

COBRA KAI

Episode 105

"Counterbalance"

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** AWESOME MUSIC CUES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL **

1 INT. DIAZ APARTMENT - MIGUEL'S ROOM - MORNING 1

An iPhone alarm goes off. Miguel wakes up and turns it off. He sits up in bed, groggy, taking a few seconds to adjust to consciousness. He then plugs headphones into his phone jack.

The badass speed guitar of Slash's *World on Fire* kicks in, as Miguel gets on his floor and does push-ups on his knuckles. This kicks us into an AWESOME TRAINING MONTAGE:

2 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - MORNING 2

Miguel does knuckle push-ups on the mat. Johnny walks around him, nodding in approval. His student is getting stronger.

CUT TO:

Miguel is staring at the camera, laser-focused, wearing BLACK FOREARM GUARDS and SHIN GUARDS. We rack focus to Johnny standing behind him.

JOHNNY

READY?!

MIGUEL

Yes sensei!

Johnny click a button on a small remote.

Just then, a BASEBALL is fired out from a PITCHING MACHINE. It goes straight at Miguel's face. Miguel quickly raises his forearm and blocks the baseball. He's surprised he blocked it and looks to Johnny, excitedly.

Johnny hits the remote again. Miguel quickly turns and sees the ball is already coming. He tries to block it but he's too slow and it hits his hand. OUCH. Johnny shakes his head.

CUT TO:

3 INT. GYM - BLEACHERS - DAY 3

Miguel runs up and down the bleachers of his school gym. He's sweating profusely and shadow-punching when he reaches the top.

Down on the floor, Kyler and Brucks walk by, carrying gym duffels after wrestling practice. Kyler elbows Brucks, pointing up the bleachers at Miguel. They both smirk. Miguel notices them, but puts his head down and keeps running.

4

INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - DAY

4

Miguel's legs are kicking on the ground helplessly. We tilt up to reveal JOHNNY HAS MIGUEL IN A CHOKE-HOLD.

JOHNNY

What does a Cobra do?

Miguel can't speak. His face is turning red. Johnny really isn't taking it easy on him.

CUT TO:

Miguel is back in front of the pitching machine. Johnny hits the remote. The baseball is fired and Miguel blocks it with his forearm guard.

Johnny clicks again and again. We see ball after ball shoot at Miguel as he expertly blocks each one with ease. He jumps up high for one ball and uses his SHIN GUARD to block it, then quickly blocks another with his forearm.

Johnny nods, impressed.

CUT TO:

Miguel (no guards or pads) uses his forearm to block a ROUNDHOUSE KICK from Johnny. Johnny and he are sparring on the mat. Miguel looks a little nervous as his sensei attacks him with kicks and punches, but he's blocking well...

...until he misses an ELBOW TO THE FACE. Miguel goes down. Johnny shakes his head, disappointed.

CUT TO:

Miguel is back in Johnny's choke-hold. Johnny squeezes harder on Miguel's neck.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

What does a Cobra do?

Just then, Miguel twists his body. Johnny loses leverage as Miguel escapes his grasp. Miguel then jumps up.

MIGUEL

Slither!

Johnny nods. Not bad.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. LAUREL CANYON - DAY 5

DRONE POV: Miguel runs uphill on Laurel Canyon as cars pass him by. As he crests the hill, the POV rises high in the sky, revealing the whole Valley below him. Christmas lights twinkle on most of the houses.

CUT TO:

A6 INT. DIAZ APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM A6

There are a few Christmas decorations around the apartment, as Miguel does a series of push-ups (on his knuckles) on the living room floor.

6 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - DAY 6

Back to their sparring match-- Johnny attacks Miguel with a variety of punches and kicks. Miguel dodges and blocks each one. His defense is strong. Johnny goes to back-elbow Miguel, but Miguel ducks it and LEG SWEEPS JOHNNY...

Johnny falls down on the mat. He's shocked as he looks up at Miguel, who's smiling proudly. The student has actually bested the teacher! Until...

Johnny presses a button on the remote. A BASEBALL SHOOTS OUT from the machine and hits Miguel on the side of the head, right at his ear. MUSIC ABRUPTLY ENDS, as Miguel screams.

MIGUEL
AHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Miguel falls to the ground in serious pain, holding his ear as Johnny stands up.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
What the hell?! That wasn't fair...!

JOHNNY
You want a fair fight? Dream on, kid. You can't assume your enemy is going to play by the rules.

Miguel stands up, holding his ear in pain.

MIGUEL
Yeah, but my ear!

JOHNNY

What if that baseball was your
enemy's friend coming at you from
behind? You have to be prepared for
all possibilities.

MIGUEL

Is it bleeding?

Miguel stops rubbing his ear, revealing that it is very red and swollen. Johnny blanches.

JOHNNY
(lies) Nah, it looks fine. Don't be such a baby.

Just then, the door opens, and THREE WOMEN in SPANDEX enter, led by a hippie-ish woman in her 30s (FAUNA).

FAUNA
Hi! It's five o'clock! Twilight is upon us!

JOHNNY
(frustrated) Oh. Right.

Miguel gets up, confused, as he watches the women enter the dojo and set up YOGA MATS.

MIGUEL
What's going on?

JOHNNY
I had to sublet a few hours. Just until we get more students.

They watch as women light incense. They play New Age music.

