

Oz Episode Six "King of the Jungle"

By

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INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

"Survival of the fittest." One hundred and fifty years ago, some balding old English guy said that. It means -- the strong survive, and the weak can eat shit.

INT. ENTRANCE TO OZ PENETENTIARY - MORNING

TIM MCMANNUS enters the facility wearing his usual leather jacket with his bag slung over his shoulder. As he walks through the main doors he pauses before a guard stationed there, looking at him with an eyebrow raised.

HILL (V.O)

Funny coming from an old guy who probably couldn't throw a punch if his life depended on it, isn't it?

MCMANNUS continues past the first guard, only to find more guards at a makeshift security station, along with a metal detector. He makes to walk past the guards, but they stop him. Even as MCMANNUS holds up his ID card, the guards shake their head.

HILL (V.O)

But then again, strength isn't just about who's got more muscle these days.

MCMANNUS, looking disbelieving, surrenders his bag and jacket to the guards, then walks back to go through the metal detector.

CUT TO:

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - MORNING

Relatively early in the morning. Most inmates are just returning from the cafeteria, but a few are already in the lobby, watching television. Among them: TOBIAS BEECHER, VERN SCHILLINGER, several other of the NEO-NAZIS. SIMON ADEBISI is seated at the other side of the lobby, along with JEFFERSON KEANE, KENNY WANGLER and several of the HOMEBOYS. Lingered nearby are BOB REBADOW and DONALD GROVES. All eyes are fixed on the television.

(CONTINUED)

MCMANNUS enters the lobby and, spotting the prisoners, makes for the lobby. He looks at the television for a moment before tapping REBADOW on the shoulder and gesturing for his headphones. REBADOW obliges. MCMANNUS puts on the headphones. The television broadcast is a news reporter.

NEWSCASTER

-- in response to the rising number of violent incidents occurring in Emerald City, the prison's experimental unit. Both Governor James Develin and warden Leo Glynn have guaranteed that these new security measures will cut down the number of violent incidents to near zero. While the effectiveness of these new security measures will only be shown by time, the promise of lower crime rates in already turbulent times is one that grants many people relief.

MCMANNUS

Goddammit Leo.

MCMANNUS rips off his headphones, tossing them carelessly in REBADOW's hands before running out of the lobby passing by...

INT. EMERALD CITY HALLWAY - MORNING

RYAN O'REILY, who walks down the hallway holding a mop in one hand, kicking the bucket of water in front of him as he goes down the hallway.

From behind him, ADEBISI and the HOMEBOYS can be seen exiting the lobby.

WANGLER

Can you believe this shit? Glynn thinkin' he can just do whatever he wants, setting up those CO's standing guard like we're some sorta zoo animals to be locked up?

ADEBISI

It won't last.

As they pass by, ADEBISI thumps O'REILY on the shoulder. FLASHBACKS to ADEBISI and O'REILY in the kitchen speaking and preparing ground glass to put in NINO SCHIBETTA's meals.

(CONTINUED)

The HOMEBOYS leave. O'REILY has barely started mopping again when the WISE GUYS come down the hallway from the opposite direction. FLASHBACKS to O'REILY speaking to SCHIBETTA, and the WISE GUYS murdering JOHNNY POST.

D'ANGELO

You think so?

SCHIBETTA

I'm not worried.

As they pass by, SCHIBETTA gives O'REILY a meaningful look. O'REILY nods. As soon as the WISE GUYS turn the corner out of view, he glances around to make sure no one else is around, then speeds up to a jog.

CUT TO:

INT. EMERALD CITY HALLWAY, ISOLATED AREA - MORNING

MICHAEL HEALY waits in an isolated area near a stairwell, looking impatient. O'REILY rounds the corner at a brisk jog, still carrying his mop.

HEALY

Took your time, didn't you?

O'REILY

I'm not that late.

HEALY

But you're late.

O'REILY

Not my fault everyone was pissin' their pants over Glynn's new show. Took a while for me to get my shit and start working.

HEALY

Still late.

O'REILY

Yeah, thanks mom. Just gimme the stuff.

O'REILY extends his hand and gestures with his fingers. HEALY rolls his eyes before retrieving something from his pocket and placing it in O'REILY'S hand. A miniscule paper package.

O'REILY holds up the tiny paper bundle in two fingers before giving HEALY a 'really?' look.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY
Yeah, real funny. Where's the rest?

HEALY
There is no rest.

O'REILY
Not funny any more.

HEALY
It's not a goddamn joke!

O'REILY
What the hell happened?

HEALY
Glynn's new security measures. The one everyone's been screaming about today. They're all over the fucking place, you're lucky I even got you that much. Had to leave most of it in the car at the last moment hoping it Glynn doesn't decide to send a random dog sniffing around the lot during the day.

O'REILY
This isn't what we promised on.

HEALY
Yeah I know it isn't, but that's all you're getting.

O'REILY
Look, you can't just stiff me like this, we had a deal.

HEALY
Fine -- you don't want it, I'll take it back.

HEALY holds his hand out expectantly. O'REILY stares at him hesitantly before pocketing the tiny package.

O'REILY
I'll take it.

HEALY
Though so.

O'REILY
For now. I need the rest.

HEALY

Well, I don't know when you're getting it. Glynn's serious about his new security, and it might be a while before I find a way to sneak you the stuff you want.

O'REILY

(softly)

Shit.

HEALY

Hey, O'Reily.

O'REILY

What.

HEALY

Don't do anything stupid in the meantime.

O'REILY

I won't.

HEALY

I mean for me. You can get caught if you want -- but you get me mixed up in your shit, it ain't gonna be pretty.

O'REILY

Yeah, don't worry.

(turning back down the hallway)

I know what I'm doing.

O'REILY walks briskly back down the hallway, gripping his mop tightly.

INT. TIM MCMANNUS' OFFICE - MORNING

MCMANNUS sits at his desk, shuffling through papers and looking agitated, one hand pressed against his temple. A knock on the door as LEO GLYNN enters casually.

GLYNN

You called?

MCMANNUS

We need to talk.

(CONTINUED)

GLYNN

Do we?

MCMANNUS

Goddammit Leo, you know what this is about, I'm not joking!

GLYNN casually takes a seat opposite MCMANNUS, reclining in his chair.

GLYNN

Well, alright. What do we need to talk about?

MCMANNUS

You know fair well what we're talking about.

GLYNN

I do. But I have a feeling you're going to tell me anyway.

MCMANNUS

Why didn't I hear any word of this -- this new security measure of yours -- until this morning? I didn't know about it until I came in and saw everyone staring at the television. Leo, I didn't know about it until after some of the inmates!

GLYNN

Tim, you're making a big deal out of nothing.

MCMANNUS

Am I, Leo? Is that why it looks like there's a good number of inmates who look like they're ready to kill another person?

GLYNN

They're inmates, they're supposed to be unhappy.

MCMANNUS

We're supposed to be reasonable authority figures, not dictators. We can't just change the rules whenever we want, Leo, and you especially can't just change the rules without letting me know!

(CONTINUED)

GLYNN

Last I heard, I was the warden of
this prison, not you.

MCMANNUS

Yes, but Em City is mine, you can't
change things that will affect Em
City without even giving me a
heads-up, Leo. Is that so difficult
to understand?

GLYNN

Oh, I understand, Tim. I just
disagree.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - MORNING

O'REILY approaches the lobby, ditching his mop and bucket in
the nearest closet. He can see MCMANNUS gesturing angrily
from where he's standing, and begins heading towards
MCMANNUS' office at a quick trot.

However, just as about he's head up the stairs, ADEBISI
grabs his shoulder from behind.

ADEBISI

O'Reily.

