

## FIRST SCENE

MAX'S OFFICE.

MAX IS ON THE PHONE.

MAX - The judge doesn't give a fuck about that...He's ready to habitualize you. Is that what you want? You wanna look at ten years? Tomorrow I'll get you out, I promise, but that means I gotta pick you up tonight...Reggie, there ain't no two ways about it...You're gonna spend the night in jail, but I already told you I'm gonna get you out tomorrow...Now, where are you? You're at your mother's? Put your mother on...(ORDELL AND LOUIS ENTER IN MAX'S OFFICE) Miss Gilmore. Miss Gilmore, this is Max Cherry...This is Reggie's... That's right, his bail bondsman...Look, Reggie is in big trouble... I want to pick him up, and I want you to be responsible for him before I...

(TO ORDELL) Sit down...

Yeah, I'd like you to make sure that he's there when I get there...And look, this is a second chance for him...They don't get... That's correct...All right. So I'm counting on you to help me help your son...Thank you very much. Put him back on the line, please... All right, Reggie, we're clear on this. You got it? Good...Do yourself a really big favor and be there when I get there...

(TO ODELL) How can I help you?

ODELL - Where can I put my ash?

MAX - Use that cup there, if you like...

ODELL - Oh, and I need me a bond for ten thousand

MAX - (TO LOUIS) You all right out there?

LOUIS - Yeah...Can I Have some coffee?

MAX - Go right ahead...

ORDELL - Who's that big, Mandingo-looking nigger you got up there on that picture with you?

MAX - That's Winston. He works here.

ORDELL - Damn!.He's a big 'un, ain't he? Y'all tight?

MAX - Yeah.

ORDELL - But you're his boss, though, right?

MAX - Yeah...

ORDELL - Bet it was your idea to take that picture, too, wasn't it?

MAX - All right, you wanna a \$10.000 bond...What have you got to put up for collateral?

ORDELL - I'm gonna have to use cash...

MAX - You have it with you?

ORDELL - Got it right here in my rapper bag...

MAX - You have cash. What do you need me for?

ORDELL - Come on, man...You know how they do...Black man show up with 10.000 cash, first thing they wanna know is where I got it...Then they gonna want to keep a big chunk of it, start talkin' that court cost shit...Fuck that noise, Jack. I go through you...

MAX - Cost you a thousand for the bond...

ORDELL - I can do that...

MAX - Who's it for? A relative?

ORDELL - A fellow named Beaumont. They got him down in County...Started out drunk driving, but they wrote it up as

possession of a concealed weapon...Dumb monkey-ass had a pistol on him.

MAX - Ten thousand sounds high...

ORDELL - They run his name, got a hit. He'd been inside... Plus, he's from Kentucky, and I think they're kind of prejudiced...against brothers from down South out here...

MAX - If he runs, and I have to go to Kentucky to bring him back...you pay the expenses...

ORDELL - You think you can do that?

MAX - I've done it. Whats his full name?

ORDELL - Beaumont. That's all I know...

MAX - Would you say that Beaumont is his first or his last name?

ORDELL - Uh, if I had to guess, I'd say Beaumont's his Christian name...

MAX - Records office...Hello, this is Max Cherry, Cherry Bail Bonds. Who's this, please? Hi, Vicki...Look, Vicki, I need you to look up the booking card and rough arrest on a defendant named Beaumont.(pause)That's all I have. I believe it's a surname but I'm not sure. Thanks.

LOUIS - Ordell, I'm gonna wait in the car.

ORDELL - All right, man. Cool. We're almost done here, right?

MAX - Gettin' there.

ORDELL - Yo, yo...You check out some music while you're sitting in the car. Take the keys...

LOUIS- Which one's for the car?

Ordell finds it. While he goes through the keys, Vicki comes back on the line. Max speaks with her as he fills out his papers.

ORDELL - Uh, this one right here...Use that little black thing to turn off the alarm and unlock the door...

LOUIS - What do I do?

ORDELL - You ain't gotta do nothing, man...Just point it at the car, push the button, you hear a little „ooh-ooh-ooh.“.That means the door's unlocked and the alarm's off. Get in...Okay...Play the volume loud as you want to, but don't touch my levels now...I got them set just like I like 'em.

LOUIS - Okay...(LOUIS LEAVES)

MAX - Beaumont Livingston...

ORDELL - Livingston, huh?

MAX - On his prior, he served nine months. He's working on four years' probation...

ORDELL - You don't say.

MAX - You know what he's on probation for?

ORDELL - Ain't got a clue.

MAX - Possession of unregistered machine guns...

ORDELL - Damn. Now, they're gonna consider that a violation of his probation?

MAX - They do consider this a violation of his probation...

Your boy's looking at ten years... Mm...plus the concealed weapon...

ORDELL - He ain't gonna like that. Beaumont ain't got a doing-time kind of disposition...

MAX - I need your name and address.

ORDELL - Ordell Robbie...O-R-D-E-L-L...R-O-B-B-I-E... 1436  
Florence Boulevard... Compton, 90022 ...

MAX - Is that a house or an apartment?

ORDELL - That's a house...