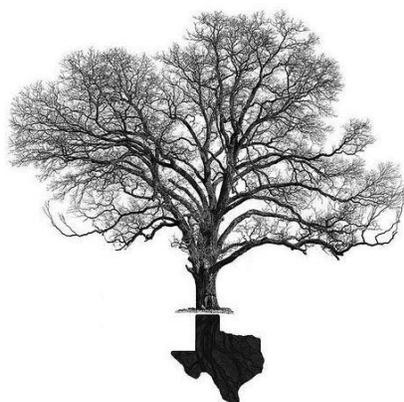


# GHOST MAYOR

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GHOST MAYOR

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We hear church bells tolling mournfully in the distance.

SUPERIMPOSE: "Death Be Not Proud; No man is an Island,  
entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main... And therefore never send to know for  
whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee." John Donne - 1572-  
1631

FADE IN

TITLE CREDITS BEGIN

EXT. INNER CITY CHURCH - CHICAGO - DAY

Parked outside are all the necessary vehicles for a funeral. Waiting are the hearse and two big black Cadillacs. Enough other cars are on the street to indicate a sizable funeral is taking place. There are two police motorcycle escorts waiting.

MINISTER (V.O.)

We have but a short time to live. Like  
a flower, we blossom and then wither;  
like a shadow we flee and never stay.  
In the midst of life we are in death;  
to whom can we turn for help, but to  
you? Yet, Lord God most holy, Lord most  
mighty, O holy and most merciful  
Saviour, deliver us from the bitter  
pain of eternal death.

There is a long beat.

MINISTER (V.O.)

We have entrusted our brother, Calvin  
Palmer, into God's mercy, and now, in  
preparation for burial, we give his/her  
body to be cremated. We look for the  
fullness of the resurrection when  
Christ shall gather all his saints to  
reign with him in glory forever and  
ever.

CONGREGATION

Amen.

The recessional organ music begins.

The doors to the church opens and the congregation emerges. The minister emerges, followed by the coffin and PALLBEARERS. The FAMILY (widow and three children) files out of the church. Others crowd the sidewalk to see the coffin placed in the hearse.

Many are crying.

TITLE CREDITS END

The MINISTER turns to the WIDOW (40) and CHILDREN.

MINISTER

Please except our heartfelt sorrow for you and your ; I hope you will remain in the church and continue to worship with us?

WIDOW

Well, this was Calvin's home church. He was baptized here; you know that. I'm from Philadelphia and my family is there. The children's grandparents are there. But thank you.

MINISTER

God go with you.

Everyone slowly (mournfully) go to his or her vehicle. The widow and children enter a black Cadillac. Slowly the procession leaves down the street.

CALVIN PALMER (58), in his finest suit, exits the church. He is reading the literature "What God has planned in the Afterlife". He is preoccupied reading and almost trips down the church steps. He looks up from the pamphlet and the sidewalk is empty. The funeral procession is a block or two down the street disappearing out of sight.

Calvin looks very lost. He lurches a few steps as if he wants to follow. He turns to reenter the church but the caretaker shuts the church door in his face and we hear a heavy duty lock engage. Calvin looks even more lost.

The street is empty.

EXT. CHICAGO STREETS - DAY

As he walks, he nods and waves to a few people. He speaks to someone and they look up curiously but apparently they can't see Calvin. From the pedestrians POV, Calvin is not there. Calvin walks the streets.

Again Calvin is reading about afterlife and walking. Calvin walks though a group of girls who are jumping rope on the sidewalk. He doesn't hit the rope (or it passes through him) and the girls don't see him to mind. They continue jumping.

We see Calvin reading and walking. He crashes into a light pole and it makes a loud noise. A pedestrian (waiting to cross the street) looks at the pole, he doesn't see Calvin.

Calvin approaches a town house and searches for his keys. They aren't in his suit pockets. He reaches for the door and his hand passed through it. He passes his entire hand through the door and then his arm. His entire body enters the building.

Clearly, he is a ghost.

INT. CALVIN'S OLD HOME - DAY

CALVIN

Honey, I'm home.

Calvin walks though the home; he finds no one. He knocks on his children's bedroom doors (his hand passes through) and tries to turn the door knob.

Calvin forgets (or doesn't realize) he is a ghost. There is a learning curve. Rather than opening doors, he peaks his head in "through" the door and looks around.

We see the family is half pack for the move to Philadelphia; full boxes, half-full boxes, empty boxes and packing material are stacked and about.

CALVIN

Angel?

(half beat)

Lil Bit?

(beat)

Malcolm?

Calvin finds no one. He looks lonesome and lost.

Calvin looks out the window and far in the distance he can see the cemetery. He can barely distinguish a burial party.

His family isn't home so he tries to turn on the television. He can't operate the remote and this confounds him, but after a time he gives up and then concentrates. He "wills" on the television. There is a baseball game on TV - either the Cubs or the White Sox.

Time passes...

Calvin is asleep in his recliner, when the family returns from the cemetery.

WIDOW

Angel, you and Malcolm finish packing your things. Lil Bit you come with me.

She enters the home with the children and shuts the door loudly. This awakes Calvin. His family can't see him.

CALVIN

Hello, Honey. How are you? How are the kids?

The widow stops dead in her tracks. She thinks she heard the voice of her deceased husband. But then the television is on and thinks this is strange. She turns the TV off.

WIDOW

Get packed kids; we are leaving first thing in the morning.

(half beat)

Angel you have a lot of work to do. Now get with it.

ANGEL

Oh, mom. Can't we stay here?

WIDOW

No. Your granny and pa-pa are waiting on us. You will like Philadelphia. New school and new friends.

Angel (10) disappears into her room. The widow and the smallest daughter (3) go into the master bedroom and begin to pack. Calvin stands in the door and watches his wife painfully pack his things in boxes.

After a short time, Calvin moves to the bedroom of his son. Calvin says nothing. But helps the boy pack. The boy doesn't notice the boxes filling up with books and toys. When the boxes are packed, the boy (5) takes out a coloring book and dutifully colors.

Calvin moves to the daughter's room. She is very depressed and is dragging and not really packing. He helps her but she notices the items have been moved into the boxes and she didn't put them there. She becomes frightened. She stops and bursts into tears.

CALVIN

Honey. Honey it is okay.

Angel appears to have seen (or heard) a ghost. She is catatonic.

CALVIN

I'm going to hang around and few days  
and then I'm going to a better place.

Angel begins to shake uncontrollably. Calvin reaches to hug her and this sends her over the edge. She panics and screams. She runs out of the room to her mother. She jumps into her mother's bed terrified, which frightens everyone. Calvin follows the girl and looks inside the master bedroom room on her.

ANGEL

He's... He's...

Angel points to her bedroom.

The widow moves down the hall, past Calvin. She stops she has had a feeling. She looks at where Calvin is standing. She moves on and looks into the child's bedroom.

WIDOW

It's okay, honey.

(beat)

Come look there isn't anyone here.

Calvin looks terribly sorrowful and guilty. All three children are crying.

Malcolm and Lil Bit transition to sobbing and join their mother at the door of Angel's bedroom. Angel will not get out of the bed.

WIDOW

(to Angel)

Come get your things and take them downstairs.

Angel refuses.

Calvin begins to make his way down the stairwell and nears the front door of the home. He pauses at the door and regrettably turns.

Instead of passing through the door as a ghost. He concentrates and reaches for the doorknob. He opens the door by concentrating and it slams on his way you.

We see the widow react when she hears the door slam. It appears she might know this sound will be the last real memory of her husband. It is a bit eerie to her, but she conceals this feeling from her kids. She hugs every kid.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

All three kids are crowded into the bed with their mom. They are NOT sleeping and appear frightened.

EXT. CHICAGO STREETS - NIGHT

Calvin walks the city. He is in despair but also curious about the city at night. Clean cut, he has generally been inside at night with his family. Now without fear (he's already dead) he walks at night. He sees the underclass - PIMPS, PROSTITUTES, THUGS, DEALERS and the rest of the criminal class.

He witnesses a shooting and an arson. A PROSTITUTE is stabbed and beaten. Calvin helps her until the EMTs arrive.

A CROWD gathers to watch. A White POLICE OFFICER arrives.

POLICE

Anyone see who did this?

Silence. The crowd, of course, refuses to help. Calvin is standing in the middle of the group watching the woman being loaded into the ambulance.

CALVIN

Black male, five foot eight or nine.  
Phoenix Suns jersey. Black jeans. Black  
Swatch wrist watch. Blue and black,  
Nike Lebron XII BHMs.

POLICE

Who said that?

The crowd looks about and, of course, they can't see Calvin. They are suspiciously looking at each other looking for the rat.

The policeman writes this down in his pad.

POLICEMAN

(to his radio mic)

Suspect is a Black male, five foot  
eight or nine. Phoenix suns jersey.  
Black jeans, no belt. Blue and black,  
Nike Lebron XII

(beat)

BHMs?

The crowd chuckles.

SOMEONE IN THE CROWD

Black History Month, cracker!

The crowd laughs.

Calvin slowly moves away.

EXT. WATERFRONT PARK - DAWN

The city is empty. Calvin walks to the waterfront and we see the fog rolling in. As the fog reaches the bank, Calvin steps into it and disappears.

The fog begins to clear a bit and Calvin is in front of what looks like a government office building.

INT. MYSTERY BUILDING - DAWN

Calvin enters the building and inside he greets a security guard "RAPHAEL". There is a stairwell up and one down to a basement. In the basement there is light emerging - almost like there is a fire blazing. Steam seems to be rising from below. Calvin is reacting also the smell (sulphur) from below.

Calvin glances downstairs, hesitates out of curiosity and he finally takes the stairwell up into a processing area.

At the top of the stairs we see a sign "Processing". There are at least ten positions on a long counter. It looks much like a DMV office where people are registering their cars or renewing their driver's licenses.

CALVIN

(to himself)

I thought it was going to be something like a Jamaican vacation resort.

Two bureaucrats, hauling paperwork, overhear Calvin and chuckle.

There are instructions on various signs to take a number and wait. There is a crowded waiting area and the people all seem to be passing the time by watching television. The news is on television - 24/7 hurricanes, draughts, tornadoes, various murders, war stories.

At the head of each line is a different sign - Baha'ism, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shintoism, Sikhism, Animism. Under each sign is a bureaucrat appropriate (stereotype) - a Tibetan Buddhist, an Indian Hindu, an Arab Muslim, a Rabbi, a Russian Orthodox priest, a Sikh, a Chinese and an African witch doctor, etc.

The nameplate on the counter of the "Christian" bureaucrat reads "PETER".

Everyone is slowly working to process applications. Each bureaucrat has an old outdated computer there on the

counter and tons of paperwork. There is little or no progress. A few Hindi are reincarnated and frogs, dogs and rabbits leave out of an exit.

An application is approved and the person proceeds up another stairwell. This second floor is bright and newly painted. There are at least 20 dogs waiting at the top of the stairs for their masters. The newly approved person hugs his overly happy dog and they proceed out of sight.

Behind each bureaucrat are several desks and clerks, then an office with glass windows so a manager can oversee the work. Behind the Christian desks is a "manger" who does NOT resemble Michelangelo's God, but instead looks like Sheryl Crow. The Buddha is in an office. Mohamed is in an office. Vishnu is there pushing papers. Every god is our stereotyped image except the Christian god, which is a woman.

Calvin takes a number, "1,238,033" and the loudspeaker calls for the next applicant.

LOUD SPEAKER

83,492

Calvin understands he will be waiting for a long time. He sits. He walks around. He sits. Finally, he exits out the door he entered.

Raphael, the security guard, stops Calvin as he approaches the exit.