FAUNA
Need to change the energy in here...

Fauna pulls out a giant cloth and pins it to the wall above the "Strike First" mantra. As it unfurls, it covers the words with a peaceful DOVE and the motto, "LOVE IS HERE TO NAMASTE."

Johnny shakes his head, disgusted.

SUPER: COBRA KAI

7

INT. ENCINO OAKS COUNTRY CLUB - NIGHT

7

A silver tray is placed on a table. The top is removed to reveal a delicious three pound lobster. Reveal Daniel and ARMAND ZARKARIAN (50s Armenian real estate owner, thick accent) at the table...

DANIEL
Not bad, right? They ship in the three pounders from Ogunquit.

Armand digs in, cracking the shell with gusto.

ARMAND

I love these hot butters.

He sloppily dips a claw into a little ramekin of warm drawn butter and eats it.

ARMAND (CONT'D)

Thanks for the invite, LaRusso. Tanya and the kids always loved Lobster Night. You know this club revoked my membership?

DANIEL

Yeah, and frankly, I didn't like how they handled that. It's a stupid rule, if you ask me.

ARMAND

That's what I told them.

DANIEL

I mean that's the entire reason we wear flip flops in the showers, right?

Armand nods in agreement, as he eats.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Look Armand, most of the people here-- they got their money from mommy and daddy. You and me? We *earned* it. So when it comes to business in the Valley, it's in our interest to look out for each other.

Armand gives Daniel a look.

ARMAND

I see. Is not just lobster getting buttered up. So... what you need from Armand?

Daniel smiles, realizing the small talk is over.

BY THE BUFFET TABLE: Amanda is loading up on oysters while Sam checks her phone.

AMANDA

I need your help. I'm officially out of small talk with Tanya Zarkarian...

Amanda smiles politely to TANYA (40s, tons of jewelry and mink and pearls and everything else garishly rich), who is farther down the buffet table.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

(to Sam) By the way, thanks for coming. I figured you'd be with your friends tonight.

SAMANTHA

I don't know. Yas and Moon haven't been returning my texts. I thought we were all going to a concert, and now I see this...

Sam shows her mom her phone. On SNAPCHAT, we see a video of a raging concert, then camera reverses to show Yas and Moon dancing with a filter that makes them look like large-eyed snow fairies.

YASMINE

Suck it bitches!!!!!!!!!!

AMANDA

Maybe it's a good thing you aren't there. We're always happy to have y-- (notices o.s.) Anthony! Don't drink the butter!

At a KIDS TABLE, Anthony sips hot drawn butter next to ROLAND ZARKARIAN (11). Frustrated, Anthony puts down the butter.

ROLAND

(to Anthony) My dad owns buildings.

ANTHONY

My dad owns cars.

ROLAND

My dad has more money than your dad.

A beat.

ANTHONY

My dad knows karate and can kill your dad.

Roland doesn't know how to respond.

BACK ON DANIEL AND ARMAND:

DANIEL

So let's talk real estate. I might be looking to add a new location. And if some land were to become available...

ARMAND

Ah. You'd want to know before Tom Cole. (smiles) I heard you two had an argument. You kicked a coffee out of his hand?

DANIEL

It was a boba. It's like tea, but it's got these little tapioca chunks... (off Armand's confused look) Doesn't matter.

ARMAND

So. You want me to scratch your balls. How will you scratch mine?

DANIEL

That's not the expression, but let's just say I might be able to get you reinstated here. All I want is first crack at any properties you're looking to sell in Reseda.

ARMAND

(surprised) Reseda? Only have one property. A strip mall on Victory.

DANIEL

(playing dumb) Victory... Oh yeah. That's the one with the uh, karate dojo, right?

ARMAND

Yes. Snake Karate. Or something.

DANIEL

Ever thought of selling?

Zarkarian seems intrigued as he cracks open his lobster.

8

INT. SHANNON & ROBBY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

8

Robby is on the couch, eating a HOT POCKET, while on his laptop. We see what he's looking at.

It's the COBRA KAI WEBSITE Miguel created. He clicks on the snake. It HISSES and brings him to a new page.

Robby clicks on the ABOUT SENSEI section, which features a photo of Johnny that Miguel took at the dojo. Johnny is looking at the camera, pissed off. The bio says, "COMING SOON." Clearly, Miguel is still building it.

Just then, the door bursts open and Shannon enters, flirting with a man in a suit in his 50s (GERALD). They loudly drunk-whisper, oblivious to Robby, as they smile and head to the bedroom. *

SHANNON *

Be quiet... *

GERALD *

You be quiet... *

SHANNON

Mmm... I like how you take charge.

GERALD

Gotta be an alpha to work at TBS biz affairs!

SHANNON

Shh... my kid's asleep.

They go into the bedroom and slam the door. For a beat, Robby looks down, upset. But he's been through this before. He puts his headphones on, blasting some angry metal music, trying to block it all out.

9 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - NEXT DAY

9

Johnny and Miguel are sparring. Miguel throws a punch. Johnny blocks it.

JOHNNY

Remember the second rule of the Way of the Fist...

Johnny points to the motto on the wall.

MIGUEL

Strike hard!

Miguel does a spin kick, almost hitting Johnny's face, but Johnny backs up.

JOHNNY

That's right. There's only one reason to hit someone-- to inflict pain. Striking hard is about giving your all.

