

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

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

~~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.