

# INITIATION

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FADE IN:

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

In an empty warehouse, 10 WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN (30s-60s) dressed in their best Armani suits stand in a row like statues.

A TALL MAN (40s) steps forward.

TALL MAN

It is a test of loyalty. A test of honor. A test of bravery.

He steps back in line. A BEARDED MAN (50s) steps forward.

BEARDED MAN

Each of us has performed our sacred task and proven our worth to The Brotherhood.

He steps back. A WHITE HAired MAN (60S) steps forward.

WHITE HAired MAN

Will you, Aaron James Carver accept the initiation?

AARON CARVER (late 20s) stands before them -- a sharp young business man from the looks of it.

AARON

Why me?

BEARDED MAN

We've been watching you for some time now, young Carver. Your father was our dear Brother for a long time. God rest his soul.

TALL MAN

The company you've inherited has continued to do quite well. Thanks in large part to you. But he did not give you the full inheritance. That, you must earn.

WHITE HAired MAN

We wish to make you an offer. An offer to expand your wealth beyond your wildest dreams.

AARON

And in exchange for my loyalty, my oath to you?

TALL MAN

You will be groomed as our apprentice. Over time you will learn the skills and sacrifices necessary to acquire the power and luxuries we've amassed.

WHITE HAired MAN

(wryly)

You don't think we did it all just by following a few good stock tips, do you?

Some of the men chuckle with greed.

BEARDED MAN

What say you, Mr. Carver?

Aaron looks them in the eye. He steels his resolve.

AARON

I accept.

INT./EXT. LUXURY CAR - DAY

Aaron drives alone through downtown Los Angeles.

WHITE HAired MAN (V.O.)

Tell him the rules.

BEARDED MAN (V.O.)

You have twenty four hours to complete the initiation. You may choose your own target.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - BUSY SIDEWALK - DAY

Aaron stands, pretending to read his paper. Watches everyone very closely.

BEARDED MAN (V.O.)

If you're caught, you'll be on your own. We'll deny any allegations, and you'll be permanently cut off from us.

He sees a HOMELESS MAN slip into an alley.

Aaron casually strolls over to the alley and checks out the situation.

BEARDED MAN (V.O.)  
One of The Brotherhood will be watching you at all times, so don't even think about trying to deceive us. Meet back here in precisely twenty four hours.

The foot-traffic has dispersed. Aaron takes one more look around, then ducks into the alley.

IN THE ALLEY

He nervously stalks closer to the homeless man who digs through a dumpster -- his back to Aaron.

BEARDED MAN (V.O.)  
If you fail to complete the initiation, our backs will be forever turned to you.

Aaron looks around. Sees a cinder block on the ground. Grabs it, then charges the homeless man and smashes the block violently across his head.

CUT TO:

BUSY SIDEWALK

Aaron's still at the mouth of the alley pacing. He watches the Homeless Man digging through the dumpster from far away. He can't do it. Walks off frustrated.

INT./EXT. LUXURY CAR - EVENING

Aaron drives around looking at people on the street. He spots a HOOKER strutting her stuff all by herself. Drives past. Thinks. Makes a U-turn.

Pulls up to her. She leans in.

They exchange words. She gets in. Aaron drives off around the corner.

INT. LUXURY CAR - CONTINUOUS

Aaron looks in his mirrors. Nervous.

HOOKER

What's the matter, baby? This your first time?

AARON

How much?

HOOKER

Well, for twenty dollars you can get --

Aaron throws a plastic bag over her head and pulls her down out of view. She fights and struggles, but Aaron's too strong for her. The Hooker gasps for air but only sucks plastic. Her eyes bulge out and she finally stops breathing.

CUT TO:

BACK IN THE CAR

Aaron pulls up to the Hooker.

HOOKER

Hey, baby. You wanna date?

He can't speak. Drives off in a hurry.

Bangs his hands against the steering wheel.