RAPHAEL

You are free to leave but I have to tell you something. There are only two reasons to remain on Earth. One, revenge but this is highly discouraged..

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - DAY

A ghost is haunting a judge.

CONVICT GHOST

I was executed for a crime I didn't commit.

The judge gives an uncomfortable/haunted look around his office. He looks down at papers on his desk. A law book falls off shelf and crashes onto the floor.

Return to...

INT. MYSTERY BUILDING - MORNING

RAPHAEL

And the other reform (and we are in a position to encourage this). If you have something important that remains undone, this falls under reform.

INT. PUBLISHER'S OFFICE - DAY

A manuscript floats in thin air and moves from the "rejected" stack into the "publish" stack.

WRITER GHOST

It took me five years to write this novel.

Return to...

INT. MYSTERY BUILDING - MORNING

RAPHAEL

You have something in mind that needs to be done?

Calvin contemplates.

CALVIN

Uh... Yes.

Calvin appears to be lying, but Raphael takes his word for it.

RAPHAEL

Well let me go over the rules, if you reveal your physical form to anyone there is a penalty; you will wonder the Earth for 20 years. This is a warning. If you do it a second time, no tolerance. You will have to roam for eternity.

(beat)

One caveat, some children (perhaps one in a million) can see you. Generally, it is the children who pay attention in school, but not always. This phenomenon doesn't apply toward the aforementioned sanctions.

Calvin stands waiting for more instructions. There is an odd moment.

RAPHAEL

Well that is it. Knock yourself out. Enjoy your ghostly powers, but don't reveal yourself unless it is an absolute emergency.

CALVIN

Thank you.

Raphael opens the door for Calvin and he walks back out into the fog. The fog dissipates and Calvin walks off the lake onto the land.

EXT. CHICAGO WATERFRONT PARK - MORNING

The waterfront park is no longer empty. Children are playing; people are exercising. Calvin is walking on the water out onto the bank, but people don't react; they can't see him.

EXT. CHICAGO SIDEWALKS - DAY

Calvin walks and ducks into whatever building desires. He relishes the forbidden zones where he was prohibited from in life.

INT. FEDERAL RESERVE BANK VAULT - DAY

It is a very cold place to work. There is security everywhere. And no one speaks to one another. He goes into the vault and looks at several billion dollars worth of new cash.

There is a stack of old (worn-out) \$100 bills waiting to be incinerated. Calvin causes the stack to fall to the floor. The floor is covered with bills. Calvin distracts the

security by causing a second stack of bill fall and he shorts out the security cameras. A worker pockets several of the bills.

Calvin chuckles and kneels over.

Calvin must concentrate to pick up one of the bills. He is improving his mind over mater ghost skills. He puts the \$100 in his pocket.

INT. THE CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE - DAY

Calvin goes onto the trading floor. A trader holds up one finger bidding on an auction. Calvin reaches up and changes his signal to two fingers. Sold! The trader just lost how much money? The trader makes a sour-face.

EXT. LINCOLN PARK ZOO - DAY

Calvin goes past a "Danger" sign into the tiger enclosure and eyes the normally ferocious and aggressive tiger from inches away; the tiger gets a strange look on his face and runs to the safety of his den.

INT. WILLIS TOWER - DAY

Calvin sees an attractive woman enter the ladies restroom. He takes a step in that direction and then stops himself.

EXT. WILLIS TOWER - DAY

Calvin looks down from roof. He steps off the ledge and free falls. CUT to the sidewalk. Calvin has landed unharmed, of course.

Time passes...

Calvin moves about the city aimlessly but having fun. The city is busy; everyone is having a great time. Couples are kissing. Kids are playing. Senior citizens are playing chess and golf. Businessmen are making money. Women are having babies.

Slowly as the montage develops Calvin begins to look depressed and lonely.

INT. CONGRESS PLAZA HOTEL - NIGHT

As the sun sets, Calvin makes his way to an empty hotel room. He lays in the bed and watches TV - Don Knott's The Ghost and Mr. Chicken (1966).

CUT TO ELEVATOR

Newlyweds have checked into the hotel and are making out in the elevator. Things are getting hot and heavy.

BRIDE  
I'm so glad we waited.

GROOM  
I love you!

BRIDE  
I love you too.

GROOM  
How long have we dated?

BRIDE  
Two years.

GROOM  
Well the waiting is over. Tonight we make love.

RETURN TO HOTEL ROOM

The movie is just finished - end credits roll. Calvin has drifted off to sleep. But the newlyweds enter the room and of course no one will be sleeping.

HOTEL STAFF  
Your honeymoon? Congratulations. So thank you for choosing the Congress Plaza.

GROOM  
I understand there is a lot of history in this place.

HOTEL STAFF  
Well, mostly people say the place is haunted.

GROOM  
Any truth to it.

HOTEL STAFF  
I can guarantee that the hotel is  
definitely not haunted.

GROOM  
Well, great. I don't think we will be  
doing much sleeping anyway.

He winks at his bride.

HOTEL STAFF  
Enjoy your stay.

The hotel worker turns off the television and leaves. The couple fly into each other, rapidly removing each other's clothes.

Calvin is grumpy and leaves (like a human) slamming the door behind him. The couple stops procreating when they hear the door slam. Short beat. The newlyweds continue.

Calvin enters (like a ghost) another room. It is empty but after a short time, Calvin understands that this room is haunted. It is a loud crowd. The ghosts keep him from sleeping.

Finally he gets up and leaves the hotel.

EXT. STREETS OF CHICAGO - NIGHT

Calvin walks about the city. Now he is chiefly focused on the homeless. He watches them. He encounters a shelter worker trying help the men. There is a group of homeless only yards from a shelter. The men refuse to enter.

SOCIAL WORKER  
Why don't you want to come in? A meal,  
a shower and a bed. It's not the Ritz  
but you won't be out here on the  
street.

HOMELESS #1

I hear a lot of terrible things about shelters, that shelters are dangerous places.

SOCIAL WORKER

You never been in a shelter?

HOMELESS #1

No.

SOCIAL WORKER

Then how do you know? You should come in tonight and see for yourself.

HOMELESS #1

Thank you but I respectfully decline.

HOMELESS #2

(high on dope)

They're full of drugs and drug dealers.

HOMELESS #3

(shoeless)

People will steal your shoes,

HOMELESS #4

(scratching his butt)

Bedbugs.

HOMELESS #5

(scratching his hair)

Lice.

JACOB is an apparently crazy person, who doesn't speak.

HOMELESS #6

This is my schizo friend Jacob. He has paranoia and the fear of large groups of people.

SOCIAL WORKER

That comes along with schizophrenia.

HOMELESS #6

That's the reason he doesn't go in.

SOCIAL WORKER

You know that for sure?

HOMELESS #6

The lady out here before you said that.

SOCIAL WORKER

Okay. But there are empty beds and you are all welcome.

The SHELTER ADMINISTRATOR works for the city but is far too affluent - gold watch, hair perfectly groomed and his is dressed in a \$1000 suit.

On the wall of his office are photos of him in front of his large house, him with his large boat and him with an expensive sports car. The audience should immediately think he is funnelling money out of the shelter into his own pockets. He sits in his office and apparently doesn't care about the homeless. Cast a cold heartless face.

The SHELTER WORKERS are there for a pay-check only. They are robotic. Homeless men come in emotionally traumatized, beaten or drunk, or with health issues and only the social worker seems to have her heart into it.

Calvin enters the shelter. He sits at a table in the mess hall. He looks at the meal the others are eating; it is less than appetizing. One of the chairs breaks (of old age) and the occupant falls into the floor injured. The workers ignore the situation. Only the social worker comes to help the man.

SOCIAL WORKER

The sometimes seems like a losing battle.

ADMINISTRATOR

I would like to do more. But the city just will not fund us at a higher level.

There is a library but the books are few and far between. There are board games, but NONE have complete game pieces. Chess and checkers are impossible. The shelter is clearly under funded.

There is table tennis but the paddles are broken. One player is playing with a 5/8<sup>th</sup> of a paddle and the other is playing with 3/4<sup>th</sup> of a paddle. The ping-pong ball flies over to a crazy person. He puts the only ping-pong ball in his pants, farts and then returns it to them. The game is over. Every one heads to the shower.

The showers are warm only for a few seconds and then it is cold water. They are only given one bar of soap for 50 men to use. By the time the last 10 shower, the soap is the size of a dime.

A homeless man sticks his head out the shower door.

HOMELESS

Hey man. The soap is gone.

WORKER

We don't have money to waste on you jokers.

HOMELESS

I don't want any money; I just want some soap.

WORKER

You don't need any more soap. Stand there in the water. You will get clean... eventually.

HOMELESS

It's freezing.

WORKER

That will teach you to get your ass in here on time won't it then?

Calvin finds an empty bunk. Some homeless men sing a song. It gets quiet quickly. Calvin sleeps great.

But in the AM, before light, one of the workers comes through the sleeping area with two pans - clanking them together. The homeless men grumble...

SHELTER WORKER

Rise and shine. Up and out!

HOMELESS #7

Why you have to get us up this early?

SHELTER WORKER

Uh, cause we can.

HOMELESS #7

Man. Most people don't get up this early.

SHELTER WORKER

No sir. You aren't going to sleep in here all day.

The men grumble.

SHELTER WORKER

Up and out!

HOMELESS #7

Man it is 6:30 AM.

HOMELESS #8

You can't let us sleep until 8:00?

SHELTER WORKER

No. It will make you even more lazy than you already are.

Calvin lifts his head watched and but then returns to sleep. The staff can't see him to eject him.

Calvin spends more time wondering about Chicago - Shedd Aquarium, Skydeck, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, 360 Chicago, Hop On Hop Off Bus Tour, Navy Pier Museums. Calvin goes on a river cruise. But in the end Calvin is depressed and lonely.

Calvin is about to give up and enter the fog bank again and wait in line for processing. He is about to step into the lake and fog when he hears the crack of a bat. It is baseball. He hears young boys yelling.

Calvin arrives at the youth field baseball just as a big kid is rounding the bases. It has been an inside the park homerun. Calvin likes seeing the celebration and it might save him from leaving.

ADONIS, a young and small kid, picks up a bat and approaches the plate. The entire group objects, BOTH teams.

MEAN BOY

No. No. No.

MEAN BOY #2

You aren't playing.

ADONIS

Why?

MEAN BOY

First, you don't know how to play.

ADONIS

I do know how, better than you!

MEAN BOY

Second, you are too small.

ADONIS

Throw that ball up here and I will send it flying. Small, my ass!

The boys all approach Adonis. It looks like they are going to beat him up if he persists.

The biggest bully is about to smack Adonis, but a bird is flying directly overhead. Calvin uses his ghost powers to "goose" the bird. The bird shit and it lands on the bully's shoulder.

They don't hurt Adonis but they do take the bat away from him and continue to play.

Adonis runs away and pouts. He stands at the backstop watching the game, tears running down his face.

ADONIS

Those guys suck!

(half beat)

I know how to play.

(half beat)

And, I'm not small. I'm just not as old as they are.

CALVIN  
You are right.

ADONIS  
See, I've been telling them to let me  
play.  
(half beat)  
I ought to take that bat and use it on  
them.

CALVIN  
I don't know if that would make them  
want to let you play.

ADONIS  
How do you know?

Adonis looks directly at Calvin.

CALVIN  
Might make things worse.  
(half beat)  
Wait. You can see me?

ADONIS  
Yeah, of course.

CALVIN  
Most people can't see me.

ADONIS  
What are you invisible?

CALVIN  
Something like that.

ADONIS  
No, you aren't.

CALVIN  
Can your friends see me?

ADONIS  
They aren't my friends.

CALVIN

Okay. Watch.

