

~~Birdman smiles and walks to the wall pulls down old faded photo of him surrounded by Earl, Cicero, Pompey and a baby Brucey-B.~~

~~A different and happier time it seems from the photo.~~

~~Birdman goes to a drawer pulls out chrome gun with wings on it.~~

~~BIRDMAN  
Be careful.~~

~~Birdman hands Brucey the gun.~~

~~CUT BACK TO~~

~~INT.THE ROMAN HOUSE - DINING ROOM NIGHT~~

~~The Roman family is seated but Earl is not there.~~

~~Eric sits at the head of the table.~~

~~Minnie serves a hot dinner, her hands are shaking slightly but noticeably.~~

~~Erica raises her glass.~~

~~ERICA ROMAN  
To new beginnings.~~

~~MINNY ROMAN  
To the lord bringing my baby home.  
Safe.~~

~~EARL ROMAN (O.S.)  
To making sure he stays out this  
time.~~

~~Earl enters from the hallway. He stares at Eric, no smile.  
Eric rises, unsure.~~

~~Earl gives Erica a kiss on the cheek and looks at Minny.~~

~~EARL ROMAN (CONT'D)  
Excuse us we going on the porch for  
a few ticks.~~

~~MINNY ROMAN  
But Earl, dinner is about done.~~

## Start

~~EARL ROMAN  
Wont be long. Promise.~~

CUT TO:

EXT. THE ROMAN HOUSE - PORCH - NIGHT

Earl and Eric are both seated together.

Earl lights his cigar.

ERIC ROMAN  
No welcome home, son? I miss you  
son? Nothing like that huh?

EARL ROMAN  
(laughs)  
Save the dramatics, son. You my  
flesh and blood. You know where we  
stand. The Roman family was  
basically born in jail.

Earl opens his arms. They hug and break the tension

EARL ROMAN (CONT'D)  
Let's skip all that and get right  
to it. That righteous religious  
bullshit you was talking about in  
the clink ain't going work now. The  
streets changed. And if you running  
with ya old man again gotta be  
fierce. That bible shit can't help  
for what we gotta do.

ERIC ROMAN  
I know last time we talked and I  
told you I was out you was furious.  
You tried so hard to keep me off  
the streets and I know it was my  
choice to get involved. Right  
before I went to prison I seen what  
I became and who you really were.  
And at that very moment I knew  
something was going to happen.  
Death or jail. Amen I got arrested  
that same night. Pops I need  
another way. And it can be off our  
own peoples back. Im sorry.

EARL ROMAN  
Our own peoples back? Let me  
refresh your memory or history I  
should say.

(MORE)