

A PERSON OF INTEREST: A SCREENPLAY

by Jesse Lepre

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## Thesis: A Person Of Interest

By  
Jesse Lepre

*A Person Of Interest* is a feature-length Screenplay that explores an unwinding, delicate fabric in the Contemporary American quilt. The cause for concern is the rebirth of historical stereotypes coupled with newly adopted offensive ideologies regarding Italian-Americans. The purpose behind *A Person of Interest* is to explore the extremes of the Modern Italian-American as seen by the Media.

*A Person Of Interest* invites you to take a closer look into the life of an eighteen-year-old Italian-American, *Enzo Colombo*. *Enzo* is at a crossroad between helping his University win a State Wrestling Championship and avenging the man who incarcerated his father. *Enzo's* father, *Samuel Colombo*, is the most infamous gangster in New England. And, with such a legendary following comes unwanted attention and casts a giant shadow that *Enzo* must try to escape.

*Governor O'Neil*, the antagonist of the Screenplay, is a corrupt Politician that is responsible for incarcerating *Samuel Colombo*. *Governor O'Neil's* character embodies the antagonistic forces that portray the Modern Italian-American with a pedigree that is nonacademic, buffoonish and down right criminal.

*A Person Of Interest* showcases the well-orchestrated obstacles that the Media has set forth in the path of success for the Italian-American. These obstacles include but are not limited to bigotry, labeling, and stereotyping. *A Person of Interest* ultimately uses such close-minded ideologies to showcase what the end result would be if an Italian-American such *Enzo* is pushed to his moral breaking point.

A PERSON OF INTEREST

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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

An ITALIAN WOMAN, 30's, applies make-up in a vanity mirror. She carefully takes out a tube of ruby red lipstick.

She puckers her lips.

Her application is slow and meticulous. She smiles into the mirror and kisses a sealed envelope, leaving a beautiful set of lip marks.

The telephone rings.

The ITALIAN WOMAN stares at the phone. Beat.

She answers.

ITALIAN WOMAN

Hello?

(beat)

That would be fine Enzo. Just make sure you and John John stick together and look out for one another.

(beat)

I know you will. I love you both.

She hangs up the phone and looks down to her hand as it trembles nervously on her thigh.

A BOTTLE OF PILLS

She reaches for an unlabeled container of pills and routinely dispenses two into her hand. She swallows the pills and closes her eyes, letting out a sigh. Beat.

THE LOCKET NECKLACE

She opens a shiny, beautiful silver locket necklace. On the left is a photo of a large brunette child with big brown eyes and a small smile. On the right is a photo of a blonde, blue eyed child with a large smile.

She rubs both of the photo's with her thumbs and starts to cry.

She closes the locket and kisses it, placing the locket on the envelope.

## THE MUSIC BOX

She winds the lever of a black music box and lays it next to the locket, on top of the envelope.

The music box fills the room with a beautiful chime.

CLOSE ON -- The music box lever rotates slower and slower. The music stops.

POP! Out comes an elephant with its trunk raised high in the air.

## THE CHANDELIER

We follow a tightly knotted, paisley bed sheet from the black wrought iron chandelier. The bed sheet leads to the ITALIAN WOMEN's neck as her motionless body hangs in the air.

CUT TO:

## INT. CAR - DAY

ADAM MARTINO, 26, dressed years above his age, sweats nervously as he speeds down the highway.

Adam's cell phone rings. He answers it cautiously.

ADAM

Hello?

(beat)

Honey thank God its you! Mr. Parker is going to kill me if I miss the State Finals. There must be ten schools in the area.

Adam frantically looks to his watch.

GIRLFRIEND (O.S.)

Just relax, there must be exit signs off the highway?

Adam squints as he reads multiple school's exit signs.

ADAM

Yeah but which one should I take? There's a sign every twenty feet. Our Lady Of Grace High School... North Providence High School... St. Mary's High School. You know what? Screw it! I'm taking this exit. Wish me luck...

Adam swerves into the right lane.

INT/EXT. CAR - DAY

Parked at last. Adam gathers a briefcase hurriedly.

SCHOOL GROUNDS

Adam takes off running towards a dense crowd and weaves through a line of students by the gymnasium, under a large blue and gold banner reading SAMSON.

GYMNASIUM ENTRANCE

A FEMALE STUDENT stops Adam.

FEMALE STUDENT

May I take your ticket sir?

Adam opens his jacket to reveal credentials around his neck.

INSERT - PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY ANCHORS -- ADAM MARTINO

BACK TO SCENE

INT. ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

NOSE BLEED SEATS

Adam finds a seat in the back of the bleachers. Adam takes out photos and statistics of wrestlers he is supposed to scout.

Adam leans over to an EXCITED STUDENT GIRL, 15, sitting next to him.

ADAM

Excuse me, how many matches did I miss so far?

The EXCITED STUDENT GIRL counts on her brightly colored fingernails that match the TEAM'S colors of blue and gold.

EXCITED STUDENT GIRL

You missed... FOUR so far, but don't worry, you made it just in TIME!

The EXCITED STUDENT GIRL screams in excitement with her girlfriends. Adam takes in a deep breath and lets out a frustrated sigh.

Adam whispers to himself.

ADAM

Yeah right.

The lights go dim. THREE STUDENTS beat white buckets with drumsticks as "street drums." Adams head pops up.

ADAM (CONT'D)  
 (to himself)  
 Who's coming out? King Kong?

ON THE MAT

ENZO COLOMBO, 18, a hulking Italian man-child, wears blue and gold as he trots onto the mat. He wears a menacing expression on his face and a long, coiled, black ponytail tucked under his headgear.

GYMNASIUM ANNOUNCER  
 Wrestling for St. Mary's, All-  
 CONFERENCE and UNDEFEATED. Enzo  
 "SAMSON" Colombo!

Enzo's OPPONENT, meekly walks onto the mat. The REFEREE makes the two shake hands. Enzo's OPPONENT looks to his coach for help and swallows nervously.

The REFEREE'S whistle blows.

Enzo locks shoulders with his OPPONENT, then quickly hip tosses him violently to the mat with a load growl.

The referee holds THREE FINGERS up to the scorers table while wearing a green wristband.

REFEREE  
 Take down Green, three points  
 danger.

IN THE STANDS

Adam stands up dropping his paperwork and his jaw. Adam then looks at the multiple championship banners on the wall.

CLOSE ON: ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING CHAMPIONS DIVISION III.

Adam flips passed Division I & II wrestlers in his files, finally reaching Division III. Enzo "Samson" Colombo is no where to be found.

Adam hears a monstrous grunt.

ON THE MAT

Enzo's OPPONENT is laying on the mat in terrible pain, allowing Enzo to pin him easily. The REFEREE holds Enzo's hand in victory. The CROWD cheers.

CROWD  
 (chanting)  
 Samson! Samson! Samson!

An OLD MAN behind Adam makes a comment.

OLD MAN (O.S.)  
 Sin pinned. What a way to go out.

Adam turns around to the OLD MAN, 64, Italian, sharply dressed, content and slowly eating popcorn.

ADAM  
 Excuse me sir, can you tell me  
 anything about this Samson?

The OLD MAN answers Adam without looking his way.

OLD MAN  
 I know more than the crowd does,  
 that's for certain.

The OLD MAN looks at Adam. Adam listens intently.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)  
 Every one is cheering Samson, but  
 it started out as Sam's son. SAMUEL  
 COLOMBO is Enzo's father.

Adam quietly says the name Samuel Colombo to himself a few times.

ADAM  
 Samuel Colombo as in Samuel Colombo  
 the gangster?

The Old Man looks around and then back to Adam, putting his finger to his lips.

OLD MAN  
 Shhh son. Yeah, that's the one.  
 (beat)  
 But due to his ponytail, overtime  
 his nickname became Samson.

Adam is stunned. He abruptly leaves his seat.

EXT. ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL GROUNDS - DAY

Adam is dashing through the school grounds. Adam takes out his cell phone as he is running.

ADAM'S CAR

Adam is out of breath and speaks into his phone, leaning against his car.

ADAM

Honey.  
 (beat)  
 I found him.

GIRLFRIEND (O.S.)

Who? Who did you find?

A smile grows on Adam's face.

ADAM

I found SAMSON!

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - DAY

ADAM'S OFFICE

Adam searches the name Samuel Colombo on his laptop. Adam focuses on a troubling Providence Herald headline.

INSERT -- NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

"Samuel Colombo's Reign Ends" emblazoned above a photo of an enormous Samuel Colombo in a black suit, handcuffed and lead by FOUR STATE POLICE OFFICERS.

BACK TO SCENE

MIKE THOMPSON, 33, shirt and tie, walks into Adam's office. Adam pops his head up at Mike's presence.

MIKE

Adam, what happened Sunday? You missed the Division I States at Brown University.

Adam shakes his head "no."

ADAM

I didn't miss anything, I found a diamond in the rough.

Mike takes a seat and gloats.

MIKE

Well.  
 (beat)  
 I interviewed Senator Jack Stefano's son.  
 (MORE)

MIKE (cont'd)  
The kid is stronger and quicker  
than his files indicated.  
(beat)  
So, tell me about this diamond?

Adam turns his laptop around for Mike to see.

Mike is confused and looks closer.

MIKE (CONT'D)  
What's this?

ADAM  
Bear with me here.  
(beat)  
Do you remember when that Mafia  
Boss from Federal Hill got taken  
down in Providence years back?

Mike sits down and throws up his hands.

MIKE  
Yeah, so what? He's rotting his  
life away in jail now.

Adam types into his laptop. He turns the laptop for Mike to see once again.

INSERT -- a photo of Enzo's muscles bulging through his blue and gold wrestling singlet.

BACK TO SCENE

Adam has a large smile on his face.

ADAM  
I bumped into his son Sunday...  
Enzo. He wrestles for St. Mary's,  
Division III.

Mike is awestruck by the photo of Enzo.

MIKE  
Jesus Christ. This is a kid!?  
(beat)  
Is he a chip off the old block?

Adam shrugs his shoulders.

ADAM

Don't know. I'm calling his coach today at St. Mary's to see what he's all about.

CUT TO:

INT. ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

COACH JENKINS OFFICE

COACH JENKINS, 58, grey haired Black man, has a whistle around his neck as he does paperwork.

The phone rings.

COACH JENKINS

Coach Jenkins speaking. Adam Martino? Providence University?

(beat)

Are you new to the program son? I haven't come across your name before.

INT. ADAM'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Adam paces in his office.

ADAM

Yes sir Coach Jenkins, this is my first year. I came on over from Virginia Community College.

(beat)

Say...

I had the luxury of stopping by the States Sunday. Take a guess who caught my eye?

INTERCUT: COACH JENKINS AND ADAM MARTINO

COACH JENKINS OFFICE

COACH JENKINS

Enzo Colombo is 197 pounds of solid gold. And his worth is appreciating.

ADAM'S OFFICE

ADAM

Coach Jenkins, has Enzo committed to any schools yet?



COACH JENKINS OFFICE

COACH JENKINS  
 Enzo hasn't committed to any  
 schools. But.  
 (beat)  
 No schools have committed to Enzo  
 either.

ADAM'S OFFICE

Adam stops pacing and pumps his fist. He calms himself down.

ADAM  
 I'd like to speak with Enzo, where  
 can I reach him?

COACH JENKINS OFFICE

COACH JENKINS  
 Well, the Seniors got out early  
 this week. The best place to reach  
 him would be at work.

ADAM'S OFFICE

Adam jumps into his desk chair and searches his drawers for a  
 pen, finally finding one.

ADAM  
 What does Enzo do Coach Jenkins?

Adam holds the pen over a pad.

COACH JENKINS OFFICE

A smile grows on Coach Jenkins face.

COACH JENKINS  
 If you were that big, what would  
 you do?

CUT TO:

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - AFTERNOON

Adam gets out of his car and looks around the construction  
 site. Adam walks up to a large man who is giving others  
 orders, STEVE NAPPA, 52, a towering Head Foreman.

ADAM  
 (loudly)  
 Excuse me sir. Can you tell me  
 where I can find Enzo Colombo?

Nappa sizes Adam up and down. Nappa points to Enzo working the jackhammer, with a long, black ponytail sticking out of his yellow hard hat.

WAP! Nappa slams a hard hat on Adam's head as he walks passed a sign that reads HARD HAT AREA. Adam looks at Nappa in pain.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Thanks.

BY THE JACKHAMMER

Adam walks up to Enzo, making Enzo shut off the jackhammer. Enzo takes a sip of water and addresses Adam without looking his way.

ENZO

The workout's tomorrow, I'm telling you like I told everyone else.

Adam is dwarfed by Enzo's size.

ADAM

(beat)

What workout?

Enzo bends down and picks up a large rock with one hand from the hole he is digging. He throws the rock ten feet as if it were a pebble.

Enzo looks at Adam with a stone cold expression.

ENZO

For scouts like yourself to see what I have in the tank.

Adam is still looking at the giant rock Enzo tossed.

ADAM

(timidly)

Well... Where will it be?

Enzo turns his back to Adam.

ADAM (CONT'D)

If you got this far.

(beat)

You'll get to the workout.

Adam rubs his forehead nervously and turns around, bumping into the grizzly head foreman Nappa.

NAPPA

You done here? We got a pace to keep.

Adam nods "yes," and hands Nappa his hard hat. Nappa watches Adam walk away.

EXT. A SUBURBAN BACKYARD - MORNING

GOVERNOR O'NEIL, 60, grey hair, is eating breakfast in his plush backyard. The Providence Herald is thrown by his plate of food.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL

What the hell are you doing Evergreen? You know I don't read these rags.

COACH EVERGREEN, 58, tall and athletic, is wearing a LASALLE UNIVERSITY SAINTS WRESTLING polo.

Coach Evergreen looks concerned.

COACH EVERGREEN

Well Governor, you may want to take a long, hard look at this one.

Governor O'Neil looks at the newspaper.

INSERT -- NEWSPAPER HEADLINE

"Enzo Colombo to Give a Public Workout" below is a photo of a muscular Enzo manhandling an OPPONENT.

BACK TO SCENE

Governor O'Neil shakes his head "no" in disbelief.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL

Impossible. Samuel didn't have a son.

Coach Evergreen is pacing with his head down and four fingers raised in the air.

COACH EVERGREEN

FOUR! It took FOUR State Troopers to take Samuel down the night he was arrested.

(beat)

We don't need a problem that big ever again in our lives.

Governor O'Neil stares at the picture of the muscular Enzo.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL

I'll get to the bottom of this.  
Meanwhile, if you want to repeat as  
state champs with your precious  
Tommy Jr., you better be in  
attendance at that workout.

(beat)

After all... kittens do become  
lions.

Coach Evergreen stares nervously at Governor O'Neil.

INT. ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - AFTERNOON

Adam enters the packed gymnasium late once again. Upon showing his credentials he is surprised to be escorted to VIP seating in the front row.

FRONT ROW

SCOUTS from various out of state colleges are practically salivating at the jowls. SCOUTS take notice of Adam's presence. Adam feels and looks out of place.

ON THE MAT

The lights go dim. THREE STUDENTS summon the giant Enzo by pounding white buckets with drumsticks. The SCOUTS applaud as Enzo emerges onto the mat with ten of his TEAMMATES in blue and gold.

The THREE STUDENTS stop drumming. The WRESTLERS fall to their knees in a circle and pound the mat rhythmically.

THE WORKOUT BEGINS

Enzo stands in the center of the mat as a TWO-HUNDRED POUND WRESTLER charges him. Enzo slams the TWO-HUNDRED POUND WRESTLER like a rag doll. The floor shakes.

IN THE STANDS

The SCOUTS' mouths drop in awe and they frantically take notes and make calls on their cell phones.

ON THE MAT

MONTAGE: Enzo shows off intricate techniques and displays of power. One wrestler after another is conquered by the might of Enzo.

Enzo ends his workout to a loud applause and he gives a "thumbs up" as a sign of appreciation.

CUT TO:

INT. COACH JENKINS OFFICE - NIGHT

OFFICE WAITING ROOM

The line of SCOUTS overflows into the hallway. Coach Jenkins yells from his office.