Calvin walks to the field and stands directly over the plate. The ball is pitched and the batter swings. The ball and the bat pass completely through Calvin's body.

CALVIN

STRIKE ONE!

The baseball players hear the phrase; they look left and right. One looks up in the air.

Calvin returns to the backstop.

ADONIS

So, you are a ghost or some sort of aberration?

CALVIN

Some young people can see me, but most people can't. You can see me apparently.

CALVIN

They said kids who pay attention in school might see me.

ADONIS

I do pay attention.

CALVIN

Good. Good nice to know someone is on task.

ADONIS

So being a ghost, how exactly does that work?

CALVIN

Sort of learning myself.

ADONIS

So, why are you here?

Calvin is flustered by the question. Clearly he doesn't have a reason.

ADONIS

No reason?

(beat)

I don't care. It's okay with me. None  
of my business.

Adonis is amazed and looks closely and ponders Calvin's  
ghostly powers.

CALVIN

How old are you?

ADONIS

Ten...

(beat)

In two weeks.

CALVIN

Most of those guys are what? Twelve or  
thirteen?

ADONIS

I don't know. Probably.

CALVIN

The guy on the mound he must be 15 or  
16.

ADONIS

Yeah, he's old.

CALVIN

Can you really hit?

ADONIS

I've hit it before. Not here but at  
another field.

Adonis might be lying - it seems improbable.

CALVIN

Okay, here is a \$100 I picked up. It's  
not new but I think it will spend okay.

Calvin pulls out the money. He gives it to Adonis.

CALVIN

Go out there and tell them to let you hit. If you hit it, they have to let you play.

ADONIS

They won't even let me do that.

CALVIN

That is what the \$100 is for. If you strike out, they get the money.

ADONIS

Oh, I like that idea.

CALVIN

The question is will they like that idea.

ADONIS

They're all poor like me. They will want this money.

Adonis runs half-way out on the field but runs back to ask a question.

ADONIS

But are you sure you don't need the money?

CALVIN

You don't know if you can hit, do you?

Adonis shrugs "maybe".

CALVIN

Go. Knock the crap out of it.

Adonis walks out on the field.

ADONIS

Okay you lame-ass pricks. Listen up, here is the deal.

Calvin's POV, they make the deal. Adonis places the \$100 under a rock and stands at the batters box.

The pitcher is much older and throws very hard. Adonis will probably not get the oversized bat off his shoulder.

The pitcher throws two pitches and Adonis swings at both. The pitcher has a confident look on his face.

Calvin walks out between the mound and the plate and stands. Adonis is ready for the third pitch. The pitcher delivers the ball, but as it passes through Calvin's hand, Calvin concentrates. The ball slows as it passes through his hand - a ghostly power.

Adonis connects with the ball and it sails high into right field. Calvin gives the ball just a little push flicking a finger and it sails over fence.

ADONIS

Homerun!

Adonis celebrates and rounds the bases.

Adonis picks up the \$100 bill pockets it and is allowed to play.

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - DAY

Adonis is invited to the ice cream parlor after the game, a tradition. Adonis enjoys his ice cream and camaraderie he has been missing. Calvin sits unseen by the boys in a corner booth. Calvin is reading the newspaper - crime and corruption in Chicago city government. Adonis looks over at him often. Maybe Calvin is the male role model that he has been needing.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Adonis takes the \$100 out and hands it to Calvin. Calvin refuses.

CALVIN

That is okay. You keep it.

ADONIS

Really, thanks.

CALVIN

What is your favorite class in school?

ADONIS

Math.

CALVIN

A smart boy like you can make a lot of money.

ADONIS

You want to know what I'm really really good at?

CALVIN

What?

ADONIS

Counting money.

CALVIN

Well, that is math.

ADONIS

You wanna see?

CALVIN

Sure.

They enter a bank.

INT. BANK - DAY

Adonis puts the \$100 on the counter.

ADONIS

I need a fifty, a twenty, a ten, a five, three ones, four quarters, ten dimes, ten nickels and fifty pennies.

(half beat)

You know what the problem with this town is?

CALVIN

What?

ADONIS

People don't know the value of money.

CALVIN  
How old are you?

ADONIS  
Ten.

CALVIN  
How do you know this?

ADONIS  
I'm not blind I can see.

The cashier counts out the bills... and places the coins in stacks on the counter.

ADONIS  
You are a dime short.

The cashier counts them again and Adonis is right; there were only nine dimes in the stack.

Adonis takes the money and proudly exits the bank. They go out on a bench and Adonis counts the money again.

Some juvenile criminals are approaching and Adonis doesn't put the coins out of sight fast enough. They take the change and Adonis resists. They push him and give Adonis a dangerous look.

Calvin sits on the bench shocked.

CALVIN  
They took your change.

ADONIS  
So.

CALVIN  
They took your money.

ADONIS  
You know what is wrong with you? You have the street sense of a child.

CALVIN  
How is that?

ADONIS

It's not worth getting shot or stabbed  
over a bunch of coins.

CALVIN

Well, of course.

ADONIS

I still have the bills.

(half beat)

Losing the coins, it's just part of  
doing business in Chicago.

CALVIN

No, you are right.

ADONIS

The thug tax.

CALVIN

I understand.

ADONIS

Good. You stick with me out here and  
you will be fine.

CALVIN

But we can have some fun?

ADONIS

Fun?

(half beat)

Yeah?

CALVIN

I'm a ghost and they took your money?  
It will be dark in an hour.

ADONIS

I know where they hang out.

CALVIN

Really, that is very interesting.

(half beat)

Say don't you have to go home?

ADONIS

We can go to my house for a while. My Mom will be there. She will be home changing clothes. She has two jobs.

CALVIN

Two jobs?

ADONIS

What is wrong with that?

CALVIN

She's a single mom?

ADONIS

Isn't every mom single? I know this kid that said there was a kid with a father over at the next school.

CALVIN

Most of moms are single, yes.

INT. ADONIS' APARTMENT - EVENING

Adonis enters the home and gets into the refrigerator. It is a low-income apartment but the refrigerator is well stocked - fruit and vegetables. Meat. Milk and orange juice.

Adonis takes a plate of prepared food to the microwave. There is milk and grapes. It is actually a good or great meal. Adonis and Calvin sit at the kitchen table. Adonis is eating.

Adonis' mother, JOYCE, has been in the shower. When she comes out into the kitchen her hair is half wet and she is in a towel.

JOYCE

Hello baby. How was your day?

(half beat)

Did you find the grapes? I see you did.

She kisses Adonis on the forehead.

ADONIS

Mom, you are getting me wet.

JOYCE

Your mother loves you and wants you to  
be safe. But I have to run to work.

The mother exits the kitchen down the hall.

ADONIS

I made a friend and played baseball.

JOYCE

Oh, that is wonderful baby.

She disappears in the bedroom.

CALVIN

Your mother loves you and she works  
hard.

ADONIS

I know.

CALVIN

Most people don't work that hard.

ADONIS

I know.

Adonis's mother has finished dressing and rushes out of the  
apartment.

JOYCE

Bye baby. Love you.

ADONIS

Love you too mom!

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NIGHT

In front of the dilapidated building is a huge election  
sign "Re-Elect Mayor Carothers."

Adonis and Calvin sneak into the thug's hid out. They have  
bought some meth and are wired, up on the third floor.  
Calvin makes a few ghostly noises. Adonis makes some noises  
just by walking on the creaking floorboards. The losers are  
frightened, but they don't offer any real action.

Calvin leaves his hiding place, and ventures right into the midst of them. He rattles and shakes the drug paraphernalia they have there. Adonis ventures nearer but is still out of sight. Calvin pokes one thug and he thinks the other thug did it. They push and poke each other. Soon they are arguing and wrestling with each other.

Calvin makes a tornado of syringes with needles then suddenly they fly out of the vortex and stick in the thugs. They pull the needle out of their arms, backs and asses. They are clearly frightened but not panicked.

CALVIN  
(ghost voice)  
Return the stolen money.

THUG LEADER  
Listen!  
(beat)  
You hear that?

CALVIN  
(ghost voice)  
Return the stolen money.

YOUNG THUG  
Sounds like a ghost. Shit I need to  
leave.

THUG LEADER  
Who is it?  
(beat)  
Who's there?

ADONIS  
(in a kids voice)  
You mother fucker are gonna give me  
back my money or I'm gonna cut your  
nuts off.

This was the wrong thing to do. The thugs know it's not a ghost. They all pull weapons and start spraying the room. The entire floor is being sprayed with bullets.

Adonis is in the next room but bullets are flying though the walls. Calvin punches the thug leader in the face and

runs for Adonis. Bullets are flying all around Adonis who is trying to make himself as small as possible.

Bullets are flying through Calvin and the bullets are dropping like spent bullets. Those that don't go through Calvin fly through walls and don't stop until they hit bricks or fly out the windows.

Adonis is about to be killed. The thugs are not only shooting up the place, they are advancing and soon they will discover Adonis, if he isn't shot and killed first.

Calvin runs and scoops his friend up and then jumps out the window. To the thugs, it looks like the boy has Batman or Superman powers. In reality, Calvin has saved his life.

Three stories down. Calvin lands on the top of a car, his ghost body passes through the car to the ground. Adonis' human body is held by Calvin and only slightly dents the roof of the car. Just enough to set off the car alarm.

Adonis and Calvin escape down the street.

INT. ADONIS' APARTMENT - EARLY MORNING

Adonis is sitting at his table again with a ton of food in front of him. Calvin looks very frightened and clearly he feels guilty. Calvin contemplates his recklessness.

Calvin rubs his temples. Calvin is punishing himself with guilt and regret.

CALVIN

I can't believe I let we did that.

(beat)

I'm supposed to be an adult.

ADONIS

You aren't an adult.

CALVIN

Huh?

ADONIS

You are a ghost.

CALVIN

What does that matter?

ADONIS

You are a ghost. Duh. You guys are always getting into trouble.

CALVIN

Well, I think we learned our lesson?

ADONIS

Let's do it again, tonight.

CALVIN

No, no. Absolutely not.

ADONIS

It was fun.

Calvin gives Adonis a stern/serious look.

ADONIS

Please?

CALVIN

No. Your mom will kill me if something happens to you.

ADONIS

You are already dead. Nothing can happen to you.

CALVIN

That's not the point. Something CAN happen to you.

ADONIS

If it happens, it happens.

CALVIN

You're a bit jaded for a 10 year old, aren't you?

ADONIS

Chiraq, man!

CALVIN  
Amazin'.

ADONIS  
What?

CALVIN  
Kids are supposed to grow in a safe and secure neighbourhoods. No needles. No weapons. No discarded condoms in their play area.

ADONIS  
But these kids they are supposed to grow up?

CALVIN  
You want to get shot and become a ghost?

ADONIS  
No. I'm okay as I am, alive.  
(beat)  
In a minute, I'll show you my play area. It's not as bad as white people say.

Joyce has dressed and is ready to leave the apartment.

ADONIS  
I think I'm going to tell my mom about you.

CALVIN  
No. That's not a good..

ADONIS  
(to Calvin)  
We don't have any secrets, me and my mom. She believes in god. Why would she be afraid of you? You are a ghost; what is the big deal?  
(to mother)  
Mom, I met a ghost. We've been hanging out.

ADONIS

Oh, my god. A gang banger, baby NO!

Joyce checks to see if his eyes are dilated. She makes him stick out his tongue, searching for drugs. She is doing everything the experts suggest suspecting parents to do.

JOYCE

Do you have anything on you?

Joyce checks her son's pockets. She takes his shoes off and searches them. Nothing is found.

JOYCE

Those gang members are just gonna lead you astray, you stay away from them.

ADONIS

He's not in a gang.

CALVIN

Madam.

ADONIS

He is sitting right here.