O'REILY

Not now man, I gotta talk to
someone.

ADEBISI

Are you avoiding me?

O'REILY turns to face ADEBISI, who stares back
confrontationally.

O'REILY

No, I'm not avoiding you.

ADEBISI

Good.

(stepping closer to O'Reily
and picking at the front of
his shirt)

Because we had a deal, didn't we.

O'REILY

Yeah, we did. But look, I'll get
back to you in just a moment.

(CONTINUED)

ADEBISI, looking irritable, makes a grab for the front of O'REILY's shirt. O'REILY ducks back at the last moment and heads halfway up the stairs.

ADEBISI

I'll be back in a sec.

As O'REILY flees up the stairs, ADEBISI gives a disdainful look and turns away. The other HOMEBOYS follow suit.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

You ever seen those documentaries on animals in Africa? Crazy, isn't it, how quickly the tables can turn on anyone? One moment you're watching an alligator floating down a river, not a care in the world, and then wham! That thing's bitten in half by a hippo. A goddamn hippo! Kinda hard to tell how anyone's ever gonna come out alive.

INT. TIM MCMANNUS' OFFICE - MORNING

MCMANNUS and GLYNN are still arguing.

MCMANNUS

What, so you're just going to keep this up -- is this to spite me?

GLYNN

This isn't about you, Tim. It's about the inmates.

MCMANNUS

And that's why you went behind my back? That's the best way to control the inmates?

GLYNN

I just did what I had to. To show the inmates that we're not messing around any more.

The door bursts open and O'REILY steps in the room, followed closely by a CO who looks on warily.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY
I want protection.

MCMANNUS
Now's not the time, O'Reily.

O'REILY
Yeah, it is. I need goddamn
protection.

MCMANNUS
You gonna gimme a reason?

O'REILY
Since when did you need a reason?

GLYNN
(looking at O'Reily)
Since always.
(looking at McMannus)
You always let people barge into
your office like this?

MCMANNUS
(ignoring Glynn)
For how long?

O'REILY
Just a few days.

MCMANNUS
And you understand that if I let
you go into protection this time,
this can't happened again without
good reason?

O'REILY
Yeah, I got that.

MCMANNUS
Fine. Wait outside and I'll get you
there.

O'REILY grins and steps out of the office. Past the window,
O'REILY can be seen descending the stairs. As soon as
O'REILY's out of sight, GLYNN stands up.

GLYNN
He's not being placed in
protection.

(CONTINUED)

MCMANNUS

What?

GLYNN

O'Reily hasn't done anything to deserve it.

MCMANNUS

It's O'Reily. If he's asking us for protection, he obviously thinks its necessary. Do you want to risk another murder in here on top of everything else?

GLYNN

Exactly. It's O'Reily. It means the security measures are working.

MCMANNUS

Working how? By putting O'Reily in danger?

GLYNN

By making something change. I don't want O'Reily under protection.

MCMANNUS

That's not your decision to make. O'Reily's in Em City.

GLYNN

You know I get the final say, and I don't want O'Reily in solitary. I want to see how the security measures affect Em City.

MCMANNUS

By putting O'Reily's life at risk?

GLYNN

He may not even be in any danger. Wouldn't surprise me if he was just trying to worm his way into more trouble.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - MORNING

O'REILY lurks in the lobby in a quiet corner from where he can watch the window into McMannus' office. As he watches MCMANNUS speak to GLYNN, D'ANGELO and two of the other WISE GUYS approach him.

(CONTINUED)

D'ANGELO
'ey, O'Reily.

O'REILY
Not now.

D'ANGELO
Oh?

D'ANGELO laughs before moving to block O'REILY view into MCMANNUS' office.

D'ANGELO
You that occupied?

O'REILY
What d'you want.

D'ANGELO
We had a deal, O'Reily.

O'REILY
Yeah, I know, I remember.

D'ANGELO
Well?

O'REILY hesitates, one hand in his pocket.

O'REILY
I'll get it to you next week. You know about Glynn's new rule, right?

D'ANGELO
Yeah, but I don't really care. Deal's a deal.

O'REILY
You can't wait a week, really?

D'ANGELO
It's not a matter of 'can't.' I don't like people breaking their deals.

O'REILY
Yeah, well --

O'REILY glances at the extra guards loitering at the other end of the lobby, then up at McMannus' office, where MCMANNUS seems to be doing paperwork.

O'REILY

Alright. Fine. I'll give you what I got.

D'ANGELO smirks and waits as O'REILY pulls the miniscule paper package from his pocket. O'REILY pulls it open, pocketing a small portion of the contents before pressing the rest in D'ANGELO's hand. D'ANGELO snorts as he looks at what he's been given.

D'ANGELO

Really?

O'REILY

Give it back if you're gonna complain.

D'ANGELO

Didn't complain.

D'ANGELO shoves a small roll of bills in O'REILY's hand.

O'REILY

Pleasure doing business.

D'ANGELO pockets the drugs, then turns to leave, along with the other WISE GUYS. O'REILY stuffs the roll of bills in his pocket and watches the WISE GUYS leave.

As he turns, he sees MCMANNUS descending the stairs into the lobby and jogs over.

O'REILY

McMannus.

MCMANNUS

Good, you're here. We need to talk.

O'REILY

Yeah, you taking me to solitary?

MCMANNUS

That's the thing. You're not going into protection any more.

O'REILY

What?

MCMANNUS

I'm sorry, but that's off. You'll have to last out whatever's giving you trouble for a while.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY

You can't just do that, you can't just -- change your mind like that.

MCMANNUS

Look. I'm sorry. But it's not my call to make.

O'REILY gives MCMANNUS a disbelieving look before backing off a step.

O'REILY

Fine.

MCMANNUS

O'Reily.

O'REILY

Fine, I get it.

MCMANNUS

It wasn't my call.

(pause)

Don't do anything stupid.

O'REILY snorts before turning away and heading back down the staircase, looking anxious.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

You ever look at a bunch of animals running around, and think, which one of these are gonna survive? Maybe it's the strong ones. Maybe it's the fast ones. Maybe it's the smart ones. But you never really know until the last moment, do you? Never know which ones're gonna end up on top.

INT. EMERALD CITY HALLWAY, ISOLATED AREA - AFTERNOON

O'REILY and HEALY lurk in the same isolated area from before. O'REILY leans tensely against the wall, shifting anxiously.

O'REILY

I'm telling you, it's not enough. You need to get me the rest of what we promised.

(CONTINUED)

HEALY

No can do.

O'REILY

This isn't a joke!

HEALY

I ain't joking either. I get caught smuggling that stuff in, you get off scott free but I'm screwed. Not worth it.

O'REILY

Find a way to get it past the security, it can't be that hard!

HEALY

You have any bright ideas, genius?

O'REILY

Stuff it in your shoes, your inside pocket?

HEALY

Pat-down.

O'REILY

Your shoes?

HEALY

(snorts)

Yeah, as if what you want's gonna fit in my goddamn shoe.

O'REILY slams a fist against the wall, frustrated.

O'REILY

Those niggers're are already on my back, they're gonna go nuts if they don't get their tits. Fucking monkeys.

HEALY

Told you not to do anything stupid.

O'REILY

Wouldn't be stupid if you got me what we promised.

HEALY

Whining to me won't do anything.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY
Yeah, I know.

O'REILY braces against the wall, making frustrated noises. HEALY casually looks at his watch before turning back to the hallway.

HEALY
I gotta go.

O'REILY
Fat lotta good you are.

HEALY
Just get the wops to help you out.

As HEALY walks away, O'REILY makes an expression of disgust.