COACH JENKINS (O.S.)  
Coach Thomas Evergreen, LaSalle  
University Saints. Come on in.

Adam watches Coach Evergreen jump out of his seat and head into the coach's office.

COACH JENKINS OFFICE

Coach Evergreen shakes hands with Coach Jenkins and notices Enzo is not present.

COACH JENKINS  
It's nice to finally meet you Coach  
Evergreen, your reputation speaks  
for itself.

The two take a seat. Coach Evergreen looks around the office curiously.

COACH EVERGREEN  
Thank you Coach Jenkins. Say, this  
room's about 197 pounds light.  
(beat)  
Don't you think?

Coach Jenkins leans back in his seat and folds his hands on his belly.

COACH JENKINS  
I'll be taking questions on Enzo's  
behalf.  
(beat)  
Per Enzo's request of course.

Coach Evergreen nods "OK," then leans in to speak to Coach Jenkins.

COACH EVERGREEN  
You know I never thought Samuel  
Colombo had a son. I overheard one  
of the scouts out there.  
(MORE)

COACH EVERGREEN (cont'd)

Apparently Samuel changed Enzo's last name to Cambio, his mother's maiden name to keep him out of the spotlight.

(beat)

Then... Enzo decided to change his name back to Colombo his Senior year, to honor his father.

(beat)

Brave kid.

Coach Jenkins is expressionless.

COACH JENKINS

But...?

Coach Evergreen leans back in his chair.

COACH EVERGREEN

But... I have to ask. Is that big lion tamed?

(beat)

Is his mind on the mat or does he still see red about his father living out the rest of his life in jail?

Coach Jenkins stands up and holds out his hand to Coach Evergreen.

COACH JENKINS

It was nice meeting you Coach Evergreen.

Coach Evergreen stands up confused.

COACH EVERGREEN

I'm sorry, I don't understand?

COACH JENKINS

You run and tell Governor O'Neil that a son never forgets.

Coach Evergreen feels set up and walks to the door. He turns around blurting out an insult.

COACH EVERGREEN

The kid's a fucking animal anyway.

Coach Jenkins watches Coach Evergreen leave his office. Coach Jenkins yells out another name.

COACH JENKINS  
Adam Martino, Providence University  
Anchors, come on in kid.

THE OFFICE WAITING ROOM

The scouts look to Adam curiously, wondering why he was picked second after the legendary Coach Evergreen.

Adam is just as curious.

COACH JENKINS OFFICE

Adam walks in nervously and shakes hands with Coach Jenkins.

ADAM  
Coach Jenkins, it's nice to meet  
face to face.

Coach Jenkins sits back in his seat and folds his hands on his belly once again.

COACH JENKINS  
So...

Adam grows even more nervous.

ADAM  
So... I gotta be honest here.  
What's with the special treatment?  
(beat)  
I'm not here to offer Enzo any  
bribes or under the table deals.  
I'm sorry, but I'm going to treat  
Enzo like any other athlete on  
scholarship.

Coach Jenkins stands up quickly, making Adam do the same.

COACH JENKINS  
Do you promise?

Coach Jenkins has his hand held out to Adam. Adam shakes it nervously. Beat.

ADAM  
Promise what?

COACH JENKINS  
You promise that you'll treat Enzo  
like any other athlete and not like  
a gangsters son?

Adam now understands and nods "yes."

ADAM  
I promise Coach Jenkins.

Coach Jenkins smiles.

COACH JENKINS  
Enzo's going to be very happy. And  
kid, by the way... you better get  
your popcorn ready.

Adam shares a smile with Coach Jenkins.

OFFICE WAITING ROOM

Adam walks past several wide eyed SCOUTS. The SCOUTS eye Adam from head to toe. A loud bark is heard from inside the office.

COACH JENKINS (O.S.)  
The kids been signed! Sorry to have  
wasted your time!

Adam tries to hold in a smile as the SCOUTS are in complete disarray.

INT. GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S OFFICE - STATE HOUSE - DAY

Governor O'Neil is staring out of a large, beautiful window. He takes out a gold pocket watch and glances at the time. His cell phone rings. He answers.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL  
Punctual, that's a good sign.  
Because you have a big assignment.  
(beat)  
By his second match, I want the  
locals bearing torches and  
pitchforks.  
(beat)  
You get the picture?

Governor O'Neil enjoys what he hears in response. An evil expression grows on his face.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - DORM ROOM - DAY

Enzo walks into his dorm room and sees four bare beds. He chooses the bed that is closest to the window. He hangs up an Italian flag and a few photo's.

He heads into the bathroom with a backpack.

BATHROOM



Enzo reaches into his backpack and puts away a few incidentals. He takes out a black music box and lays it by the sink. He stares at the music box and his hand starts to tremble. Beat.

Enzo shuts the bathroom door and locks it.

He takes off his shirt and pants. He turns on the shower in his black boxer briefs. He sits by the sink and winds the music box.

A childlike chime echoes throughout the walls.

POP! A small elephant pops out the top with its trunk raised.

Enzo lifts the elephant delicately to expose five meticulously aligned and sharpened small blades in the base of the music box.

Enzo lifts his leg on the sink and pulls down one side of his briefs to reveal a horribly discolored wound by his thigh. It has several old and new cuts carved into it.

With a steady hand, Enzo makes two delicate cuts into his wound.

As blood flows out, he grinds his teeth and closes his eyes.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. NEW DEAL SOCIAL CLUB - DAY

SAMUEL COLOMBO, 50's, hulking Italian, is seated at a table playing cards. He looks over to his son Enzo, 8, who plays with his best friend JOHN JOHN, 7, with blonde hair.

AT THE BAR

Enzo and John John are at the bar drinking Shirley Temples. YOUNG UNCLE NUNCIO is bartending.

YOUNG UNCLE NUNCIO  
Fellas, how's "Hear No Evil" and  
"See No Evil" doing this fine day?

The TWO BOYS laugh.

YOUNG UNCLE NUNCIO (CONT'D)  
Would we care for some chips?  
Perhaps a pretzel?

The TWO BOYS nod "yes" excitedly.

## THE CARD TABLE

Samuel lays down a FULL HOUSE. ACES over KINGS. Samuel smiles.

## AT THE ENTRANCE

YOUNG LILLIO, 18, tall and husky, is having trouble with the LOCAL JUNKIE. Samuel walks over to the entrance. The LOCAL JUNKIE stops at the sight of Samuel and a scared expression grows on his face.

SAMUEL

Let him in. We've got business.

Lillio stares the man down. Samuel points to an empty table. The LOCAL JUNKIE walks through the bar nervously with his head down.

## AT THE BAR

Enzo looks to John John who is quivering. John John has a large bruise of his neck.

ENZO

John John.

(beat)

Don't worry about him. My Dad won't let him touch you here.

## BACK TABLE

Samuel pulls out a seat for the scared LOCAL JUNKIE. He sits with his head down. Samuel sits down across from him.

SAMUEL

Here...

Samuel slowly slides over an ACE OF SPADES. The LOCAL JUNKIE picks up the card.

LOCAL JUNKIE

What's this?

Samuel sips from a snifter.

SAMUEL

That's your fortune. The ACE of SPADES.

(beat)

Strongest card in the deck, and I'm giving it to you.

The LOCAL JUNKIE becomes even more nervous.

LOCAL JUNKIE

I don't understand? Why would I...

Samuel takes the card and holds it close to the LOCAL JUNKIE'S face.

SAMUEL

The Ace of Spades is also known as the card of death.

The LOCAL JUNKIE instantly grows sober.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

That's right.

(beat)

You touch that boy one more time...

The LOCAL JUNKIE interrupts Samuel.

LOCAL JUNKIE

It wasn't me, John John, he

(beat)

Kids you know, they...

Samuel backhands the LOCAL JUNKIE onto the floor. Samuel picks him up and throws him into his previous seat.

SAMUEL

You're talking out of line in MY place you piece of shit?!

The NEW DEAL PATRONS become silent. Lillio walks up to the table and folds his arms, staring at the LOCAL JUNKIE.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

You touch that boy one more time and you'll never walk in here again. In fact, you won't walk anywhere else again.

Lillio folds his arms and stands behind the LOCAL JUNKIE.

LILLIO

This is the part where you stand the fuck up.

The LOCAL JUNKIE stands up and slowly walks to the door. He glances over to his son John John at the bar, who is scared to death and crying.

LILLIO (CONT'D)

Out you go.

Lillio pushes the man out, he stumbles to the ground dropping his Ace of Spades. He picks it up and stares into it.

CLOSE ON: The Ace of Spades

END FLASHBACK:

DORM ROOM SHOWER

Enzo opens his eyes and puts away his music box. He takes off his underwear, steps into the shower and washes off his leg. Hw watches the red water go down the drain.

DORM ROOM

Enzo walks out of the bathroom with just a towel around his waist and is surprised to see JULIUS CARTER, 18, a tall Black young man. Julius sees Enzo and introduces himself with a smile.

JULIUS

God damn, I must have taken a wrong turn and entered the football dorm.

Enzo smiles cordially and shakes Julius's hand.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

I'm just playing with you big man.  
I'm Julius.

ENZO

Hey Julius, I'm Enzo. And it's wrestling.

Julius throws his luggage on a bed. Beat.

JULIUS

Football, wrestling... Your kicking someone's ass, plain and simple.

(beat)

As for me?

Julius looks into a mirror on the wall and flexes.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

I'm a lover, not a fighter.

Julius looks to Enzo and laughs, but stops when he sees a large red stain on Enzo's white towel. Julius points to the spot.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

Hey big man, I think your bleeding?

Enzo looks down and touches the blood on the towel. The blood stains his fingers.

ENZO

I cut myself shaving for wrestling.  
All I had was this towel.

Julius dismisses the cut.

JULIUS

I hear you big man, my folks kicked  
me out the door with just a  
suitcase and a smile.

The two are interrupted by a knock at the door. Julius looks to Enzo.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

I'll get it. Go ahead and change.

Enzo grabs a pair of jeans, underwear and a T-shirt as he enters the bathroom, closing the door.

THE TWINS

FLACCO and OMAR SUAREZ, 18 year old Spanish twins, stumble into the room dropping boxes and paperwork. The TWINS have on name badges.

Julius laughs at the sight of them.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

My word, we have ourselves twins.

Flacco answers Julius jokingly.

FLACCO

That's what the doctors said, but  
I'm looking into a second opinion.

Omar responds to Flacco.

OMAR

It's our first day and you're  
starting already?

Julius laughs as the two argue.

JULIUS

Hey guys I'm Julius.  
(beat)  
Did I need a name badge too?

The TWINS stop settling in and share a laugh looking at their name badges. They shake hands with Julius. THE THREE are interrupted by the bathroom door opening.

SAMSON EMERGES

Enzo walks out of the bathroom bulging out of a Providence University Anchors T-shirt and jeans.

Omar walks up to Enzo wide eyed.

OMAR  
You're Enzo Colombo, ST. MARY'S  
HIGH?

Flacco is wide eyed as well.

FLACCO  
You went undefeated four straight  
years.

Omar and Flacco shake Enzo's hand with admiration.

Enzo smiles cordially.

JULIUS  
You never said you were any good.

Enzo finally laughs. He notices the name badges as well.

ENZO  
Julius, did we need name badges?

The TWINS and Julius laugh.

JULIUS  
So guys, what DO you do?

Omar neatly places a pen behind his ear.

OMAR  
Flacco and I head the school's  
newspaper, The Throttle. We have  
our first meeting today, so "no,"  
you guys don't need a name badge.

Flacco finishes Omar's answer.

FLACCO  
Unfortunately "yes," us geeks have  
to wear one. It makes things easier  
when meeting our staff members.

Omar looks at his watch and nudges Flacco.

OMAR  
Speaking of our meeting, it starts  
in twenty minutes.

The TWINS continue to settle in.

BY ENZO'S BED

Julius rolls his desk chair over to Enzo's bed and looks at one particular photo on the wall.

JULIUS  
Hey Enzo?  
(beat)  
Is that your brother?

Enzo and Marcus look to a black and white photo of a YOUNG Enzo and a tiny blonde haired boy. Enzo stares at the photo and then looks to Julius. Beat.

ENZO  
That's John John.  
(beat)  
He's my little brother.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - EVENING

ON THE MAT

MARCUS ANDERSON, 21, built Black wrestling team captain, is staring at the clock on the wall that reads 5:05pm. The TEAM is seated on the mat talking.

MARCUS  
Looks like big time gangster's son  
didn't have the mettle to show  
after all.

A door slams behind Marcus. Enzo walks in.

The WRESTLERS walk up to Enzo and shake his hand like he is a celebrity. Marcus becomes jealous and approaches Enzo.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Colombo. What time does that clock  
say?

Enzo looks at the clock.

ENZO  
It says 5:10pm.

Marcus speaks loudly trying to embarrass Enzo.

MARCUS  
That's good, now we know you can  
tell time.

Enzo's face turns stone cold and he drops his backpack on the mat.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Wrestling practice starts at  
5:00pm, no matter who you think you  
are.

Enzo closes in and stands face to face with Marcus. Enzo's size is daunting. The TEAM looks at one another.

ENZO  
You must be Marcus Washington.

Marcus looks up to the giant Enzo. Standing firm.

MARCUS  
That's Captain Washington to you.  
(beat)  
Rookie!

A LOUD WHISTLE is followed by a boisterous COACH MANCINI, 54, short and athletic.

COACH MANCINI  
Alright you sons-a-bitches, you  
better hope you kept your fat asses  
in shape this off-season. Because  
if you're a real wrestler, you know  
there's no OFF-SEASON!

Enzo smiles at Coach Mancini's enthusiasm. Marcus walks away from Enzo to gather with the TEAM. Enzo calls out to Marcus.

ENZO  
(smirking)  
Hey Captain? Don't go too far, I'll  
be looking for you later.

EXT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS QUAD - NIGHT

Enzo is walking back to his dorm room wearing his wrestling sweatshirt with its hood up. Enzo is tapped on his back. Beat. And slowly turns around.

We see BIANCA STRADONE, 18, a petite beautiful brunette with big brown eyes, holding her books close to her chest.

Bianca



You must be Enzo? Enzo Colombo?

Enzo takes off his hood and fixes his ponytail. Enzo nods "yes" with a sheepish smile on his face.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
My names Bianca, I write for The  
Throttle, our school's newspaper.

Enzo continues to smile. Bianca laughs.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
My first assignment is to interview  
an incoming, promising athlete. I  
was told to interview MALCOLM COLE,  
our star basketball player, but I  
thought you would be more  
interesting. So...  
(beat)  
Would you mind if I interviewed  
you?

Enzo shrugs his shoulders.

ENZO  
Yes I would.

Bianca looks defeated. Enzo corrects himself.

ENZO (CONT'D)  
I mean YES, it would be fine.

Bianca's expression turns to joy.

BIANCA  
Great! You don't know how much this  
means to me. When can we meet?  
(beat)  
How about after your next practice?  
It'll only take a half hour tops.

Enzo is amused by Bianca.

ENZO  
My next practice is Wednesday.  
Where should we meet?

BIANCA  
(smiling)  
Oh I'll find you.  
(beat)  
I'll meet you at the gymnasium.

Bianca writes down the time and date on her business card and hands it to Enzo. Enzo takes the card without reading it. Bianca shakes his large hand.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
It was nice meeting you Enzo, I'll  
see you very soon.

Enzo is still mesmerized by Bianca's beauty and nods his head "yes." Bianca laughs and waves goodbye. Enzo waves back.

From afar, Bianca turns around to see Enzo smelling her card, she giggles to herself as she glows.

INT. ADULT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE - DAY

Enzo is in a line of visitors. Enzo is asked to take off his shoes.

FAT GUARD (O.S.)  
Take off your shoes.

As the line moves, Enzo is frisked roughly by a FAT GUARD. Enzo stares at the man and grinds his teeth in anger.

BUZZ! A loud industrial buzzer sounds off.

Enzo forgets about the FAT GUARD and follows the line. The prisoners have been let out and the visitors search for their loved ones.

Enzo finally locates SAMUEL, 60, broad shoulders with a four inch scar by his bright blue eyes.

Samuel is handcuffed to a table but manages to wave to a baby one table over. Enzo locks eyes with Samuel.