CALVIN

You have a good boy and he is a REAL baseball player.

Joyce's eyes are about to bug out.

CALVIN

(to Adonis)

What is your mother's name?

ADONIS

Joyce.

CALVIN

Joyce. Your son is okay.

Joyce crosses herself and says about six prayers.

JOYCE

Are you still here?

CALVIN

Yes.

JOYCE

Please leave my baby alone. He is all that I have, my pride and joy. I'm not on any welfare, not even food stamps. I work hard for us and we have a nice life. Don't interfere in that. I'm begging you.

ADONIS

Ma, he is a good ghost.

JOYCE

Brown, Black or white?

ADONIS

Black.

Mother is speechless.

JOYCE

Promise me son. You will stay away from him. Promise.

ADONIS

Okay. I promise.

She is about to get money from a container in the kitchen cabinet, but she thinks twice before opening the container in front of a ghost. She takes it down and into the bathroom. In a second, she returns the container to the cabinet.

JOYCE

I love you.

ADONIS

Love you too mom.

JOYCE

And tell your new friend you can't hang out together anymore.

ADONIS

Okay.

She kisses her son and leaves the apartment.

ADONIS

Oh, that reminds me.

Adonis gets up and puts his cash money (\$97) in his mom's hiding place.

ADONIS

Rule #1. Never carry anything.

(half beat)

If they find out you are carrying, just once, it is over for you.

CALVIN

Sad.

ADONIS

Be for real.

EXT. ADONIS'S NEIGHBOURHOOD - DAY

They walk two blocks and in the middle of the day there is a war zone. Abject poverty. Drug addiction. Prostitution. Abandoned buildings. There is a police chase and when they catch the guy, police brutality. They walk through the area and Adonis isn't overly concerned. Calvin is frightened.

ADONIS

See, it's just not that bad.

(half beat)

Nothing happened to you.

CALVIN

Luckily.

ADONIS

Where did you live, when you lived?

CALVIN

Over in Old Town.

ADONIS

Well that explains a lot.

(heat)  
Here the roofs leak, the tires leak and  
if you have to leak there aren't any  
public bathrooms.

CALVIN  
No grocery stores.

ADONIS  
You know how far someone has to go to  
see a film in a theatre?

Calvin looks around at the devastation.

ADONIS  
Not that it matters; who can buy a  
movie ticket? Nobody has a job. My mom  
is the only person in five blocks with  
a job. The only person in twenty blocks  
with two jobs.

CALVIN  
How do you know about jobs?

ADONIS  
I know there aren't any.

Sure enough, the streets are littered with unemployed  
people just standing around.

A police car drives by cautiously - far too slow and  
weaving. Calvin looks at the pavement, which is seriously  
pockmarked with pot-holes.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Adonis and Calvin sit in a park, bored.

ADONIS  
You want to make some money?

CALVIN  
It depends.

ADONIS  
Well see that building.

Adonis points to a building whose construction is half complete.

ADONIS

There is a new owner. I had a meeting with him a week ago. Construction was stopped.

CALVIN

There is a ghost?

ADONIS

I spoke to the owner and then I went to see the ghost.

CALVIN

You can see him too.

ADONIS

But he isn't friendly at all.

(half beat)

It seems he is upset and wants revenge.

CALVIN

What happened?

ADONIS

It seems that the original owner skimped on safety equipment and there was an accident.

CALVIN

A fatal accident?

ADONIS

Well it is a little more complicated than that.

(half beat)

He was killed because they found out he was an OSHA safety whistleblower.

CALVIN

How do you know about OSHA?

ADONIS

I just do.

CALVIN

And now the ghost will not leave the building?

ADONIS

The new owner will pay me \$10,000 if I can get him to leave.

CALVIN

\$10,000!

ADONIS

Will you come with me and talk to him?

(half beat)

The new owner is innocent and a nice guy.

(half beat)

The old owner a mafia type, friends of the mayor, that lives out on the North Shore is responsible.

INT. HIGH RISE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION - DAY

Calvin and Adonis take the construction elevator, which makes all sorts of mournful noises going up.

Adonis is very afraid and begins to pray.

CALVIN

I thought you were not afraid of ghosts.

ADONIS

This is a very angry ghost. He is nothing like you.

When they exit on the top floor, things (tools, bricks, pipes, drywall, sacks of plaster, lumber) go flying.

Calvin use his ghostly powers to knock down many of the objects. Otherwise they would have struck Adonis.

CALVIN

Hang on.

ADONIS

I brought a friend. Also a ghost. He is very good at solving problems.

I'm here.

Things stop flying.

ADONIS

He is almost as good at solving problems as you are at causing them.

A construction ghost appears.

ADONIS

Maybe if you would just listen to him?

CONSTRUCTION GHOST

What do you what?

CALVIN

I want to help this kid and you also.  
(half beat)  
The man who owned this building and hurt you.

CONSTRUCTION GHOST

Killed me.

CALVIN

Yes, he doesn't own this project and the workers need to return to work. There is a new owner.

CONSTRUCTION GHOST

I wasn't aware.

CALVIN

I can take you to the man you want.

CONSTRUCTION GHOST

Really?

INT. TAXI - DAY

A taxi brings the construction ghost, Adonis and Calvin, to a location north of Chicago.

CALVIN

So your family was affected harshly?

CONSTRUCTION GHOST

My family has been destroyed.

(half beat)

It's those insurance guys. They have corrupt city officials helping them hold up payment.

(half beat)

They still haven't given my family the money. Go and see what condition my wife and children are in.

(half beat)

The coroner's office will not issue my wife a death certificate unless we pay money. My wife doesn't have that.

CALVIN

What if I can do something to help your family?

CONSTRUCTION GHOST

Oh, that would be wonderful. What can I do in return?

CALVIN

You just did.

Calvin nods that they have arrived at the mansion.

In front of the mansion, on the fence, is a huge election sign "Re-Elect Mayor Carothers."

INT. NORTH SHORE MANSION - DAY

It looks like a mafia mansion. There is a fence and armed Italian looking guards out front. A few other armed Italians are seen at the side. The construction ghost exits the taxi and walks "through" the gate toward the house.

INT. TAXI - DAY

CALVIN  
That went well.

ADONIS  
We should go into business together.

CALVIN  
Really, what kind.

The taxi's radio carries ominous news.

RADIO  
Mayor Caruthers announced today the closures of all 12 charter schools. The mayor pointed out that the expense of the schools made their operation no longer possible.

ADONIS  
What! No.

CALVIN  
What is it? That was your school listed to be closed.

ADONIS  
No! I mean yes.

CALVIN  
What is wrong with competition among schools? The bad schools will go under if they allow competition and then what will the labor unions do if they can't protect the teacher's jobs.

ADONIS  
I don't know but I'm angry and I smell a rat.

CALVIN  
We need a new mayor, that is for certain.

ADONIS  
I've been thinking about entering politics when I get old enough.

CALVIN

Really?

ADONIS

My teacher said this is a dirty corrupt town.

CALVIN

Let's go see the coroner.

INT. CITY HALL - DAY

In the elevator up..

ADONIS

Simple, just pay the bribe and we get the death certificate.

CALVIN

Not that simple, that will help the family of the construction worker get their money. But what about the next family? Paying the bribe, it will make harder on the next family.

ADONIS

I don't get it.

CALVIN

Look, a politician does a bad thing because they don't fear the good. This is a very important lesson.

(half beat)

It is justice. A good person must be sometimes frightened the bad. The politician must be frightened something bad will happen to him and then he will think twice before stealing from widows.

ADONIS

Don't you think I'm too young to scare anyone?

CALVIN

No, you stood in that batter's box and the pitcher was a 15 or 16 and you hit

a homerun. You are plenty old enough to  
frighten a Chicago government official.

(half beat)

I will help you.

INT. CORONERS OFFICE - DAY

The CORONER is a particularly lazy looking man. Adonis and Calvin sit in his office. The coroner doesn't take Adonis seriously.

ADONIS

My friend a construction worker who was  
killed in a work place "accident", you  
haven't issued his death certificate.

CORONER

What?

(half beat)

You are how old?

ADONIS

Enough to take you and your corrupt  
friends down.

(half beat)

His wife can't claim the life insurance  
until you do your work.

ADONIS

I'm well aware of how it works.

CORONER

Such an investigation and autopsy will  
take some time.

ADONIS

The autopsy has been done and it has  
been two years since the accident or  
murder however you want to call it.

(half beat)

How much time do you need?

CORONER

Another 20 years, what will you do kid?

ADONIS

You will never sleep in those 20 years.

CORONER

I sleep perfectly well, thank you.

Calvin points to the phone and the phone rings. But no one is on the line.

Calvin and Adonis leave.

INT. CORONER'S HOME - NIGHT

In the bedroom, the coroner sleeps. But the bedcovers levitate off him and he is chilled and wakes. The phone rings but no one is on the line. The alarm clock rings. The home security alarm sounds. Pictures fly off the wall and around the room. The stereo blasts and the coroner can't sleep.

The man's dog enters the bedroom and begins to talk to him.

DOG

What will happen to me?

CORONER

What?

DOG

What will happen to me, if you go to jail?

CORONER

I'm not going to jail.

DOG

You might. You take bribes from the insurance companies to hold up payments. And you then take money from widows to produce the certificate.

(half beat)

I'm worried. The life of a dog on the street is hell. And I don't think it will be much better for in you prison.

The dog leaves the room.

The coroner goes into the bathroom to escape the disruptions, but the door slams shut and he can't get back

to the bed. He tries to sleep in the bathtub but can't get comfortable.

INT. CORONERS OFFICE - NEXT DAY

The coroner is trying to sleep at his desk. The phone keeps ringing. Calvin takes a peacock feather and tickles his ear every time he closes his eyes.

When he awakes, Adonis is there with a big smile to greet him. Finally, he signs the death certificate.

ADONIS

I don't want to have to come up here again. Understand?

The coroner signals that he understands.

ADONIS

Sleep well.

EXT. CHICAGO PUBLIC HOUSING - DAY

Calvin and Adonis bring the widow of the construction worker the death certificate. She hugs Adonis.

Later, the construction worker's family gets a check in the mail. The widow is elated and we see them moving out and into a nicer suburban situation. Better schools.

INT. DRUG DEALERS HOME - DAY

Calvin and Adonis follow a drug dealer back to the home of his boss. There is a great deal of security, but Calvin works right in and they take down a drug dealer.

Calvin frightens the dealer and he leaves. Adonis walks right in and liberates a few stacks of cash. He throws the dope into the fireplace.

INT. CHICAGO RETAIL - DAY

Adonis buys a cell phone, a lap-top computer; Adonis teaches Calvin. Calvin teaches Adonis how to buy a business suit and helps pick out some dress shoes. Adonis had been transformed into a 10-year-old Madison Street banker.

The rest of the drug money goes to the homeless shelter.

Adonis is smart enough to keep the donation out of the hands of the administrator. The money goes to the social worker. She buys chess and checker sets, new ping-pong paddles, other sports equipment. We see the exterminators killing the bed bugs. A doctor visits and examines the homeless. A meat delivery truck is parked at the loading dock and we see their meals are significantly improved.

The homeless men, who earlier refused to go inside the shelter, relent and get help.

EXT. CHICAGO PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Adonis and Calvin overhear a dispute. A pizza parlor manager/owner is in an argument with the water department.

OWNER

There isn't any leak.

WATER DEPARTMENT

We had to turn off your water to repair the line.

OWNER

Nothing is wrong with the line.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Sir, if you want the repair work done you are going to have to cooperate.

OWNER

By cooperate you mean pay you money.

The water department worker wants a bribe to repair the "leak" in a day.

WATER DEPARTMENT

That certainly will expedite things, if you know what I mean. Otherwise the water will be off for a month while repairs are made.

