

"CARR-10-N"

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FADE IN:

The darkness fills with the RATTLE of swarming insect wings. A feeling of dread chokes the gloom.

INT. DERELICT BEDROOM — NIGHT

An emaciated WOMAN (19) slumps in the corner, belt loose around her arm, needle junked in her vein.

Is she dead?

No! A sharp gasp heralds an OILY BLACK WASP. It crawls from her mouth, lingers to taste her saliva, then BUZZES away.

INT. TEENAGE WOMAN'S BEDROOM — NIGHT

ADAM LEIGH (mid-30s) clears a shelf of books with one angry sweep. He moves deliberately, like a battle weary soldier, as physically powerful as he is emotionally exhausted.

He tears off the jacket of his police uniform. Then attacks the bed, stripping off the sheets, flipping the mattress.

Turning on a chest of drawers. He wrenches out one tier then another, discarding her clothes on the floor.

The top drawer jams. He yanks at it again. The chest topples forward like a broken headstone.

Adam stands there, clucking like the junkie who lost their fix. Then, in a final fit of pique, manhandles the carcass upright, slamming it down with a furious, SMASH.

ADAM

I fucking knew it.

Lying on the carpet in front of him, a zip-lock plastic bag, stuffed to bursting with ROSE LOGOED pills of MDMA.

INT. LEIGH FAMILY HOME — DAWN

CHRISTINE LEIGH (19) ushers in JOHN KEYS (21), shuts the door with a quiet, SLAM. If she is a performance-hardened ballerina, he is her danseur. Long nights of MDMA fuelled aerobics have made them as lean as they are in sync.

JOHN

You're gonna wake his lordship.

A light in the LIVING ROOM goes on, CLICK. John smirks "I told you so", shoves her playfully towards the DOOR.

LIVING ROOM

Christine saunters in, John close behind.

CHRISTINE
You didn't have to wait up.

Adam tilts the shade, shines the light in their eyes.

CHRISTINE
I'm not doing this again. We're going to bed.

She turns to leave.

ADAM
Just wait, wait one second.

CHRISTINE
You're not Dad, you don't get to say shit.

ADAM
Christine Leigh, come back here.

CHRISTINE
Not Dad.

ADAM
And I'm not trying to be. But d'you-think either of our parents would let this-lot, just slide.

He tosses the bag of PILLS on the table. John breaks for the door. Christine follows him out. Adam follows her.

HALLWAY

John fumbles open the FRONT DOOR.

JOSEPH REINER is waiting. Reiner (mid-40s) is part police the rest zealot, as physically confident as he is mentally uncompromising. He smashes a fist down on John's nose.

John's knees buckle like a poleaxed veal calf.

CHRISTINE
John.

She leaps at Reiner but Adam already has her, manhandling her up against the wall, kicking her feet apart.

CHRISTINE
Get the-fuck off me.

ADAM
You were warned. I warned you there'd be consequences.

He pushes handcuffs onto her wrist. Reiner cuffs John.

CHRISTINE
Adam please, don't do this.

ADAM
It's for your own good.

CHRISTINE
For my own good. For my own good.

REINER
(laughing)
Think of it as a wake-up call.

Christine pushes back, kicks at Reiner.

ADAM
Will you, just calm the-fuck down.

He pins her to the wall. She spits in his face.

CHRISTINE
They'd be ashamed of you, both of them, ashamed of you, you self-righteous son-of-a, you child.

EXT. LEIGH FAMILY HOME - MORNING

Adam watches stony-faced, as POLICE CAR 20 drives his sister and her partner away.

ADAM
Now, she really hates me.

REINER
You did the right thing. You'll see. One day she'll thank you.

Adam ponders Reiner's prediction, then retreats to the safety of home.

MAIN TITLE MONTAGE:

WAR PROPAGANDA: Multiple sources report the speech of Prime Minister CHARLES WEAVER (60s) confirming "CODE 10" laws.

WEAVER

Brothers, we have fought long and hard to keep the enemy at bay. But the war on drugs must be ended. These laws ensure our victory.