Miguel nods. Just then, they hear the door open. Aisha enters the dojo. Miguel is surprised to see her. Johnny is annoyed.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

What the hell? No yoga until five!
No matter how bad you need it.

AISHA

Um... I'm here for karate.

Johnny looks shocked.

AISHA (CONT'D)

I saw on the website that there was
a session today?

JOHNNY

I appreciate you coming. But girls
aren't allowed in Cobra Kai.

AISHA

(offended) Why not?

JOHNNY

Same reason there aren't women in
the Army. It doesn't make sense.

MIGUEL

Sensei, can I show you something in
the other room...

10 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

10

Miguel and Johnny argue at a low volume.

JOHNNY

Don't give me this sexist bullshit.
I'm just saying women aren't meant
to fight. They have tiny, hollow
bones.

MIGUEL

I thought you were desperate for
new students!

JOHNNY

I am! But this isn't a knitting
class! This is a dojo!

Miguel switches speeds.

MIGUEL

The kids at school make fun of her.
Call her names.

JOHNNY

That's what happens when you eat an entire box of Twinkies every day.

MIGUEL

Her dad is Isaiah Robinson. Hall of Fame lineman for the Chargers?

JOHNNY

So you're saying it's genetic. She got her love of Twinkies from her dad?

MIGUEL

(blunt) No I'm saying her family's loaded. And she's a paying customer. But I guess you don't need the money.

Johnny looks at him. He's got a point.

11 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - LATER

11

Aisha stands next to Miguel on the mat as Johnny stands in front of them.

JOHNNY

OK. After further review, I've decided to allow female students. But if you want to be in Cobra Kai, you can't act like a girl.

AISHA

What do you mean? How do girls act?

JOHNNY

Oh, don't give me that. You know-- all emotional. Loud. Complaining. Never letting you finish a sentence.

AISHA

I know a lot of guys like that who--

JOHNNY

QUIET!

Aisha pipes down. Johnny shakes his head and paces around.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

My student tells me you've been harassed in school.

AISHA

(sighs) Mostly online. Texts.
Emails. Makes me not want to go to
school.

JOHNNY

And who sends you these messages?

AISHA

They're mostly anonymous. Kids
create fake accounts, telling me
I'm ugly and that I should kill
myself.

Aisha looks down, ashamed. Miguel feels bad. Johnny looks
shocked.

JOHNNY

Oh my God... (long beat) What a
bunch of pussies!

That was not the reaction Aisha was expecting.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Back in my day, if you wanted to
make fun of someone, you'd do it to
their face. There was honor and
respect. But these geeks with their
computers? Please. They're a bunch
of spineless losers. You're not
afraid of these losers, are you?

AISHA

No...?

JOHNNY

Are you gonna take shit from these
losers?

AISHA

(more definitive) No.

JOHNNY

Good. 'Cause by the time I'm done
with you, you'll be sending them a
message back. Only it's not gonna
be with your keyboard. It's gonna
be with your fists.

Johnny holds up his fists. Aisha smiles. She's liking this.

12 INT. LARUSSO LEXUS - DANIEL'S OFFICE - DAY 12

Daniel sits at his desk, on the phone.

DANIEL (INTO PHONE)
Armand, come on. I'll give you ten percent over market price. That's a great deal!

INTERCUT:

13 EXT. BOBA TEA STORE - DAY 13

Armand walks out of the store, sipping on a boba tea.

ARMAND (INTO PHONE)
That *is* a great deal. Too great. Why you want this so bad? Reseda's a shithole.

DANIEL (INTO PHONE)
Call it nostalgia. I grew up there.

ARMAND (INTO PHONE)
Then you know it's a horrible place. (re: boba) This boba is not good. The straw's too thick.

DANIEL (INTO PHONE)
Look, if Reseda's so bad, why not sell me the strip mall? I want to invest in my old community...

ARMAND (INTO PHONE)
I smell bullshit. I think there's some other reason you want this.

DANIEL (INTO PHONE)
I don't know what you're talking about. And I don't see why you'd even care. The mall down the street gets over twice the rent. You're not even charging market rate.

ARMAND (INTO PHONE)
You insult me, LaRusso?

DANIEL (INTO PHONE)
I'm just letting you know the truth. I'm scratching your balls!

ARMAND (INTO PHONE)
I can scratch them myself. I didn't
get to where I am by trusting car
salesmen. No deal!

DANIEL (INTO PHONE)
Fine. Then enjoy pissing in your
own your shower, Armand.

ARMAND (INTO PHONE)
Everybody does it!

Armand hangs up, upset. He tosses his boba into a trash can
and walks off.

In his office, Daniel smiles - his plan is coming together on
schedule.

14 EXT. DEL TACO - DAY 14

Moon's car is parked in a Del Taco parking lot.

15 INT. MOON'S CAR - DAY 15

Del Taco wrappers are all over the car as Moon (drivers seat)
and Yasmine (passenger seat) hotbox, passing a joint. The car
is hazy. Moon takes a hit.

MOON
My mom gave me this weed for my
birthday. It's supposed to be lower
in calories or something.

Yasmine sees Lynn outside the car, holding a chunk of the
torn-up COBRA KAI sign: "GIMME MONEY" is written in black
marker on the back.

YASMINE
Ew, a homeless person. Don't look.