OWNER

You work for the city. The water line out in the street that is your responsibility. I'm not paying you.

WATER DEPARTMENT

Repairs might take a month or more.

OWNER

I can't do without water for a month. I have a business to operate.

WATER DEPARTMENT

You won't have a business to operate if you don't pay the money.

Adonis and Calvin solve the pizza parlor's problem.

Everywhere the water department official goes for the day the water lines break. At city hall, he washes his hands and a broken water line soaks his crotch. It appears he pissed himself.

He is on a date with his mistress and he does into a bathroom the same things again.

He is home with his wife and kids and a water line soaks him.

KIDS

Look, daddy pissed himself.

His kids laugh at him.

INT. STREET - DAY

Adonis and Calvin come across a TRUCK DRIVER broke down in the middle of a street. The suspension is broken and the driver doesn't have the money for repairs. The driver is distraught.

A city street repair crew drives past. Calvin gives them engine trouble and they coast to a stop.

ADONIS

Wait. There are potholes all along this street. And you are driving past?

STREET DEPARTMENT

We are all out of asphalt.

ADONIS

Were did you deliver it?

STREET DEPARTMENT

Out by the North Shore, the street in front of the mayor's house. Our boss, the streets commissioner, lives next door to the mayor. Important to keep them happy. We need our jobs.

The street repair crew are able to start their vehicle.

CALVIN

Did you ever suspect that the mayor and the streets commissioner are embezzling the money meant to fix the potholes in the other neighborhoods?

ALVIN

That has occurred to me.

INT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

Calvin breaks into the financial record department and photocopies all the accounting books for the streets.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

Adonis and Calvin have established something of an office or headquarters at the pizza place. It is nothing more than a table with a cell phone, lap-top and a small filing box. Adonis is very organized.

They sit at a table with pizza, sodas and pages from accounting books. Adonis punches all the numbers into his laptop. The display reads, "Missing Funds, \$13,032,202.34."

CALVIN

Thirteen million dollars?

ADONIS

That is how much money is missing.

CALVIN

Let's go.

Adonis signals to the pizza place owner to watch his things - lap-top and papers - as they leave.

INT. NORTH SHORE - DAY

The city streets commissioner lives in a huge house in a neighborhood with perfect streets. Perfect trees and trophy wives. Calvin uses his ghostly powers puts potholes through the neighborhood. The streets look like a war zone.

Time passes...

INT. NORTH SHORE - MORNING

There is a traffic jam in this elite neighborhood. The street is in such bad condition that the cities most important people can't get to their offices.

The wealthy people are mad, confrontational and violent with the roads commissioner. He is punched in the face by a wealthy neighbor when the neighbor can't get to town.

EXT. AUTO FACTORY - DAY

An auto factory is being closed by an over-zealous city health department regulating COMMISSIONER. There is a press conference in front of the factory.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Gasoline engines are an unnecessary health risk. And as a sign of solidarity with the environmental movement, today we are announcing that Chicago will be the first city to ban the production of these dangerous gasoline engines.

The health department secures a "factory closure notice" on the automobile plant gate.

The workers are standing around out front of the closed factory.

The auto corporation spokesperson then speaks.

SPOKESPERSON

Of course we would rather keep the factory in Chicago, but will move the factory to Mexico if we must.

Calvin saves the factory from the regulators.

The city health commissioner drives an electric car that shocks the piss out of him for a prolonged period. The fire department must come unhook the car battery so the EMTs can get to the man.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

REPORTER

How will you be getting to work when your electric car is in the shop?

The health commissioner still has tremors and we can see the effect of the electrocution.

HEALTH COMMISSIONER

I ppplllan on ridding my biccccycccle.

REPORTER

Have you reconsidered your closure of the auto factory?

HEALTH COMMISSIONER

Absoluuutely noot. Whattt haaapened to me waas a freak accident.

EXT. STREET - DAY

We see the health commissioner riding his bike, but he has a tremor and something like a seizure. He veers off to one side and into the side of a city bus.

INT. CITY BUS - DAY

In a neck brace, the health commissioner rides public transportation to work.

Time passes and auto the factory reopens. People return to work.

Montage - Calvin and Adonis visit almost every city office as advocates for various people. Animal Care & Control, Centers for Youth & Families, Employment Commission, Housing Authority, Public Library, Water & Sewer Commission, Consumer Affairs and Licensing, Disabilities Commission, Elderly Commission, Fire, Police, Parks & Recreation, Schools, Transportation Department.

INT. OFFICE OF THE MAYOR - DAY

Calvin and Adonis go to see the mayor about the school closures. Adonis has a list of arguments to make..

The mayor calls security but Calvin occupies them by tickling them. They can't stop laughing and they never make it to the mayor's office.

ADONIS

Charter schools are often more innovative than traditional public schools, and they offer students many benefits over traditional public schools.

(half beat)

These schools typically have much smaller class sizes than regular public schools. This gives the child more one-on-one time with teachers.

(half beat)

The public financing charter schools receive is great because it means that many children whose families cannot afford private schools still get to send their children to excellent schools.

(half beat)

Charter schools have more flexibility when it comes to how they spend the resources that they receive from funding. Regular public schools are often forced to divert their resources away from the most important aspects of education due to strict regulations.

(half beat)  
Many charter schools are targeted toward students who have special interests, such as business. This is what I'm interested in and I want to learn about this. My school focuses on business and we study it a lot.

MAYOR  
I'm sorry. We just don't have enough money for these school

ADONIS  
So please help me understand.  
(half beat)  
The money you are not spending on my charter school, you will be spending this on the my new school?

MAYOR  
No, not exactly.

ADONIS  
What do you mean?

MAYOR  
Well, it's complicated. You are what, 10 or 11 years old?

ADONIS  
Yes.

MAYOR  
Well, like I said it's complicated. When you get older you will understand.

ADONIS  
When I get older you will be out of office having enriched yourself.

MAYOR  
Perhaps.

ADONIS  
So you will not be spending the money from the charter schools you are closing on other schools?

MAYOR  
That is correct.

ADONIS  
And all the arguments for keeping the  
schools open, they don't matter to you.

MAYOR  
Not really. No.

ADONIS  
Okay, thank you. That is all I wanted  
to know. I'm going to look for a  
candidate to run against you in the  
election.

MAYOR  
Fine. The people are sleeping.

ADONIS  
I will get this put in the newspaper.

MAYOR  
Fine. The people can't or don't read  
anymore.

ADONIS  
What you are doing is wrong.

MAYOR  
I've heard that one before.

EXT. PARK - DAY

ADONIS  
I'm not a very persuasive person.

CALVIN  
I think you are.  
(half beat)  
But it takes two people to be  
persuaded. The speaker and the  
listener. He wasn't listening.

ADONIS

He has dollar bills stuffed in his ears.

CALVIN

I'm sorry about your school.

ADONIS

I don't know what to do.

CALVIN

Maybe all you need to do is change tactics. Become a bit more aggressive.

EXT. CITY HALL- DAY

The Mayor is posing for his official campaign photo.

PHOTOGRAPHER

The photo will be used on your campaign poster. Smile.

An aide to the mayor interrupts and whispers in the mayor's ear. The smile disappears. The mayor holds up his hand.

MAYOR

One second, please.

The mayor walks to the window. Children from the charter school stage a huge protest. It is peaceful.

The mayor whispers something to the aide.

The students are tear-gassed. It is chaos and the protest disburses.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mr. Mayor, excuse me did you just have the best and brightest of the city schools tear-gassed?

MAYOR

The Constitution says you can protest so long as it is peaceful. Then the students became violent, they lost their first amendment rights.

PHOTOGRAPHER

That's not right.

MAYOR

They are lucky the election is right around the corner. There would be more than just tears shed.

We see money is paid to TV reporters to report the students were violent.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

ADONIS

He tear-gassed my friends and you didn't do anything.

CALVIN

It was unfortunate. But he doesn't fear anything but power. And he only respects losing power.

ADONIS

He can't be made afraid. He is a maniac.

CALVIN

He has won elections easily?

ADONIS

Two opponents were shot and one simply suddenly became ill.

CALVIN

Why don't we find a good candidate to defeat him?

ADONIS

They did and two of them were shot. And another time they took a payoff.

CALVIN

That was the past. There must be someone, a good man, who can face him now.

ADONIS

Why don't you?

(beat)

You are a good man.

(beat)

And no one can shot you.

(beat)

What do you think of this idea?

CALVIN

It's not a good idea.

Because it wasn't your idea?

CALVIN

Don't be like a kid.

ADONIS

I am a kid.

CALVIN

A dead person can't run for election.

ADONIS

This is Chicago.

CALVIN

Still...

ADONIS

If a person can vote dead, then they  
can run for office dead also.

CALVIN

There is a rule that prohibits it.

ADONIS

There is a rule opponents of the mayor  
can't be shot also.

CALVIN

What a strange rule I've never heard of  
it.

ADONIS

It will be very difficult to find a  
good person that can't be killed.

CALVIN  
This is what we call democracy.

ADONIS  
It's wrong.

EXT. PARK - DAY

ADONIS  
Please enter the election.

CALVIN  
I told you a dead person can't run be a  
candidate for mayor.

ADONIS  
I know a failed lawyer who will  
complete all the necessary forms. Let's  
check it out.

CALVIN  
It won't cost anything to ask.

ADONIS  
Come on.

Beat.

CALVIN  
Let's go.

EXT. PRINT SHOP - DAY

The LAWYER doesn't practice anymore. He is a printer. He is  
working on an off-set press that doesn't work. The engine  
is seized or something similar.

CALVIN  
He is a lawyer?

ADONIS  
He was too nice to be successful.

CALVIN  
Faint-hearted?

ADONIS

I hope not.

INT. PRINT SHOP OFFICE - DAY

LAWYER

You say there is a ghost in my office?

ADONIS

Yes.

LAWYER

There are not ghosts. You don't tell  
the truth, why should I.

Calvin uses his ghost powers to run the broken printer.  
In fact, all the printers run for 5 seconds. Then they  
magically stop.

LAWYER

Who is he?

CALVIN

My name is Calvin Palmer.

LAWYER

And you want to be elected?

(half beat)

Republican or Democrat?

CALVIN

Neither. Independent.

LAWYER

I'm absolutely fine with that.

(half beat)

How can I help you?

I need legal advice and for you to  
complete the necessary papers.

LAWYER

I understand. This is an old Chicago  
problem. A person's life comes to an  
end but his political participation  
continues.

ADONIS

Don't drag this out like a court case.  
Just get the job done.

LAWYER

Okay. I can do that. I'm a full  
believer that there must be a change in  
the city government. You have my full  
support.

(half beat)

And what office do you plan to contest.

CALVIN

Mayor.

LAWYER

What!

(half beat)

Impossible. The incumbent mayor is a  
brutish man. He owns most of this town.  
He has been known to ruin his opponent.  
And he has been known to use violence.

CALVIN

I can't be harmed.

LAWYER

Okay.

CALVIN

Only the boy...

LAWYER

Yes. That is a consideration.

ADONIS

No. I'm not even a topic of  
conversation. This is about you running  
for mayor. I'm not on the ballot.

LAWYER

Even Carothers wouldn't hurt a child.

CALVIN

He tear-gassed his school mates.

ADONIS

That doesn't matter.

(half beat)

We must win; he is the only good man to trust.

(half beat)

Will you file the papers?

LAWYER

Yes. I can.

ADONIS

Thank you.

CALVIN

I don't agree. It's too risky for the boy.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

ADONIS

Come on, man. Hear me out.

CALVIN

I can't do it.

ADONIS

You are only thinking of yourself.

CALVIN

You are the only one risking anything.

