

Tyler quietly places the bricks back in the canvas bag and hoists it on his shoulder. He grabs the briefcase and moves to the front door.

TYLER
See you at the boat.

Almandeto's lips stop moving. He stares pleadingly at Grady.

GRADY
You are forgiven.

Almandeto smiles faintly. He gives a final gasp and goes limp.

SHEP
Is he--?

GRADY
Yeah.

EXT. HUNTER'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Tyler jumps down the front steps and dashes across the yard directly into the path of Reydel's car.

The vehicle skids to a stop. Carlos and Mateo leap from the car, guns drawn.

MATEO
Don't you fucking move, maricon.

Tyler drops the briefcase and bag, hands held high.

MATEO (CONT'D)
Where's Almandeto?

TYLER
Who?

CARLOS
Mateo!

Carlos gestures to Juan's prostrate body lying in the sun.

MATEO
Son of a bitch.

Mateo aims his gun at Tyler.

BAM! ZING! A bullet ricochets off the hood of the car.

Carlos and Mateo turn toward the house, guns blazing.

Tyler throws himself to the ground.

On the porch, Shep, gun in hand, drops to all fours and crawls for the relative protection of Stan's body as bullets splinter the porch rail and post. Shep reaches around Stan and blindly empties his clip.

INT. REYDEL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

A bullet pierces the windshield and slams into the back seat.

REYDEL

Fuck!

Reydel opens the car door and tumbles to the ground

EXT. HUNTER'S CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Mateo and Carlos unload on Shep's position.

Shep cowers behind the dead man who takes the brunt of the onslaught.

Tyler crawls on his belly towards the lake, dragging the briefcase and canvas bag with him.

Reydel fires at Tyler. A spray of dirt flies up in front of him.

TYLER

Shit!

Tyler leaps to his feet and runs.

Reydel fires again. Misses.

Shep reaches for Stan's gun. POW! Zing! A glancing shot nearly takes his hand off.

BAM! A shot from the cabin's window draws Carlos and Mateo's attention.

GRADY

Stay down, Shep.

Grady fires another shot.

GRADY (CONT'D)

When I say go, you run for the woods.
I'll cover you. Ready? GO!

Grady crosses the window, firing repeatedly.

Shep leaps from his hiding place and dashes toward one of the parked cars. Mateo returns fires at Grady. Carlos tracks Shep. POW!

A bullet slams Shep's shoulder. The impact spins him around. He collapses on the sandy ground.

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

Tyler races through the cypress trees, black muck sucking at his feet. One leg suddenly plunges deep into the mud.

TYLER

Fucking A!

Tyler strains to free his leg. The mud relents, tossing Tyler onto all fours. He crawls through the slime, slips into the brackish water and half-swims, half-crawls to the boat. He tosses the bag and briefcase into the skiff.

ZING! A bullet ricochets off the gunwale. Another punches a hole in the side of the boat.

Tyler dives under the boat and comes up on the other side.

Reydel continues to fire as he crosses the mud flat. He stumbles and falls into the thick, heavy mud.

REYDEL

Stop, you fuck!

Tyler unties the boat and hauls himself over the side. He flips the ignition on the electric motor and guns it. The small boat zips away, careening through the cypress trees.

Reydel fires a few parting shots.

REYDEL (CONT'D)

Damn it.

EXT. HUNTER'S CABIN

Under Grady's covering fire, Shep crawls to the safety of Esteban's car.

Shep reloads. Pulls a second gun from his waistband.

GRADY

You good?

SHEP

No.

GRADY

You need to run a little faster this time.

SHEP

Uh-huh. Okay.

GRADY

GO!

Grady leaps through the cabin doorway, firing both guns

Mateo and Carlos drop behind the protection of their car doors.

GRADY (CONT'D)

Get the fuck up, Shep. Run!

SHEP

Awww, fuuuuuck.

Shep struggles to his feet and stumbles away from the house.

Mateo fires a burst of lead at Grady.

Grady returns fire, forcing Mateo back down. Grady sights Mateo's feet showing beneath the car door. He lifts the gun slightly and fires.

A bullet hole pops in the center of the driver's door. Mateo falls to the side dead.

Carlos stands and fires.

Grady responds in kind.

The two men face off, firing round after round. Carlos' gun empties.

GRADY

Too bad, so sad.

Grady fires once.

The bullet catches Carlos in the throat. He staggers back and falls to the ground, gurgling and gasping.

Grady lowers his gun and takes a step forward.

A bullet zings past his ear and slams into the wall of the house.

Reydel, caked in mud, fires another burst from the edge of the woods.

Grady dives off the porch. He squeezes off a few shots, lands on the ground and rolls behind Esteban's car.

Reydel runs to Carlos' side. Carlos shudders and grows still.

REYDEL

Fuck! Fuck, fuck, fuck!

Reydel aims his gun at Esteban's car. Fires a single shot.