INT. NICE APARTMENTS - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Aaron emerges from the elevator. REGGIE (50s), the elevator operator, bids him good night.

REGGIE

Mr. Phillips.

AARON

Reggie.

INT. AARON'S PENTHOUSE - NIGHT

Aaron's place is nice, but not over the top. He's done well for himself so far.

SERIES OF SHOTS

He paces back and forth -- thinking. Scratches his head.

He gets an idea.

Digs through his closet. Finds a box.

Flips through his address book.

Dials a number on his cell.

AARON  
(on phone)  
Ya, Guten Tag.

INT. NICE APARTMENTS - ELEVATOR - LATER

Aaron and Reggie ride back down. A briefcase in his hand.

REGGIE  
Lovely evening we're having, Mr.  
Phillips.

Aaron barely acknowledges him with a nod...

...then looks him over with a monstrous idea forming. He examines him -- his neck... but sees the security camera in the upper corner. It can't be done.

AARON  
Yes it is, Reggie.

Aaron exits the elevator at the ground floor.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The Businessmen encircle Aaron like before.

WHITE HAired MAN  
You failed to complete your  
initiation, Aaron, James, Carver.  
You are hereby cut off from the  
Brotherhood forever.

TALL MAN  
Such a waste. You had so much  
potential, and we had so much to  
offer.

The men turn in unison and walk towards the back door.

Aaron stands up.

AARON  
Wait.

Surprised, the men spin back around.

Aaron has a pistol with a silencer trained on them.

AARON  
We're not finished here, gentlemen.

BEARDED MAN  
What is this! How dare you!  
(yells to the outside)  
Guards!!

Aaron doesn't flinch.

AARON  
They can't hear you any longer.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAREHOUSE - SAME

The guards all lay dead.

BACK TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME

The men look at each other. Real fear in their eyes.

AARON  
We're all alone now, and no one can  
hear you.  
(beat)  
So let's get down to business,  
shall we?

With his free hand, he opens up his briefcase revealing a laptop inside.

AARON  
You will each deposit ten million  
dollars into the Swiss bank  
accounts I've designated.

WHITE HAired MAN  
You insolent little --

Aaron trains the gun on him.

AARON  
-- We'll start with you, Mr.  
Cromwell.

The White Haired Man stands firm.

WHITE HAired MAN

I won't do it. You think I got this far to let some piss-ant little brat steal my money? You won't kill us. You didn't even have the guts to kill one single person today.

The White Haired Man turns and walks off.

Aaron puts a BULLET in his back -- dropping him dead.

The others are utterly shocked.

AARON

(to the others)

True, I was afraid. But that was before I considered what was really at stake. You were offering me some pitiful, lackey job. So what, I could grovel at your feet? Bring you coffee and shine your shoes? You may think you're a tough breed of businessmen, but I'm a different breed all together. I move fast, and I move hard. I'm not going to wait around for 10 years just pick up the scraps from your table. I want it all now, and I will have it.

The men swallow hard, trying not to sweat.

AARON

Now, where were we? Mr. Fallon?

The Bearded Man straightens his tie and tries to retain some dignity... but steps up to the laptop anyway. Enters his code.

BEARDED MAN

You'll never get away with this, you know.

AARON

That's for me to worry about.

(to the others)

Next.

The Tall Man steps up and enters his bank code. Then the next, and the next...

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH - DAY

Aaron lounges in an isolated beach-side cabana -- lazily sipping drinks with a beautiful woman.

The WAITER brings him a drink on a tray.

WAITER  
Mr. Carver?

Aaron lowers his sunglasses.

AARON  
Yes?  
(confusion on his face)  
Were's Manuel?

WAITER  
I have a message for you: The  
Brotherhood never forgets.

The Waiter whips out a pistol with a silencer attached and unloads a barrage of bullets into Aaron and his once lovely beach bunny.

The Waiter calmly walks away leaving the dead bodies to rot in this empty beach paradise.

FADE OUT.