SAMUEL'S TABLE

Samuel's frown turns into a bright smile and the two embrace. Enzo looks at the shackles and hangs his head low, changing his mood.

Samuel lifts Enzo's chin with his free hand and looks him up and down with a proud smile.

SAMUEL  
(in broken English)  
How's my boy?

Enzo stares at Samuel's shackles.

ENZO  
I'm doing good Pop.

Enzo hands Samuel a Providence University Wrestling T-shirt.

SAMUEL

So it's true! Your brother John  
John told me but I wanted to hear  
it from you.

Enzo stares at the T-shirt, becoming serious.

ENZO

John John was here?  
(beat)  
Pop?  
(beat)  
Should I've taken the scholarship?

Samuel looks down at the soft T-shirt and runs his free hand over it. Samuel looks to Enzo.

SAMUEL

Do you remember what street we  
lived on?

Enzo looks confused.

ENZO

Frederick?

Samuel nods "yes."

SAMUEL

And the street next to us?

Enzo is still confused.

ENZO

Barnaby?

Samuel nods "yes."

SAMUEL

And the street behind our house?

Enzo starts to piece things together.

ENZO

Jeffries.

Samuel points to his head.

SAMUEL

Think of all those street names?  
(beat)  
(MORE)

SAMUEL (cont'd)  
They were names of servants. Modern  
day slaves.

Samuel holds Enzo's hand. Beat.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
These hands were made special you  
know?

Enzo lets out a small smile.

ENZO  
Come on Pop.  
(beat)  
How about John John?

Samuel becomes stern.

SAMUEL  
John John do what he do. But it's  
not for you.  
(beat)  
One day... you name your very own  
street, one that serves you.

Enzo nods "yes."

A loud buzzer is heard, followed by a GUARD'S VOICE over a  
loud speaker.

GUARD'S VOICE (O.S.)  
Visiting time is over. Please say  
your goodbye's.

Enzo hugs Samuel, but is disrupted by the same FAT GUARD. The  
FAT GUARD slams his fist on the table.

FAT GUARD  
Move it!

Enzo grabs the FAT GUARD'S hand and squeezes it tightly. We  
hear bones breaking.

The FAT GUARD falls to the ground in shock and become's lost  
in the sea of visitors as they walk over and pass him. Enzo  
walks out as the FAT guard is heard screaming like a child.

FAT GUARD (CONT'D)  
The kid broke my hand!

PRISON GATES

Samuel is being escorted back into prison. Samuel looks back  
to Enzo and winks at him. The two share a mischievous smile.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - EVENING

IN THE STANDS

Adam Martino is seated in the back of the stands eating popcorn and watching the Anchors wrestling practice. Adam looks to his left and notices a large young man by the exit doors. TOMMY EVERGREEN JR., 21, tall and built and the reigning State wrestling Champion for the LaSalle University Saints.

ON THE MAT

Coach Mancini has the TEAM finishing their wind sprints in red and black warm ups. The tired TEAM forms a circle on the mat.

Finally. Coach Mancini calls out two names everyone has been waiting to see wrestle.

COACH MANCINI

Washington...Colombo...Hit the mat!

Adam chews his popcorn as tension fills the gymnasium. The TEAM and Coach Mancini are anticipating an epic battle.

Coach Mancini's whistle blows.

Marcus charges Enzo and the two lock shoulders. Marcus is trying to unlock his arms but Enzo is too strong. Coach Mancini yells out to his Marcus.

COACH MANCINI (CONT'D)

Come on Captain! Show us something!

Enzo suddenly turns his hips and hurls Marcus into the air and onto his back with the sound of a thunder clap. The TEAM is in awe of the speed and power Enzo possesses.

Coach Mancini blows his whistle, awestruck. Beat.

Enzo walks over to the TEAM and turns his back to Marcus. Marcus slowly gets up and chases Enzo, pushing him from behind.

Enzo turns around and smirks devilishly at Marcus.

Enzo grabs Marcus by the throat. Coach Mancini and the TEAM break up the fight. Coach Mancini has Marcus by the shirt.

COACH MANCINI (CONT'D)

What the hell was that Captain?!  
Popping off after the whistle?!

Enzo walks away. Coach Mancini lets go of Marcus after scolding him. Coach Mancini leaves Marcus with a thought to ponder as he walks away.

COACH MANCINI (CONT'D)  
 What were you trying to do Captain?  
 Get him mad?  
 (beat)  
 Good luck with that.

IN THE STANDS

Adam smiles and looks over to Tommy, who has a concerned look on his face.

ADAM  
 Hey Tommy, do you like what you see?

Tommy stares at Adam angrily and kicks open the exit doors as he leaves.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - LATER THAT EVENING

LOCKER ROOM

LUZZY, 28, the Anchors Team Trainer is making his way over to each wrestler. He walks up to SMITTY, 20, a red headed smaller wrestler.

LUZZY  
 Smitty, how's that knee doing? Did you hit the ice bath?

Smitty is bending his left knee.

SMITTY  
 It's holing up Luzzy. Don't put me in that torture chamber, I feel like I'm going freeze to death.

Luzzy smiles at Smitty.

LUZZY  
 You won't freeze to death. If you do, you'll be my first casualty.  
 (beat)  
 Fifteen minutes in the ice tub  
 Smitty. No questions.

Smitty sighs and makes his way to the ice tub.

Luzzy is stretching out a TEAMMATE'S shoulder. Luzzy looks across to Enzo who is attending to his thigh.



Enzo stands up with a white gauze peeking out of his hand and heads into a rest room stall.

REST ROOM STALL

Enzo locks the stall and takes off the top of his wrestling singlet. He lowers the white gauze down to his thigh and then pulls it back up. The white gauze is entirely soaked with blood.

ENZO

Fuck.

Enzo looks at the gauze and then flushes it down the toilet.

REST ROOM

Enzo opens the rest room stall to see Luzzy washing his hands by the sink. Luzzy is looking at Enzo in the mirror.

LUZZY

Hey Enzo... Problem with the leg?

Enzo stares at Luzzy and then walks over to his locker without answering.

Luzzy continues to eye Enzo as he wipes his hand with a paper towel.

ENZO'S LOCKER

Enzo is getting dressed and hears some one walk behind him. Enzo turns around.

LUZZY

You wouldn't be the first athlete to hide an injury or the last.

Enzo replies.

ENZO

(coldly)

There is no injury.

Luzzy dismisses Enzo's answer.

LUZZY

You know one year, we had a guy who wanted to play so badly, he was hiding a broken arm?

The two stare at one another. Luzzy takes out a black rubber cap from his back pocket.



LUZZY (CONT'D)  
 We gotta do something about that ponytail.

Enzo looks at the hood. Luzzy nods "yes."

LUZZY (CONT'D)  
 You're lucky the referee's in high school let you get away with tucking that ponytail in.

Enzo grabs his ponytail.

ENZO  
 I have to wear a cap?

Luzzy smiles.

LUZZY  
 Don't worry, it's not so bad.  
 You'll probably make it look good.

Luzzy hands the black rubber cap to Enzo. Enzo looks into his locker mirror and pulls the black cap over his head. Enzo likes the menacing look.

Enzo smiles at Luzzy.

LUZZY (CONT'D)  
 Told you it might look good. Just strap your headgear on extra tight.  
 (beat)  
 You do understand that you're gonna be a target with that cap on your head.

Enzo nods "yes."

ENZO  
 Luzzy... I'm already a target.

Luzzy leaves Enzo with a reminder.

LUZZY  
 About the leg, if your hurting, you can come to me. My offer stands.

Luzzy walks away.

Enzo is buttoning his shirt as WRESTLER after WRESTLER shakes his hand and gives him glowing remarks.

TEAMMATE  
 Good work out there man.

Enzo nods cordially.

MARCUS'S LOCKER

Marcus is getting dressed and jealously watches from his locker. Marcus walks up to Enzo wearing an ANCHORS Wrestling sweatshirt with a large "C" for Captain on his left breast.

ENZO'S LOCKER

Marcus hands Enzo a folded note.

MARCUS

Meet me tomorrow...6AM.

Enzo takes the note and nods "yes" with a stern look.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

Enzo walks onto the mat and picks up his wrestling headgear that he left behind. Enzo hears a familiar voice.

IN THE STANDS

BIANCA

Hey, did you forget about me already?

ON THE MAT

Enzo looks at Bianca smiling.

ENZO

You? Never.

Bianca walks down to the first row of seats.

BIANCA

Where would you like to interview?  
How about right there on the mat?

Enzo nods "yes."

BIANCA (CONT'D)

OK. Just hold my books and I'll  
jump over...

Suddenly Bianca feels weightless.

ON THE MAT

Enzo has lifted her in the air and gently places her on the mat. Bianca is blushing.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

That... Was quite impressive to say  
the least.

The TWO walk to the center of the red mat that has a giant  
white Anchor on it. The two sit down and get settled. Bianca  
takes out her laptop.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

So, when did you start wrestling?

Enzo smiles and looks up to think.

ENZO

I've been wrestling since I was  
five. I had a lot of older cousins  
that would come by my house and  
rough me up.

Bianca rolls her eyes.

BIANCA

Rough you up? I can't imagine that.

Enzo smiles.

ENZO

I think they were preparing me.  
Testing me to see if I would bend  
or break?

Bianca smiles.

ENZO (CONT'D)

Looks like you didn't break.

Enzo's mood changes.

ENZO (CONT'D)

Everybody has a breaking point, its  
human instinct to hold on for as  
long as you can.

(beat)

But I've seen even the strongest,  
toughest break at one point or  
another.

Bianca feels the heavy mood and changes subject.

BIANCA

Tommy Evergreen Jr., the state's  
reigning champion for the LaSalle  
University Saints.

(beat)

(MORE)

BIANCA (cont'd)  
He hasn't lost a match his entire college career. Do you have him in your cross hairs?

Enzo smiles.

ENZO  
You can't catch the lion if you don't enter the lion's den.

Enzo leans in and whispers to Bianca.

ENZO (CONT'D)  
What Tommy doesn't know is...  
(beat)  
I'm the lion.

Bianca shivers, then laughs.

BIANCA  
You just gave me goose bumps.

Enzo smiles.

ENZO  
Are you going to put that in The Throttle?

Bianca laughs and nods "no."

BIANCA  
Me shivering? Are you nuts? That's strictly off the record. I have to be iron clad if I want to interview people for a living.

Bianca stands up putting away her laptop.

BIANCA (CONT'D)  
Besides, my boss, or should I say bosses, must have O.C.D.

Enzo smiles.

ENZO  
You mean the twins?

Bianca puts her hand out to help Enzo up.

BIANCA  
So you know them?

Enzo stands up dropping the note from Marcus. Bianca picks it up.

ENZO  
They're my roommates.

Bianca holds the note in the air.

BIANCA  
Fan mail already?

Enzo nods "no."

ENZO  
Just the opposite. My team  
Captain...

Bianca cuts him off.

BIANCA  
Marcus Washington?

ENZO  
The one and only. Apparently he  
wants to see if I'll bend or break.

Enzo takes the note back.

BIANCA  
Thanks for the interview Enzo.  
(beat)  
And don't worry, my words never  
hurt on paper. Especially for some  
one as nice as yourself.

Enzo tangles his fingers with hers and moves in closer.

ENZO  
Bianca, let me take you out?

Bianca blushes, then smiles.

BIANCA  
Well, I do have an interview with  
one more star athlete. And if he's  
cute I might have to...

Enzo moves in even closer.

ENZO  
Don't bother with the bum.

Bianca bites her lip nervously and shakes her head "yes."

BIANCA  
OK. I'd love to.

Enzo smiles.

EXT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - TRACK - MORNING

Enzo is stretching on the ground and waiting for Marcus.  
Marcus appears still angry.

MARCUS

You're not getting out of it this  
easy. No track for you today.

Enzo stands up and gets in Marcus's face.

ENZO

What's your problem with me anyway?

Marcus points in Enzo's face.

MARCUS

I'll tell you my problem. Since  
your gonna be the big pink elephant  
in the room everywhere we go, I  
wanna make sure you're worth your  
weight.

Marcus turns around and points to a large brushy hill with a  
steep incline off the beaten path.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

That's Fool's Hill. First one to  
the top.

Enzo looks at the hill and nods "yes" to Marcus.

ENZO

Let's do this.

FOOL'S HILL

Marcus pushes Enzo and takes off running quickly. Marcus and  
Enzo both pause at the bottom of Fool's Hill, due to its  
intimidating size.

MARCUS

Don't even think about quitting  
now...

Enzo takes off before Marcus can finish his sentence. Marcus  
runs after Enzo as they experience rugged terrain. Marcus  
avoids trees and bushes while Enzo crashes into them.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Last hundred feet are the toughest!

Marcus passes Enzo. Enzo lets out a grunt and picks up his pace.

Enzo claws his way past Marcus and reaches the top.

Enzo has reached the apex and is sitting down catching his breath. Marcus slowly reaches the apex of Fool's Hill completely out of breath and lays on the ground.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Hey Enzo?

Enzo looks to Marcus completely exhausted. Beat.

ENZO

Yeah?

Marcus sits up and spits out some dirt with one eye open.

MARCUS

You know why they call this Fool's Hill?

Enzo nods "yes," breathing heavy.

ENZO

Yep...

(beat)

'Cause you gotta be a God damn fool to climb up it.

Marcus laughs and stands up.

MARCUS

You got it man, welcome to the team.

Marcus puts his hand out and helps Enzo to his feet.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

What do you say we make history this year?

Enzo smiles.

ENZO

I thought you'd never ask Captain.

Marcus pats Enzo on the shoulder.

INT. LASALLE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - EVENING

Marcus and Enzo are watching their competition.

GYMNASIUM ANNOUNCER  
 Wrestling at 197lbs, Reigning State  
 Champion with 9 straight pins,  
 Tommy Evergreen!

A BLAST OF TRUMPETS

ON THE MAT

Tommy stands up, tall as an Evergreen, and gets last minute advice from his Coach/Dad wearing blue and white.

IN THE STANDS

Marcus leans over to Enzo.

MARCUS  
 He's tall, and he knows how to use  
 that height.

Enzo focuses on Tommy.

ON THE MAT

COACH EVERGREEN  
 OK Tommy, let's make it ten pins in  
 a row...

Tommy has spotted Enzo in the stands and looks away from his Dad. Coach Evergreen slaps Tommy across the face.

COACH EVERGREEN (CONT'D)  
 You listening to me boy?

Tommy answers his Dad timidly.

TOMMY  
 Yes Dad.

IN THE STANDS

Marcus and Enzo are watching.

MARCUS  
 Jesus Christ. I'd hate to see how  
 Coach Evergreen treats his son if  
 he loses.

Enzo stands up.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
 Enzo what are you doing man, we're  
 not exactly welcomed here if you  
 know what I mean.



Enzo stands until Coach Evergreen spots him.

ENZO  
I've seen enough.

Enzo begins to leave. Marcus throws his hands up.

MARCUS  
Seen enough? The whistle didn't  
even blow yet.

Enzo looks back to Marcus.

ENZO  
Sure it has.

Marcus takes off with Enzo and the two leave.

EXT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - GYMNASIUM - DAY

REPORTERS from major News Stations are covering the match. An overwhelming amount of students and security have surrounded the gymnasium. There are several red and black signs that read "SAMSON."

CAMPUS PARKING LOT

A large FORD F-150 pulls into a parking spot. Nappa, and a LARGE ASSOCIATE wearing Nappa Construction polo shirts step out.

Next to the FORD F-150, an older white Cadillac pull's in. Coach Jenkins and THREE WRESTLERS wearing ST. MARYS'S WRESTLING T-shirts step out of the vehicle.

Last but not least.

A beat-up Volvo pulls into the next parking space. Adam and his GIRLFRIEND step out of their vehicle and look at the enormous crowd. Adam swallows nervously as his GIRLFRIEND holds his hand.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - CONTINUOUS

LOCKER ROOM  
Coach Mancini has his TEAM seated  
in a circle. Coach Mancini is in  
the middle.

COACH MANCINI  
OK men, the hay's in the barn. It's  
time to hit the mat and drop  
anchor.