HUMAN DECOMPOSITION: A series of clips and still images record the decay of a human body. Flies lay eggs. Eggs hatch. Maggots tear through rotting flesh. Beetles feed. Parasitic wasps inject maggots.

WEAVER (CONT'D)

They send a message. A message delivered in the most emphatic terms to this degenerate scum. We do not want you.

NECROPHAGOUS INSECTS: Sources catalogue the anatomy and species associated with human decomposition. House fly head. Blow fly thorax. Flesh fly leg. Burying beetle antennae. Rove beetle eye. Carrion beetle mandible. Sabre wasp wing. Ichneumon wasp ovipositor.

WEAVER (CONT'D)

We do not want the damage you cause to the health, to the wealth, to the security of this great nation. Let me be clear.

GENETIC EXPERIMENTS: Pages summarise research to engineer a new species of insect. Models of a DNA sequence. Fly feeding. Animations of inron removal. Beetle mating. Diagrams of exon connection. Wasp ovipositor injecting.

WEAVER (CONT'D)

If your life is drugs, you are a criminal. If you are a criminal, you will feel the full weight of the law. Brothers, know this, we will only be safe, when the junkie has been wiped from existence.

WASP RELEASE: A canister, stencilled with "CARR-10-N", is set down by a HAZMAT suited TECHNICIAN. He hinges open the lid like a child lighting a firework, and waits. WHOOSH, a column of wasps shoots into the sky, scattering over the city like a cascade of oily black rain.

INT. SHIELD LODGE — NIGHT

Three hard THUMPS echo through the chamber, full with sixty BROTHERS OF THE SHIELD.

Shield Master NOYES sits on his throne. Noyes (mid-50s) is a man as comfortable giving orders as he is to eating.

NOYES

Brother, inquire who seeks entry.

Shield Warden TIPPMANN answers the call. Tippmann (early-30s) wears his robes with the pride of a tribal elder.

He unlocks the door, holds it ajar, finds a blindfolded Adam, flanked by Reiner and Shield Sergeant DAVIS. Davis (late-20s) carries himself like a surly boxer.

TIPPMANN

Brother, whom do you have there?

DAVIS

Adam Leigh, a poor candidate in a state of darkness.

TIPPMANN

Halt, while I petition your Shield Master.

He closes the door, goes to the kneeling trestle set in the middle of the chamber, and bows his head to Noyes.

NOYES

Brother, who seeks admission?

TIPPMANN

Adam Leigh, a poor candidate in a state of darkness.

NOYES

The tongue of good report has been heard in his favour?

CUT TO:

EXT. RUN-DOWN TENEMENT — COURTYARD — EVENING

POLICE CAR 26 pulls over.

INSIDE CAR 26

Adam notices a MAN and a WOMAN (that could be Christine and John) turn off the stairs.

Reiner looks where Adam is looking, watches the two figures scurry into the shadows. He kills the engine.

ADAM

I'm sure that was Christine and that slag boyfriend of hers.

REINER

Will you stop? You did your best and what did she do?

ADAM

I was just, I just thought.

REINER

Well don't, think. You want the thing, you really want it, forget that degenerate bitch.

Adam swallows the instruction, then follows Reiner's lead, and gets out of Car 26.

COURTYARD

Adam adjusts his GLOCK 17, follows Reiner to HORAN (late-60s), waiting on her step. Every bit the matriarch, her tone is as bitter as the cigarette she smokes.

HORAN

You took your time.

REINER

You reported screams.

HORAN

The junky scum in number twelve.

ADAM

End to a perfect day.

He pulls his pistol, marches over to number "12", and pounds on the door, BANG, BANG, BANG.

ADAM

Police. Open up. Open up now.

Reiner ushers Horan inside.

REINER

Madam. Please. Wait inside. Go-on.

OUTSIDE 12

Adam is about to knock again when the door unlocks. He raises his aim, and waits for someone to appear.

INT. 12 - EVENING

Adam pushes open the DOOR, Glock leading the way. He follows the CORRIDOR past a smear of blood.

LIVING ROOM

BANG, the door hits the wall. Adam's aim finds JACK (mid-20s) hunkered by a sofa, caked in blood.

ADAM

Hands where I can see them. Your hands, show me your, hands.

Reiner flicks on the light, reveals the eviscerated corpse of a WOMAN (19) spread across the sofa. Tiny cuts have shredded her guts to minced meat.

Jack sees the bloody mess and starts to SCREAM. Adam lashes out, backhands him with the Glock. Jack's SHRIEKING stops.

JACK

They, they, they followed us. They must've followed us.

Adam holsters his weapon, grabs Jack by the hair, forces him to look at his girlfriend.

ADAM

That's your story. You're telling me, that was someone else.

JACK

I tried to stop'em. I did. They're hungry. They're gonna eat us all.

Adam loses his temper, unleashing a barrage of PUNCHES, until Jack goes limp.

REINER

Why don't you get some air?

Adam sees Horan by the door watching. He ROARS the last of his anger in Jack's face, slams him into the floor.

She smiles approvingly as he pushes past.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. SHIELD LODGE — NIGHT

Tippmann does an about-turn, upholsters a WEBLEY MK V revolver, goes to the door, and opens it wide.

TIPPMANN

Adam Leigh, do you come of your own free will, to petition entry to the Brotherhood of the Shield?

ADAM

I do.

TIPPMANN

Then step forward.

Adam takes the step. Tippmann carefully pushes the revolver into Adam's chest, aiming it at his heart.

TIPPMANN

Do you feel anything?

ADAM

I do.

Tippmann raises the Webley, shows it to the Brothers.

TIPPMANN

Brothers, he feels the Shield.

NOYES

Then seal the chamber.

Reiner and Davis lead Adam to the trestle, kneel him on the stretcher.

Noyes gets up, takes his place opposite Adam.

Tippmann locks the door, then stands behind the candidate.

TIPPMANN

Shield Master, I give you Adam Leigh, a poor candidate in a state of darkness.

NOYES

No man can join the Brotherhood of the Shield unless he is a free man of sound mind. Do you so attest?

ADAM

I do.

NOYES

Brothers, I give you Adam Leigh. Is he a fit and proper person, worthy of our Brotherhood?

SIXTY BROTHERS

I.

Tippmann presents the revolver. Noyes takes it, holds it flat in his right hand. Reiner place Adam's hand on top.

NOYES

Adam Leigh, repeat after me. I swear by God and those present, a sacred oath of absolute loyalty, to the Shield and its Brothers.

ADAM

"I swear by God and those present, a sacred oath of absolute loyalty, to the Shield and its Brothers."

NOYES

I pledge unconditional obedience, and as a brave soldier, will fight all enemies of the Brotherhood.

ADAM

"I pledge unconditional obedience, and as a brave soldier, will fight all enemies of the Brotherhood."

Reiner removes the blindfold. Adam blinks euphorically.

NOYES

Brother Leigh, rise from your state of darkness.

Adam pushes himself up off the trestle, bends the feeling back to his knees.

Noyes bows his head, presents the Webley. Adam mirrors the gesture, accepts the offering.

NOYES

Brother Leigh, to ratify your
place among our Brotherhood, you
must pay tribute.

Sixty Brothers start to CHANT.

SIXTY BROTHERS

Tri-bute. Tri-bute. Tri-bute.

As the rhythm builds, Noyes raises his fist. Two TRIBUTE
WARDENS drag Christine out from the shadows.

Hands tied, feet bound, gagged, she is forced to kneel on
the trestle stretcher.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUN-DOWN TENEMENT - LANDING - EVENING

Christine follows John to door "310". He pushes the BUZZER.
A lone wasp circles above them. She swipes it away.

INT. 310 - EVENING

GARDNER hobbles to the FRONT DOOR. Gardner (early-60s), as
pale as he is gaunt, mumbles like a distracted professor.

GARDNER

Nice day, nice day, for roses.

JOHN

(outside)

It's always a good day for roses.

Gardner reverses the top, bottom and middle locks, opens
the door, lets John pull Christine though, shuts them in.

GARDENER

So, so, so what'll it be kid,
kids, what'll it be?

JOHN

The usual.

Gardner shuffles off towards the KITCHEN.

GARDENER

Usual. Usual. No usual.