ADONIS

So. It is risky walking home from school.

(half beat)

Think of the city. Think of the 2.7 million people that need your help.

They pass a newsstand with several newspapers. The headlines read... Corruption, graft, failing infrastructure, feral dogs and cats, crime, scam, rape, poverty, terrorism.

FLASHBACK

Calvin remembers his life in Chicago. As a baby and then at an elementary school. His father bringing him to baseball

games. Calvin remembers his high school days and his dating. Chicago parades he attended. He remembers his first job. He remembers being married in Chicago. He remembers his children being born. He remembers his funeral.

BACK TO STREET

ADONIS

So what do you say?

CALVIN

What?

ADONIS

What do you say?

CALVIN

Even if I get on the ballot who will vote for me?

(half beat)

It will be a joke.

(half beat)

You are too young to be mayor and I'm not any more to be mayor.

ADONIS

We will get votes.

CALVIN

We don't get a single vote.

A young man is hanging out on the corner with his friends (gang members). His mother comes to the corner and grabs him by the shirt; she hits him upside the head four times and drags him back into the house.

MOTHER

What did I tell you, get his this house before dark. I don't want you hanging out on that corner all summer and NEVER at night.

ADONIS

(to Calvin)

What if we get a vote? What if we get someone to vote for you right now today?

Adonis approaches the mother. She releases her son.

ADONIS

Excuse me ma'am. Can I ask you a question?

(half beat)

Please don't get upset. I want to ask you if you would vote for a candidate if he could get your son a summer job?

MOTHER

I will tell you when I see it. These politicians will tell you anything you know.

ADONIS

You mean like someone who tells you they are fixing the roads, but don't?

MOTHER

Yes.

ADONIS

You mean like someone who tells you the schools are good, but they close schools all the time?

MOTHER

Yes. They are closing my boy's school. Those dogs!

ADONIS

You mean someone who collects taxed but leave the garbage.

MOTHER

We are plenty used to this.

ADONIS

Would you vote for the man who gets your son a job?

MOTHER

My son is the most important thing to me. I would vote for a dog if they can

save my son from this street life his  
friends lead.

(half beat)

Where does he have to be and when?

ADONIS

Tomorrow, the pizza place on the  
corner.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

The mother brings her son to the pizza parlor. The owner  
hires him. The boy works hard and enjoys it.

The mother hugs Adonis.

MOTHER

I will vote for him. Yes. I will.

The boy's mother leaves happy.

ADONIS

So?

CALVIN

Okay. I will agree.

Adonis immediately phones the lawyer.

ADONIS

He has agreed.

LAWYER

You guys are serious. I'm glad.

Both the lawyer and Adonis are happy.

INT. HIGH RISE BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION - DAY

With the construction ghost gone, the workers have been  
working and the building is not complete. The new owner is  
touring the newly opened building. Everyone is happy. The  
new owner gives Adonis a big check. Many of workers express  
their appreciation to Adonis.

Adonis uses the event to get petition signatures.

INT. BANK - DAY

Adonis opens a campaign bank account.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

LAWYER

I'm your lawyer right?

Yes.

LAWYER

Petitions must be signed. They must be done correctly. About 50% of the candidates who file petitions are denied ballot access by the CBOE (Chicago Board of Elections). Four years ago, twenty candidates filed to run for mayor. Two candidates withdrew from the race (they were shot), one candidate submitted frivolous nominating petitions, and six candidates appeared on the ballot.

ADONIS

And I have learned an important fact. When Carothers was elected mayor, voter turnout was 41%. Chicago had 1.4 million registered voters, but only 575,000 actually voted ( $575,000/1,400,000 = 41\%$ ).

Calvin looks blankly he might not understand the significance.

ADONIS

That means 59% didn't vote. Why?

LAWYER

What is the use in voting when the politicians server someone else?

CALVIN

Exactly, the people who don't vote they are the most angry and the most depressed about the situation. They have given up.

ADONIS

So we should concentrate on people who generally don't vote?

LAWYER

Yes. That is the key to defeating Carothers.

CALVIN

Agreed.

ADONIS

How about a novel approach? Our campaign signs simply say "vote" in large print... and Calvin Palmer in small print.

LAWYER

And you can tell the people the most important thing is too vote. Period.

CALVIN

It's true.

Montage - Calvin and Adonis travel around the city obtaining signatures and registering voters. They go door to door.

EXT. INNER CITY - DAY

A woman doesn't have water in her apartment. She is cranky and blames landlord and the government.

WOMAN

I've been calling them for a week and still nothing.

Calvin turns the water on for her with his ghost powers. She signs the petition to put Calvin on the ballot.

EXT. SUBURB - DAY

A man can't mow lawns because the engine on his lawnmower won't start. He is cranking on it and complaining about the ethanol the government adds to gasoline.

MAN

It eats up small engines.

Calvin starts the engine and the man signs the petition.

INT. LAWYER'S PRINT SHOP - DAY

Calvin and Adonis take the petitions to the lawyer. The lawyer is psyched.

LAWYER

Great. Great. Now, I must take them to the Election Commissioners.

The lawyer takes down a box. From inside he takes out a suit coat and pants. He stands in front of a mirror with the "Gonna Fly Now" music from Rocky. He takes a nice gold watch out of his desk. He brings out a set of premium dress shoes and polish them until we can see his image in them.

INT. BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS - DAY

The ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER sits with an annoyed look on his face. Adonis and the lawyer are in chairs in front of the desk. Calvin is behind the commissioner looking over his shoulder at documents on the desk.

ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

So, who is contesting the election?

LAWYER

Calvin Palmer.

ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

Never heard of him.

ADONIS

We have the necessary petitions.

The lawyer places the stack of petitions on the desk. That are ignored by the commissioner.

ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

And the filing fee of \$300.

Adonis eyeballs the commissioner.

LAWYER

There is no fee if 12,500 signatures are submitted.

Beat. The commissioner was hoping to cash in.

ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

And this Calvin Palmer he is an independent I understand?

LAWYER

That is correct. He has no party affiliation and he isn't controlled by anyone or any group.

ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

Look I don't have time for this foolishness.

(half beat)

I'm looking at a failed lawyer and a child. And a stack of invalid

ADONIS

How do you know they are invalid? You didn't look at them.

ELECTIONS COMMISSIONER

Okay. We will review them. Later.

LAWYER

Okay, we will accept that. And wait for word from you.

ADONIS

Thank you.

Adonis and the lawyer are polite and leave. Calvin remains in the office.

When Adonis and the lawyer are out of sight, the commissioner picks up the petitions and throws them in the trash can with a thud.

The commissioner leaves the office. Calvin levitates the petitions out of the garbage and places them on the desk again. The commissioner returns. Again, he throws the petitions in the trash. Time passes and again the

commissioner leaves and returns to find the petitions on the desk again. This time the commissioner takes the petitions to the large dumpster downstairs. By the time he arrives back at his desk the petitions are again on his desk. He opens the window and pitches them out. They blow in the wind and are floating to the ground. By the time the commissioner turns from the window, the petitions are again on the desk. He takes them to the incinerator in the basement of the building and pitches them in. The commissioner hides in the shadows to ensure their destruction. But by the time he returns to his office, the petitions are again on his desk. The commissioner may be on the verge of a mental breakdown.

A female clerk enters, very innocent and dutiful in appearance. Honest looking.

FEMALE CLERK

Are these ready for review?

The commissioner can't speak (terror) but points to what he believes are "demonic" documents. He motions for the clerk to take them. He exhales and is relieved when the documents exit his office.

The female clerk takes the stack of petitions to her desk and sits at the computer. She checks each petition to see if the person is registered and if the signatures on the petition match the one on the voter registration card.

At the end of the day the commissioner is still in his office; he is seething with anger. When the female clerk leaves for the evening, he takes half the petitions and puts them in a brief case. He takes the brief case to the edge of the lake and throws them in. We see them floating about the lake.

The next morning, the commissioner finds the clerk dutifully working on the petitions. It appears throwing them in the lake was not effective.

Later in the day.. the clerk reports to the commissioner.

CLERK

I'm happy to say I've verified 12,800 signatures, more than enough to qualify for the ballot.

The commissioner simply puts his head in his hands.

EXT. GOLF COURSE - DAY

Mayor Carothers is playing golf. His political lackeys surround him. They are laughing and can't stop. It is time for Carothers to putt. He tries to become serious. He putt the golf ball but chuckles at the last minute and the ball swerves wildly away from the hole.

His aides and partners-in-crime stop laughing. Carothers appears angry about the shot, but he then laughs again.

MAYOR

You want to tell me that again?

AIDE

You are 25 points ahead in the poll.

Everyone laughs.

MAYOR

And what percent support me?

AIDE

41 percent.

Arrogant laughing.

MAYOR

And the other party's candidate?

AIDE

16 percent.

More arrogant laughing.

MAYOR

And what about the independent?

AIDE

Sir, this is not an issue. No independent has ever been ...

The mayor is enraged. The aide didn't answer the question directly.

MAYOR

What about the independent?

AIDE

11 percent.

Everyone laughs.

Carothers clubs the aide in the balls. The laughing stops. All the others back up two steps to put space between them and Carothers. Obviously, Carothers is psychopathic.

MAYOR

The next time I ask you a question. I want a short concise and direct answer. Understand?

INT. ADONIS HOME - NIGHT

Adonis and Calvin are watching the television news.

ANCHOR

The closing day for filing has passed. The line up for the mayor's election is set with three candidates - a Republican, a Democrat and an independent. Challenging incumbent Mayor Carothers will be Sam Austin Jr. and independent Calvin Palmer.

(half beat)

And the first poll has been published. It shows Mayor Carothers with 41 percent and Austin with 16 percent. Calvin Palmer is polling an anemic.

ADONIS

Anemic?

Lack of blood.

ADONIS

I know what that means.

Joyce enters the room.

JOYCE

Is this Calvin Palmer your friend?

ADONIS

I tried to talk him out of running, but  
he never listens.

Joyce leaves.

CALVIN

Now, they are making fun of us.

ADONIS

It's just an expression.

Joyce returns.

JOYCE

You better stay out of it. Carothers  
can be dangerous.

ADONIS

I'm staying out of it. This is Calvin's  
election. I'm just supporting him  
because he is my friend.

(half beat)

That's what I told him.

Calvin give Adonis a strange disbelieving look.

ADONIS

(to mom)

Why are you worried? Look Calvin has  
brought us hope.

JOYCE

I don't want any trouble.

Joyce exits.

CALVIN

This was my idea?

ADONIS

Look there is just two people in your  
political party and one of them is me.  
What do you want to do?

CALVIN

I want to really show them.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

There is a voter outreach booth with a table, chairs and an tent/awning set up by the Palmer campaign. Very few people are lined up to register.

Adonis receives a text on his phone, "I'm going to cut your head off and throw it in the lake." He ignores it.

INT. RADIO STATION - DAY

RADIO PERSONALITY

Your campaign seems targeting those disaffected and seems hinged on getting new people to participate.

CALVIN

Why don't more people vote? That is the question. I'm out walking the streets with my friends and we are looking for new voters.

Sure enough there is a cell phone floating about ear above the sidewalk. Adonis and Calvin are walking the sidewalks registering people to vote.

RADIO PERSONALITY

We would love for you to come into the station and sit down with us.

CALVIN

I don't want to be rude but I think I should spend my time out here face-to-face with the people. I'm sorry it is a figure of speech.

RADIO PERSONALITY

Well you are here with us now.

CALVIN

With technology I can do both, be on the radio and be next to the people.

RADIO PERSONALITY

Amazing isn't it.

(half beat)

So you really believe more people should participate?

CALVIN

Of course. The more people who vote the better. It give legitimacy to those elected and by that I mean confidence. So, what if 30 percent vote or only 20 or 12 percent? What will happen to our regard and respect for the winner?