Marcus looks to Enzo and nods "yes" in confidence. Enzo nods back.

COACH MANCINI (CONT'D)

We've gone over the match-ups.  
Stone Bridge is always well-  
prepared. But they don't have what  
counts most... Heart.

(beat)

Captain, lead us in.

The TEAM stands up and puts their hands together in a pile. Marcus delivers a speech.

MARCUS

We've worked our asses off in  
practice... For what? To fall short  
on the MAT?

The TEAM responds with vigor.

THE TEAM

NO!

MARCUS

Are we locked in to fight for our  
LIVES?

The TEAM responds.

THE TEAM

YES!

Marcus looks at everyone, but stops at Enzo.

MARCUS

It's our year to make history. We  
start right now. On three... DROP  
ANCHOR! One... Two... Three!

The TEAM responds.

THE TEAM

DROP ANCHOR!

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM - MOMENTS LATER

ON THE MAT

The TEAM runs out and circles the bright red and white mat. A large white anchor is showcased in the center of the mat.

The CROWD goes crazy.

## ACROSS THE WAY

STONE BRIDGE runs onto the mat to a deafening drone of BOO'S. One WRESTLER sticks out from the bunch. SABA ARIF, 21, a hulking American Indian with a Mohawk.

Each team sits in their respective corner and huddles.

## STONE BRIDGE'S CORNER

STONE BRIDGE'S COACH is speaking loudly due to the overwhelming noise.

## STONE BRIDGE COACH

Forget about the crowd, any hooligan can holler. Let's stick to our game plan, get the win and leave this shit-hole.

## PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY'S CORNER

Coach Mancini and his trainer Luzzy are going over last minute concerns.

## COACH MANCINI

These guys look scared, lets send'em out like they came in.

## ON THE MAT

The REFEREE is standing on the large anchor and calls out to each team.

## REFEREE

125's on the mat.

Smitty, weighing at 125lbs, is jogging in place and walks onto the mat. The TEAM is seated from lightest to heaviest. Marcus yells out to Smitty.

## MARCUS

Come on Smitty! Start this show off right!

Smitty's OPPONENT from Stone Bridge steps onto the mat. The REFEREE gives instructions.

## REFEREE

Shake hands fellas. Timers ready?  
Scorekeepers ready?

The REFEREE'S whistle blows.

Smitty and his OPPONENT are quickly moving around the mat, grasping for each other's legs. Smitty shoots low and grabs his OPPONENTS leg and takes him down. The REFEREE raises two fingers.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Take down green. Two points.

Coach Mancini yells to Smitty.

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY'S CORNER

COACH MANCINI

Thatta boy Smitty!

Marcus is seated next to Enzo.

MARCUS

Smitty's padding the points. You see your man, Saba Ariff?

Enzo looks to Stone Bridge's corner and nods "yes." We see the large Indian with a Mohawk staring back at Enzo and Marcus.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

He's bottom heavy, control those shoulders.

Enzo nods "yes."

SCOREBOARD

INSERT: ANCHORS 23 GUESTS 11

ON THE MAT

Marcus's OPPONENT is on his back and trying to escape getting pinned. The REFEREE is laying on the mat with them, angling to see if both shoulders touch the mat for a pin.

COACH MANCINI

You got'em Captain!

Marcus leans his body weight onto his OPPONENTS shoulders and the REFEREE slams his hand on the mat, indicating a pin. The CROWD erupts.

The REFEREE raises Marcus's hand in victory.

## IN THE STANDS

Omar and Flacco are cheering and writing in their laptops. Bianca is sitting in front of them next to Julius nervously. She turns around with her fingers crossed.

OMAR

Don't worry Bianca.

Flacco finishes Omar's sentence.

FLACCO

Enzo's gonna kill'em.

Bianca bites her lip nervously and nods "yes."

JULIUS

Big man's gonna rip off that mohawk.

## ENZO'S SIGNATURE ENTRANCE

The lights go dim as THREE STUDENTS pound white buckets with drumsticks. Marcus yells to Enzo.

MARCUS

Go get'em brother.

## STONE BRIDGES CORNER

Saba Ariff is talking to his coach as their TRAINER snaps on his headgear for him. The large Ariff, slaps his arms to psych himself up.

## ON THE MAT

GYMNASIUM ANNOUNCER

Wrestling at 197 pounds, Enzo  
Samson Colombo!

Ariff looks at Enzo with a menacing expression, but is no match for the stone cold Enzo.

## PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY'S CORNER

Marcus is standing by Coach Mancini.

MARCUS

Ever see two this big go at it?

Coach Mancini shakes his head "no."

COACH MANCINI

Never in my life.

## ON THE MAT

The REFEREE makes the two giants shake hands. Ariff is large, but Enzo is chiseled muscle.

The REFEREE's whistle blows.

Enzo charges Ariff like a bull. Enzo locks Ariff at his shoulders. Ariff is muscled around the mat by Enzo.

## STONE BRIDGE'S CORNER

The COACH yells to Ariff.

STONE BRIDGE COACH  
Don't dance with him Saba! Gain  
control!

Ariff manages to free one arm. Enzo quickly moves behind Ariff and bear hugs the extra wide Indian, lifting him in the air.

## THE ANCHORS CORNER

Marcus and Coach Jenkins look in awe as Enzo raises his giant OPPONENT into the air.

## ON THE MAT

Enzo growls like a beast and slams Ariff onto the mat. Both wrestlers fall to the mat.

A loud thud is heard.

Enzo rolls Ariff into a ball like a spider eating its prey. Enzo pins Ariff in record time. Ariff lays on the mat, baffled by Enzo's power and speed.

The CROWD goes crazy.

The REFEREE holds Enzo's hand high in the air. Multiple flashes from photographers light up Enzo's body.

## IN THE STANDS

CLOSE ON: A LARGE BUCKET OF POPCORN.

One black man's hand is full of popcorn. Suddenly, a white hand dives into the same bucket of popcorn. We see that the two hands belong to Coach Jenkins and Adam.

Coach Jenkins and Adam share a smile.

UNDER THE RED EXIT SIGNS

FOUR MEN dressed in black suits are watching Enzo's victory without emotion. They look to each other and nod "yes" then exit the door.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - DEAN'S OFFICE - DAY

DEAN GREGGERSON, 58, neatly parted hair and a suit, is watching the news on a television in his plush office. A reporter from Channel Ten news is talking about Enzo.

EXT. REPORTER FROM CHANNEL TEN NEWS - SIDEWALK - DAY

REPORTER

I'm standing here on the campus of Providence University, where Enzo "Samson" Colombo, son of infamous gangster Samuel Colombo won his highly anticipated first match Saturday night in record time.

INT. DEAN GREGGERSON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dean Greggerson watches the television closely, setting aside paperwork.

REPORTER FROM CHANNEL TEN NEWS

The REPORTER is interviewing different walks of life regarding Samson. An OLD ITALIAN WOMAN, 60's, is first to be interviewed.

REPORTER

Excuse me Ma'am, what do you think of Enzo Colombo wrestling for Providence University?

The old woman responds with a smile.

OLD ITALIAN WOMAN

I think it's wonderful for Italian Americans. After all that young man has been through.

(beat)

Many lessons can be learned by all young men and women facing adversity.

INTERCUT BETWEEN REPORTER AND DEAN GREGGERSON

The OLD ITALIAN WOMAN nods "yes" with approval to the REPORTER.

## DEAN GREGGERSON'S OFFICE

Dean Greggerson smiles after the first interview and puts his head down as he gets back to his paperwork. His head snaps up as the REPORTER continues to interview others.

He presses an intercom button on his phone that connects to his Secretary JOANNE.

DEAN GREGGERSON  
Joanne, hold all calls please.

JOANNE (O.S.)  
OK Dean Greggerson.

## REPORTER FROM CHANNEL TEN NEWS

The REPORTER is interviewing a STAUNCHLY DRESSED MAN, 50's, with a sweater vest and tie.

REPORTER  
Sir, what is your opinion on Enzo Colombo?

The STAUNCHLY DRESSED MAN shakes his head "no."

STAUNCHLY DRESSED MAN  
It's only a matter of time before this kid shows his stripes. He's prowling that campus like a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The STAUNCHLY DRESSED MAN shakes his head in disgust.

## DEAN GREGGERSON'S OFFICE

Dean Greggerson is sweating and wipes his head with a handkerchief. He hangs his head low. Joanne, his secretary is heard on his phone's intercom speaker.

JOANNE (O.S.)  
Dean Greggerson, I know you said to hold all calls...

Dean Greggerson yells into the phone's intercom speaker.

DEAN GREGGERSON  
(sternly)  
Hold all calls Joanne.

Dean Greggerson looks up at the television once again and sighs.



CHANNEL TEN NEWS REPORTER

The REPORTER is interviewing a FROWNING MAN, 26, wearing a suit and tie.

REPORTER

Sir, how do you feel about the wrestling sensation known as Enzo Colombo?

The FROWNING MAN takes out his wallet, and pulls out an old student ID.

FROWNING MAN

How do I feel? I graduated from Providence University, a once respected school.

(beat)

Do you know how people look at me in my office lately? This is a big circus act.

The FROWNING MAN throws his old student ID on the ground.

DEAN GREGGERSON'S OFFICE

Dean Greggerson is pacing in his office. Joanne's voice is once again heard on the phone's intercom speaker.

JOANNE (O.S.)

Dean Greggerson, before you say a word, you better take this call.

Dean Greggerson walks up to the phone and speaks into it angrily.

DEAN GREGGERSON

I told you....

Joanne cuts him off.

JOANNE (O.S.)

Governor O'Neil is on line one.

Dean Greggerson is speechless and stares at the phone's blinking red light nervously. Beat.

Dean Greggerson sits down and collects himself, straightening his tie.

DEAN GREGGERSON

Dean Greggerson speaking.

The Dean is blinking nervously as he listens to the other line.

INT. GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Governor O'Neil is also watching the news coverage from a television in his office.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL

I hope your watching the news Dean  
Greggerson?

Governor O'Neil is sitting in a large leather chair in his palatial office.

INTERCUT BETWEEN DEAN GREGGERSON AND GOVERNOR O'NEIL

DEAN GREGGERSON'S OFFICE

Dean Greggerson does not like the Governor's tone of voice.

DEAN GREGGERSON

And why is that Governor O'Neil?

GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S OFFICE

Governor O'Neil stands up and looks out of a large window, overlooking the city.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL

Because your legacy and more  
importantly, your alumni funds are  
being pissed down the drain because  
of Samson.

(beat)

Those straight-arrow alums are  
tearing up their checks as we  
speak.

Governor O'Neil hangs up on Dean Greggerson. Beat.

DEAN GREGGERSON'S OFFICE

Dean Greggerson has a defeated look on his face and knocks over a plant that is on his desk. Joanne calls into his office one last time.

JOANNE

(excitedly)

Dean Greggerson you have a call on  
line one.

Dean Greggerson nonchalantly presses the blinking red button, still thinking about Governor O'Neil.

DEAN GREGGERSON  
Dean Greggerson speaking.

An UNFAMILIAR VOICE answers.

UNFAMILIAR VOICE  
Dean Greggerson, my name is  
Jonathan Cooper. I'm an agent from  
NIKE, I'd like to talk to you about  
Samson.

Dean Greggerson stares at the phone as a slow smile grows on  
his face. Beat.

INT. ENZO'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Enzo is quickly flipping through a book while seated on his  
bed. He looks over to Julius who raises an eyebrow. Omar and  
Flacco look to one another.

JULIUS  
Alright, I know what's going on.

Omar looks to Flacco nervously and then answers Julius.

OMAR  
About what?

Julius nods "yes."

JULIUS  
We've done nothing this semester  
but work our asses off. It's time  
for a much needed break.

Omar and Flacco rest easy. Julius stares at Enzo.

JULIUS (CONT'D)  
Hey big man. You are the only  
local. Any good spots to hit up in  
Providence?

Enzo nods "yes" and lets out a smile.

ENZO  
I got just the place.

Julius gets excited and slaps the TWINS on their backs.

JULIUS  
Loosen up boys. We're heading out!

Enzo smiles as the TWINS rub their backs in pain.

EXT. FAT MAN BILLIARDS - FEDERAL HILL - NIGHT

A taxi pulls up, Enzo and the ROOMMATES get out. They walk to the entrance.

Julius and the TWINS look at each other and stop walking. Enzo turns around.

ENZO  
What's wrong?

Julius looks at the TWINS and then to Enzo.

JULIUS  
Big man are we straight? I mean, we don't have ID's.

Enzo nods "yes."

ENZO  
You'll be fine. My Uncle Nuncio owns the place.

Julius smiles.

JULIUS  
That's all you had to say big man.

FRONT ENTRANCE

Enzo walks up to the seated doorman, LILLIO, 42, an oak tree of a man, with a two-hundred pound English Bull Mastiff by his side with a collar that reads ODEN.

ENZO  
Is my Uncle Nuncio still paying you to sit here and do nothing?

Lillio stands up and answers angrily, making the ROOMMATES nervous.

LILLIO  
Are you still getting hangovers off of Shirley Temples little girl?

Enzo holds his hand out to Lillio. Lillio slaps it away and brings Enzo closer for a big hug.

LILLIO (CONT'D)  
It's good to see you Enzo.  
(beat)  
Mr. Providence University.  
(beat)  
You, plus three tonight?

Enzo nods "yes" and walks in as the ROOMMATES follow, carefully avoiding Oden.

INT. FAT MAN BILLIARDS - NIGHT

Enzo leads the ROOMMATES past several pool tables with pictures of JACKIE GLEASON and PAUL NEWMAN on the wall. The FOUR sit at a smoky bar.

AT THE SMOKY BAR

UNCLE NUNCIO, 56, Italian, heavy set with a full head of hair, wipes down the bar in front of them.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
Well, well, well. How many cherries  
will it be for your Shirley  
Temples? One or two?

Omar nervously answers.

OMAR  
Two please.

Flacco punches Omar in the arm. Uncle Nuncio laughs and comes from behind the bar to hug Enzo.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
Enzo, introduce me to your friends.

Enzo points to his ROOMMATES.

ENZO  
The twins at the end are Omar and  
Flacco. The tall guy here is  
Julius.

Uncle Nuncio shakes hands with each ROOMMATE. Then walks behind the bar.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
OK fellas, welcome to the finest  
billiards hall on Federal Hill.  
What are we drinking?

The roommates enjoy Uncle Nuncio's hospitality and settle down.

JULIUS  
How about a shot of Jack and a beer  
to start?

Enzo and Uncle Nuncio laugh.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
 This isn't a roadhouse kid.  
 (beat)  
 I got just the drink?

Uncle Nuncio grabs five shot glasses and pours CAMPARI, an Italian, bright red liquor into them. Uncle Nuncio raises his glass, making the ROOMMATES do the same.

UNCLE NUNCIO (CONT'D)  
 Salude fellas!

The men drink their shots and put them on the bar.

UNCLE NUNCIO (CONT'D)  
 If you fellas don't mind I'm gonna  
 steal my nephew for a few minutes.  
 Enjoy the scenery.

The ROOMMATES look around and see several MEN IN SUITS looking at them. The ROOMMATES look at one another and grow nervous.

BACK TABLE

Enzo walks to a table in the back of the billiards hall and sits down across from Uncle Nuncio.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
 So kid, when was the last time you  
 saw your pops?

Enzo grows somber. Beat.

UNCLE NUNCIO (CONT'D)  
 I know what you're feeling. I'll  
 never get used to seeing him like  
 that either.  
 (beat)  
 But we're all he's got.

Enzo blurts out a question.

ENZO  
 Did I make the right move?  
 (beat)  
 Taking the scholarship?

Uncle Nuncio points his finger sternly at Enzo.

UNCLE NUNCIO

When I saw your Dad last week, he was so happy to hear about you wrestling you'd think he wasn't behind bars.

(beat)

You made your Dad and all of us proud.

(beat)

You made the right move.

Enzo nods "yes."

UNCLE NUNCIO (CONT'D)

Just promise me one thing. Own the mat. It's yours... always has been.

Enzo smiles with pride.

AT THE ENTRANCE

In walks a familiar face.