MOON
I feel bad not looking. (she looks)
Uh-oh, I made eye contact.

Yasmine sees Lynn approaching.

YASMINE
Great, now she's coming. You see
what you've done?!

MOON
(paranoid) What do we do?

YASMINE

Just take out your phone and act like you're texting.

They both take out their phones and pretend to text as they look at their screens. Lynn comes up to the window and taps on it. Yasmine and Moon continue looking down.

LYNN

Hey! Open up and gimme money! (taps again, then sweetly) I ain't gonna hurt ya!

YASMINE

(whispering) Lock the doors.

MOON

That'll look bad, doing that right in front of her.

YASMINE

You want her hopping in the back seat, smearing shit everywhere, and slicing our throats? Be my guest.

Moon feigns a yawn, trying to casually reach for the DOOR LOCK. Just then, the BACKDOOR OPENS. The girls freak out.

YASMINE/MOON

AHHHHHHH!!!!!!

They turn and see Samantha has gotten in the back seat and Lynn has moved on.

YASMINE

What the hell, Sam?!

MOON

We thought you were a poor person!

SAMANTHA

Why have you guys been avoiding me?

YASMINE

Why do you think? Kyler told us what you said.

SAMANTHA

Wait, what did he say?

YASMINE

I wasn't taking notes. But pretty much that you think you're better than us. (then) You were no one before we let you in.

MOON

You didn't even electrolocize.

SAMANTHA

I didn't say anything about either of you. That's not what went down.

YASMINE

Oh he told us what went down. (sly) And WHO went down.

MOON

And in a movie theater? That's yucky.

Samantha takes this in for a beat.

SAMANTHA

Whatever Kyler told you is a lie.

MOON

Sam, just say you're sorry and we can all be friends again.

YASMINE

(shrugs) Or don't-- and get the hell out of Moon's car.

Samantha looks hurt.

SAMANTHA

Enjoy puking out your burritos, Yas.

With that, Samantha bursts out of the car, leaving the back door open.

YASMINE

Hey, don't leave the door open! We'll get killed!

As Yasmine reaches over the back seat to close the door:

MOON

You've been purging and not telling me?

16 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - DAY

16

CLOSE UP ON JOHNNY...

JOHNNY
Fighting positions!

Miguel and Aisha walk to opposing sides of the mat, facing each other.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
(to Aisha) OK, Miss Robinson, let's see what you've got. (to Miguel) Mr. Diaz? Show her everything you've learned. Ready?

MIGUEL
Uh... no. Wait. Sensei... I'm not sure this is right.

JOHNNY
What are you talking about?

MIGUEL
Well, she's a girl.

JOHNNY
And? I thought you said women were equal to men!

MIGUEL
I did, but...

JOHNNY
Then show her she's equal and punch her in the face!

AISHA
Uhhhh, I just want to remind everyone. This is my first day.

Johnny turns his attention toward Aisha.

JOHNNY
Your enemies don't care what day it is. They prey on weakness. If you want to beat them, you have to conquer your fears and jump face-first into the fire. Now are you ready, Miss Robinson?

AISHA
(nervous) I... guess?

JOHNNY
Mr. Diaz?

MIGUEL
(unsure) Um...

JOHNNY
FIGHT!

Miguel and Aisha just stand there. Miguel is too nervous to touch her. Johnny is frustrated.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Don't just stand there! Attack!

Miguel takes a deep breath.

MIGUEL
(to Aisha) I'm sorry.

With that, he runs over to the frightened Aisha and does a SPIN KICK TO HER STOMACH. The kick lands hard. Aisha immediately falls to the ground in pain. Miguel feels awful.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)
Aisha, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to!

Just then, Aisha's head turns. Her eyes fill with fury. Miguel's eyes fill with fear, as--

Aisha launches up into Miguel's midsection, lifting him up off the mat. She BODY SLAMS Miguel and finishes him with a knee-drop to his stomach. As Miguel groans in pain, Johnny looks on, amazed.

JOHNNY
Girl's a natural Cobra.

Just then, there's a COMMOTION outside.

NESTOR (O.S.)
This is wrong! You can't do this!

JOHNNY
Students. Wait here. Mr. Diaz,
you're in charge.

Aisha helps Miguel up, as Johnny goes to investigate.

17 EXT. VICTORY COURT - DAY

17

Johnny exits the dojo and sees Nestor arguing with Armand, who is with his son Roland.

NESTOR

This is bullshit! I've been a tenant here for ten years!

JOHNNY

Hey, keep it down! I got a class in here!

NESTOR

This *cabrón* is doubling our rent!

ARMAND

Just bringing it up to market rate.

Johnny looks worried.

JOHNNY

How do you expect me to pay double?

ARMAND

(shrugs) If you can't pay, I find a new tenant. Come, Roland. We go home.

Armand and Roland leave. Roland is engrossed in his iPhone video game.

ARMAND (CONT'D)

(to Roland) You see what I tell you? You have to be tough.

ROLAND

You're a big man, Dad.

Nestor storms off into his mini-mart, pissed, as Johnny is left pondering how his business will survive.

18 INT. SHANNON & ROBBY'S APARTMENT - DAY

18

Robby enters the apartment, carrying a bag of groceries.

ROBBY

Hey mom, I went to Von's and got those frozen pizzas you like. Wanna have dinner and watch a movie?

