

~~EARL ROMAN (O.S.)~~
~~No! Don't! Ahhhhh!~~

~~We hear loud screams and flesh burning.~~

CUT TO:

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

~~Earl is alone in the dark smoking a cigar.~~

~~The Roman family can be heard coming inside the house.~~

~~They enter the dark house and it looks empty but yet smokey.~~

~~Minny turns on a light.~~

~~MINNY ROMAN~~
~~Earl? We home!~~

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD BARBERSHOP - NIGHT

A dusty, dimly lit barbershop in a forgotten corner of the Eastside.

A handmade sign on the door. "Closed - but ring twice."

Brucey-B stands outside, pacing. He rings the bell four times

After a moment, the door opens. An old black man stands in the doorway - BIRDMAN 70's, full white beard, old conductor cap and toothpick in mouth.

BIRDMAN
 Boy, you coming ringing my bell
 double times the requirement at
 this hour? You better be dying or
 dealing.

BRUCEY-B
 What if it's both?

Birdman looks at him for a long beat, then opens the door wider.

CUT TO:

INT. BIRDMAN'S BARBERSHOP - MOMENTS LATER

Birdman flips on one light. The walls are covered in pictures - Malcolm, Martin, Ali etc... Old newspaper clippings. Empty dusty fish tank.

BIRDMAN
 You interrupted me I was about to
 listen to Malcolm's speech "The
 ballot or the bullet" One of your
 favorites right?. You got time to
 listen with me?

BRUCEY-B
 Not today Pops (pauses)

BIRDMAN
 Talk then.

BRUCEY-B
 You heard about Pastor Mumford?

BIRDMAN
 World ain't right when a man of god
 gets killed.

BRUCEY-B
 Word starting to move around.
 People wanted him out the streets
 getting to close maybe.
 Saying things he shouldn't and what
 not.

BIRDMAN
 I known Mumford before he was a
 pastor and let's just say he was
 always looking for his next hustle.
 Could be more to it but why you
 care? Ain't your business. Is it?

BRUCEY-B
 I don't know I just feel like
 something happening. I wanna be
 ready. His murder and other things
 got me feel like I need to protect
 myself

BIRDMAN
 So that's why you here? Tool up?

BRUCEY-B
 The first thing you ever taught me?
 A man who stands for nothing will
 fall for anything.

Start