CUT TO:

INT. EMERALD CITY, NINO SCHIBETTA'S CELL - AFTERNOON

SCHIBETTA sits on his bunk, flipping through a book. Past his window, several of the WISE GUYS can be seen lurking outside his cell. O'REILY walks briskly across the lobby, pushing past the WISE GUYS and poking his head into SCHIBETTA'S cell. D'ANGELO grabs at O'REILY's shoulder to hold him back.

O'REILY
Mister Schibetta?

SCHIBETTA looks up from his book, unimpressed.

O'REILY
I'd like to talk to you, if you've got the time. It'll only take a minute.

SCHIBETTA gestures for D'ANGELO to back off. O'REILY steps further into the room, closing the cell door behind him.

SCHIBETTA
What d'you need.

O'REILY
I'd like your protection.

SCHIBETTA
(laughs)
Did you do something stupid?

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY

I didn't do anything stupid. The new security rules. Glynn's bullshit. It's causing me trouble, and I'd really appreciate your support just for a while until that dies down.

SCHIBETTA

And what do you have to offer in return?

O'REILY

Huh?

SCHIBETTA

(removing and folding his glasses)

A deal is a give-and-take. I give you protection. What do I get?

O'REILY

I gave everything I had to D'Angelo.

SCHIBETTA

You didn't give anything to D'Angelo.

O'REILY

Yeah, I did.

SCHIBETTA

You sold it to D'Angelo.

O'REILY

Well, yeah.

SCHIBETTA

You sell something to someone, that's business. You give us the drugs, we give you the money. We're even. So there's no reason for me to give you that protection.

O'REILY

I can give back the money.

SCHIBETTA

I don't need money.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY

Then what do you need?

SCHIBETTA

I don't need anything from you,
O'Reily.

O'REILY looks at SCHIBETTA, unsure of what to say. SCHIBETTA tucks his folded glasses into the neck of his shirt.

SCHIBETTA

I do business with you, O'Reily.
But that's all I do. I don't give
free gifts to people who haven't
earned it yet.

O'REILY

I guess you're not gonna tell me a
way to earn it like right now?

SCHIBETTA laughs and gestures for O'REILY to leave. O'REILY reluctantly steps out of the door.

INT. EMERALD CITY, OUTSIDE SCHIBETTA'S CELL - AFTERNOON

O'REILY steps briskly away from SCHIBETTA's cell, hands jammed in his pockets. As he passes by, the WISE GUYS can be heard bantering nearby. O'REILY suddenly stops and turns to walk towards where D'ANGELO is lurking with the WISE GUYS.

O'REILY

Hey. D'Angelo.

D'ANGELO

Yeah?

O'REILY

You wanna do me a favor?

D'ANGELO

And why would I do that?

O'REILY

Why not?

D'ANGELO laughs and looks to the other WISE GUYS, who also laugh. D'ANGELO gives O'REILY a cocky nod.

D'ANGELO

Let's say I do. What d'you want me
to do?

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY

You don't like those niggers, do you?

D'ANGELO

What of it?

O'REILY

You want an excuse to fight'em?

D'ANGELO

You planning on picking a fight with Adebisi? You got a death wish?

O'REILY

I ain't planning anything. But you know how they are. Might start a fight over anything.

D'ANGELO

And what, you want us to fight your fights for you?

O'REILY

Just watch my back. Get in a few punches.

D'ANGELO

What's in it for us?

O'REILY

Nothing. But you got an excuse to punch those bastards.

D'ANGELO

(looking to the other WISE GUYS)

What d'you think?

The other WISE GUYS laugh and shrug.

D'ANGELO

We'll think about it.

O'REILY

You sure? Offer's gonna stay open, but who knows when shit might happen.

D'ANGELO

Said we'll think about it.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY

Fine.

O'REILY leaves.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

Y'know, the funny thing is, sometime even an animal that's considered smart and clever and pretty damn good at surviving -- sometimes that one's the one that gets fucked out of nowhere. You ever seen a snake get slapped down by a mouse? That shit's great, man.

INT. EMERALD CITY, NINO SCHIBETTA'S CELL - AFTERNOON

SCHIBETTA reads over his book once more. D'ANGELO can be seen from behind watching O'REILY leave, after which he knocks on the door to SCHIBETTA's cell. SCHIBETTA looks up.

SCHIBETTA

Come in.

D'ANGELO

(peeking into the cell)
Got a minute, boss?

SCHIBETTA

What did O'Reily want?

D'ANGELO laughs as he steps into SCHIBETTA's room and leans against the wall.

D'ANGELO

It's funny, actually. O'Reily wanted protection.

SCHIBETTA

What kind of protection?

D'ANGELO

If he got in a fight with the niggers, he wanted us to back him up.

SCHIBETTA laughs as he turns a page of his book.

(CONTINUED)

SCHIBETTA
And what did you say?

D'ANGELO
Said we'd think about it.

SCHIBETTA
(making an approving noise)
Arrogant little Irish shit.

D'ANGELO
Funny how he thought we might even
say yes.

SCHIBETTA puts his book down, glancing out into the lobby.

SCHIBETTA
A man's gotta know his priorities,
especially in a place like this.
And family always comes first.
Anything else just isn't important.

D'ANGELO
Right, right of course.

SCHIBETTA
And no matter what he might do for
us, O'Reily will always just be a
business partner.

Both D'ANGELO and SCHIBETTA look out into the lobby for a
moment before SCHIBETTA speaks up.

SCHIBETTA
When O'Reily gets into a fight.

D'ANGELO
When?

SCHIBETTA
It's not going to be a question of
it. It's going to be a question of
when. And when O'Reily does rub
Adebisi the wrong way -- you don't
do anything to help him. You
understand?

D'ANGELO smirks and nods.

D'ANGELO
Got it.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - EVENING

O'REILY lurks in the lobby straddling a chair, watching TV. He remains at the edge of the clusters near the television, jerking his leg anxiously. At a table on one end of the Lobby, REBADOW and GROVES play Jenga. At the other end of the lobby. D'ANGELO and the WISE GUYS play cards.

MCMANNUS descends from his office, approaching O'REILY and tapping him on the shoulder to get his attention. O'REILY pulls one side of the headphones off.

O'REILY

What.

MCMANNUS

I wanted to talk to you.

O'REILY

Yeah, you're talking to me right now.

MCMANNUS

Maybe in private?

O'REILY

No thanks.

MCMANNUS

It'll just take a few moments.

O'REILY groans before getting up from his seat and shoving the headphones into the hands of another inmate waiting to watch TV. As he heads towards his cell, MCMANNUS following after him, he rubs at the back of his head.

O'REILY

If this is gonna be some dumb lecture 'bout why you had to fuckin' lie to me, I'm not listening.

INT. RYAN O'REILY'S CELL - EVENING

MCMANNUS closes the door to O'REILY's cell behind them.

MCMANNUS

I thought I owed you an apology.

O'REILY

... really?

(CONTINUED)

MCMANNUS

Not that I'm happy to. But I did break my promise to you.

O'REILY

Does that means you can keep that promise? I still got some shit that I don't wanna deal with for a while.

MCMANNUS

I can't do that.

O'REILY

Apology not accepted.

MCMANNUS

-- but I will tell you that things won't stay like this for much longer.

O'REILY

What d'you mean by that?

MCMANNUS

I'll talk to Glynn again. I don't agree with this new rule of his either, especially if he's trying to just make you guys miserable without really accomplishing anything.

O'REILY

Aw, that's sweet of you.

MCMANNUS

I know I can come across as a hardass sometimes, but I am not here to make you miserable. You know that.

O'REILY

Yeah, I know.

MCMANNUS

So don't do anything stupid in the meantime.

O'REILY

When do I ever?