Shannon walks into the kitchen in a tight leopard print dress. She sees the trouble Robby's gone to.

SHANNON

Ooh, that sounds great, honey. But I got a couple errands to run. How 'bout we do that tomorrow?

ROBBY
(bummed) Yeah, sure. If you're not
too hungover.

Shannon realizes she's not fooling him. She feels badly.

SHANNON
OK, you caught me. I'm going out.
It's dineLA week.

ROBBY
You meeting the guy from last
night?

SHANNON
That old loser? (scoffs) He was all
bark and no stick.

Robby crinkles his face in disgust.

SHANNON (CONT'D)
Sorry. It's just, you don't know
how hard it is to meet a good man.
Look at your father. Did I tell you
that deadbeat came to see me?

ROBBY
No. (curious) What'd he say?

SHANNON
Some B.S. about you moving in with
him. As if he suddenly gives a
shit.

Robby looks surprised, as Shannon uses a compact mirror to
apply lipstick.

SHANNON (CONT'D)
I'm sure it's just some scam to get
out of paying child support.

ROBBY
How do you know that?

SHANNON
I know your father.

ROBBY
Yeah. I guess.

Shannon puts her arms on Robby's shoulders.

SHANNON

I know you're disappointed about tonight. I'm just trying to meet someone special. (beat) You're getting older. And one of these days you're gonna move out. You don't want your mother to be all alone, do you?

ROBBY

No, ma.

She gives him a kiss on the forehead and heads out the door, leaving Robby all alone.

19 EXT. VICTORY COURT - PAWN SHOP - NIGHT 19

We see the storefront of the PAWN SHOP in the same mini-mall as Cobra Kai and the Mini-Mart.

20 INT. PAWN SHOP - NIGHT 20

Johnny removes items from a CARDBOARD BOX. He places them onto the counter, as the nonplussed Pawn Shop owner (LYLE) looks on.

JOHNNY

I got some real cherry stuff here. Video games, music, reading material...

Lyle sorts through the stuff. There's an ATARI 2600 without the controller, a taped-up SONY WALKMAN, and a pile of old SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT EDITIONS.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I hate to part with any of it, to tell you the truth.

LYLE

Yeah, this is all pretty much trash. You wanna throw it away here or take it home and toss it?

He shoves the pile back toward Johnny, who looks surprised.

JOHNNY

That's twenty-five years of swimsuit issues! Elle MacPherson in her prime!

LYLE

I don't know what to tell you. If they were mint, I'd throw you five bucks a pop. But these are, uh... let's just say, well-loved.

Johnny and he look at the magazines, which look like they've seen heavy use. Johnny paces, frustrated.

JOHNNY

What about the Nintendo?!

LYLE

It's an Atari. And normally I'd offer you twenty bucks and flip it to some douchebag hipster who wanders in. But my rent just went up, so I'll give you a ten spot if it helps you out.

Johnny looks pained and conflicted, as he digs into the box.

JOHNNY

OK I didn't want to have to do this...

He delicately places a SET OF COMMEMORATIVE COINS on the counter.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I know gold has been going up over the years...

Lyle takes out a jeweler's loupe and carefully examines one of the coins, as Johnny continues.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

I hate to break up the set. And I don't want to sell them all. So just tell me how many I need to part with to get to twelve hundred dollars.

Lyle puts down the coin and takes out a CALCULATOR. He hits a few buttons, as Johnny looks on, hopeful.

LYLE

Let's see... how many do you have here... (counts) Fourteen. OK...

Lyle hits a few more buttons on his calculator.

LYLE (CONT'D)

If you happen to have sixty-thousand more of these lying around, I think we could work something out.

JOHNNY

(taken aback) What--?! The guy on TV said this was a great investment. These are solid gold!

LYLE

Gold plated.

Johnny digs back in the box and pulls out a piece of paper.

JOHNNY

I have a certificate of authenticity!

LYLE

Oh, that's a nice one. They put a picture of an eagle on there and everything.

Johnny gathers up his possessions and tosses them back in the box, gingerly placing the coin collection on top.

JOHNNY

You just lost the opportunity of a lifetime, pal!

As Johnny heads toward the door:

LYLE

Wait. You're the one who drives the Firebird, right?

Johnny turns back, curious.

LYLE (CONT'D)

I'll give you the twelve hundred for that.

JOHNNY

(beat) It's not for sale.

Johnny exits.

21 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

21

Johnny slams his cardboard box down on his desk. He opens his fridge, only to find it empty. He slams it, frustrated.

22 EXT. VICTORY COURT - MOMENTS LATER 22

Johnny exits the dojo. He looks angry and frustrated, as he walks toward the Mini-Mart.

As he walks, we see an out of focus dark sedan pull into the lot over his shoulder.

Johnny enters the mini-mart.

23 INT. VICTORY MINI MART - CONTINUOUS 23

The door DINGS, as Johnny walks in. Nestor is behind the counter, but Johnny ignores him, as he walks over to the refrigerated beverages.

He sees the price tag for Coors Banquet, but the slot appears empty. He crouches down and sees a six-pack way in the back. Johnny reaches in and struggles to get his hands on the beer, as we hear the DING of the front door.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey, you got any black spray paint?

Johnny, arm-deep in the fridge, recognizes the voice. He bangs his head on the door of the fridge, as he pulls out the beer and stands up.