REYDEL (CONT'D)
I know you're there.

Fires again.

REYDEL (CONT'D)
So come out like a man.

Grady checks his clip. Empty. He tosses the clip and gun aside. He eyes the distance to the woods. He has no choice. He psychs himself up and leaps to his feet.

Reydel tracks the fleeing Grady, pulls the trigger and-- nothing. The clip is empty. Grady disappears into the woods. Reydel pounds his fists on the hood of the car in frustration, wailing to the heavens.

He calms. Becomes aware of a pain in his upper arm. Blood soaks his shirt sleeve.

REYDEL (CONT'D)
Son of a bitch.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Shep staggers through the palmetto scrub and collapses to his knees. Blood streams freely from his shoulder.

Grady appears at his side. He grabs Shep by the shirt collar and pulls him to his feet.

GRADY
Get up.

SHEP
I can't.

GRADY
Get up and keep moving.

Grady shoves Shep into the palmetto fronds.

INT. HUNTER'S CABIN - DAY

Reydel enters the house. He sees Almandeto lying on the floor.

REYDEL
Almandeto? No.

Reydel shoves the table out of the way and drops to Almandeto's side. Taking him in his arms, he rocks him gently.

REYDEL (CONT'D)

I am so sorry, brother, so sorry.

Reydel lets Almandeto slide from his grasp. He takes out his cell phone and dials.

REYDEL (CONT'D)

Ramón? I need a favor. A big one.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Grady and Shep move slowly through the palmetto scrub. Shep stops to rest against a tree.

GRADY

C'mon, keep moving.

SHEP

I just need a minute.

GRADY

You stop moving, you die. Got it?

Shep nods. He takes several steps and collapses to his knees.

SHEP

I can't--I can't do it.

Grady drags Shep to his feet by the collar.

Shep's cell phone rings.

SHEP (CONT'D)

Wait, wait. It's Tyler.

Shep fumbles with his phone. Grady takes it from him.

GRADY

Tyler? You okay?

TYLER (V.O.)

Where's my brother? Where are you?

GRADY

Not really sure. You?

EXT. BOAT RAMP - DAY

TYLER

At the boatramp.

GRADY (V.O.)

You took the boat?

TYLER
They were shooting at me.

INTERCUT SCENES

GRADY
It's fine. It's fine. Works out better this way. You know County Road 60?

TYLER
Uh, Tucker's Grade?

GRADY
Yeah, I think we're about a mile, mile and a half from there.

TYLER
Shep's with you? He okay?

GRADY
He's been shot.

TYLER
What? Jesus Christ, Grady! Is he--

GRADY
Listen to me. I need you to drive my truck up here.

TYLER
I don't have the keys. How'm I supposed--

GRADY
There's a spare set hidden in the back bumper, driver's side. Okay?

TYLER
Yeah, yeah. Back bumper.

Tyler runs his hand along the inside of the bumper.

TYLER (CONT'D)
Got 'em.

GRADY
All right. You know the old gas station on 60? I figure we'll come out of the woods about three--four miles north of that. Got it?

TYLER
Three miles north. Yeah.

GRADY

At two miles north, start blowing
your horn every quarter mile.

TYLER

Why?

GRADY

'Cause we're not just gonna sit on
the side of the road waitin' for any
ol' car that happens by. Understand?

TYLER

Yeah. I'm on my way.

BACK TO SCENE

GRADY

Your brother's a dip shit.

SHEP

Already told you, he ain't my brother.

EXT. HUNTER'S CABIN - EVENING

Shadows lengthen as the sun dips behind the trees in the
west.

Reydel, a makeshift bandage tied around his arm, drags
Almandeto to his car. He struggles to lift the body into
the trunk alongside the bodies of Esteban, Juan, Mateo and
Carlos. He pats Almandeto's face.

REYDEL

Forgive me, huh?

With a heavy sigh, Reydel shuts the trunk.

EXT. WOODS - EVENING

In the growing gloom, Grady supports Shep as they struggle
to make it to the road. Shep's knees give out. He crumples
to the ground. Grady falls heavily on top of him.

GRADY

C'mon, buddy. You gotta get up.

SHEP

Can't--can't do it.

Two faint blasts of a car horn are heard in the distance.

GRADY

You hear that? It's Tyler. We made
it. C'mon now.

Grady attempts to pull Shep up, but Shep is done.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Okay, just wait here. I'll get him.

Shep nods feebly.

Grady races through the underbrush for the road. He emerges from the woods as Tyler passes in the SUV.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Hey! Here. Here. Tyler.

INT. GRADY'S SUV - EVENING

Tyler scans the roadside looking for Grady and Shep. He hears shouting. Glancing in the rear view mirror he sees Grady standing in the road waving his arms.

Tyler slams on the brakes.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - EVENING

The SUV backs up and squeals to a stop beside Grady. Tyler leaps from the cab.