(CONTINUED)

MCMANNUS

O'Reily, I'm serious.

O'REILY

Yeah, yeah.

O'REILY looks past MCMANNUS out into the lobby, where the homeboys and Adebisi are conversing. Adebisi looks agitated.

O'REILY

Don't worry. I won't start anything.

MCMANNUS gives O'REILY a long, scrutinizing stare before nodding and leaving his cell. Cutting across the lobby, he goes upstairs to the offices. O'REILY presses against the door of his cell, watching MCMANNUS' retreating back with his face mashed against his cell door.

After a moment, he sighs and opens the door.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - EVENING

REBADOW executes his turn. All throughout it and afterward, Groves seems to be staring blankly in ADEBISI'S direction.

REBADOW

(sitting back in his seat)
You do realize if the whole thing falls over while you're just sitting there, you still lose?

GROVES

Oh, sorry. I was just thinking.

GROVES sits forward to do his turn. REBADOW looks curious.

REBADOW

What were you thinking about?

GROVES

(carefully pulling out a piece)
Who do you think is the scariest person here?

REBADOW

Just between us, or including the COs?

(CONTINUED)

GROVES

Either way.

REBADOW

Glynn, maybe.

GROVES

Because of that new rule?

REBADOW

That, and other things.

GROVES

(putting his piece on top of
the stack)

Well, I find it funny that the
scariest person isn't the one who's
the strongest.

REBADOW

Oh, I don't know about that. Glynn
has the authority to do whatever he
wants to us here. That's sort of
strong.

GROVES

No, it's not. That's just lucky
he's in the position to boss us
around.

GROVES finishes his turn and sits back in his chair. REBADOW
thinks, but as he opens his mouth to answer, the Jenga tower
collapses. GROVES grins.

GROVES

I win.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

Luck. You think that's also part of
'fittest?' Think it counts into
who's strong and who's not? 'Cause
I think it is. After all, if you're
lucky enough to go through life
without running into an angry bear,
and some other guy isn't, then you
survive and he doesn't. That's just
how the chips fall, isn't it?

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - EVENING

O'REILY looks around tensely as he heads towards the hallway and spots ADEBISI exiting his cell, accompanied by KEANE and WANGLER. ADEBISI looks disheveled and sweaty from the beginnings of withdrawal symptoms. ADEBISI seems to spot O'REILY at the same moment and walks over purposefully. O'REILY shifts in his chair and pulls off his headphones. He gets to his feet just as ADEBISI reaches him.

ADEBISI
You fuckin' with me?

O'REILY
Hey, I didn't do anything.

ADEBISI
You didn't do anything?

ADEBISI shoves O'REILY. O'REILY stumbles back a step. REBADOW edges away from the conflict, while GROVES takes off his headphones to watch.

O'REILY
You don't wanna be causing trouble here, do you?

ADEBISI
Don't act smart with me, O'Reily.

O'REILY
I told you, I didn't do anything.

ADEBISI
(grabbing the front of
O'REILY's shirt)
That's the problem. You owe me something, and you didn't bring it to me.

O'REILY
(hushed)
Adebisi, you know what's going on with Glynn, I don't have anything.

ADEBISI
Bullshit.

WHITTLESY looks over from the balcony.

WHITTLESY
Hey! You two, break it up.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY

You hear that Adebisi? You better let go of me. I don't have anything on me, I told you.

ADEBISI

I know you're not an idiot. You have something, and you're trying to hide it. You think I don't see you sneaking around like a rat?

O'REILY

Look, Adebisi, I don't have anything. But y'know what, I heard the wops might have some --

ADEBISI

You owe me the goddamn tits!

O'REILY

I told you, I'm not hiding anything. Let go!

O'REILY looks away from ADEBISI and instead looks to D'ANGELO and the WISE GUYS. D'ANGELO meets O'REILY's gaze, but doesn't move.

WHITTLESY, heading down the stairs, bangs her nightstick on the railing.

WHITTLESY

Last warning you two, break it up!

O'REILY

Last warning, she says.

ADEBISI looks over towards WHITTLESY before putting his arm over O'REILY's shoulder. He looks over his shoulder towards WHITTLESY and gives her a 'don't worry' gesture, guiding O'REILY towards the hallway. O'REILY looks over at D'ANGELO once more, but D'ANGELO only turns and laughs with the other WISE GUYS.

KEANE and POST hang back as ADEBISI drags O'REILY away from the lobby, leaning in close to speak into his face.

ADEBISI

You're always hiding something.

O'REILY

(quietly)

I told you, I'm not hiding anything.

(CONTINUED)

ADEBISI

I know you have some tits left, and you give them to me, or things won't be pretty.

O'REILY

I told you, I don't --

ADEBISI suddenly shoves O'REILY into a wall, grabbing his hair and dragging his face against the rough surface. O'REILY grunts as the skin of his cheek is scraped off. ADEBISI leans in close to growl into O'REILY's ear.

ADEBISI

You bring me what I want, or you end up like Ortolani. You understand?

O'REILY

Look, Adebisi --

ADEBISI

You understand?

O'REILY

Yeah, I get it, I get it.

ADEBISI

Good.

ADEBISI lets go of O'REILY, who shoves away from ADEBISI and stumbles back. ADEBISI spits at O'REILY's feet before walking away.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

And the fun thing about survival is, you never know when you can let your guard down, yeah? In fact, you can't. Because you turn your back on the wrong person one day, that's the day you get stabbed in the back. What's a guy gotta do, always have to be looking out for someone with a knife?

(laughs)

Not possible. That's not how survival works. You gotta pick and choose who you show your back to. Pick who you trust. Or at least -- pretend to trust.

INT. OZ PENITENTIARY, INFIRMARY - EVENING

DR. GLORIA NATHAN bent over an exam table, wearing surgical gloves, concentrating intensely. After a moment she straightens up and puts aside a surgical needle and thread.

NATHAN

Okay, you can sit up now.

O'REILY sits up on the exam table, gingerly raising a hand to touch where he has new stitches across his cheekbone. His face is heavily bruised and he has bandages wound around his forehead.

NATHAN

(slapping O'REILY's hand down)
Don't touch your stitches. I'll get you a bandage.

O'REILY

If I keep trying to touch it, will you hold my hand?

NATHAN moves off-screen and rummages through drawers.

NATHAN (O.S)

No. But if you get an infection and I have to redo your stitches I'll make sure you're handcuffed then.

O'REILY

You say that like it's a bad thing.

NATHAN (O.S)

It is.

O'REILY

Maybe for you.

NATHAN returns and slaps down O'REILY's hand once more. She puts a large band-aid over the stitches on O'REILY's cheek. O'REILY grins at her.

O'REILY

Thanks.

NATHAN

Just doing my job.

NATHAN fetches a clipboard and writes on it hastily. O'REILY watches, looking thoughtful.

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Try not to mess with your stitches. Come back tomorrow to have your bandages changed, but you should be alright after that. If your face hurts too much, get some ice from the kitchen to reduce the swelling.

O'REILY

Hey, Doctor Nathan?

NATHAN

Yes?

O'REILY

You got a bed here you can share with me by any chance?

NATHAN puts down the clipboard, giving O'REILY an incredulous look.

NATHAN

O'Reily. I'm married. We've been through this before.

O'REILY

I didn't mean it in that way. Unless you want it to.

NATHAN

What did you mean it as, then?

O'REILY

Just looking for a place to sleep for the night.

NATHAN

You're too good for your cell?

O'REILY

It'd be nicer here.

NATHAN

Ryan, the infirmary's for sick people. You're injured, but you're not sick.

O'REILY

Yeah, I know.

NATHAN

You don't usually ask to sleep next to sick people.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY
What if I'm scared?