RADIO PERSONALITY

That is a good question. Tell me.

CALVIN

Well, he or she won't be taken seriously. And this is a dangerous thing to happen.

(half beat)

Look at the logic involved in not voting. You have to, one, not care and how is that? Are you kidding me with almost everything against the law, with government in everyone's business are you telling me you don't care what happens to you or your family, your job or your future? Or two, I don't like the way things are going so I will just make up my mind to have less say?

RADIO PERSONALITY

That is clear.

CALVIN

Right it isn't logical to not vote.

RADIO PERSONALITY

It makes sense to vote.

CALVIN

Can I use that?

RADIO PERSONALITY

I like your campaign signs. You can hardly see your name.

CALVIN

Well, it's not about me. It's about participation and forcing the government to act responsibly.

(half beat)

If people don't vote, the politician can logically think I can do whatever I want, whatever is best for me at the cost of the public good. The more people who participate, the more honest the government will be. They need to be scared and they aren't scared if they know people won't remove their butt from office.

RADIO PERSONALITY

Throw the bums out?

CALVIN

We can only hope... and we can vote.

RADIO PERSONALITY

You want to take some calls?

CALVIN

Sure.

RADIO PERSONALITY

First caller you are on the air.

CALLER #1

I'm a city sanitation worker and I want know when we are going to receive a living wage?

CALVIN

Do you have a voter registration card?

CALLER #1

No.

CALVIN

I'm sorry you are breaking up.

(half beat)  
I can't hear you?

The broadcast engineer looks at the dials and signals.  
Everything looks normal.

CALLER #1  
Can you hear me now?

CALVIN  
Yes. Please ask your question.

CALLER #1  
What are you going to do about paying  
living wages?

CALVIN  
I'm sorry I didn't hear you. Do you  
have a voter registration card?

CALLER #1  
I said 'no'.

CALVIN  
I'm sorry you wanted to know about what  
the government will do about the wages,  
but I couldn't hear you.

RADIO PERSONALITY  
Well, I think I can safely say that Mr.  
Palmer is for a living wage. No?

CALVIN  
You have a voter registration card, you  
said you did. I asked before we went on  
the air. And I can hear you perfectly  
well. It is amazing how politicians  
will listen to you, if they think you  
will vote.

RADIO PERSONALITY  
About the wages.

CALVIN  
Yes, we should pay a decent wage. City  
hall is like a box in a magic show; the  
money goes in and disappears. And

everyone applauds? At the magic show the crowd doesn't applaud until what has disappeared reappears.

RADIO PERSONALITY  
Next caller... you are on the air.

CALLER #2  
What are you going to do about all the corruption at city hall?

CALVIN  
How about you; are you registered to vote?

CALLER #2  
No, but I'm thinking about it.

CALVIN  
I'm thinking about listening to you.

CALLER #2  
How rude.

RADIO PERSONALITY  
No, I get it. He's saying the politicians don't will not listen to the people unless they vote. It that correct?

CALVIN  
Exactly. I frankly don't take people seriously if they don't bring something to the table. Why would I?  
(half beat)  
You have been at this radio station for years, and I'm sure you have met a few corrupt politicians.

RADIO PERSONALITY  
Well, yes.

CALVIN  
And you know what they all have in common? They pretend to listen to the voters. I'm different, I will flat out

tell you; I'm not listening if you don't participate.

RADIO PERSONALITY

Certainly.

(beat)

Caller number #3

CALLER #3

I'm a registered voter.

CALVIN

Finally, someone who has my ear.

(half beat)

Thank you.

CALLER #3

Are you a Black man?

RADIO PERSONALITY

Okay. What does that matter? That is all the callers we have time for.

(half beat)

But I have just one question before we let you go.

RADIO PERSONALITY

Are you advocating that the people develop a sudden loss of hearing?

CALVIN

I don't know why not. It only seems fair; after all the politicians have selective hearing and only listen to the wealthy and politically connected.

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - DAY

The lawyer, Calvin and Adonis are sitting going over some papers. The lawyer and Adonis are eating. Calvin, has a yellow legal pad, is writing a speech.

Television reporters rush in and swamp (surround) the table.

ADONIS

I'm the campaign treasurer.

LAWYER  
I'm the campaign's legal advisor.

REPORTER  
Where is Mr. Palmer.

ADONIS  
Sometimes he is here.

REPORTER  
Where is he now.

ADONIS  
Closer than you think.

REPORTER  
How old are you?

LAWYER  
Fifty-three.

REPORTER  
Not you, how old is the boy?

ADONIS  
I'm ten.

REPORTER  
Is that legal.

LAWYER  
Of course, it is legal.

REPORTER  
But is he able oversee such a...

ADONIS  
What is so difficult? He deposits  
donation and buys poster, buttons and  
bumper stickers.

REPORTER  
You haven't about any advertising on  
television.

ADONIS  
No, only print and radio.

REPORTER  
Why not television?

ADONIS  
We might. But right now we don't feel  
that is right for us.

REPORTER  
Why?

ADONIS  
Calvin wants this campaign to be about  
the issues - reducing crime and  
corruption, repairing the streets.

REPORTER  
How does television detract from that?

ADONIS  
Well, like I said, we might buy  
television time.

REPORTER  
What about interviews?

ADONIS  
On television?

REPORTER  
Of course.

ADONIS  
I don't see that happening.

LAWYER  
Neither do I?

REPORTER  
What is he afraid of?

ADONIS  
He's not afraid; he just wants to talk  
about the issues.

The television media leaves. We think. A TV NEWS REPORTER remains in the restaurant.

NEWS REPORTER

I heard what you said about television.  
(half beat)  
And that is okay.

ADONIS

No offence.

NEWS REPORTER

But I wanted you to know you are always welcome.

ADONIS

Okay.

NEWS REPORTER

Someday you might want to go on TV.

ADONIS

Keep your options open?

NEWS REPORTER

Right.

ADONIS

I will tell Mr. Palmer.

Of course, Calvin is sitting right next to Adonis at the table.

Adonis receives a text. "Kid, I'm going to feed your fingers to my dog." He ignores it.

INT. FAST FOOD - DAY

CUSTOMER

A burger, fries and a soda.

The customer reaches for his wallet.

EMPLOYEE

Voter registration.

CUSTOMER

What?

EMPLOYEE

Do you have your voter registration  
card?

CUSTOMER

Yes.

He pulls the cash and the card out of the wallet and shows it to the employee. Only then does she enter his order into her machines.

INT. RESIDENTIAL AREA - DAY

A SANITATION WORKER knocks on the door of a house. We see a trash truck paused at the curb, waiting. The sanitation worker knocks again and a very sleepy woman opens the door. Her eyes aren't accustomed to the morning light.

SANITATION WORKER

Voter registration card?

She shakes her head "Yes". She disappears for a moment and then brings it back. She shows it to the worker.

The worker signals to the truck and the woman's garbage is

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It is an expensive restaurant. The ambiance is perfect. A young MAN and young WOMAN are at a candle lit table. He pulls out a ring box and opens it. It is an impressive stone.

MAN

Will you marry me?

She looks at him. She looks at the ring.

She hesitates to ask...

WOMAN

Are you registered to vote?

Quick as a flash, he reaches into his wallet and pulls out his card.

WOMAN

Yes. Yes. I will.

They kiss. Romance. Voting. Marriage. Baby Carriage.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Back again to the voter outreach booth set up by the Palmer campaign. There is a huge long line of people lined up to register.

They run out of voter registration cards and Calvin must use his ghostly powers to "find" new boxes. Calvin tells Adonis to look in the old discarded boxes and he finds more registration cards.

INT. TELEVISION NEWS - DAY

REPORTER

And now from Chicago. Ahead of its mayoral election, people are witnessing a unique political movement. People are turning a deaf ear to those who are not registered to vote. Many are terming this the "vote for change" movement. It's the city's first ever non-cooperation movement.

INT. CITY HALL ELEVATOR - DAY

Carothers and his aide are in the hallway and then the elevator.

AIDE

College?

CAROTHERS

Too expensive.

AIDE

A car?

CAROTHERS

Oh, hell no.

AIDE

A bicycle.

CAROTHERS

No they give the people those in China.

(half beat)

I need something uniquely Chicago and cheap. A promise but something that if we actually have to deliver, it won't cost us too much.

AIDE

Pizza?

CAROTHERS

I like that. Good.

AIDE

Well we better get going. The media is waiting downstairs they have more allegations. Hurry.

CAROTHERS

Why do you worry so much?

(half beat)

Just because there are allegations flying left and right. That doesn't make us corrupt.

(half beat)

Last month, there were some substantial allegations about the health and streets commissioners and the medical examiner. And they are still in their jobs. I've not been moved to fire them.

(half beat)

The allegation doesn't mean they were involved. Same for me. Right? Hearsay won't lose me any election, not in this town.

AIDE

That's fine but your bosses. What will they say about things. And the people?

CAROTHERS

Ask the national party to worry about  
the other cities. This city is safe.  
And as far as the people are concerned?  
"What people?"

AIDE

It's a circus out there.

CAROTHERS

The clowns are just around to pass the  
time. Tickets are bought to watch the  
lion.

(beat)

We have paid the best people to be  
downstairs. Don't worry. The media will  
never get a question in.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

There is supposed to be a press-conference but it turns out  
to be something more like a political rally. We see one of  
Carothers' goons in the crowd handing out money.

Adonis and Calvin are at the back of the crowd observing  
everything - the walking around money and the demagoguery.

CAROTHERS

I see a city with thousands of its  
citizens denied the basic necessities  
of life.

(half beat)

I see families trying to live on  
incomes so meagre that the pall of  
family disaster hangs over them day by  
day.

(half beat)

I see people denied education,  
recreation, and the opportunity to  
better their lot and the lot of their  
children.

(half beat)

I see a city of people lacking the  
means to buy the products they need.

(half beat)

I see one-third of a city ill-housed,  
ill-clad, ill-nourished.

(half beat)

I have heard your cries. And I'm acting. I'm acting now to bring you what you need. I'm going to take you out of poverty. I know you need shit, come to me and I will do my best to help you.

(half beat)

And I'm working on a plan to deliver everyone in this city free pizza on their birthday.

(half beat)

We are holding negotiations with the suppliers as we speak. I hope this happens before the election. But you know that we are trying.

The mayor points to individuals in the crowd.

CAROTHERS

What do you want? Pepperoni?

The crowd cheers.

CAROTHERS

Meat lover. Do we have any meat lovers out there?

The sexist mayor points to a hot babe in crowd?

CAROTHERS

Are you a meat lover? You look like a meat lover.

The crowd cheers and laughs. They were paid to applaud, even for the sexist comments.

The media covering the event make faces, like they can't believe what is happening.

CAROTHERS

Veggie lovers?

The crowd cheers.

CAROTHERS

Anyone want a veggie pizza?

Carothers turns his back momentarily to the crowd.

CAROTHERS  
(off mic to aide)  
Watch this. Listen to this.

Carothers is something of an imp, toying with the crowd he bought.

CAROTHERS  
Who wants a pizza with Anchovies?

The brain damaged dumb-asses in the crowd cheer (as they are accustomed)... but slowly the cheers turn to boos.

CAROTHERS  
I tricked you. Haha!  
(beat)  
Anchovies? Who wants anchovies?

CROWD  
Boo...

CAROTHERS  
Hahah! I love you people. Thanks for coming out to see me. I love Chicago so long as Chicago votes for me!

Carothers exits the stage waving.

ADONIS  
He's playing dirty.

CALVIN  
If a bear poops in the woods and nobody is around to smell it, is it really poop?

ADONIS  
What does that mean?