JOHN JOHN, 18, small and thin, blonde and blue eyes, armed with a choir boy's smile and a blue argyle sweater vest.

John John is treated like a king by the PATRONS playing pool. They shake his hand and kiss him on the cheek. John John walks up to the bar smiling.

AT THE BAR

JOHN JOHN

Where's my UNCLE?

AT THE BACK TABLE

Uncle Nuncio's eyes light up. He yells back to John John.

UNCLE NUNCIO

John John! You're late you crazy bastard!

Uncle Nuncio leaves Enzo alone at the back table in a hurry. Enzo's smile is erased from his face. Enzo stands up and slowly makes his way to the bar with his head down.

AT THE BAR

Uncle Nuncio hugs and kisses John John.

JOHN JOHN

Where is he? Lillio rang my cell and said Enzo was here?

Enzo makes his way behind John John. John John turns around and locks eyes with Enzo. Beat.

The TWO embrace without saying a word. Beat.

UNCLE NUNCIO

Seeing you two together, makes me  
wanna... Well, drink!

Everyone laughs. Enzo puts his arm around the much smaller John John.

ENZO

Let me introduce you to my friends.

John John politely shakes their hands.

JOHN JOHN

You guys go to school with Enzo?

The ROOMMATES nod "yes."

JOHN JOHN (CONT'D)

Uncle? Line up a round of shots.

(beat)

To new friends.

Uncle Nuncio is glowing. He lines up the shots, holding his shot in the air and sings a rhyming jingle.

UNCLE NUNCIO

You might have heard I run with a  
dangerous crowd.

We ain't too pretty, we ain't too  
proud.

We might be laughing a bit too  
loud.

But that never hurt no one.

EVERYONE smiles and drinks their shots.

UNCLE NUNCIO (CONT'D)

Fellas, excuse me again. I gotta  
talk to my other nephew John John  
for a minute or two.

John John puts his arm on Enzo's shoulder.

JOHN JOHN

Business.

(beat)

You know...



Enzo nods "yes" and feels left out. John John tries to cheer him up.

JOHN JOHN (CONT'D)

Enzo. I'll be at your next match.  
Stay on the up and up.

John John walks to the back of the bar. Uncle Nuncio and Enzo hug goodbye. Enzo and his ROOMMATES leave.

Uncle Nuncio wipes down the bar and takes a quick glance around. He takes out a SMALL GREEN notebook from a safe and begins to walk to the back tables with John John.

AT THE ENTRANCE

FOUR MEN in black suits walk in. Uncle Nuncio turns around and does a double take. He swallows nervously and walks up to them timidly.

UNCLE NUNIO

The kid's not here.

The FOUR MEN continue to stare blankly at Uncle Nuncio. Beat.

UNCLE NUNIO (CONT'D)

I mean, he was here earlier but he left.

The FOUR MEN survey the billiards hall. They turn around and leave the billiards hall. Uncle Nuncio falls into a seat and looks at the ground nervously.

FROM THE BACK TABLE

John John yells out.

JOHN JOHN

Uncle? You coming or what?

AT THE BAR

Uncle Nuncio raises his head slowly and stares back at the entrance. Beat.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - DAY

PROFESSOR STONE'S CLASS

Julius is seated in PROFESSOR STONE'S Criminal Justice class. Julius overhears TWO STUDENTS talking about Enzo's father being a made man in the mafia.

UNKNOWN STUDENT #1 (O.S.)  
 My parents pay decent money for me  
 to go here. For what? To rub elbows  
 with New England's biggest mob  
 boss's son?  
 (beat)  
 Enzo Colombo.

Julius's eyes grow wide as he listens intently.

UNKNOWN STUDENT #2 (O.S.)  
 No shit, from what I hear Samuel  
 Colombo was an ice cold killer. Who  
 knows what Enzo's like? Why can't  
 we get a hot Hollywood actress to  
 come to our University like  
 everywhere else?

Julius turns around and looks at the TWO UNKNOWN STUDENTS.  
 They're surprised someone was listening and turn their  
 attention to who walks into class. THEIR eyes grow wide.

Enzo walks in with his hood up.

Julius calls out to Enzo.

JULIUS  
 Enzo, grab a seat.

Julius smiles as Enzo sits down next to him.

JULIUS (CONT'D)  
 I didn't know you were in this  
 class.

Enzo smiles.

ENZO  
 I just added.

Julius looks back at the TWO UNKNOWN STUDENTS and smirks at  
 them.

FRONT OF THE CLASS

PROFESSOR STONE, 52, glasses and neatly dressed, addresses  
 the class.

PROFESSOR STONE  
 Hopefully the reading has kept your  
 interest thus far, I haven't read  
 about any of you going mad and  
 picking students off from a clock  
 tower.

Julius and Enzo laugh with the rest of the class.

EXT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - LATER

STUDENT QUAD

Julius is walking on the student quad, listening to his headphones. He stops. Julius takes off his headphones and stares at the campus library.

JULIUS

Fuck it.

Julius takes off running towards the campus library.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Julius finds a secluded spot and takes out his laptop. Julius Googles Samuel Colombo. Julius's eyes grow wide.

Julius double checks that no one is around.

JULIUS

Holy shit.

Julius pulls up a newspaper headline.

INSERT - "LOCAL SCAR-FACE SAMUEL COLOMBO IS UNTOUCHABLE" - a photo of Samuel walks the streets of Federal Hill with a pin-striped suit and a large scar by his eye.

BACK TO SCENE

Julius reads the article while in disbelief. He moves on to another article. His eyes are peeled to the laptop.

INSERT: "TEN SANTA'S CASE LEADS TO COLOMBO'S INCARCERATION" - a photo four State Troopers are escorting a handcuffed Samuel.

BACK TO SCENE

Julius sits back in his seat and rubs his eyes slowly with his hands.

Julius hears a voice behind him.

ENZO (O.S.)

Do you know why they called him the  
"local scar-face?"

Julius turns around to see Enzo staring at the laptop.



JULIUS

No man. I...

Enzo cuts Julius off and continues to stare at the headline.

ENZO

When my mom was alive, we'd all go sledding down Watch Hill. The decline seemed endless.

(beat)

But I was just a boy. As long as my Mom and Dad were there, I always felt safe.

Julius stands up.

JULIUS

Big man I'm...

Enzo looks at Julius.

ENZO

One day the hill was extra icy. The three of us crashed at the bottom.

(beat)

The blade from the red sled sliced my fathers face.

Enzo smiles towards Julius.

ENZO (CONT'D)

He didn't even notice he was cut. My father was too busy making sure my Mom and I were safe.

Enzo's expression turns serious. Julius swallows a gulp of nerves.

ENZO (CONT'D)

The papers said he got the wound from a knife fight.

Enzo turns his back to Julius and walks away. Beat.

Julius sits down and breathes a sigh of relief, shutting his eyes. Julius pops open his eyes and takes off running.

EXT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - QUAD - MOMENTS LATER

Julius is running through the campus quad looking for Enzo.

Finally, Julius sees Enzo twenty feet away. Walking with his hood up and head down.

Julius runs in front of Enzo out of breath.

JULIUS  
Big man...Hold up...

Enzo pushes Julius aside. Julius is relentless.

JULIUS (CONT'D)  
LOOK MAN!

Enzo stops walking and looks at Julius angrily.

JULIUS (CONT'D)  
I know you're pissed. You fucking  
should be.  
(beat)  
Here I am hanging with you every  
day and I overhear some stupid  
rumors about your Dad.  
(beat)  
So I ran to the nearest computer to  
see if its true.

Enzo is holding his stare at Julius.

JULIUS (CONT'D)  
I'm your friend Enzo. I could care  
less about what the fucking papers  
say. It's all bullshit anyway!

Enzo walks past Julius bumping into him.

ENZO  
Fuck you...Friend?

Julius is still relentless and runs in front of Enzo.

JULIUS  
You know what? I'm not gonna let  
you leave. Go ahead. Hit me. Fuck  
me up.  
(beat)  
But I still won't let you walk  
away.

Enzo becomes furious.

ENZO  
What's wrong with you?! You read  
the headlines. My Dad's a killer  
and that makes me one too!  
(beat)  
Guilty by association!

Julius hangs his head low, then slowly raises his head.

JULIUS  
Big man... I know a billiards hall  
not too far from here. Wanna play a  
little nine ball. Shoot the shit?

Enzo lets out a crazy laugh.

ENZO  
You know there's something wrong  
with you? Right?

Julius smiles.

EXT. FAT MAN BILLIARDS - AFTER HOURS

Enzo opens the door with a set of keys. The pool hall is  
empty and dark. Enzo turns on the lights.

AT A POOL TABLE

Julius racks the pool balls. He looks up to Enzo.

JULIUS  
Ten Santa's? Governor O'Neil?

Enzo nods "yes" and chalks his pool stick.

ENZO  
Changed my life forever.

Enzo breaks angrily, knocking in the FOUR BALL. He looks at  
Julius.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. SALVATORE'S BISTRO - YEARS AGO

AT THE TABLE

Eight-year-old Enzo and John John are enjoying a meal with  
Mom, Josephine and Dad, Samuel.

Across from Enzo, Uncle Nuncio is performing his famous magic  
trick, that makes his table cloth dance. AUNTIE MARIE  
disapproves of the timing.

ENZO & JOHN JOHN  
(smiling)  
Do it again Uncle.

Samuel smiles and rubs Enzo's head. The entire table laughs.

BY THE BAR

YOUNG WILLIAM O'NEIL, dressed as Santa Claus stumbles in.

AT THE TABLE

Samuel and Uncle Nuncio take notice.

SAMUEL

Looks like St. Nick had a few  
drinks.

The table laughs. Enzo eyes the bar scene as the others eat.

ENZO

WOW! Two Santa's

Samuel pauses from eating and drops his fork.

Uncle Nuncio wipes his mouth with his handkerchief.

SAMUEL

That's one Santa too many.

AT THE BAR

The Second Santa appears, it is YOUNG THOMAS EVERGREEN. He is also pissed drunk.

AT THE TABLE

Josephine looks at Samuel and holds his hand. He kisses her on the cheek.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Don't worry about those bums, enjoy  
your meal.

The TABLE continues eating.

AT THE BAR

Several other Santa's barge into the entrance.

AT THE TABLE

Samuel turns around and wipes his mouth calmly with a table cloth.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

My, my. Those Santa's really are  
piling in.

Uncle Nuncio isn't as calm.



UNCLE NUNCIO  
 Samuel, there's about nine or ten  
 of them.

Samuel looks at Uncle Nuncio sternly.

SAMUEL  
 I can count.  
 (beat)  
 Let's finish our meal. Then we'll  
 leave as a family. Same as we came  
 in.

A stumbling Santa, MARK HARRIS, walks by their table bumping  
 into Josephine. Red wine covers her white shirt.

Mark laughs and heads towards the rest room.

MARK  
 Oops, ha, ha.

AT THE BAR

The rest of the Santas point and laugh.

AT THE TABLE

Enzo's mom is shaken up.

ENZO  
 Mom? Why are they laughing?

Josephine gathers herself for Enzo's and John John's sake.

JOSEPHINE  
 I'm fine, just an accident. That's  
 all.

Samuel orders club soda from an ATTENDING WAITRESS.

SAMUEL  
 A little club soda.

The ATTENDING WAITRESS apologetically walks over.

ATTENDING WAITRESS  
 Sure thing, I'm sorry about the  
 commotion. I think they're leaving  
 soon.

Samuel nods "yes" to her. Uncle Nuncio keeps his eye on the  
 bar scene, which is growing louder and rowdier.

FROM THE REST ROOM

Mark Harris stumbles back towards their table.

A plate SIZZLES from a PASSING WAITRESS.

Mark bumps into her as scalding plates of food fall from her tray. Plate after scalding plate lands on Enzo's lap.

Enzo cries in pain, accompanied by his mother. Enzo's skin is badly burnt and melting off his leg. John John hides under the table.

THE FIGHT BEGINS

Samuel attacks Mark, bludgeoning his face with his large fists.

THE HOUSE PHONE

Uncle Nuncio runs to the Restaurants' house phone.

UNCLE NUNCIO

I'm here with Samuel.

(beat)

Send them. NOW!

Samuel is overwhelmed by the other Santas, but Uncle Nuncio joins in and smashes a beer bottle over one of the Santas heads.

AT THE BAR

YOUNG WILLIAM O'NEIL and YOUNG THOMAS EVERGREEN are laughing as the scene unfolds.

AT THE ENTRANCE -- DEATH ARRIVES

FOUR MEN, dressed in black suits enter the restaurant with cold, deadly expressions. They introduce themselves by shooting a .45 caliber snub nose revolver into the air.

The Santas stop in their tracks.

AT THE TABLE

Enzo stops crying at the site of the FOUR MEN, forgetting about his burnt leg as if he was in a trance.

Enzo's eyes can't help but draw a beat on the FOUR MEN, who pummel the Santas without mercy. The FOUR MEN quickly stained the Santas snowy white beards with blood.

YOUNG O'NEIL and YOUNG EVERGREEN ran out of the bar as the other Santas got beat to within an inch of their lives.

X MARKS THE SPOT

Uncle Nuncio stands over Mark Harris's body.

The FOUR MEN pick him up.

MARK HARRIS

NO! Please, it was an accident!

ONE of the FOUR MEN puts his finger to his lips.

MAN IN BLACK SUIT

Shhh...

He then neatly placed an Ace of Spades in Marks front pocket.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. FAT MAN BILLIARDS - CONTINUOUS

Julius's has an intense expression on his face. Enzo finishes with his story.

ENZO

Mark Harris's body was never found.  
It took one day to name my father a  
person of interest. And one week to  
convict my father of Second Degree  
Murder.

Enzo finishes a beer and looks to Julius.

ENZO (CONT'D)

The ten Santa's were never  
mentioned in the trial... But  
neither were the FOUR MEN.

Julius shakes his head in disgust.

JULIUS

Governor O'Neil...Fucking political  
bullshit.

Enzo sits down in a seat by the pool table and hangs his head low. Enzo is surprised to feel a hand on one shoulder and lifts his head. Julius has reached his hand out to him.

Enzo shakes it.

INT. ADULT CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE - DAY

Samuel has a blank look on his face. Uncle Nuncio is looking down at his folded hands.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
They came to MY bar last night.  
Looking for Enzo.

Samuel rubs his hands together.

SAMUEL  
And John John?

Uncle Nuncio nods "no."

UNCLE NUNCIO  
You did what's best for John John.  
(beat)  
We keep him busy, small stuff you  
know.

Samuel has a smirk on his face.

SAMUEL  
But they came for my son, Enzo.

Uncle Nuncio nods "yes."

Samuel looks off into the distance.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
I knew he would be next to follow,  
even though we kept him away from  
all of this.

Uncle Nuncio waits for an answer from Samuel.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
What do you want me to do?

Samuel smiles.

SAMUEL  
There's nothing you CAN do.

The two stare at one another.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - DAY

THROTTLE MEETING

The twins are wrapping up a meeting.

OMAR

Let's not forget, nothing draws a crowd like a crowd.

Flacco finishes his sentence.

FLACCO

So get out there and support your University's sports teams.

(beat)

Bianca?

Bianca is typing into her laptop. She looks up.

FLACCO (CONT'D)

We all know you'll be at the wrestling match this weekend.

The Throttle staff laughs, while Bianca blushes.

THE MEETING ENDS

A MALE PHOTOGRAPHER packs up his digital camera and walks up to Bianca as she gathers her things.

MALE PHOTOGRAPHER

So it is true.

Bianca tucks her hair over her left ear nonchalantly.

BIANCA

What's true?

The MALE PHOTOGRAPHER sits by Bianca's seat.

MALE PHOTOGRAPHER

You're dating Enzo Colombo?

Bianca smiles.

BIANCA

We didn't even go on a date yet.

The MALE PHOTOGRAPHER stands up.

MALE PHOTOGRAPHER

Good, so you have time to bail.

Bianca looks confused.

BIANCA

Why would I do that?

The MALE PHOTOGRAPHER looks around and moves in closer.

MALE PHOTOGRAPHER  
His Dad's like, the biggest mobster  
there ever was around here.

Bianca stops putting away her belongings and looks at him  
angrily.