NATHAN
You have monsters under your bed?

O'REILY
Something like that.

NATHAN sighs and looks at her clipboard once more.

NATHAN
If you're scared you'll get into another fight, just watch what you're doing. I know you're a smart guy, you'll be fine.

O'REILY
You promise?

NATHAN
I can't promise anything. But you're a big, strong guy. I'm not too worried.

O'REILY
What if I asked you to?

NATHAN
Ask me to?

O'REILY
Asked you to worry about me.

NATHAN
(laughing)
No. But I know you'll be fine.

NATHAN moves away from the bed. O'REILY rubs a hand against the bandage on his cheek.

O'REILY
Yeah. Right.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL
You know what people don't think about enough, when it comes to survival? Sex. People don't think about it much, but you know what? That's the only reason we're alive
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HILL (cont'd)
in the first place. Guys wanna
stick themselves in a girl and pop
out a baby. That's all we live for,
deep down inside. That's why we
fight to stay alive.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - EVENING

O'REILY walks through the lobby. Some inmates catcall at him. O'REILY ignores it and instead makes a beeline for where D'ANGELO lurks near SCHIBETTA's cell. When D'ANGELO notices O'REILY approaching, he laughs.

D'ANGELO
Heeeey, O'Reily. Looking handsome
today.

O'REILY
Yeah, haha. Real funny.

O'REILY walks close to D'ANGELO, cornering him against the glass of SCHIBETTA's cell.

O'REILY
(hushed)
Thought you said you'd help.

D'ANGELO
I said I'd think about it.

O'REILY
What, so you thought about it and
you thought the best thing to do
then was to just stand and watch?

D'ANGELO
Hey, listen.

D'ANGELO shoves O'REILY back a step.

D'ANGELO
It ain't time to cause problems
with the Homeboys just yet.
(pause)
Y'know how big of a headache
Adebisi is? Like a fuckin' huge
rat. Not gonna go starting fights
with a rat that big unless it's the
right time, you know what I mean?

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY
Yeah. Really makes me wanna do
business with you. Real reliable.

D'ANGELO
Stop whining. Why should we have
done anything for you?

O'REILY
Because we made a deal!

D'ANGELO
Business is business. Other than
that -- you're not family. Got no
reason to help you.

O'REILY stares skeptically at D'ANGELO for a moment before
nodding.

O'REILY
Fine.

D'ANGELO
Fine?

O'REILY
Yeah, fine.

O'REILY abruptly turns to leave, looking angry.

INT. VERN SCHILLINGER'S CELL - EVENING

SCHILLINGER leans against the wall of his cell, watching
over his shoulder as O'REILY stalks by. He looks up at where
BEECHER is sitting on the floor a short distance away,
looking through a book.

SCHILLINGER
Hey.

BEECHER doesn't look up.

SCHILLINGER
Hey, prag.

BEECHER still doesn't respond. SCHILLINGER slowly peels off
a sock and throws it into BEECHER'S lap. BEECHER looks up.

SCHILLINGER
Going deaf?

(CONTINUED)

BEECHER

Oh, no sir. Just reading.

SCHILLINGER gestures for BEECHER to give his sock back. BEECHER picks it up and crawls forward to offer it to SCHILLINGER. SCHILLINGER smirks and points to his foot.

SCHILLINGER

Is it that interesting?

BEECHER hesitates visibly before putting his book aside and putting the sock on SCHILLINGER'S foot.

SCHILLINGER

I said, is it that interesting?

BEECHER

Uh. Yes, sir.

SCHILLINGER

Let's see it.

BEECHER picks up his book and places it in SCHILLINGER'S hand. SCHILLINGER idly flips through it before standing up.

SCHILLINGER

Hey, you're right. This does look interesting. I'll borrow it.

SCHILLINGER walks out of his cell to join the other ARYANS out in the lobby. As BEECHER watches, SCHILLINGER laughs and speaks to the other ARYANS before putting the book down on the table and watching television. BEECHER stares out at the lobby.

SISTER PETE (V.O)

Beecher?

INT. IN FRONT OF SISTER PETER MARIE'S OFFICE - MORNING

BEECHER snaps alert from where he was sitting in front of SISTER PETER MARIE REIMONDO'S office. SISTER PETE stands before him, hand on her door handle, looking worried.

SISTER PETE

Beecher? Are you alright?

BEECHER

Oh, right. Yeah, I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

SISTER PETE

It's good that you're eager enough to get here early, but you shouldn't do that at the expense of getting enough sleep.

BEECHER

Nah, it's not that. Just been a little out of it lately.

INT. SISTER PETER MARIE'S OFFICE - MORNING

The door swings open. SISTER PETE walks in, followed by BEECHER, who goes to sit at his desk.

SISTER PETE

Sick? Tired?

BEECHER

Tired sounds about right.

SISTER PETE

Really? Just tired?

BEECHER

Well, it's close enough.

SISTER PETE sets her handbag down on her desk, looking at BEECHER.

SISTER PETE

Beecher, is there something you want to talk about?

BEECHER

No, it's just --
(struggling for words)
It's nothing.

SISTER PETE

You're horrible at lying.

BEECHER

Yeah, I know. It's just hard to put into words. Especially on the spot like this.

SISTER PETE

(organizing her papers)
Well. If you ever do think of what you want to say, then you know I'm always here to listen. Ray, too.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SISTER PETE (cont'd)
And failing that, God will always
lend an ear.

BEECHER
(turning to his work computer)
Yeah. Yeah, that sounds good.

INT. EMERALD CITY GYM - AFTERNOON

BEECHER and FATHER RAY MUKADA sit on metal folding chairs,
back to back. BEECHER sits slightly hunched, elbows braced
against his knees, fingers entwined. MUKADA waits patiently,
sitting up slightly straighter when BEECHER inhales.

BEECHER
Sometimes, I wonder if God really
is out there.

MUKADA
(dryly)
And you thought a confession would
be the best place to say this?

BEECHER
Yeah, I know, I know. Silly place
to start off, but -- I just
couldn't think of any other place
to start talking.

MUKADA
Well.
(sitting back in his seat)
I know you've been coming to the
weekly services regularly. What
made you lose your faith so
suddenly?

BEECHER
It's --

A long moment of awkward silence passes before BEECHER
speaks once more.

BEECHER
For most of my life, I've been
taught that studying hard, working
hard, praying and trying to be a
good person will lead to a good
life. But -- well. The first two
things fell apart since I landed
here. And when even praying to God
doesn't seem to have any effect ...

(CONTINUED)

BEECHER fidgets with his hands, searching for words. MUKADA waits a moment longer, but just as he's about to respond, BEECHER continues.

BEECHER

I know that this is meant to be a test, that to remain strong and faithful is what really makes a person deserving of God's grace. But sometimes, that gets hard. Believing in something that doesn't seem to have any benefits.

MUKADA

(laughing dryly)

Beecher, this is for confessions, not for religious counseling. But, let's see. You -- think it's difficult staying faithful when there's no sign that your faith has any effect.

BEECHER

Yes, father.

MUKADA

That may be the case. But God isn't like a vending machine where you put in prayers and magical help pops out. It takes patience, it takes strength --

BEECHER

But how much strength?

MUKADA

However much strength it takes to show that your faith is unshakable.

BEECHER

That's -- that's not a proper argument, though. That's like saying "just because." And I can't keep praying "just because."

MUKADA

Beecher, I know that things must be tough for you. But staying strong will always pay off.

BEECHER frowns, clasping his hands together.

(CONTINUED)

MUKADA

Strength of the heart will always triumph over any hardships. So as long as you remain strong in your beliefs ...

MUKADA trails off. There's a long pause before BEECHER sighs.