CAMERA TURNS to reveal Daniel LaRusso standing at the counter. Daniel looks directly at Johnny, as he speaks to Nestor.

DANIEL

I have a little art project. Big canvas. Right near a couple of freeways.

Johnny knows exactly what Daniel is talking about, but says nothing.

NESTOR

I keep it in the back. Kids are always stealing it. (then, re: Johnny) Watch him for me, will you?

Nestor exits to the back, as Daniel casually browses the aisles.

JOHNNY

What are you doing here, LaRusso?

DANIEL

Just checking out the neighborhood. You know I was actually considering opening up a dealership on this side of town. But I don't know, the rent seems to be getting a little out of control.

Johnny takes this in, gut-punched.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Frankly, I don't know how you afford it. Small business like yours. More power to you.

Daniel picks up a pack of gum, as Nestor returns to the counter with a can of spray paint.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(to Nestor) You know on second thought, I don't need the paint. (re: gum) Just this. And throw that guy's beer on my tab. He looks like he's had a rough day.

Johnny is boiling with anger, but stunned silent, as Daniel throws a twenty on the counter and exits.

24

INT. LARUSSO RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

24

Daniel enters the kitchen with a spring in his step. He grabs a fancy corkscrew and starts opening a bottle of wine, as Amanda enters from the living room.

AMANDA

Opening the 2013? Somebody's in a good mood.

DANIEL

Somebody got some payback.

Daniel pops the cork and grabs some glasses, as Amanda sighs.

AMANDA

Daniel, do you really think it's a good idea to start a war with Tom Cole?

DANIEL

What? Oh. No. Turns out it wasn't Cole who messed with the billboard.

Daniel pours the wine and then goes in his jacket pocket, taking out the Cobra Kai flyer that he got from Anoush.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It was Johnny Lawrence.

Amanda looks at the flyer, taking this all in.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I thought after thirty years, maybe he'd change. But he's still the same prick he was in high school. Guy thinks he can bring Cobra Kai back to the Valley? Not on my watch.

Daniel takes a nice, satisfying sip of his wine.

AMANDA

(nervous) What did you do?

DANIEL

I told Zarkarian I wanted to buy the Cobra Kai strip mall.

AMANDA

Why did you do that? What do you need with a shithole in Reseda?

DANIEL

No no no. You're gonna love this. I wasn't really gonna buy it. I just wanted to tweak Zarkarian, so he'd jack up the rent. And it worked! Now Cobra Kai's gonna have to shut down! (then, re: wine) Mmm. This is great. Are you gonna have yours? It's got an unctuousness...

AMANDA

Wait-- so you're telling me that whole dinner with the Zarkarians was part of some convoluted plot to raise the rent of your childhood karate rival?

DANIEL

I think you're oversimplifying things.

AMANDA

What about the other stores in the mall? Did you even consider them?

Daniel didn't think about that. He feels a pang of guilt.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I don't know about Johnny Lawrence or Cobra Kai... I just know that my husband has been acting like a mental patient. I mean, embarrassing Sam at the Halloween dance... kicking Tom Cole... and now this? It's like, ever since that dojo opened, you've been off.

DANIEL

The guy spray painted a dick on my face!

AMANDA

So what? He's an asshole! Don't let him turn you into one!

Daniel looks down. She has a point.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

I don't know what you have to do to work this out-- whether it's therapy, or acupuncture, or a cross-country motorcycle trip-- I just want the Daniel LaRusso I married to come back.

With that, Amanda exits, leaving Daniel alone, pondering his situation. He puts down his wine glass.

25

INT. WEST VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - DAY

25

Samantha walks out of the lunch line, holding a tray. She looks over at the table where Yasmine and Moon are sitting. There's only one empty chair and Yasmine purposely puts her bag there, while giving Sam a smirk.

Samantha sees Aisha at her usual table. Sam walks over.

AISHA

(to Sam) Don't even think about it.

SAMANTHA

Come on. I need a place to sit!

AISHA

Why don't you go sit with Kyler? I heard he doesn't mind that you suck.

The other girls at the table laugh. Clearly, the fake blowjob story has been going around the school. Samantha turns to Kyler's table and sees Kyler laughing with Rory and AJ, as Brucks pretends to be Samantha by sticking a whole hot dog and bun into his mouth.

Frustrated, Samantha goes over to Kyler-- walking past Miguel, who is carrying his lunch tray.

SAMANTHA

(to Kyler) You think it's funny to spread lies about me?

Kyler stands up to face her.

KYLER

I don't know what you're talking about. We saw a movie, that's all. I mean I guess I saw more of the movie than you.

BRUCKS

We heard you got pretty choked up.

They crack up. Pissed off, Samantha knocks Kyler's tray off his table, onto the floor. Kyler backs away. Everyone in the lunch room looks over.

KYLER

(to the students nearby watching)
Hey, you all see that LaRusso billboard with the dick on it? Turns out, Sam takes after her dad!

The school laughs. Samantha clenches her fist. It looks like she's about to take a swing at him, when...

MIGUEL (O.S.)

Hey Kyler!

Everyone turns to Miguel. He puts his lunch tray down on a table and approaches, getting in Kyler's face.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

Why don't you shut the hell up and stop being an asshole for once?

The whole cafeteria goes "ooooh." Kyler looks pissed.