BIANCA  
And who told you that?

The MALE PHOTOGRAPHER answers back.

MALE PHOTOGRAPHER  
Everybody knows. I thought you  
worked for a newspaper.

The MALE PHOTOGRAPHER walks away laughing, leaving Bianca to  
ponder. Beat.

INT. BIANCA'S DORM - NIGHT

Bianca has her cell phone by her ear.

BIANCA  
Enzo, about our date, would you  
mind if I brought my roommate  
along. Her friends cancelled on her  
last minute and I don't want her to  
be alone.  
(beat)  
Yeah, I know Julius. That would be  
perfect. Jessica will love him.

Bianca closes her cell phone and looks around to an empty  
dorm room. Beat.

INT. ENZO'S DORM ROOM - EVENING

Enzo is reading on his bed. Julius walks in with his  
backpack.

JULIUS  
No practice today?

Enzo rubs his eyes and lays down his book.

ENZO  
Coach cancelled practice. He's  
given us a break to study.

Julius throws his backpack down.

JULIUS

I wish my professors would give ME  
a break.

Julius laughs out loud, making Enzo smile.

JULIUS (CONT'D)

So man, how's things with Bianca?  
She's a cutie.

Enzo smiles.

ENZO

Things are really good.

(beat)

Hey she's got a roommate. Single  
too.

Julius rubs his hands together.

JULIUS

It's sounding good... Cute?

Enzo nods "yes."

INT. BIANCA'S DORM - NIGHT

Bianca is writing in her laptop and JESSICA, Japanese, 18,  
her roommate is trying on several outfits.

BIANCA

It's not a fashion show, you've  
tried on ten different outfits so  
far!

Jessica stops to look at Bianca.

JESSICA

You gave me a one hour notice that  
Enzo was bringing Julius, you know  
that's not fair.

BIANCA

For any one else it wouldn't, but  
with your looks you look good in  
everything.

Jessica gives her a mean stare.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

(smiling)

OK, so I should have given you two  
hours.

Bianca smiles as she pets a tiny grey and white Shitzu, that is climbing all over her. Bianca talks to the dog.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

Bella, tell Jessica how gorgeous she looks.

A knock at the door.

Bianca and Jessica look at one another, fearing the RESIDENT ADVISOR will not approve of their new mascot.

JESSICA

What time did you say they were coming?

BIANCA

I think he said 8pm?

Jessica looks at her watch, its 7:45pm.

JESSICA

There's no way men come on time, let alone come early. Hide Bella, it's gotta be the RA.

Bianca and Jessica scramble to put Bella in a large wooden wine box with several air holes under a bed. Bianca opens the door and Enzo and Julius are standing in the doorway holding one flower each.

BIANCA

You guys! You scared us half to death! Come in.

Enzo walks in with Julius. Enzo hands Bianca her flower. Bianca smiles.

ENZO

Julius this is Jessica.

Julius walks over to Jessica and puts the flower gently in her hair, resting above her ear.

JESSICA

How sweet, my favorite color, it matches my outfit.

Bianca laughs.

BIANCA

Which one?

Jessica pinches Bianca. Bianca screams and giggles.



BIANCA (CONT'D)  
Ouch, that hurt.

Bianca's scream causes Bella to let out a little bark. Enzo and Julius jump a mile. Jessica and Bianca laugh.

JULIUS  
What was that?

Enzo kneels down to look under the bed. Enzo sees the dog and looks at Bianca.

ENZO  
Can I take her out?

BIANCA  
Of course, just don't get Bella riled up, the RA on this floor is a pain in the butt.

JESSICA  
Yeah, she's like the wicked witch of the west, always trying to steal our little Bella.

Enzo opens the wine box and gently holds the tiny dog with both hands.

ENZO  
She's a cutie.

Julius cracks a joke.

JULIUS  
Do you three girls get along?

Bianca and Jessica laugh.

BIANCA  
So what do you boys feel like doing tonight? My girlfriend Paula is having a party at her place.

Julius nods "yes."

JULIUS  
Sounds good. Enzo?

Enzo nods "yes."

ENZO  
Let's check it out.

Enzo hands Bella to Bianca. Bianca puts Bella in the wine box, but Bella manages to hop out.

Julius has the dorm room door slightly ajar and Bella runs out of the room.

BIANCA

Oh no! Get Bella before the RA sees her!

Julius runs out of the room and tries to catch the little dog, followed by Jessica, Enzo and Bianca.

THE HALLWAY

THE FOUR run down the crowded halls, dodging STUDENTS. Julius sees Bella run out of the front doors of the dorm.

JESSICA

Where did she go?

JULIUS

(out of breath)

I lost her in the crowd of people. She went out the front doors.

Bianca devises a plan.

BIANCA

You guys go right, Enzo and I will go left, hurry!

THE CAMPUS QUAD

Enzo and Bianca run along the quad and start asking people if they saw Bella.

BIANCA

Did you see a little grey and white dog run through here?

Bianca and Enzo hear a car screech and Jessica screaming.

CAMPUS STREET

Enzo and Bianca run up to the scene. A car is stopped in the middle of the street and Jessica is crying hysterically in Julius's arms. The DRIVER of the car has her hands over her mouth.

Bella is badly bloodied and twitching uncontrollably on the ground.

Bianca see's Bella's condition and turns around in tears.  
Enzo embraces her.

Julius and Enzo walk over to Bella. The DRIVER of the car is holding her head nervously.

DRIVER

She came out of nowhere...

Julius leans over to Enzo.

JULIUS

Oh shit man, we gotta do something.

Enzo takes in a deep breathe and walks over to the rapidly twitching Bella. Enzo tries to stop Bella from moving so violently, but cannot. Enzo looks over to Julius and then to Bianca and Jessica.

Enzo nods "no" towards Julius, indicating the dogs poor condition.

Enzo manages to get one hand on Bella's neck and the other on her belly. Enzo shuts his eyes and with a snap of his wrists, breaks Bella's neck to keep her from suffering anymore. Beat.

Enzo walks out of the CROWD with every eye on him.

He walks over to Bianca and Jessica with blood on his hands. Jessica vomits at the sight of Enzo's hands. Bianca rubs Jessica's back to comfort her.

Bianca looks to Enzo.

BIANCA

I'm going to take care of Jessica,  
I'll call you tomorrow Enzo.

Enzo nods "yes" and heads back to the dorm with Julius. The Crowd stares and murmurs towards Enzo.

INT. ENZO'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Enzo and Julius enter the dorm still feeling like shit. Omar and Flacco stand up quickly when they see Enzo.

OMAR

Enzo, I'm sorry to hear about the bad news.

Julius shrugs his shoulders.

JULIUS

Big man did the right thing. That dog never had a chance anyway.

The TWINS look oddly at one another.

FLACCO

What dog?

Enzo's looks at the TWINS with a serious expression.

ENZO

What are you talking about then?

The TWINS looks at each other nervously.

ENZO (CONT'D)

What the fuck happened?

Flacco walks up to Enzo.

FLACCO

Your Uncle said he tried your cell phone all night.

(beat)

We called you too.

Julius looks at the TWINS with concern and looks at Enzo.

OMAR

Your Dad is sick, he's at Rhode Island Hospital.

Enzo puts his head down, then stares at the photo of he and John John. Beat. The ROOMMATES sit down and look nervously at one another. Beat.

INT. RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL - NIGHT

HALLWAY

Enzo is walking down a corridor with colorful children's handprints on the wall. Enzo turns the corner. TWO STATE TROOPERS are guarding a room.

Enzo walks up to the State Troopers.

HOSPITAL ROOM ENTRANCE

STATE TROOPER MCCALL, 28, tall with a boyish face and STATE TROOPER WILLIAMS, 35, tall with a buzz cut, are at the door.

STATE TROOPER WILLIAMS  
 Enzo, we need you to sign in for  
 legal matters.

Enzo takes his hood off, letting his ponytail hang, and signs his name. Enzo eerily looks to his left.

FOUR MEN in black suits are standing with blank expressions. As Enzo stares at them, they nod their head in loyalty. Enzo hauntingly, cannot place where he has seen them before.

SAMUEL'S ROOM

Enzo walks in with his head down. He slowly raises his head to see Samuel unconscious. Samuel is being fed oxygen and has an I.V. drip.

The room is packed. Enzo notices several UNKNOWN MEN IN SUITS in the room. Enzo points to one of them angrily.

ENZO  
 You. I don't know you.  
 (beat)  
 This is for family only.

One of the several UNKNOWN MEN IN SUITS walks up to Enzo.

UNKNOWN MAN  
 We ARE family Enzo.

Uncle Nuncio is seated and being consoled by his wife, AUNTIE MARIE. Uncle Nuncio hears Enzo speaking and walks over to calm him down. Uncle Nuncio hugs him.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
 Come'on kid. We'll talk about it  
 later. The doctors should be in  
 soon.

SAMUEL'S BED

Enzo walks up to Samuel, his large body seems lifeless. Enzo holds Samuels hand.

THE DOCTORS ENTER

DOCTOR MCKINLEY, 38, and DOCTOR JENSEN, 33, walk in. A pin drop can be heard.

DOCTOR MCKINLEY  
 You must be Enzo?

Enzo nods "yes." Still fixated on Samuel.

Doctor McKinley addresses the room.

DOCTOR MCKINELY  
 Samuel suffered a seizure in his  
 cell and subsequently bumped his  
 head.

(beat)  
 He was brought here for tests.

Doctor Jensen steps in.

DOCTOR JENSEN  
 The CT Scan came back with an  
 abnormality.

Dr. Jensen walks over to a brightly lit image of Samuel's  
 brain.

DOCTOR JENSEN (CONT'D)  
 To get a better look we ran an  
 M.R.I.  
 (beat)  
 Samuel has brain cancer.

Uncle Nuncio bites his hand and tears roll down his eyes as  
 Auntie Marie consoles him.

AT THE ENTRANCE

A JUNKIE WALKS IN.

John John stumbles in drugged up and looking frail with large  
 black bags under his eyes. The UNKNOWN MEN IN SUITS hold John  
 John up. Enzo turns around and is surprised to see John  
 John's condition.

The Doctor's continue awkwardly due to John John.

DOCTOR MCKINELY  
 Samuel's brain has an apple sized  
 tumor on his right frontal lobe.  
 It's malignant.

The UNKNOWN MEN IN SUITS hang their heads at the news. John  
 John sits on the hospital floor and starts to cry and laugh.  
 Enzo stares at Samuel and questions the doctors without  
 looking at them.

ENZO  
 How much time?

Doctor Jensen walks to the other side of Samuel's bed, making  
 Enzo look at him.

DOCTOR JENSEN

Not long son. One to three months  
at best.

(beat)

I'm very sorry.

Enzo looks back down to Samuel.

ENZO

Can he hear us?

Doctor McKinley walks next to Enzo.

DOCTOR JENSEN

Due to the tumor, his brain's  
misfiring and he took a stroke.

(beat)

There is a lot of brain scarring.  
So, no... I doubt he is aware of  
what's happening.

Enzo bends down to kiss his father's hand.

Enzo's eyes GROW LARGE. Samuel is shackled to the bed.

ENZO

Why is he fucking handcuffed!

The TWO STATE TROOPERS walk into the room.

STATE TROOPER WILLIAMS

Hospital policy Enzo. It's not up  
to us.

Enzo walks up to the large State Trooper, making him look  
small. Uncle Nuncio holds Enzo back.

ENZO

What do they think he's gonna do?

(beat)

Rob a bank?

Enzo puts on his hood and heads for the door. He trips over  
the wasted John John. John John is belligerent and laughs at  
Enzo falling, nudging one of the UNKNOWN MEN IN SUITS to  
laugh with him.

JOHN JOHN

School boy took a fall.

Enzo grabs John John by the throat and lifts him in the air  
against the wall. The UNKNOWN SUITS try to unlock Enzo's grip  
but cannot stop the enormous Enzo.

Uncle Nuncio calls out to Enzo.

UNCLE NUNCIO  
Enzo stop!

Enzo looks to Uncle Nuncio and drops John John to the ground. John John crumbles into a ball gasping for air. Enzo looks around the room and exits the doorway.

HALLWAY

Enzo walks out into the hallway putting on his hood. Enzo looks to his right and sees THE FOUR MEN rise upon Enzo's sight. Enzo shakes his head "no" to them, still confused.

INT. ENZO'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Enzo enters a dark room. The TWINS are fast asleep. Julius is laying in bed with his eyes open. Julius turns on his small reading lamp.

The light gets Enzo's attention.

JULIUS  
(whispering)  
Hey big man. How's your Dad.

Enzo sits down on his bed and nods "no" to Julius. Julius sees that Enzo is hurting emotionally.

JULIUS (CONT'D (CONT'D))  
(still whispering)  
My folks are coming in tomorrow to visit. They're big fans of yours. You want in?  
(beat)  
You know, to take your mind off things.

Enzo answers Julius.

ENZO  
I appreciate it Julius, let me think about it.

Enzo lays on his bed and squeezes the covers tight.

EXT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY - EVENING

QUAD

Enzo and Julius are waiting for Julius's parents.

Julius talks to Enzo soothingly.



JULIUS  
I'm glad you decided to come for  
dinner.

Enzo sees a white Mercedes Benz pull up.

JULIUS (CONT'D)  
Here they are.

INT. NORTH SHORE SEAFOOD - NIGHT

MRS. CARTER, 50's, black with a pearl necklace, complements  
Enzo's choice. Seated by MR. CARTER, 50's, tall like Julius.

MRS. CARTER  
Enzo this place is beautiful, not  
to mention the menu.

Enzo nods cordially dressed in a shirt and tie.

ENZO  
I'm glad you like it Mrs. Carter.

Mrs. Carter whispers to Enzo.

MRS. CARTER  
Would you happen to know where the  
lady's room is?

Enzo points.

ENZO  
When you get to the large sailboat,  
take a left.

The MEN at the table cordially stand as Mrs. Carter leaves  
for the lady's room.

MR. CARTER  
Well Enzo, you made my wife very  
happy. Let me be the first to say  
that is NOT an easy task.

Enzo lets out a small smile.

JULIUS  
I told you pops, Enzo has this city  
down to a T.

ENZO  
It's my pleasure Mr. Carter.

Mr. Carter finishes a sip of water.

MR. CARTER  
Please Enzo, call me...

Enzo cuts him off.

ENZO  
HERBIE CARTER, number six, pitcher  
for the BALTIMORE BISONS.

Mr. Carter looks at Julius speechless, then back to Enzo.

MR. CARTER  
I can't tell you how nice it is to  
be called Herbie again.

Julius looks at Enzo.

JULIUS  
Man, do you ever stop?  
(beat)  
How did you know that?

Mr. Carter is joyfully puzzled.

ENZO  
When I was a kid, my Dad would  
bring me to the Farm League Games  
when you were in town.  
(beat)  
He'd say... "There's Herbie Carter,  
the best fast ball there is."

Mr. Carter is glowing.

ENZO (CONT'D)  
When you threw out your shoulder,  
my Dad didn't eat for two whole  
days.

Mr. Carter's mood changes and he looks to Julius.

MR. CARTER  
My son told me about your Dad's  
health. I'm very sorry. If there's  
anything I could do...

Enzo cuts Mr. Carter off.

ENZO  
In fact there is sir.  
(beat)  
A visit from Herbie Carter would  
really brighten my Dad's day.

Mrs. Carter returns. She feels the heavy mood and stays quiet. Mr. Carter replies.

MR. CARTER  
You got it Enzo. It would be my  
pleasure.

Enzo smiles to himself.

CUT TO:

INT. RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The FOUR sign in with the State Troopers, making Mrs. Carter nervous.

BY SAMUEL'S BED

Enzo updates them on Samuel's health as Samuel lays motionless.

ENZO  
He's been unconscious for a while  
after his stroke. The doctors say  
the more interaction the better.

Enzo kisses Samuel on the head. Mr. & Mrs. Carter look at Samuel's shackles and share a look.

Enzo talks to Samuel as if he can hear.

ENZO (CONT'D)  
Hey pop, how you feeling?  
(beat)  
You won't believe this, but I  
brought someone special with me.