BEECHER

Alright. I'll keep that in mind.
Thanks, father.

MUKADA sighs as BEECHER stands to walk towards the exit.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

(reading from a bible)

"Seek the Lord and his strength,
seek his presence continually!"

(closing the bible)

See, I don't know about you, but to me that sounds a lot like dependency. You really think you can be strong if you gotta keep looking to your invisible buddy to get through things?

INT. EMERALD CITY GYM - AFTERNOON

The same confessional setup. This time, GROVES is seated in one chair, back to back with MUKADA, who looks slightly exasperated.

GROVES

I'm thinking, maybe it's not about being big and scary and strong that's so important here.

MUKADA doesn't respond. GROVES twists in his chair to look over at MUKADA.

GROVES

Father? Are you listening?

MUKADA

(sighs)

Yes, I'm listening.

(CONTINUED)

GROVES

Because, the more I think about it -- the people who've been getting into trouble. You know, with all the deaths and the fights and the trouble. They were supposed to be strong, right?

GROVES toys with his hair. MUKADA shifts uneasily in his chair.

MUKADA

Are you trying to get at something?

GROVES

Oh, sorry, I was just thinking.

MUKADA

(sighs again)

You -- think you're stronger than them?

GROVES

Oh, it's not that. I just think being strong isn't really important at all. Since I'm probably not that strong but I'm managing alright, aren't I?

MUKADA

I guess so?

GROVES

Yeah. I'm glad you agree.

Another awkward pause.

MUKADA

I believe that faith in the Lord will always be greater than any advantage physical strength will provide.

GROVES

You think so?

MUKADA

Isn't that what you were getting at? And that's why you came to me?

GROVES

No, not really. I just wanted someone to talk to, and you seem pretty smart.

(CONTINUED)

MUKADA rubs at his temples with one hand as GROVES goes on.

GROVES

I think what's most important is that people think you're strong. That's about it. And that's not hard.

GROVES smiles to himself, looking pleased, before turning in his seat to look at MUKADA.

GROVES

I don't suppose you can just give out those communion wafers during these talks?

INT. OZ STAFF LOUNGE - AFTERNOON

MCMANNUS restlessly shuffles his feet by the coffee maker until the light turns on indicating it's finished brewing. He sighs as he pours himself a styrofoam cup of coffee, adding cream and sugar and stirring it. He turns and leans against the counter as he takes a sip, before turning to add more sugar.

As MCMANNUS stirs his coffee again, NATHAN enters the staff lounge. They give each other acknowledging nods. NATHAN picks up a styrofoam cup and pours herself coffee.

NATHAN

So. You seem to be doing well.

MCMANNUS

(snorting into his coffee)
Yeah. Right.

NATHAN

You know, I'm pretty sure most weeks you don't look so exhausted until Thursday. Today's a Tuesday, right?

MCMANNUS

Can't blame me, can you? It's been tough.

NATHAN

With Glynn's rule?

MCMANNUS

What else?

(CONTINUED)

NATHAN

Yeah, well.

NATHAN takes a long sip of her coffee before walking over to pat MCMANNUS on the arm.

NATHAN

Hold on for just a bit longer.

MCMANNUS

Just a bit? It sounded like Glynn wanted this rule change to be permanent.

NATHAN

Well. Either he'll make the rule change permanent and the inmates will just have to adapt to it and make your job easier, or he'll have to give up on that rule.

MCMANNUS

You have any preference for which one you want?

NATHAN

All I know is that before this rule came around, I didn't have to spend the morning stitching up O'Reily's face.

MCMANNUS

Yeah, I heard about O'Reily. Was it a fight?

NATHAN

According to him, he fell down the stairs.

MCMANNUS

So, a fight.

NATHAN

It wasn't too bad. But I get the sense it's not going to be a one-time thing, with this rule.

MCMANNUS sighs and drains his cup, then chucks it in the garbage.

NATHAN

Tim?

(CONTINUED)

MCMANNUS

Yeah?

NATHAN

You look exhausted.

MCMANNUS

Yeah, I know, I'll get some rest once I'm done organizing those files --

NATHAN

So I don't want to worry you too much, but I think I should tell you that it looked pretty bad. What I had to take care of today.

MCMANNUS

What, O'Reily? I thought you said it wasn't that bad.

NATHAN

I don't mean his face. I mean the situation. I know that Glynn's determined about this new rule, but it worries me. I think it's gonna start more fights.

MCMANNUS looks at NATHAN, then pats her on the arm the same way she'd patted him.

MCMANNUS

I'll see what I can do before anything blows up.

INT. OZ PENITENTIARY, LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

BEECHER sits alone at a table with a book open in front of him. However, he's not reading, but staring blankly off into space in thought, one hand idly tracing a cross on the wood.

The door opens and SCHILLINGER leans against the doorframe.

SCHILLINGER

Hey, Beecher. Been wondering where you were.

BEECHER reflexively slams his book shut and turns in his seat to look at SCHILLINGER.

(CONTINUED)

BEECHER

Huh?

SCHILLINGER

Room's not going to clean itself.
Get to work.

BEECHER stares blankly at SCHILLINGER. After a moment, SCHILLINGER frowns and steps into the library. He gestures for the guard to leave, then takes a seat next to BEECHER.

SCHILLINGER

You sick?

BEECHER

No -- no, I'm not. Sir.

SCHILLINGER

They stop acting like a drowned rat
and do your work.

BEECHER hesitates before turning to face SCHILLINGER a little more squarely.

BEECHER

Sir. You believe in God, don't you?

SCHILLINGER

What kind of stupid question is
that?

BEECHER

Then, do you think -- do you think
God would believe in ...

SCHILLINGER

In putting prags in their places?

BEECHER

No, I --

SCHILLINGER

Beecher.

BEECHER

Yes, sir?

SCHILLINGER

After you're done cleaning the
room, meet me in the showers.

(CONTINUED)

BEECHER

But --

SCHILLINGER

You sure you wanna keep asking
stupid questions?

BEECHER stares down at his lap. SCHILLINGER smirks and stands, thumping BEECHER on the back.

SCHILLINGER

Good boy. Now go clean the room.

SCHILLINGER exits the library. As the door closes, the ARYANS can be heard laughing outside. BEECHER stands to replace his book on the shelf. As he does so, his hand passes by a shelf of bibles and he lets his fingers linger against their spines.

INT. VERN SCHILLINGER'S CELL - AFTERNOON

BEECHER slumps into the cell, which is in a disarray. He glances around the room, then picks up his book from the floor.

For a moment, he raises it angrily as if about to throw it into the wall, then lowers his arm. He sighs before obediently cleaning the room.

INT. RYAN O'REILY'S CELL - AFTERNOON

O'REILY sits on his bunk, twisting the miniscule package of his remaining drugs in his hand. He stares resentfully out his cell wall first at where the WISE GUYS are watching television in the lobby, then at where the HOMEBOYS pass through the lobby.

As O'REILY watches, ADEBISI, KEANE and WANGLER walk past D'ANGELO and the WISE GUYS. WANGLER lunges threateningly at the WISE GUYS for a moment. In response, D'ANGELO gestures angrily at the HOMEBOYS before he continues walking.

O'REILY clutches his tiny package of drugs harder, then smirks to himself.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

You know what they always say when you talk about why people are better than animals: the Mona Lisa, the Sistine Chapel, the love of almighty Jesus Fuckin' Christ!

(laughs)

But you think God really makes us better, makes us stronger than any sorta dog walking out in the wild?

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - EVENING

ADEBISI, KEANE and WANGLER sit in the lobby watching a boring cooking show on television. ADEBISI fidgets restlessly, tapping his leg and staring listlessly at the television.

