

-- START --

5 INT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - AISLE -- CONTINUOUS

5

Michelle clutches Adam closer, gripping him tight. Adam swivels his head towards a

MUTED TV MONITOR: displaying a picture of "Charlie and Ted Bronson," superimposed with "Armed Suspects".

ADAM  
Mom, let me go.

MOM  
Shhh ...

Fighting to break loose from Michelle's anaconda grip.

ADAM  
You're hurting me.

MOM  
Promise me you'll keep quiet if I let go.

ADAM  
Mom, seriously.

Michelle caves and unwraps her arms from around Adam.

MOM  
Don't worry, honey. It'll all be over soon --

Adam slowly rises to his feet, just out of his mother's reach.

ADAM  
(to Charlie)  
Hey, mister!

MOM  
Adam! No!

Charlie carefully maneuvers over to Adam's locale, leaving the phone on the counter.

CHARLIE  
Kid, what the hell you think you're doing?

MOM  
Adam, get down! Right now!

ADAM

ADAM  
(ignoring)  
Mister, I know what you might be  
thinking ...

CHARLIE  
Shut it, kid.

ADAM  
You don't want anything bad to  
happen to you or your brother.

Charlie shoots Adam an understanding look.

ADAM  
But you've gotta work with the cops  
here.

Adam hands "Freeze!" to Charlie, who quickly snags it.

CLOSE ON: Cover of "Freeze!".

Charlie soaks in the image on the cover, which strangely  
resembles the current situation in the shop.

ADAM  
There are some rules of the game  
you need to know to make it out of  
here alive.

Charlie considers what Adam is saying for a second.

CHARLIE  
You're a kid, kid. What the hell  
do you know about armed robbery?

ADAM  
Sir, first of all, who on earth  
would rob a comic book shop ...

Adam looks Charlie up and down.

ADAM  
... dressed like that?

Charlie, angered, aims his gun at Adam.

CHARLIE  
Tell me ... how'd you like to die  
... dressed like that?

MOM  
Adam! Stop it!

The telephone rings. Charlie walks over to ...

-- STOP --

-- START --

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INT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - CHECK-OUT AREA - CONTINUOUS

23

He puts down the briefcase slowly on top of the counter.

CHARLIE

Open it.

Baker slowly opens the briefcase with his left hand, slowly inching his right hand out from underneath.

Adam steps forward.

ADAM

Mister!

Startled by Adam's yelp, Baker loses grip, accidentally dropping his CONCEALED GUN on the ground, by Charlie's feet.

Charlie glances down. A beat as they both process this unfortunate turn of events.

Flaming with rage, Charlie takes aim at Baker's forehead, point blank. Cocks his gun. Ready ... aim ...

BAKER

(to Charlie)

Slow down, Charlie! You shoot a cop and you ain't ever gettin' outta jail again.

CHARLIE

You really think I give a damn?

Charlie starts to squeeze the trigger.

BANG!

Charlie's shoulder EXPLODES. He drops his gun. Adam is still aiming a smoking revolver at him.

NOTE: This is the gun that Adam snagged from Ted's fallen body earlier in the story.

ADAM

Baker gives Charlie's gun a kick across the room, lowering down to pick up his own. He SNAPS TO, assuming an "arresting officer" position.

BAKER

Turn around. Hands nice and high.

Charlie does as he's told, turning to face Wayne as he follows instructions. The two share a tense transaction of thoughts. Wayne flashes a taunting, relieved grin.

As Baker cuffs Charlie, Adam proudly appears next to them both, dropping his weapon to the ground.

BAKER

You just saved our lives, kid.  
What can I say?

ADAM

Well, you could tell everyone the truth ... that I won the game.

BAKER

Son, listen --

ADAM

But you're not going to do that.  
(beat)  
You're gonna tell 'em that I was just some stupid little kid caught in a "grown-up" situation. And that you're just "doing your job."

Baker soaks this all in, wheels grinding.

BAKER

Now why do you think I'd do that?  
Why would I steal your medal from you?

ADAM

Because it comes with a big check and the front page of tomorrow's paper.

BAKER

(thinks)  
Well, actually ... you're right about that.

ADAM

Good bye, officer ... enjoy my medal.

ADAM

Victorious, Adam disappears out the door.

BAKER  
(to Charlie)  
You know ... he's a bright kid,  
that one.

Baker reaches for "Freeze!", which Charlie earlier tossed on  
the counter. Examines it.

BAKER  
(off comic book)  
Looks like he's learned this stuff  
pretty good.  
(beat)  
Let's go.

Baker tosses the comic book on the floor, as he leads Charlie  
out of the store. Cuffed. Defeated.

-- STOP --