Mrs. Carter is teary eyed.

Enzo leans in.

ENZO (CONT'D)  
I brought you number six, none  
other than Herbie Robinson.

Mr. Carter reaches into his jacket and places an autographed baseball into Samuels hand.

Julius stands back while holding his mother's arm, taking it all in.

Enzo nods cordially to Mr. Carter. Enzo kisses Samuel's head and the FOUR turn for the door.

A MUMBLE IS HEARD

Enzo turns around slowly.

Samuel has the baseball high in the air with his free hand.

SAMUEL  
Hr...Hrr... Herbie.

Enzo stops where he stands as Mr. Carter rushes to Samuel.

MR. CARTER  
That's right Samuel. It's me,  
Herbie Carter.

Mr. Carter waives everyone over. Enzo can't believe his eyes.

Mrs. Carter runs to the State Troopers.

MRS. CARTER  
Get a doctor, QUICK!

BY SAMUEL'S BED

Doctor Jensen is making Samuel follow his finger. Samuel's left side has restored slightly.

DOCTOR JENSEN  
Samuel, glad to have you back.

Doctor Jensen pats Enzo on the shoulder as he exits. Enzo stares into Samuel's eyes.

Samuel points to Herbie like an excited child.

ENZO  
I know pop. He came just for you.

Samuel continues to look at the ball and slowly falls back to sleep.

THE FOUR ARE LEAVING

Enzo reaches the door. He turns around to see Samuel snuggled closely with the baseball. Enzo smiles.

INT. ENZO'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

Enzo is putting on a Providence University Wrestling T-shirt. Julius is somber and is heading out with a backpack. Enzo uncharacteristically calls out to Julius.

ENZO  
Hey Julius?

Julius turns around.

ENZO (CONT'D)  
Thanks bro. I can't tell you how  
much...

Julius cuts him off.

JULIUS  
You don't have to say a thing big  
man. My family is your family.

Enzo nods "yes" to Julius as he leaves.

IN THE BATHROOM

Enzo is attending to his ponytail. He reaches into his  
backpack and takes out a few hair clips, knocking the black  
music box out onto the sink.

Enzo's hand trembles at the site of it.

He peeks out into the dorm to double check if anyone is  
there.

Enzo sits on the sink and takes off his wrestling sweatpants  
to reveal a badly infected, multi-colored wound. Enzo  
swallows nervously at the site of it.

Enzo takes a blade from the music box and cuts a deep slice  
into his wound. Enzo grinds his teeth and shuts his eyes.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. SAMUEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Josephine is helping Enzo and John John make a pizza. Enzo  
and John John are full of white flower as they roll the pizza  
flat, one on each handle.

JOSEPHINE  
Good job boys. Your gonna put every  
pizza shop out of business.

Samuel walks into the door and immediately smiles.

SAMUEL  
How'd you know I was in the mood  
for pizza?

The boys run to Samuel. He raises them high in the air in a  
bear hug. The THREE laugh. Josephine joins the gang and  
kisses all three boys.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
Who wants to play catch after  
dinner?

The TWO BOYS yell out.

TWO BOYS  
I do!

Josephine shakes her head "no" laughing.

EXT. SAMUELS HOUSE - LAWN - DAY

The TWO BOYS are licking their lips in anticipation.

SAMUEL (O.S.)  
You boys ready? One, two, THREE!

SAMUEL'S BEDROOM WINDOW

Samuel is throwing money out the window and down to Enzo and John John.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
Whatever you catch, you keep!

ON THE LAWN

Enzo and John John are frantically running around the lawn trying to catch the floating dollar bills. Enzo and John John run right into each other, falling to the ground.

Everyone is laughing.

Except John John.

Josephine runs over to John John. She lifts his shirt where he is wincing in pain. She slowly looks to Enzo, then Samuel.

SAMUEL'S BEDROOM WINDOW

Samuel is still laughing and smiling.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
What? Beat. What happened?

Samuel tone turns serious.

CLOSE ON: A LARGE BRUISE ON JOHN JOHN'S BACK

CROSS FADE: A SIMILAR BRUISE ON JOHN JOHN'S DADS FACE.

INT. THE NEW DEAL CLUB - NIGHT

Lillio is guarding the door with his arms folded.

ON TOP OF A TABLE

Samuel is punching JOHN JOHN'S DAD in the face.

SAMUEL

You son of a bitch! How does it  
feel?

The NEW DEAL PATRONS watch with disgusted expressions. Samuel hits him one more time, knocking him off the table and onto the floor.

John John's Dad spits blood.

Lillio picks him up and drags his beaten body to the back door.

THE BACK DOOR

Lillio drags him to the door and is ready to toss him out. Samuel stops Lillio. Samuel reaches into his pocket.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

You chose the wrong fortune.

Samuel takes out a SNUB NOSE SIX REVOLVER, and holds it to his head. Samuel reaches into another pocket and holds out a BANK ROLL OF CASH.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

You decide? Either way you'll die.

John John's Dad takes the money. Lillio throws him out onto the cement.

Samuel looks down at his bloody knuckles.

AT THE BAR

Samuel walks up to Uncle Nuncio, who has prepared a bar cloth filled with ice. Samuel looks to his right and sees an expressionless John John.

JOHN JOHN

Will he ever be back?

Samuel looks down. Beat. Then to John John.

SAMUEL

Never.

John John runs up to Samuel and hugs him. Samuel is surprised and hugs John John back.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. ENZO'S DORM - MOMENTS LATER

Enzo opens his eyes and lets out a sigh of relief. Watching at the door is Bianca with red, bloodshot eyes. She collapses where she stands.

Enzo hangs his head and slowly pulls up his jeans.

Enzo approaches Bianca. She gets up and runs into his arms.

BIANCA

Why?

Enzo stops hugging her and looks her in the eye.

ENZO

It's a long story...

Bianca looks at him with persistent tear-filled eyes.

BIANCA

Well, I guess you'll have to tell me.

(beat)

Because I'm not going anywhere.

ON ENZO'S BED

The two sit down on Enzo's bed. Bianca's hand trembles as she tries to touch Enzo's blood soaked jeans. She touches the blood and looks into Enzo's eyes.

BIANCA (CONT'D)

How many times have you cut yourself?

Enzo watches the blood spot grow larger.

ENZO

Too many times to remember.

Bianca wipes the tears from her eyes.

BIANCA

When did you start?

Enzo takes out his wallet. Enzo shows Bianca a neatly folded, old obituary column of his mother Josephine Colombo.



BIANCA (CONT'D)  
She was beautiful.

Enzo stares into the photo.

ENZO  
I was eight years old when my Dad  
was sentenced. My Mom couldn't take  
it.

Bianca looks at Enzo with teary eyes.

ENZO (CONT'D)  
I didn't cry when my Dad was  
imprisoned and I didn't cry when my  
Mom hung herself.

Bianca wipes her teary eyes.

BIANCA  
Why not?

Enzo looks away from Bianca and neatly folds the newspaper  
clipping into his wallet.

ENZO  
Men don't cry where I'm from.  
(beat)  
So I didn't cry.

Bianca sniffles.

BIANCA  
Instead you cut yourself?

Enzo nods "yes" slowly.

Bianca stands up and tugs at his arm. Enzo follows her.

ENZO'S SHOWER

Bianca turns the shower on and makes sure the temperature is  
right. Bianca slowly takes her top off. She takes off Enzo's  
shirt as well, feeling his chest.

The two are naked in the shower and Bianca is rinsing his  
wound under the shower.

She touches the infected area and looks him in the eyes.  
Bianca hugs Enzo tight.

INT. UNKNOWN PARK IN THE CITY - DAY

A black Lincoln Continental pulls up.

Governor O'Neil steps out of the back seat as his driver waits patiently. He looks across the park and walks to a wooden gazebo.

WOODEN GAZEBO

Governor O'Neil leans against a wooden pillar with one hand in his pocket. He takes out his pocket watch.

The old structure creaks, making Governor O'Neil turn around. We see the back of a YOUNG MALE wearing a Providence University HOODED SWEATSHIRT and a backpack.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL

Your punctuality is fading. But hopefully you're hard work is the cause.

Governor O'Neil points to the backpack. We now see that John John is the YOUNG MAN wearing the Providence University Hooded sweatshirt. He looks like he hasn't slept, showered, or eaten in days.

John John takes out a GREEN NOTEBOOK, and then wipes his nose.

Governor O'Neil hands John John an envelope full of cash. John John begins to open the envelope. Governor O'Neil walks away barking orders.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL (CONT'D)

It's all there.

The Governor turns around.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL (CONT'D)

Glad to see you wore the right school's T-shirt.

John John has a guilty look on his face and walks away quickly.

INT. RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL - MORNING

SAMUEL'S ROOM

Enzo walks up to the STATE TROOPERS.

State Trooper Williams puts his hand over the sign-in sheet and pats Enzo on the shoulder.

STATE TROOPER WILLIAMS

Good luck in there kid.

State Trooper McKinley nods cordially. Enzo looks to his left and sees the FOUR MEN in black suits. They await Enzo's command like German Sheppards.

SAMUEL'S ROOM

The room is quiet. The UNKNOWN MEN IN SUITS are no where to be found. Neither is Auntie Marie or John John.

SAMUEL'S BED

Uncle Nuncio is standing by the foot of Samuel's bed with his head down. He has TWO NEW STATE TROOPERS standing on his right and left. They are the only visitors in the room.

Enzo looks to Uncle Nuncio who doesn't lift his head. He continues to look down and cry.

Enzo walks up to the now bald Samuel and kisses him on his forehead. Enzo stares at Uncle Nuncio who is weeping like a child and nodding his head "no."

Doctor Jensen walks in and takes Samuel's blood Pressure. Doctor Jensen shakes his head "no" to Enzo. Doctor Jensen consoles Enzo.

DOCTOR JENSEN

It's close. You better say your goodbye's.

Enzo holds Samuels hand and tries to pull it close to kiss. Enzo's notices Samuel is still shackled.

Enzo tosses a table with medical supplies.

The TWO STATE TROOPERS from the entrance come running in. Uncle Nuncio finally raises his head.

ENZO

Let'em go in peace!

State Troopers Williams & McKinley address Enzo.

STATE TROOPER WILLIAMS

It's not my decision Enzo! I'm sorry.

Enzo looks hopelessly to State Trooper McKinley.

STATE TROOPER MCKINELY  
Only the State's Governor can give  
the orders.

Enzo watches his Dad's chest rise and fall.

ENZO  
Call him.

State Trooper McKinley takes out his cell phone.

Enzo stares at Samuel and overhears State Trooper McKinley.

STATE TROOPER MCKINELY (O.S.)  
I understand Governor but... yes  
sir.

State Trooper Mckinely walks behind Enzo.

STATE TROOPER MCKINELY (CONT'D)  
Governor O'Neil denied the request.

Enzo feels a hand on his shoulder and keys jingling.

STATE TROOPER MCKINELY (CONT'D)  
But Governor O'Neil isn't here, now  
is he?

State Trooper McKinley uncuffs Samuel. Enzo nods in  
appreciation.

Samuel's chest slowly rises and falls one last time. Samuel's  
eye's open. Samuel dies.

Enzo closes his father's eyes and kisses him on the lips.

Enzo looks to Uncle Nuncio. Uncle Nuncio nods "no" as he  
himself is handcuffed. He is being escorted by the TWO STATE  
TROOPERS by his side.

ENZO  
Uncle?

Enzo is confused.

UNKNOWN STATE TROOPER  
Mr. Nuncio lets not make this  
harder than it has to be.

Enzo stands up confused. Uncle Nuncio looks towards Enzo.

## UNCLE NUNCIO

John John.  
 (beat)  
 Like father like son.

Uncle Nuncio is being taken away. Uncle Nuncio pauses and looks back to Enzo.

## UNCLE NUNCIO (CONT'D)

Enzo, your Dad gave you the green light kid. It's all yours now.

The TWO NEW STATE TROOPERS walk Uncle Nuncio away. Enzo stands up with pride as he looks down once more at Samuel. Enzo smiles at his Dad mischievously.

## HALLWAY

Enzo raises his hood and looks at the FOUR MEN in black suits.

Enzo nods "yes" to them and engages the FOUR MEN to follow him in perfect cadence.

Enzo leads the pack.

DEATH has a new leader.

CUT TO:

## EXT. A DIRTY BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

John John is crying and staring at the once full envelope that Governor O'Neil gave him, it is now empty. He injects himself with a syringe into a badly multi-colored wound and falls onto his back.

John John vomits because of such a heavy dose and trembles erratically until he dies with his eyes open next to an empty envelope and a black and white photo of Enzo and himself.

CUT TO:

## INT. GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Governor O'Neil is seated in a big, black leather chair, drinking a glass of scotch.

His cell phone rings.

## GOVERNOR O'NEIL

A dead father and an imprisoned Uncle? That's enough to flatten anyone's tire.

Governor O'Neil shuts his cell phone and sips his drink with an evil smile.

INT. PROFESSOR STONE'S CLASSROOM - DAY

Professor Stone walks in the classroom and quietly begins to write on the chalkboard. Professor Stone draws a large triangle on the board.

PROFESSOR STONE  
The triangle I have drawn on the board are the three main components of a crime.

Professor Stone writes on the top point of the triangle "CRIMINAL."

PROFESSOR STONE (CONT'D)  
For a crime to take place there must always be a CRIMINAL.

Professor Stone writes on the bottom left point of the triangle "VICTIM."

PROFESSOR STONE (CONT'D)  
Secondly, a Victim must be established.

Professor Stone addresses the class.

PROFESSOR STONE (CONT'D)  
Who knows what the third component will be?

Professor Stone holds the chalk in the air indicating he wants a student to finish the triangle. Julius raises his hand and looks at Enzo's empty seat next to him.

AT THE CHALKBOARD

Julius writes down "OPPORTUNITY" on the bottom right point of the triangle.

PROFESSOR STONE (CONT'D)  
Very good Julius. A crime must have a CRIMINAL, a VICTIM, and an OPPORTUNITY.

Julius stares at Enzo's empty seat.

INT. BIANCA'S DORM - MORNING

Bianca is smelling Enzo's Anchors T-shirt. A knock is heard at the door. Bianca opens it and is immediately hugged by a crying Enzo.

BIANCA'S BATHROOM

Enzo reaches down to his leg and pauses nervously, closing his eyes.

Bianca's holds Enzo's hand stopping it from trembling. Rather than cutting, Enzo and Bianca apply ointment to the wound.

A healthy calm washes over Enzo's face. Bianca completes the job by applying a bright, white gauze over the wound.

BIANCA'S VANITY MIRROR

Enzo is sitting shirtless in front of a brightly lit mirror. Bianca walks behind him and whispers into his ear.

BIANCA  
Are you ready?

Enzo looks at himself in the mirror.

Enzo nods "yes."

A GLIMMERING SCISSOR

A glimmering sharp scissor is in Bianca's hand. She delicately unties Enzo's ponytail, letting it run down his back.

The first cut is made. Enzo closes his eyes. Bianca holds the first clipping close to her eyes and then tucks the clipping into her pocket, preserving it.

Cut by cut, hair drops to the ground.

AN ELECTRIC RAZOR

Finally, the humming of an electric razor glides down the center of Enzo's head. Enzo closes his eyes.

INT. BROWN UNIVERSITY - AFTERNOON

TITLE CRAWL: STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

ANCHORS LOCKER ROOM

TEAMMATES are trying to relax by their locker. Smitty is stretching his leg and cracking his knuckles.

Marcus is listening to a set of headphones and has his eyes shut.

Coach Mancini and Luzzy look at one another and shake hands.

LUZZY

It's been one hell of a run Coach.

Coach Mancini smiles.

COACH MANCINI

We just have one more hurdle in front of us.

Luzzy smiles and the two of them look around at the TEAM. They look to Enzo, who is seated by his locker with his hood still on his head and his hands folded.

He hasn't moved an inch.

BOOM! The locker room doors swing open and Dean Greggerson barges in with two photographers. Multiple flashes light up the locker room.

DEAN GREGGERSON

Take photos of every wrestler.

Coach Mancini steps in Dean Greggerson's way.

COACH MANCINI

What's this Dean Greggerson?