KYLER

You looking for another beat down, 'Rhea?

Kyler shoves Miguel. Students start chanting "fight, fight, fight!" as everyone takes out their smartphones and begins recording. (WE CUT IN AND OUT OF IPHONE FOOTAGE THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE SCENE).

Kyler pushes Miguel once more.

KYLER (CONT'D)

I'm ready for your lame ass karate
this time!

MIGUEL

It's not lame ass karate...

Kyler takes a swing at Miguel. Miguel expertly blocks it.

MIGUEL (CONT'D)

It's Cobra Kai.

With that, Miguel PUNCHES Kyler hard in the face. Kyler covers his mouth as the cafeteria shouts loudly. Brucks and Rory look at each other, concerned.

Pissed off, Kyler bashes into Miguel, tackling him onto a lunch table. He gets Miguel in a hold, but Miguel quickly SLITHERS OUT of his grasp, getting to his feet. He SPIN-KICKS Kyler in the face and follows it with a PUNCH to the stomach. Kyler falls down.

AISHA

Yeah! No mercy!

Miguel smiles proudly -- the same smile he had after besting Johnny in practice, but then he remembers what came next...

Sensing something behind him, Miguel quickly drops down and spins, SWEEPING the approaching Brucks off his feet.

While on the ground, Miguel PUNCHES the approaching Rory in the nuts and then JUMP KICKS AJ in the chin. As Rory holds his groin in pain, Miguel jumps back up and ROUNDHOUSE KICKS him in the face, taking him out.

Samantha, like everyone else, is shocked by Miguel's skills. They lock eyes for a moment-- but just then, Miguel turns and sees Kyler and Brucks running at him from both sides...

Miguel grabs a lunch tray and uses it as a shield against a Kyler punch, while BACK-KICKING Brucks in the stomach. He then SLAMS THE TRAY in Kyler's face, knocking him down, before jumping up onto a table and BACK-ELBOWING Brucks in the face, sending him to the floor.

Miguel stands on the table, triumphantly towering above his vanquished villains.

COUNSELOR BLATT
Hey! Hey! Enough!

Counselor Blatt runs over.

COUNSELOR BLATT (CONT'D)
(to a nearby teacher) Someone help
these poor kids! (to Miguel) You--
my office-- now!

All the students start cheering for Miguel. Samantha's curiosity is definitely piqued.

As Miguel is led away, he and Aisha exchange a smile and a nod. Cobra Kai's teachings have done their job.

26 INT. COBRA KAI DOJO - OFFICE - LATER

26

Johnny sits at his desk, looking beyond perplexed.

JOHNNY
All four of them? Even the big dumb
one?

Miguel nods from across the desk - he stands with a mix of concern and pride written on his face.

MIGUEL
It all happened so fast. Everything
just came together. I blocked, I
anticipated... I slithered.

JOHNNY
(nervous) Your mom's gonna kill us
both.

Miguel shakes his head, putting Johnny at ease.

MIGUEL
She would if she knew. But when the
school called, my grandma answered.
I've never seen her so proud. She
won't talk.

Johnny stands up, still processing this.

JOHNNY
So let me get this straight-- you
took the lessons I taught you...
(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
and used them to straight up beat
the shit out of those kids?

Miguel nods his head. Johnny looks at him for a long beat.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Follow me.

Johnny exits. Miguel follows nervously as we CUT TO:

27 EXT. VICTORY COURT - MOMENTS LATER

27

Johnny and Miguel stand at the back of Johnny's Firebird,
looking down into the open trunk.

JOHNNY
I wore this when I was training for
my first tournament back in '81. I
want you to have it.

Reveal an old 80s WHITE COBRA KAI TRAINING GI. Miguel
understands the importance of this moment, as Johnny lifts it
out and presents it to him.

MIGUEL
Are you sure?

JOHNNY
Hell yeah. You earned it, kid.

Johnny extends his hand. Miguel clasps it and THEY BRO-HUG.
On Miguel's end, we see him squeezing a little extra. This
means a lot to him.

MIGUEL
Thanks sensei. For everything.

JOHNNY
No... thank you.

It's a true father-son moment for the two of them.

We then CUT TO--

ROBBY, watching from nearby, holding his skateboard. He looks
hurt. He shakes his head as Johnny and Miguel follow up the
hug with a fist bump. Where was this kind of affection from
Johnny his whole life? Pissed off, Robby skates away.

28 EXT. CEMETERY - LATE AFTERNOON

28

Daniel walks through tombstones, carrying a watering can and some pruning scissors. He continues walking until he finally comes across the grave for MR. MIYAGI:

KENSUKE (MR.) MIYAGI (June 9, 1925 - November 15, 2011)
Beloved Son, Husband, Teacher, and War Hero: 442nd Regiment,
received Medal of Honor.

The grave has been well kept. There is an American flag attached, which Daniel straightens. A bonsai tree is planted in front of the gravestone.

DANIEL

Hey Mr. Miyagi. I know it's been a few months, but better late than never, right?

Daniel bends down. He waters and then begins trimming the tree, as he speaks.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I've been thinking about you a lot lately. It's funny... when I was a kid, it seemed like you always had all the answers. I guess I thought when I got older, I'd have it all figured out too. But now, I feel like I'm clueless. Makes me wonder-- was it different for you? Or were you just better at hiding it?

