

POISON (HOLDING TITLE)

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Blue Version

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

JAMES (30s) brings up a VIAL OF POISON.

JAMES
How long is it gonna take?

BRAD (20s) is counting CASH.

BRAD
Depends on how much ya giving him.

JAMES
Let's say the whole bottle.

BRAD
He should be dead in...like, less than an hour?

JAMES
What's less than an hour? Half an hour? 40 minutes?

James looks at his BROKEN WATCH.

BRAD
Sure.

James taps on it and shakes it beside his head.

JAMES
You got the time?

Brad ignores him and finishes counting the cash.

BRAD
All's there. You can bail.

James nods.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Unless you wanna buy the cure. You never know.

James looks at the cash Brad is still holding.

JAMES
I'm good.

BRAD
You sure? I seen fools getting themselves capped with that shit.

James walks away and shakes his head.

INT. JAMES & LISA'S HOUSE / LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

James walks in, holding a WINE BOTTLE. LISA (30s) is sit on the couch, watching tv.

JAMES
Hey, look what I found on my way
back.

James gives the bottle to Lisa.

LISA
Fancy.

JAMES
Do you think he'll like it?

LISA
Euh, I'm sure he'll appreciate the
gesture.

JAMES
Lisa, everything has to be perfect.
Do we have more wine in case he
doesn't like this one-

Lisa fixes James' shirt.

LISA
Hey. Hey. Relax. Everything is
gonna be fine. And you know why?

JAMES
Why?

LISA
Because I have seen you, James
Barrow, always fight against the
odds. And you know what? You always
prevail.

A KNOCK is heard. James takes a deep breath. Lisa and James walk toward the door.

LISA (CONT'D)
Before you go say hi. I got
something for you.

Lisa gives James a small box.

JAMES
What's that?

LISA
You'll see!

Lisa walks away. James opens it and there is A NEW WATCH inside. James smiles and puts it on. His smile fades as he reveals the poison hidden in his jacket.

INT. JAMES & LISA'S HOUSE / DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

James still plays with the vial hidden in his jacket. Lisa, James and VINCENT (60s) are eating dinner.

JAMES
Euhm, sir?

Vincent ignores James.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Sir?

VINCENT
Uh?

JAMES
Euhm, there are a few things that I would like to discuss.

Vincent is more focused on the dinner than James.

VINCENT
You want to keep your job?

JAMES
Yes and-

VINCENT
And I want you to beg.

JAMES
Excuse me?

VINCENT
Get on your knees and beg me to not fire you.

JAMES
I'm not doing that.

LISA
What's wrong with you!?

VINCENT
Pride's in your way, young man.

JAMES

I did not ask you to come here for me. I asked you to come here for all of the families about to lose their income. The only thing to do, the only right thing, is to sell the company.

VINCENT

I ain't letting these vultures ruin my legacy.

JAMES

I'm begging you.

VINCENT

Get the wine.

James gets up. He opens the cupboard and grabs three WINE GLASSES. James' hand shakes as he slowly grabs the poison vial. He empties the vial into one cup. Lisa springs out of nowhere.

LISA

Let me give you a hand.

Lisa pours wine into each glass. James grabs two, including the poisoned one. James gives it to Vincent. Vincent goes to drink but stops, he sniffs the glass.

VINCENT

What's that smell?

JAMES

Well sir, it is a rare bottle from Mexico.

Vincent nods and puts the glass back on the table, right beside Lisa's.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Euhm, cheers?

Vincent sighs. He accidentally grabs Lisa's glass. Lisa shakes her head, annoyed, but she grabs the poisoned glass.

VINCENT

Cheers!

JAMES

Wait!

Too late. Vincent and Lisa drink. James is horrified.

LISA
Wait, what?

James shakes his head.

LISA (CONT'D)
Honey?

James gets up.

JAMES
Ah crap! Euhm, I forgot my...wallet
in...the car. Be right back!

James runs off. He grabs his coat on the way and accidentally drops the empty vial of poison. Vincent and Lisa stare at each other awkwardly.

VINCENT
Is that his?