RONALD POKELWALDT scoots by and accidentally nudges ADEBISI'S chair. ADEBISI promptly throws down his headphones and gets up as if to pummel POKELWALDT, but stops when a CO barks at him from the stairway landing.

ADEIBI tsks disapprovingly and heads up the stairwell. KEANE and WANGLER give each other unsure looks and shrug. SAID, seated at the other end of the lobby area, watches ADEBISI walk up the stairwell and frowns in thought before rising from his seat.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - EVENING

At the edge of the lobby area, POKELWALDT watches several other inmates play cards. He twitches periodically in his seat, looking restless, and jumps when O'REILY suddenly walks up and pulls out the chair at the same table.

O'REILY

You got a minute?

POKELWALDT

Huh? Yeah -- I guess?

O'REILY

Come here.

O'REILY leads POKELWALDT to a quiet corner of the lobby, near where the hallways start.

(CONTINUED)

O'RELY
You want some tits?

POKELWALDT
What? Yes. Yes. You have some?

O'REILY
Just a bit.

POKELWALDT
Oh man, I need it, I need it so bad. Ever since Glynn's new rules and bullshit it's been impossible to get a hit. Can't even get a fucking cigarette, or anything to drink. I hear they're even taking away shit like candy from packages. Anything that looks suspicious, and it's fucking insane, man. It's insane.

O'REILY
(rolling his eyes)
Tell me about it.

POKELWALDT
So how much you have?

O'REILY pulls the tiny package from his pocket and offers it forth to POKELWALDT. POKELWALDT immediately makes a grab for it, but O'REILY pulls it back.

O'REILY
Real desperate, huh?

POKELWALDT
Look man, like I was saying, it's just been impossible getting anything -- what're you asking for?

O'REILY
I don't need any money. But you gotta do me a favor.

POKELWALDT
Anything.

O'REILY
Anything?

POKELWALDT
Anything.

O'REILLY grins and presses the tiny package in POKELWALDT's hand.

O'REILLY
If anyone asks you where you got these, say they're from the wops.

POKELWALDT
What, that's it?

O'REILLY
That's it. But you gotta promise -- no matter who asks, you say it's from D'Angelo. You got it?

POKELWALDT
I got it, I got it! I'll do it!

O'REILLY thumps POKELWALDT on the back just a little too hard.

O'REILLY
Good on you.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY, UPSTAIRS LANDING - EVENING

ADEBISI leans against the landing watching over the lobby, restlessly jerking his leg. SAID ascends the stairwell and approaches ADEBISI, standing near him.

ADEBISI
(refusing to look at SAID)
What're you lookin' at.

SAID
I'm looking at you, brother.

ADEBISI
Don't keep making me say it. I'm not your brother.

SAID
You look like you're about to do something very unwise.

ADEBISI glares at SAID before returning his gaze to the lobby.

SAID
You've grown quite dependent on the drugs. I can tell. Anyone can tell, from the way you act.

(CONTINUED)

ADEBISI
None of your business.

SAID
These must be trying times for you.

ADEBISI
Fuck off.

ADEBISI pushes away from the railing and moves towards the cells. SAID follows a civil distance behind him, still speaking levelly.

SAID
You mustn't let those drugs control
your action.

INT. SIMON ADEBISI'S CELL - EVENING

ADEBISI walks into his cell, trying to close the door behind him. SAID follows behind ADEBISI, catching the door so it can't close and standing in the doorway. ADEBISI stands against his bed frame, back turned to SAID.

ADEBISI
Go away.

SAID
You think sulking like a child will
make these problems stop?

ADEBISI
Go away.

SAID
You're weak, brother.

ADEBISI slams his fists against the bunkbed frame in anger before turning towards SAID. SAID doesn't budge.

ADEBISI
Oh yeah? And what do you know about
being strong? You think you're
strong, always praying? Always
kneeling?

SAID
Strength doesn't come from
violence.

(CONTINUED)

ADEBISI
Then what do you think it comes
from, brother?

SAID
It comes from within you.

ADEBISI
(laughing sharply)
I don't believe thing like that.

SAID presses his hands against ADEBISI's chest. ADEBISI
looks down at his chest, then at SAID.

SAID
You are strong, brother. You have a
great strength within you. But you
are weakening yourself by using
those drugs, by using violence.
Take this chance to reconsider.
True strength does not come from
violence, but from the spirit.

ADEBISI calms down slightly. SAID lowers his hands.

SAID
Do you understand?

ADEBISI stares at SAID and opens his mouth to speak when ...

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY, UPSTAIRS LANDING - EVENING

KEANE and WANGLER come jogging up the stairwell. KEANE walks
over and shoves SAID out of the way.

KEANE
Adebisi. Think there's something
happening.

ADEBISI
What.

KEANE
Just come look.

ADEBISI moves as if in a trance, pushing SAID out of the way
and stepping away from his room. SAID grabs at ADEBISI's
wrist.

SAID
Brother.

(CONTINUED)

ADEBISI

Move.

SAID

Think of what I just said. You are strong, but if you don't look to Allah for guidance --

ADEBISI ignores SAID and pushes past him. KEANE and WANGLER lead ADEBISI over towards a portion of the upper railing and point towards POKLEWALDT in his cell on the lower floor. He can just barely be seen snorting poppers in his bunk.

INT. RYAN O'REILY'S CELL - EVENING

O'REILY leans against the glass wall of his cell, arms up above his head and braced against the glass. He slowly rubs the fingers of one hand against the bandages wrapped around his other wrist.

Past O'REILY's shoulder, POKLEWALDT can be seen sitting in his room, trying to snort some poppers without seeming conspicuous. ADEBISI suddenly barges into his room and grabs his shoulder. POKLEWALDT can be seen hurriedly hiding his drugs, while ADEBISI shakes him by the shoulder, yelling at him.

O'REILY

(talking to himself)

Yeah, that's it.

POKLEWALDT shakingly points out the wall of his cell towards where the ITALIANS are lurking in the lobby. ADEBISI promptly lets go of POKLEWALDT's shoulder and glares towards the ITALIANS before storming out.

O'REILY

Good boy.

INT. RONALD POKLEWALDT'S CELL - EVENING

ADEBISI shoves POKLEWALDT, cowering, into a corner. He studies the poppers stolen from Poklewaldt, then turns his back to the lobby and hurriedly snorts them. He then turns to exit Poklewaldt's cell.

SAID nears Poklewaldt's cell just as ADEBISI is about to leave, wearing an expression of disappointment.

(CONTINUED)

SAID

This is what you choose?

ADEBISI thumbs his nose and sniffs.

SAID

You will not even give any consideration to the thought of being weak? Of borrowing the strength of Allah?

ADEBISI

There's no strength in something that doesn't exist. I'm strong. That's all that matters.

ADEBISI shoves past SAID and heads back up towards the stairwell. SAID watches after him, shaking his head.

INT. EMERALD CITY LOBBY - EVENING

O'REILY, looking determined, makes a beeline towards where the Italians are walking before swerving slightly. He very deliberately smashes his shoulder into D'Angelo's.

D'ANGELO

Watch it!

O'REILY

(half-turning to face
D'Angelo)

Sorry, thought you'd be able to handle a little accident since you got your family watchin' your back like that.

D'ANGELO

What did you say?

O'REILY

Nothing.

D'ANGELO turns to shove O'REILY back a step. Behind him, the other Italians murmur aggressively amongst themselves.

D'ANGELO

Did Adebisi hit you in the head?
You startin' a fight with me?

O'REILY

When did I ever say that?

(CONTINUED)

D'ANGELO
Don't fuck with me, O'Reily.

O'REILY
You're really that insecure? What makes you think you're that important?

