALEX

Sorry? I didn't catch that.

He leans in for another kiss. Alicia smiles and obliges.

9

INT. ALEX'S OFFICE - NIGHT

9

Alex observes Alicia in the parking lot below from his third story window. She notices him and waves.

Than sits behind a mahogany desk. Alex faces him.

THAN

The touch, Alex... you are never to use it without my blessing. There

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THAN (cont'd)
are rules... and consequences. Do
you understand?

ALEX
(distracted)
Hmmm? Oh, sure. Sure.

SCREECHING TIRES. A SCREAM. Alex rushes to the window.

A car is stopped at an awkward angle. The driver emerges,
frantic. On the ground, Alicia's still form.

Alex bolts from his office.

10 INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

10

The scene is eerily similar, save for the patient on the
table. Alex is intense, but his motivation has changed.

Alicia FLATLINES.

Alex is torn. His eyes flick to the doorway. Than is there,
answering the unspoken question: no.

Defiant, Alex makes his decision.

The touch. A SPARK. Alicia comes back to life.

She smiles up at Alex.

ALICIA
You... saved... me.

Alex opens his mouth to answer, but the words catch in his
throat. His world SPINS, sliding in and out of focus.

He FALLS to the floor.

11 INT. ENORMOUS CAVERN - NIGHT

11

Alex is surrounded by millions of burning CANDLES.

ALEX
What... where...

THAN (O.S.)
Where are we?

Alex spins to face Than.

THAN

This is my office, Alex, my ER. But
I don't rely on machines to tell me
how long someone has left to live.

Than removes a tiny, dying candle from its holder.

THAN

How long you have to live...

ALEX

Than, I had no choice.

Than regards the dwindling flame.

ALEX

Please.

Than reaches into his jacket and removes a FRESH CANDLE.
Relief washes over ALEX.

ALEX

Thank you, Than. Thank-

Than considers. Wordless, he lets the burning candle tumble
from his hands. Alex is horror-struck.

The candle hits the ground. The flame goes out. Dr.
Alexander Franklin falls lifeless to the cavern floor.

THAN

I am nothing if not fair.

12

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

12

Alex lays on the ER table as nurses and doctors struggle in
vain to save his life.

The monitor FLATLINES, whining it's steady drone.

FADE TO BLACK