Daniel cleans up the trimmings.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I feel like lately I've let my anger take control. You know I've always been a bit of a hot-head. (looks down sadly) I really wish you could be here right now.

Daniel stands up and walks back to his car.

29 INT. DANIEL'S AUDI S5 CABRIOLET CONVERTIBLE - MOMENTS LATER 29

As Daniel gets in his convertible and closes his car door, with the graveyard in the distance, a wind whistles and he hears:

MR. MIYAGI (V.O.)

Daniel-San...

Daniel turns his head to the left.

CUT TO:

FOOTAGE FROM THE ORIGINAL MOVIE: Mr. Miyagi leans against an old Ford, talking to Teenage Daniel...

MR. MIYAGI

You remember lesson about balance?

TEENAGE DANIEL

Yeah.

MR. MIYAGI

Lesson not just karate only. Lesson for whole life. *Whole life* -- have balance, everything be better... understand?

BACK TO:

Adult Daniel sits in his car, in the same position as his teenage self. He smiles.

DANIEL

Yeah. I understand.

30 EXT. VALLEY - TIME LAPSE 30

The sun sets. It turns to night. Then back to morning.

31 INT. JOHNNY'S CAR - DRIVING - MORNING 31

Johnny's on the phone.

JOHNNY

Look, you'll have your damn rent.
(listens) No, I don't have the money now, but I'll get it. I have a plan...

Just then, he makes a turn and sees--

32 EXT. VICTORY COURT - SAME TIME 32

A HUGE LINE OF TEENAGERS stands outside the Cobra Kai Dojo.

JOHNNY

Uh...I'll call you back.

Johnny hangs up and pulls into the strip mall lot.

33

EXT. VICTORY COURT - DAY

33

Johnny gets out of his car, confused as to why all of these kids are here. Most of them have their PHONES out, looking at videos with one another. He approaches and looks over a TEEN's shoulder at his phone.

TEEN (O.S.)

This thing's already up to ten thousand views...

ANGLE ON PHONE: It's a YouTube video of Miguel kicking ass in the cafeteria yesterday. The iPhone footage has been edited into a supercut, with awesome sound effects and Cobra Kai stickers all over the place. At the end is a picture of the dojo with the words, "FIGHT LIKE A COBRA KAI" superimposed. Johnny is confused. He looks up the line.

AT THE FRONT, near the dojo's front door, stands Miguel, proud and triumphant. Clearly he turned the fight video into a commercial for the dojo. Standing next to him is Aisha.

Miguel meets eyes with Johnny. They smile to one another.

Just then, a TOW TRUCK pulls into the lot, as Lyle comes out of the pawn shop. Lyle approaches the TOW TRUCK DRIVER and points to Johnny's Firebird.

LYLE

It's this one right here. I want you to bring it to Anibal's shop and have him paint it blue.

As the tow truck driver grabs his chains, Johnny walks over.

LYLE (CONT'D)

(to Johnny) Got your money. Twelve hundo. You get everything out of the trunk?

He tries to hand Johnny an ENVELOPE full of cash.

JOHNNY

It's no longer for sale.

LYLE

Wait, but you said--

Lyle and the tow truck driver look confused, as Johnny walks triumphantly toward Miguel, Aisha, and the dojo.

JOHNNY

(to Miguel) Looks like we're open for business.

Johnny puts his key in the lock and opens the door.

34 EXT./INT. DANIEL'S GUEST HOUSE - MORNING 34

Daniel opens the door to his guest house, which is still full of stuff the family has been storing over the years.

In QUICK SHOTS, we see Daniel clearing out all the junk. Slowly, but surely, the guest house is turning back into the little dojo it used to be.

Amanda walks by, dressed for work, and wondering what her husband is up to. She looks through the doors and sees Daniel hanging an Okinawan tapestry. He looks happy. She smiles and leaves him to it, heading to work.

35 INT. LARUSSO LEXUS - OFFICE - DAY 35

Amanda sits at her desk, reading a resume.

AMANDA

Wow, this is an impressive high school transcript. Why do you wanna sweep up around here? Shouldn't you be in college?

REVEAL Robby is sitting at the other end of the desk. He flashes his winning smile.

ROBBY

I'm taking some time off to figure things out. This is exactly where I want to be.

AMANDA

OK! Well, I'd introduce you to my husband, but he's taking a personal day. Can you start Monday?

Robby smiles and nods.

ROBBY

Absolutely.

Amanda stands and extends her hand.

AMANDA

Welcome to the LaRusso family!

They shake hands.

36 INT. DANIEL'S GUEST HOUSE - DAY

36

Daniel's home dojo has been fully restored. Daniel hangs the framed photos of himself training with Sam when she was younger, followed by a photo of himself with Mr. Miyagi.

He then takes out a small case and opens it. *Pulp Fiction* style, he looks inside the case, but we don't get to see what he's looking at. Until...

Daniel reaches in and takes out the WHITE OKINAWAN CLOTH that Mr. Miyagi gave him in the original movie. We hear Bill Conti's sweeping score as Daniel folds the cloth into a neat headband, wraps it around his head, and knots it.

While the camera pulls back and the score swells... Daniel takes a deep breath. Camera moves around him in a smooth, fluid arc, as he begins going through the precise, meditative movements of Kata. The Karate Kid is back.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE