

"CARR-10-N"

Written by

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FADE IN:

The RATTLE of swarming insect wings creeps slowly into the darkness. A feeling of dread chokes the gloom.

INT. DERELICT BEDROOM - NIGHT

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

Is she dead?

She's dead.

A sharp gasp.

A rattling breath.

Her lips move. Did she say something?

No. It's an OILY BLACK WASP crawling from her mouth.

Lingering to taste her saliva.

INT. TEENAGE GIRLS'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - ON ADAM

as he clears a shelf of books with one angry sweep.

ADAM LEIGH (mid-30s) moves like a battle weary soldier, as physically powerful as he is emotionally exhausted.

What's next? The chest of drawers!

He wrenches out the bottom tier.

Tips her clothes on the floor.

Another tier. More clothes.

Then the top drawer jams.

Dragging over the chest.

BANG, where are they!

He manhandles the chest upright, slamming it down with furious, SMASH!

ADAM

I fuckin' knew it.

On the floor in front of him, a zip-lock bag, full with rose-logoed pills of MDMA.

INT. LEIGH FAMILY HOME/HALL - DAWN

CHRISTINE LEIGH (19) ushers in JOHN KEYS (21), shuts the door with a quiet, SLAM.

They look like performance-hardened dancers, cut lean by long nights of drug-fuelled aerobics.

JOHN
You'll wake his lordship.

CLICK, a light in the living room turns on. John smirks "I told you so", shoves her towards the door.

LIVING ROOM

Adam waits in an armchair. Christine saunters in, John close behind.

CHRISTINE
You didn't have to wait up.

ADAM
We need to talk.

CHRISTINE
(turning to leave)
I ain't doin' this again, we're goin' to bed.

ADAM
Christine!

CHRISTINE
Not Dad!

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

He tosses the bag of pills on a side table. John breaks for the door.

Christine follows him. Adam follows her.

HALL

John yanks open the front door. JOSEPH REINER bundles him back inside.

Reiner (mid-40s) is a man as physically confident as he is mentally uncompromising.

JOHN
Get the-fuck off me!

REINER
No.

He hammers his fist down on John's nose. John's knees buckle like a poleaxed veal calf.

CHRISTINE
John!

She flings herself at Reiner, but Adam has her, forcing her up against the wall, kicking her feet apart.

CHRISTINE
Get the-fuck off me.

ADAM
You were warned. I warned you.

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
Think of it as a wake-up call.

Christine bucks back, kicks angrily 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 - ON ADAM

watching police CAR 20 take Christine and John away.

ADAM
Now she really hates me.

REINER

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

Adam's not so sure. And with no way to undo what's been done. He retreats to the safety of home.

BEGIN TITLES MONTAGE

- A) TELEVISION news reports of Prime Minister CHARLES WEAVER (60s), a man as strident as he is animated, 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.

- B) CLIPS showing 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!

- C) CATALOGUE of insect anatomy. 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. If your life is drugs, you are a criminal. If you are a criminal, you will feel the full weight of the law.

- D) REPORTS on experiments 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)

Brothers, know this, we will only be safe, when the junkie has been wiped from existence.

END TITLES MONTAGE.

EXT. CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

Technician sets a nitrogen storage tank, stencilled with the serial number "CARR-10-N", on the ground.

Technician's gloved hand unscrew the lid, and cautiously lifts it off.

Technician waits.

A single WASP crawls free.

Is that it? Is that all of them?

No! A column of black shoots straight up, WHOOSH.

The swarm hangs in the air, ominous, threatening. Then falls on 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 eating.

NOYES

Brother, inquire who seeks entry.

Shield Warden TIPPMANN crosses the chamber. Tippmann (early-30s) thrives in the conformity of a uniform.

He opens the chamber door.

Adam is waiting. Blindfolded. Flanked on one side by Reiner, on the other by 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.

As required by tradition, he closes the door.

Marches back to the kneeling trestle, set in the middle of the room, and bows his head.

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?

EXT. RUN-DOWN TENEMENT/COURTYARD - EVENING

Police Car 26 pulls over, its blue lights flashing.

INSIDE CAR 26

Adam (yes he's a policeman) notices a man and woman (possibly Christine and John) turn off the stairs.

Reiner watches the two figures.

Then kills the engine.

ADAM

I think 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.

He gets out, slams the door, leaves Adam stewing.

BACK TO SCENE

as Adam gets out of the car, adjusts his GLOCK 17, then follows Reiner to HORAN (60s), waiting on her step.

HORAN

You took your time.

Her tone is as bitter as the cigarette she smokes.

REINER
You reported screams.

HORAN
Junky scum in number twelve.

ADAM
End to a perfect day.

He pulls his pistol, and marches over to number "12".

REINER
Madam. Please. Wait inside. Go-on.

OUTSIDE 12

Adam pounds on the door BANG, BANG, BANG.

ADAM
Police. Open up. Open up now.

He's about to knock again, when the door unlocks. Adam readies his weapon, expecting someone to appear.

INT. 12 - EVENING

The door pushes open. Glock ready, Adam enters. Stalks along the corridor. Past a smear of blood.

LIVING ROOM

BANG, the door swings open. Adam sweeps in. Finds JACK (mid-20s) on the floor, caked with 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
Shut up. Shut the-fuck up!

He backhands Jack. His screaming stops.

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

Adam holsters his weapon. Grabs Jack by the hair. Makes him look at his girlfriend.

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

Jack tries to turn away. But Adam forces him to look.

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

Adam erupts, beats Jack. Vicious. Unrelenting.

Until Jack's face is a bloody mess.

REINER
Why don't you get some air?

ADAM
What!

REINER
Some air.

Adam sees Horan by the door.

She smiles approvingly.

INT. SHIELD LODGE - NIGHT

Tippmann pulls the ceremonial WEBLEY MK V revolver. Turns. Goes back 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 steps into the chamber. Walks into the revolver Tippmann has aimed at Adam's heart.

TIPPMANN (CONT'D)
Do you feel anything?

ADAM
I do.

Tippmann shows the Webley to the Brothers.

TIPPMANN
Brothers, he feels the Shield.

NOYES
Then seal the chamber.

He moves to the trestle, and waits for the supplicant.

Reiner and Davis escort Adam to the trestle.

And make him kneel on the stretcher.

Tippmann shuts the door. Takes his place beside Adam.

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. I. I.

Tippmann holds out the revolver.

Noyes puts his hand on top.

Reiner stacks Adam's hand on Noyes', holds it there.

Davis confirms the pile.

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."

The hands unstack.

Reiner removes Adam's blindfold.

NOYES

Brother Leigh, rise from your state
of darkness.

Adam gets up. Bends the feeling back to his knees.

Tippmann holds the Webley over the trestle.

Noyes bows, pushes the pistol to Adam.

Adam bows, takes the gun.

NOYES

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

Sixty Brothers can smell blood.

SIXTY BROTHERS

(start chanting)

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

The rhythm builds. Noyes gestures.

Two Tribute Wardens drag Christine from the shadows.

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

EXT. RUN-DOWN TENEMENT/LANDING - EVENING

Christine and John stop outside "310".

John pushes the BUZZER.

As they scan for trouble a wasp circles above them.

Christine dismisses it with a swipe.