Vincent points to James' wallet on the counter. Lisa turns to see it then turns back to Vincent.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
Let him sweat a little.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

James drives. He puts his phone on his ear.

BRAD (V.O.)
(Voice message)
Yo! It's Brad. Leave a message.

JAMES
It's me! I need the cure, now! I am
on my way! Pick up!

James hangs up. James yells and punches the steering wheel several times.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Brad is selling to a buyer. James' car stops in front of the two. Buyer runs away. James runs toward Brad.

BRAD
What the fu-

JAMES
I need the cure. I need it now.

BRAD
You drank it?

JAMES
No.

BRAD
Chill! Jesus. I got it right here.

Brad pulls out THE CURE.

BRAD (CONT'D)
Just gimme the cash.

James searches his pockets but quickly realizes he forgot his wallet.

JAMES
I don't have it. I'll pay you
later.

James steps toward Brad. Brad steps back and puts the cure back.

BRAD
Nah. Nah. Nah. No cash. No deal.

JAMES
I don't have time.

James rushes to Brad. Brad lifts his shirt and puts his hand on a PISTOL.

BRAD
You wanna go?

James steps away. James looks at his watch.

JAMES
Took me 20 minutes to get here.

James looks away, considering his options. Then, James punches Brad, takes his pistol and aims at him.

BRAD
Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Okay!
Okay!

Brad grabs the cure and gives it to James. James runs to his car and speeds off.

INT. JAMES & LISA'S HOUSE / DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Vincent and Lisa are sitting at their respective seats. They are in a deep conversation.

LISA
You can save the jobs of these people. Why are you turning your back to them?

VINCENT
I can't. There's more at play than what it looks.

LISA
Looks to me that you are deliberately making the wrong decision. Whoa.

Lisa puts her hand on her chest, as if she is sick.

VINCENT
You, okay?

LISA
Yeah. Yeah. James has been working for you, what? 10 years? Why can't you see that his idea is for the greater good?

VINCENT
I can't save everyone's job. But I can maybe think about saving James'.

Vincent puts his hand on Lisa's leg. Lisa gets up.

LISA
It's been a while. I'll go tell him about his wallet.

VINCENT
Don't. I got it.

Vincent grabs James' wallet.

LISA
It's not-

VINCENT
I got it.

INT. JAMES & LISA'S HOUSE / ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Vincent walks to the door. He walks on a vial on the ground. He picks it up and gives it a sniff. He recognizes the smell.

VINCENT
Son of a bitch.

James rushes in. James notices Vincent holding the poison vial. James looks back and forth at Vincent and the vial. James is trying to figure out if Vincent knows.

Vincent turns around and runs. James pulls out a gun.

INT. JAMES & LISA'S HOUSE / DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lisa is sitting at the table. BANG! BANG! Two gunshots are heard. She gets up and runs toward the noise.

INT. JAMES & LISA'S HOUSE / ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Lisa runs and sees Vincent's body laying on the floor, dead. She freezes.

JAMES
You're gonna die!

Lisa runs away and screams. James chases her. She enters the bathroom and closes the door.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Wait! Lisa! Listen to me!

INT. JAMES & LISA'S HOUSE / BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lisa holds the door closed. James almost makes it inside but she is able to fend him off. She pulls out her phone and calls 911. BAM! BAM! James pounds on the door.

LISA
I need the police.

Lisa coughs blood. Her eyes roll up and she falls unconscious. James opens the door.

JAMES
No...no...no...no...no...no...

James turns her over, opens the vial and gives her the cure. James puts his ear over her mouth.

He goes back up, he puts his hands in front of his mouth, he is about to cry. He notices on the phone that 911 is on dial.

James gets up and walks toward the door. He stops and looks at Lisa. James rushes back to her. He gives her CPR. Red and blue lights flash in the background.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Come on. Come on. Don't do this.
Don't do this. Please. Don't.

Lisa opens her eyes. She doesn't move. James smiles and caresses Lisa's cheek. A BANGING ON A DOOR is heard.

POLICE (O.S.)

Police! Open up!

James puts down his watch besides Lisa.

END OF FILM