Dean Greggerson looks at Coach Mancini and the TEAM.

DEAN GREGGERSON

It's not everyday that Providence University wrestles for the State Championships!

The TEAM looks at Dean Greggerson with disgust. Smitty walks over to Marcus.

SMITTY

What's this Captain?

Marcus shakes his head.

MARCUS

This is a circus.

Smitty and Marcus stare at Dean Greggerson.



Coach Mancini grabs a camera from one of the PHOTOGRAPHERS. Dean Greggerson is posing next to each wrestler with a phony, hooker's smile.

COACH MANCINI

Dean Greggerson? My men are preparing. Get these cameras out of here!

Dean Greggerson gets in Coach Mancini's face.

DEAN GREGGERSON

Do you know how many people will be counting on this match? I'm going to see to it that we please them!

Dean Greggerson continues to pace around the locker.

DEAN GREGGERSON (CONT'D)

Where's our champ? Where's SAMSON?

Photographers snap shots at Enzo who remains still. He continues to sit with his hood up and his hands folded. Dean Greggerson reaches for Enzo's shoulder.

Coach Mancini grabs Dean Greggerson's hand.

COACH MANCINI

Get these photographers out of here! My men haven't come this far to blow it!

Dean Greggerson gets face to face with Coach Mancini.

DEAN GREGGERSON

Your men? This is MY SCHOOL!

Luzzy stands beside Coach Mancini with his arms folded.

LUZZY

Out you go Dean Greggerson. Coaches orders.

Dean Greggerson looks at the TWO, and leaves Coach Mancini with an order, pointing to Enzo.

DEAN GREGGERSON

You just make sure Samson makes it onto the mat tonight.

SAINTS LOCKER ROOM

The TEAM is preparing as well. An SAINTS TEAMMATE is wrapping his fingers.

THREE SAINTS TEAMMATES are watching a wrestling match on their laptop.

Tommy is being stretched out by the TEAM TRAINER. Coach Evergreen walks over to them.

COACH EVERGREEN  
That's enough. Give us some time alone.

Tommy looks down as his Dad/Coach sits in front of him.

COACH EVERGREEN (CONT'D)  
Tonight's a big match, for BOTH of us. Let's make sure we put our best foot forward.

Coach Evergreen grabs Tommy's chin and holds his head up.

COACH EVERGREEN (CONT'D)  
Did you hear what I said?

Tommy answers nervously.

TOMMY  
Yes sir.

Coach Evergreen walks away angrily. Tommy rubs his jaw in pain and continues to look down.

Governor O'Neil appears, Tommy pops his head back up.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL  
Feeling strong today Tommy?

Tommy stands up and nods "yes."

GOVERNOR O'NEIL (CONT'D)  
Good boy.

Tommy watches Governor O'Neil walk away.

ANCHORS LOCKER ROOM

Coach Evergreen stands in the middle of the locker room.

COACH MANCINI  
Let's bring it in men.

The TEAM closes in and listens to Coach Mancini.

COACH MANCINI (CONT'D)  
Tonight, we all have different reasons to win.  
(MORE)

COACH MANCINI (CONT'D)

(beat)

Make sure you leave your heart on  
that mat tonight. That's all I ask.

(beat)

Captain!

Marcus puts his hand in the air, making the TEAM follow suit.

MARCUS

It's time to make history fellas.  
Let's drop anchor and make the mat  
our own.

The TEAM looks at one another anxiously. Enzo has his hand up  
and his head down.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

One... Two... Three...

TEAM

Drop anchor!

EXT. BROWN UNIVERSITY - MOMENTS LATER

CAMPUS PARKING LOT

A large FORD F-150 pulls into a parking spot. Nappa, and a  
LARGE ASSOCIATE step out neatly dressed.

Next to the FORD F-150 an older White Cadillac pull in. Coach  
Jenkins and THREE WRESTLERS wearing ST. MARYS'S WRESTLING T-  
shirts step out of the vehicle.

A beat-up Volvo pulls into the next parking space. Adam and  
his GIRLFRIEND step out of their vehicle sharply dressed.

A growling, black Maserati Quattroporte pulls up next to  
Adam. FOUR MEN in black suits exit the car perfectly in sync.

ON THE MAT

The Providence University Anchors are lead out first. Coach  
Mancini runs with them in a circle. The crowd roars.

The Anchors settle in their respective corner.

A BLAST OF TRUMPETS

Coach Evergreen leads the LaSalle Saints onto the mat. The  
SAINTS salute the crowd as loud trumpet players announce  
wrestling royalty.

The crowd cheers.

## IN THE LUXURY SEATS

Dean Greggerson is sweating nervously, wrenching a WRESTLING PROGRAM featuring SAMSON vs. TOMMY on the cover.

SPONSORS are to his left and right.

Governor O'Neil walks up to Dean Greggerson.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL  
Best of luck today Dean Greggerson.

Dean Greggerson stares at the Governor.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL (CONT'D)  
You're sure going to need it.

Governor O'Neil walks away from a worried Dean Greggerson.

## IN THE STANDS

Adam and Coach Jenkins look around at the enormous crowd.

Adam is tapped on the shoulder. The OLD MAN is sitting behind him, smiling.

OLD MAN  
Who are you here to see?

Adam answers with a clever smile.

ADAM  
I'm here to see Sam's son wrestle.

The OLD MAN smiles, content.

The TWINS are sitting behind Bianca and Julius. Omar leans down to Julius.

OMAR  
How do you think he's holding up?

Julius shrugs his shoulders. Flacco leans in.

FLACCO  
He hasn't budged since he came running out.

Bianca has a strange smile on her face.

BIANCA  
Don't worry guys, Enzo's gonna kill'em.

UNDER THE RED EXIT SIGNS

The FOUR MEN in black suits are standing in a line.

ON THE MAT

Smitty routinely wrestles first.

MONTAGE: Smitty is wrestling point for point with his OPPONENT.

COACH MANCINI  
Come on Smitty get under him!

Smitty picks up his pace.

SCOREBOARD

INSERT: SAINTS 05 ANCHORS 04

Smitty is down 5 to 4 by the end of the first period.

THE ANCHORS CORNER

Smitty is talking to Coach Mancini as he hydrates himself. Marcus is waiving a towel to cool off Smitty.

SMITTY  
I can't get under him Coach.

Coach Mancini hypes him up.

COACH MANCINI  
You're wrestling your heart out  
there Smitty! Keep up the pace!

Smitty heads to the mat for the SECOND PERIOD.

Marcus looks to Enzo. Enzo has his hood up and head down.

Marcus walks up to Coach Mancini, who is closely watching Smitty's match.

MARCUS  
Coach, I think we have a problem.

Coach Mancini is animated as he speaks, waiving his arms.

COACH MANCINI  
Smitty will make up the points.

Marcus tries again.

MARCUS

That's not who I'm talking about.

Coach Mancini looks to Marcus with concern.

CUT TO:

THE SAINTS CORNER

Tommy is seated and staring at the motionless Enzo. Tommy leans over to a TEAMMATE who is watching the match.

TOMMY

Look at him, his head's a mile away from this match.

Tommy's TEAMMATE looks to Enzo.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

He hasn't moved since the start of the match.

The TEAMMATE looks to Tommy nervously, then to Enzo.

TEAMMATE

Who knows where his mind is?

Tommy continues to stare at Enzo.

CUT TO:

THE ANCHOR'S BENCH

Enzo has his head down.

We see his face. He is breathing rhythmically with his eyes closed.

THE ANCHORS BENCH

Smitty walks over to Coach Mancini with a defeated look. Coach Mancini rubs Smitty on the head.

SMITTY

I failed you Coach.

Coach Mancini holds Smitty's head.

COACH MANCINI

Smitty, you're one of the reasons we're here.

Smitty smiles and sits on the bench as TEAMMATES applaud Smitty.

THE SCOREBOARD

INSERT: SAINTS 11 -- ANCHORS 07

ON THE MAT

MONTAGE: Marcus is getting the best of his OPPONENT. Marcus rolls his OPPONENT upside down and pins him.

The REFEREE raises Marcus's hand in victory.

THE ANCHORS BENCH

The TEAM applauds Marcus. Marcus has closed the gap.

SCOREBOARD

INSERT: SAINTS 17 -- ANCHORS 15

IN THE STANDS

TRUMPETS BLARE, an entrance fit for a king.

GYMNASIUM ANNOUNCER (O.S.)  
Wrestling at 197lbs for The LaSalle  
University Saints, the undefeated  
reining State Champion, Tommy  
Evergreen!

The crowd cheers loudly.

THE SAINTS BENCH

Tommy is putting on his head gear, still fixated on Enzo who has yet to move from his chair.

MODERATOR EVAN THOMPSON (O.S.)  
Wrestling at 197lbs for The  
Providence University Anchors, also  
undefeated, Enzo "Samson" Colombo!

The audience erupts and Enzo's trademark STREET DRUMMERS summon Enzo to the mat.

THE ANCHORS BENCH

Enzo stands up and the crowd goes hysterical.

IN THE LUXURY SEATS

Dean Greggerson is clapping and shaking the hands of several SPONSORS.

## THE ANCHORS BENCH

Enzo takes off his hood, showcasing a clean shaven head. Shedding his commercially identifiable locks.

## IN THE LUXURY SEATS

Dean Greggerson swallows a large gulp of nerves.

DEAN GREGGERSON

He killed Samson.

Dean Greggerson is alone. The SPONSOR'S have left him with only ripped up WRESTLING PROGRAMS. Beads of sweat run down his forehead.

The CROWD pauses and begins to chant "Sam's Son" "Sam's Son"

## THE ANCHORS BENCH

Enzo grabs his head gear and places it on his head. As he snaps on his chin strap, he looks to Coach Mancini and Marcus.

COACH MANCINI

Go get'em son.

MARCUS

Time to shine brother.

Enzo nods "yes," to Coach Mancini and Marcus.

THE STANDS

Omar, Flacco and Julius look at each other in amazement.

Governor O'Neil stands up and stares at the bald Enzo awestruck.

## ON THE MAT

The REFEREE makes Tommy and Enzo shake hands. Tommy winks at Enzo. Enzo has a deadly look on his face.

REFEREE

Timers ready. Scorers Ready.

The Referee blows his whistle.

Tommy and Enzo lock shoulders in the middle of the mat. Enzo quickly turns his hips and slams Tommy on his back. The REFEREE puts three fingers in the air.



REFEREE (CONT'D)

Three points green, take down  
danger.

Coach Evergreen puts his hands on his head and looks at Coach Mancini who is also awestruck by Enzo's power.

Tommy gets up cautiously from the mat. Tommy's caution turns to frustration as he fakes high and drops in low into Enzo's thighs.

Enzo closes his eyes in pain and drops to the mat for the first time.

REFEREE (CONT'D)

Take down red, three points.

Tommy and Enzo are jockeying for ground control but run out of time.

The REFEREE'S whistle blows. Period One has ended.

The two giants rise. Tommy notices a blood stain on Enzo's thigh and he smiles.

THE SCOREBOARD -- SAINTS 24 -- ANCHORS 20

THE SAINTS BENCH

Coach Evergreen is wiping down Tommy with a towel.

COACH EVERGREEN

You're doing great Tommy, you  
hurt'em.

Tommy looks to his Dad with sweat pouring down his face.

A mischievous smile appears on Tommy. He showcases blood on his fingers that's coming from Enzo.

TOMMY

I hurt him bad.

THE ANCHORS BENCH

Enzo is being hydrated by Luzzy. Coach Mancini is giving advice.

COACH MANCINI

How you feeling kid?

Enzo grinds his teeth.

ENZO  
I got 'em.

Luzzy speaks out.

LUZZY  
Keep him high.  
(beat)  
You got me?

Enzo nods "yes."

ON THE MAT

Enzo and Tommy eye each other. Tommy winks at Enzo again.

The REFEREE blows his whistle. Enzo and Tommy lock shoulders. Tommy reaches down to Enzo thigh and digs his hand into the bloody uniform.

Enzo is in shock and his vision is blurry. Enzo loosens his grip and Tommy hip tosses Enzo to the mat.

REFEREE  
Take down red, three points danger.

IN THE STANDS

Adam and Coach Jenkins are watching in anticipation.

ON THE MAT

Enzo is getting muscled around the mat. Tommy shoots low for his legs once again, hitting Enzo square in the injured thigh.

Enzo closes his eyes, but doesn't fall. Tommy digs his fingers into the wound. Tommy closes in tight so the REFEREE does not see the blood.

Enzo is in agonizing pain. Enzo looks into the stands.

IN THE STANDS

Governor O'Neil is laughing at Enzo with his political cohorts.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. SALVATORE'S BISTRO - YEARS AGO

Enzo's skin is sizzling off his leg. YOUNG WILLIAM O'NEIL and YOUNG THOMAS EVERGREEN's laugh echoes loudly and distorted.

END FLASHBACK:

ON THE MAT

ENZO locks shoulders with Tommy, and regains control.

IN THE STANDS

The FOUR MEN dressed in black suits standing UNDER THE RED EXIT SIGNS nod "yes" to Enzo.

ON THE MAT

Enzo drops to one knee, wrapping his arms around Tommy's legs.

Enzo lets out a lions roar and lifts Tommy high in the air. Enzo drives Tommy's body to the mat head first.

THE SCREEN IS BLACK and SILENT.

ON THE MAT

Enzo stands over the lifeless body of Tommy. The REFEREE is stunned by the show of force.

The CROWD overtakes the mat in celebration. Team Trainers are tending to the motionless Tommy.

IN THE STANDS

Governor O'Neil stands up. He cannot locate Enzo.

UNDER THE RED EXIT SIGNS

The FOUR MEN in Black suits have disappeared.

CRAWL: ONE WEEK LATER

EXT. BIANCA'S DORM ROOM - DAY

SET OF STAIRS

Bianca has tears in her eyes as she reads her article written for The Throttle.

BIANCA

As the Referee blew his whistle, like that of a steam engine, Enzo's freakish force charged Tommy like an L Train. In the middle of the ring the two giants locked shoulders.

INT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY'S LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Julius is rubbing his head nervously as he reads THE THROTTLE.

JULIUS

It is then Enzo reached for Tommy's legs.

EXT. PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY QUAD - CONTINUOUS

Marcus is looks at Fool's Hill, then reads THE THROTTLE.

MARCUS

Tommy's menacing expression turned into panic...

INT. THE THROTTLES OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Omar is in disbelief as he reads THE THROTTLE.

OMAR

As Tommy was lifted off the mat like an eight year old boy.

INT. FLACCO'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Flacco shakes his head "no" as he reads The Throttle

FLACCO

Enzo slammed the undefeated three time to the mat, head first like a rag doll.

INT. PROFESSOR STONE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Prof. Stone takes in a deep breath as he reads THE THROTTLE.

PROFESSOR STONE

Tommy Evergreen made no movement, nor a sound. Tommy's body laid lifeless on the mat.

INT. GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Governor O'Neil is nervously reading THE THROTTLE aloud to himself.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL

Enzo, looming over his victim didn't even wait for the stunned Referee to raise his hand in victory. But rather, vanished into the sea of the crowd that overtook the mat, and was never seen again. The Police determined Enzo's act that of criminal intent and is currently under a state wide investigation.

(beat)

Making Enzo the sole person of interest.

EXT. GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

THE BLACK MASERATI QUATTROPORTE

The Maserati Quattroporte's four doors open in sync and two rows of men dressed in black suits step out with precise cadence.

This time the group holds the door open for someone new, a hulking bald headed man, Enzo. Enzo reaches into his jacket and pulls out an Ace of Spades.

The FIVE MEN in black suits walk directly towards the Governor's house.

EXT. GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S FRONT WINDOW - CONTINUOUS

The GOVERNOR'S WIFE see's the FOUR MEN in black suits. She calls out to her husband.

GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S WIFE (O.S.)

Honey, do you have a meeting today?

INT. GOVERNOR O'NEIL'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Governor O'Neil slowly stands up and puts down THE THROTTLE. As he does so, an ACE OF SPADES lands on top of THE Throttle.

Governor O'Neil hears a gun cock behind him. He stares into the camera with a deadly, scared, look on his face.

FADE TO BLACK.