TYLER
Where is he? Where's my brother?

GRADY
Down here.

The two men descend the embankment.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Shep drifts in and out of consciousness. He is barely aware of the crunching of leaves or the shouts of Tyler and Grady.

Tyler drops down beside him.

TYLER
Shep? Shep, can you hear me? What's wrong with him?

GRADY
He's in shock. Grab his feet.

Grady and Tyler lift Shep from the ground and scramble back through the woods.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Grady and Tyler drag Shep up the embankment to the SUV.

Grady flings open the rear passenger door and scrambles over the back seat, pulling Shep with him.

TYLER
He's not lookin' good.

GRADY
There's a blanket in the back. Get it for me.

Tyler runs to the back of the SUV. He opens the tailgate revealing the canvas bag and briefcase.

With a quick glance to Grady, Tyler pulls a blue plastic tarp over the items, concealing them from sight. He lifts a ratty old moving pad.

TYLER
This it?

GRADY
Yeah, let's have it.

Tyler tosses the pad over the seat. Grady spreads it over Shep, tucking it in at the sides.

GRADY (CONT'D)
There you go, buddy boy. Gonna be just fine now. Get you some help.

Grady climbs out of the SUV. Tyler stares pensively.

GRADY (CONT'D)
Don't just stand there. Let's go.

TYLER
We can't go to the hospital.

GRADY
Excuse me?

TYLER
They'll call the police.

GRADY
So what? Get in the fucking truck.

Tyler pulls his gun from his waistband and aims it at Grady.

TYLER
No. There's three dead cops back there. And my brother's got a bullet in his shoulder that might've come from one of their guns. What do you think they're gonna think?

GRADY

Shep is going to die if he doesn't get help.

TYLER

You're going to treat him.

GRADY

Are you out of your fucking mind?

TYLER

You've done it before. Your friend in the war.

GRADY

For God's sake, Tyler. I didn't treat him. I stuffed his guts back into his stomach.

TYLER

More experience 'n I got.

GRADY

He'll die.

SHEP

No hospital.

GRADY

Shep, you can't--

SHEP

Think about your family. You want them knowing where your kids live?

The sound of a car is heard. Headlights appear far down the road, but approaching quickly.

TYLER

We got company, Grady.

GRADY

Fuck me.

TYLER

What's it gonna be?

In a flash, Grady grabs the gun, twists Tyler's arm and delivers an elbow to Tyler's bicep, completely disarming him.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Fuckin' hell, mother fucker.

GRADY

Get in the God damned car.

Both men scramble into the SUV.

The SUV peels out, racing toward the oncoming vehicle.

INT. GRADY'S SUV - NIGHT

Grady and Tyler nervously watch the approaching car. It passes them at a high rate of speed.

Tyler whips around to watch the car recede in the distance.

TYLER

Was that them?

GRADY

I think so.

INT. REYDEL'S CAR - NIGHT

Reydel watches the SUV in his rear view mirror. The SUV continues to put distance between them.

Reydel exhales heavily and focuses on the road in front of him.

INT. GRADY'S SUV - NIGHT

Tyler watches Reydel's car.

TYLER

He's not turning around.

GRADY

They don't know what we're driving.
Didn't know it was us.

TYLER

You nearly broke my arm back there.

GRADY

I didn't? Must be out of practice.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Reydel's car barrels down the road at full throttle. His headlights pickout a small bridge just ahead, then a boat trailer parked on the side of the road.

Reydel slams on the brakes. The car skids onto the bridge and idles quietly for a moment. Reverse lights flare; the car backs up.

The boat trailer is illuminated in Reydel's headlights. Below the boat is a makeshift put in area for boats.

Reydel climbs out of his car, flashlight in hand. He stares at the trailer, then turns his flashlight to the water's edge. The beam catches Grady's boat tied to the shore.

Reydel wades into the water to examine the boat, but finds nothing except fishing tackle strewn about. He runs his hand along the side of the boat and discovers. . .a bullet hole.

REYDEL
Son of a bitch.

He runs the beam along the side of the boat to the bow. The boat's registration number is caught in the beam of light.

REYDEL (CONT'D)
(smiles)
Got you, mother fucker.

EXT. GRADY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The SUV skids to a stop in the driveway. The open garage door reveals a cluttered garage too full for the vehicle.

Tyler and Grady leap from the SUV and scramble to extract Shep from the back seat.

Grady's wife, MAURAH, 30s, plain, simple, enters the garage from the house. She is followed by her kids, CODY, 10, and JANE, 7.

MAURAH
Grady Adams, where in the hell have you been?

GRADY
Grab his feet, Tyler. His feet, for Christ's sake.

TYLER
I'm trying.

MAURAH
What is going--Oh, my God! Is that Shep?

GRADY
Bring me some towels, Maurah.

MAURAH
Is he--Has he been shot?

GRADY
Maurah, please.