D'ANGELO
... the hell are you planning?

O'REILY just shrugs. D'ANGELO turns to walk away, letting out a disgusted snort. But as he's about to leave, O'REILY mutters just loud enough for the D'ANGELO to hear.

O'REILY
Fuckin' spineless wop.

D'ANGELO immediately turns on heel and punches O'REILY across the face. O'REILY reels back, shielding his face with his arms, but doesn't make to fight back. D'ANGELO surges forward and begins pummeling O'REILY, who remains on defense.

Other prisoners begin milling closer, hearing the commotion. The moment he catches sight of the HOMEBOYS lurking in earshot, O'REILY shouts.

O'REILY
Yeah, s'at what you're trying to do? Monopolize all the tits?

D'ANGELO pauses, looking confused. O'REILY dramatically falls back, clutching at his face. Several CO's run up to break the fight, but not before ADEBISI steps forward and grabs D'ANGELO by the shirtfront.

ADEBISI
What was he sayin?

D'ANGELO
Fuck off.

ADEBISI
No.

D'ANGELO
This ain't your business, Adebisi, back off.

ADEBISI
S'that true? What O'Reily was saying?

(CONTINUED)

D'ANGELO

I don't know what the hell he's talking about.

ADEBISI

You lyin' to me?

WHITTLESY (O.S.)

Hey, break it up you two!

D'ANGELO

Let go of me.

ADEBISI

I don't think so, little man.

WHITTLESY (O.S.)

I said, break it up!
(into her walkie talkie)
Gonna need more men in the lobby,
looks like trouble.

Shouting in the background as more CO's approach. WHITTLESY approaches, nightstick out, but before D'ANGELO can say anything ADEBISI punches him across the face. The ITALIANS immediately tackle ADEBISI to the ground.

As a huge fistfight breaks out between the HOMEBOYS and the ITALIANS, O'REILY drags himself out of the way. A CO grabs him and yanks him to his feet.

GUARD

You. You're getting the hole.

O'REILY

I didn't do anything.

GUARD

Oh yeah?

O'REILY

(looking back briefly at the fistfight)
It's all them.

The GUARD drags O'REILY off down the hallway as the fistfight continues.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

You ever seen wild animals fight?
Or even just cats fighting? It's
never the pretty ones that win, or
the biggest, or the strongest. It's
always the ugly, stubborn, mangy
looking motherfuckers that come out
on top. The ones with chunks of fur
missing, looking all beaten-up and
disgusting. And you know it's
because those are the ones that
fight the hardest, fight the
smartest. They don't give a shit
about how they're not supposed to
be coming out on top according to
'survival of the fittest.' They
just fight as hard as they can in
whatever way they know. That's what
makes them come out on top.

INT. SOLITARY CELLS - EVENING

O'REILLY sits naked in his cell in solitary, back against the wall, idly tipping his bucket slightly with one foot. The increasing volume of shouting coming from down the hallway makes him look up and press an ear against his cell door. Just barely, he can hear muffled shouting.

GUARD A

(echoing footsteps as he runs
into the solitary area)
Shit -- shit!

GUARD B

What the hell's going on out there?

GUARD A

Huge fucking fight. Homeboys
started something with the
Italians, we need everyone out
there.

GUARD B

What, you're serious?

GUARD A

Now.

Echoing footsteps exit the area and it goes quiet. O'REILLY stays pressed against the door for a moment longer before sitting back against the wall.

After a moment, he begins laughing loudly to himself.

INT. LEO GLYNN'S OFFICE - EVENING

GLYNN sits in his office, hand pressed against his temple, looking exasperated. The door bursts open. MCMANNUS barges in and slaps a packet of papers down on GLYNN's desk.

MCMANNUS
You finally satisfied?

GLYNN
Stop shouting.

MCMANNUS
I'm angry, Leo.

GLYNN
I can see that.

MCMANNUS
I've got five people stuck in the infirmary and a puddle of blood in the lobby like there's been a shootout. I've got an inmate who has the imprint of a chair leg across his face and a broken nose.

GLYNN
(half-heartedly looking through the papers on his desk)
I can read that.

MCMANNUS
And you still want to keep your -- draconian security measures that's driving everyone mad?

GLYNN
I'm rescinding them tomorrow.

MCMANNUS
(pause)
You -- what?

GLYNN
The security measures are being stopped tomorrow. Everything'll go back to the way it was.

(CONTINUED)

MCMANNUS

What, just like that?

GLYNN

Yes.

MCMANNUS

Then -- what was the point? You enforce them enough to cause this sort of mess and then you just change your mind? The security in Oz isn't like a goddamn picnic you can call on and off without warning!

GLYNN

It was an experiment, Tim. Testing the best way to make Oz as safe a place as possible.

MCMANNUS

And did you get the results you wanted?

GLYNN gathers together the files on his desk and holds them out to MCMANNUS.

GLYNN

If you're going to gloat, but a bit more subtle about it. I did what was best for the facility.

MCMANNUS

You're just showing off. You just wanted to show you had control for a while.

GLYNN

It was for the good of the facility.

MCMANNUS

That's what all dictators say, isn't it?

MCMANNUS retrieves his papers from GLYNN's desk before turning away and leaving GLYNN's office.

INT. EMERALD CITY HALLWAYS - MORNING

O'REILLY mops the floor, slowly progressing from one end of the hallway to the other. He still has a bandage slapped across his face, though most of the bruising is starting to fade.

He looks up with D'ANGELO and two of the other ITALIANS walk by. They exchange curt nods, but nothing other than that.

However, two of the HOMEBOYS approach from the other end of the hallway. As they two groups grow close, one of the HOMEBOYS mock-lunges at the Italians. The Italians swear and look as if they might accept this invitation for a fight.

HEALY (O.S.)

Hey, break it up!

The HOMEBOYS grudgingly glare at the HEALY, who's come down the hallway to where the confrontation is about to start. HEALY bangs his nightstick against the wall.

HEALY

You guys caused enough trouble the other day. Get the fuck out before you all get thrown in the hole. For a week.

The ITALIANS glare at the HOMEBOYS before continuing on their way. The HOMEBOYS also walk away, snorting in derision. Once both parties are out of earshot, HEALY looks to O'REILLY.

HEALY

Wops, niggers. They're both the same, aren't they?

O'REILLY

(leaning on his mop)
Both stupid as rocks.

HEALY

Wanna tell me how you managed to get them biting at each other instead of just ripping you to shreds?

O'REILLY

Trade secrets. Can't tell.

HEALY

Trade secrets my ass.

(CONTINUED)

O'REILY

Hey, a magician never explains his tricks or he'll go outta business fast.

HEALY

Yeah, yeah. You're one crafty son of a bitch, you know that?

O'REILY

Thanks. You got what we promised?

HEALY

Right here.

HEALY pulls a sizable paper bundle out of his back pocket. O'REILY snatches it up eagerly, holding it in his hand like it's something precious.

O'REILY

Oh, I missed you, babe.

HEALY

Didn't even break a sweat bringing that in this time.

O'REILY

Yeah, Glynn better not pull that sorta shit again.

O'REILY stuffs the package in the back of his pants as HEALY turns to leave. Just as HEALY is about to turn the corner, he pauses to look over at O'REILY.

HEALY

Y'know, I heard D'Angelo's in pretty shitty shape. Did'ja plan that out too?

O'REILY only smirks as he returns to his mopping.

INT. CU ON AUGUSTUS HILL

HILL

'Fittest' can mean the sharpest wits or the cleverest lies. Hell, 'fittest' can mean being the sneakiest, most dishonest son of a bitch around. But the fittest do, indeed survive. Sure, they don't flourish, but who does in a place like Oz?