CALVIN  
Just wait.

INT. CITY HALL - DAY

A mafia GODFATHER is waiting in the mayor's office when he returns from the rally. The godfather is sitting in the mayor's chair and we can see from the mayor's expression this is his boss.

GODFATHER

Stop playing games and end this by  
halftime.

CAROTHERS

Certainly.

GODFATHER

If this goes to the forth quarter, it  
might bring us down. And your career  
with us.

I will take care of the opposition.

GODFATHER

Forget them. The real threat is the  
voter registration.

(half beat)

The independent is planning on a big  
rally in the park two days before the  
election.

CAROTHERS

What do you want done?

GODFATHER

Ruin that rally.

(half beat)

Do it or I will find someone else to do  
this job.

The godfather gets up and gives the mayor a  
hateful look.

GODFATHER

I'm leaving. And I'm not buying any  
god-damned pizza for those poor damn  
slobs.

The godfather leaves the room.

CAROTHERS

We might be in trouble.

AIDE

It's time to show our true colours?

CAROTHERS

Someone will have to be dealt with.

AIDE

But last time we shot the other political party's candidate. Twice in a row it might look suspicious.

CAROTHERS

Yes, that sort of thing can be done but not over-done.

AIDE

True.

CAROTHERS

The real threat is Calvin Palmer. If all the new voters support him... we are finished.

AIDE

But we can't find him. He is an allusive target. Only a few people have ever seen him.

CAROTHERS

But he is everywhere, helping people and being a thorn in my side?

AIDE

Maybe there are others?

INT. VARIOUS TV STATIONS - DAY

Three TV reporters bring the "Pizza Promise" media from their cameras back to their stations. None can get any footage from the tapes/cards.

TV PRODUCER #1

Where is the footage?

TV PRODUCER #2

I got good video, but I don't know what happened to it.

REPORTER

I don't understand sir. I hit record.  
The light was on. But there is no file.

The reporter finally finds a file on the media and plays it in the production booth, "Waffles The Terrible - Funny Cat Fails Epic Jump"

INT. CAROTHERS MANSION - DAY

The TV is on and Carothers is changing channels with the remote. The stories are NOT him. He is not the focus of any of the news stories.

- Marvel Studios has released the first Doctor Strange poster.
- Employees of a Minnesota Burger King smashed the windows of their employer's restaurant after a prank phone call told them doing so would keep the building from exploding.
- Cheese Bananas is the hottest new internet recipe.
- Weird-Looking walking robot displays remarkable balance.

Carothers' wife wants to have sex but the mayor is so upset that his "free-pizza" speech wasn't broadcast, he isn't in the mood.

INT. PIZZA PARLOUR - DAY

Adonis is sitting at his computer.

CALVIN

What are you doing?

ADONIS

Opposition research.

CALVIN

Oh. I've heard that phrase before.  
(half beat)

It's a good thing?

ADONIS

I won't say good, but necessary.

CALVIN

What did you find?

Two goons working for the mayor barge into the restaurant and..

GOON #1

Mr. Carothers wishes to speak to you.

ADONIS

Really why?

GOON #2

He didn't say, but you best come with us.

Adonis looks at Calvin, who nods his head to go with them.

INT. GOONS AUTOMOBILE - DAY

Adonis sits in the back seat and smells something bad.

ADONIS

What did you guys leave the windows down in the rain?

(half beat)

It smells like a wet dog back here.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Two goons bring Adonis into the office and sit him in an uncomfortable chair. Calvin is there and looks ready to do something if the goons get too rough.

It looks like an interrogation, but the mayor comes into the room smiling. And with some stale cookies and soda.

CAROTHERS

Cookie.

(half beat)

Soda?

Adonis passes on the soda. He tries the cookie,  
but makes a face.

CAROTHERS

So lets get down to business. How much?

ADONIS

How much for what?

Carothers doesn't know how to phrase it exactly. There is  
an odd moment.

CAROTHERS

How much to betray your boss?

ADONIS

My boss?

CAROTHERS

Calvin Palmer.

ADONIS

He's not my boss.

CAROTHERS

Oh, come on. You are a volunteer? Don't  
lie to me, boy. No one just volunteers.

(half beat)

I don't have any volunteers in my  
campaign.

ADONIS

That's your problem. Not mine.

CAROTHERS

He's paying you.

ADONIS

No.

CAROTHERS

Well how much?

Adonis looks at Calvin their worse suspicions  
about the corruption are confirmed.

ADONIS

I think you have a lot of money.

CAROTHERS

Well, yes I've been blessed but don't get carried away there are other ways for me to ruin your candidate.

ADONIS

Your salary is \$215,000 per year, right. And you have been mayor for 3 ½ years, correct? And before you were mayor you were a community organizer?

CAROTHERS

Yes, so.

ADONIS

Then why is your net worth 21 million dollars? This house you bought for 4 million dollars?

CAROTHERS

Who told you that?

ADONIS

I don't recall but it is going to be in the newspaper tomorrow.

CAROTHERS

I can tell you it better not be. Kid, I can make you rich.

ADONIS

No deal. I'm not for sale.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Adonis is going with the social media approach. He has a small camera and he is walking about interviewing people that he and Calvin have helped in the past.

PIZZA PARLOUR OWNER

A man that said he was from the water department said he would expedite the repair of the city's water line for

\$2000. Calvin negotiated the water back on and it cost me nothing.

MAN WITH TRUCK

This road was riddled with pot holes. Not any more. Calvin saw to it and now the street is just as good as the street in front of the mayor's house.

WIDOW

I fought with the people at the coroner's office to have my husband's death certificate issued. We had children and needed the life insurance payment. Two years with no death certificate, until Calvin helped.

MOTHER

My son was rescued from the street. He was bad... he's a good kid but the drugs and violence was pulling him away from me and the church. Calvin got him a job and I'm so proud of my son today.

BUSINESS MAN

If all the politicians were like Calvin I wouldn't mind paying taxes.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Carothers is all talk and no action.

Adonis travels to the Pizza Parlor and uploads the video.

INT. RADIO STATION - NIGHT

The candidate debate is on the radio. Carothers is in the studio and Calvin is on Adonis' phone. But Adonis, the lawyer and Adonis are in the bathroom only feet from the studio.

CAROTHERS

I'm a bit disappointed you wanted to have this debate over the radio.

CALVIN

Why what is wrong with the radio?

CAROTHERS

You can't see certain items... items that I would like to show you.

CALVIN

What do you have to show me.

CAROTHERS

I have in my hands... your death certificate.

CALVIN

What?

CAROTHERS

I have your death certificate. You aren't who you claim and tomorrow I'm calling a press conference to end your candidacy.

CALVIN

What?

Dead air time.

RADIO HOST

Mr. Palmer? Your response?

Dead air time.

INT. MEN'S RESTROOM - NIGHT

Calvin loses his cool, concentrates on being seen and becomes visible to the lawyer. Calvin storms out of the bathroom heading for the studio.

He hands Adonis his phone and leaves.

LAWYER

(amazed)

He's Black.

ADONIS

What did you think he was?

INT. RADIO STATION - NIGHT

CALVIN

The rumours of my death have been exaggerated for political purposes.

(half beat)

As you can see I'm not dead.

CAROTHERS

Tomorrow, this death certificate will be on television.

CALVIN

Why not publish it now?

(half beat)

Wouldn't the newspapers like to see this mysterious document? Why are you afraid to hand it to them?

CAROTHERS

In time, friend. In time.

CALVIN

I know how Chicago works and I doubt you are holding a legitimate death certificate?

Slowly the lawyer and Adonis emerge from the restroom and walk into radio station. They peer through the glass window into the studio.

ADONIS

Carothers controls the television. But not the newspaper?

INT. MEN'S RESTROOM - NIGHT

ADONIS

Carothers played you like a piano. And it was easy.

(half beat)

When you asked for brains God thought you said trains and said, "No thinks"?

(half beat)

People want a mayor like a fox and you give them a mouse?

(half beat)

You are 60 years old and behave like a 7 year old.

Long beat.

ADONIS

As a ghost couldn't you just scare him to death. You know like a heart attack or a really bad fall?

CALVIN

In spite of doing everything right, people would question our victory. Would you like that?

(half beat)

You wouldn't like that would you?

ADONIS

No, but you have reduced our chances of winning.

CALVIN

Chances have been reduced but not ended.

ADONIS

What is wrong then. We aren't toast yet. Are we?

CALVIN

The penalty for revealing myself is 20 years.

ADONIS

Prison?

CALVIN

No, Earth.

ADONIS

You mean you can't go ...

Adonis points up (to heaven).

ADONIS

What a sacrifice.

(beat)

Twenty years.

It is a solemn moment. Adonis is trying to fathom the tragedy. The lawyer has a tear in his eye.

CALVIN

I'm sure it would have happened eventually.

ADONIS

Better after the election than before.

Adonis receives a text. "I'm going to run over you with my truck and make you road kill." He ignores it and says nothing to anyone.

INT. CAROTHERS' MANSION - NIGHT

The aide and the mayor come into the home laughing, perhaps a little bit drunk. The mayor goes to the kitchen and opens a cake box. They are gluttonous pigs and eat half the cake.

WIFE

You pig!

(half beat)

That cake was for your daughter's birthday tomorrow.

CAROTHERS

Oh, that's tomorrow?

The wife storms off angry.

CAROTHERS

You can get her another one if you want.

AIDE

So now you have ruined Palmer's future what will you do next?

EXT. SIDEWALK NEWSSTAND - MORNING

The morning newspapers says "Death Certificate a Fake."

ADONIS

But how?

Suddenly the medical examiner appears on the sidewalk. He looks repentant.

CORONER

The death certificate is a fake.

CALVIN

But how?

CORONER

Your wife didn't pay the bribe.

CALVIN

Thank you for coming forward.

CORONER

I heard you on the radio last night.

The coroner takes some of the "VOTE" signs that Adonis is carrying. He walks off and appears to have joined the campaign.

EXT. PIZZA PARLOUR - NIGHT

Adonis' friends, the baseball players, show up and take signs.

Before they leave Adonis leads them in a cheer.

ADONIS

Win. Win. Win. Calvin!

The lawyer picks up a phone and speaks. He hangs up.

LAWYER

A committee from the other party want to see you.

There is a limousine waiting.

EXT. INDUSTRIALIST MANSION - DAY

Six extra-wealthy industrialists are sitting in an extravagant garden room. They introduce themselves to the

lawyer and Adonis and shake hands. Calvin is there observing but, of course, can't be seen.

INDUSTRIALISTS

Hello. I make tires.  
Hello. I demolish buildings.  
Hello. I own gasoline stations.  
Hello. I distribute films to theatres.  
Hello. I operate hotels.  
Hello. I import ladies unmentionables.

ADONIS

Unmentionables?

INDUSTRIALIST

Underwear.

ADONIS

Really, how interesting.

INDUSTRIALIST

We'll have a seat and...

ADONIS

He would have been here but he's not sure he wants to be aligned with a party. He sent us to listen.

INDUSTRIALIST

Well, you are a fine young man and I think you might have a future, if things go well in our negotiations.  
(half beat)  
Cookies? Milk?

The host industrialists maid/cook or whoever brings out some fresh gourmet cookies and a glass of milk. Adonis is very happy eating and drinking. The lawyer also eats cookies and drinks milk. The cookies are so good, the industrialists think they have the kid sold.

ADONIS

Why didn't you field a serious candidate against the mayor?

INDUSTRIALIST

The thing is we need a candidate like your boss.

ADONIS

You mean you don't have a Black candidate. You are one of the two established political parties and there isn't a single Black man in your membership?

INDUSTRIALIST

Well...

And, he is actually my friend not my boss.

INDUSTRIALIST

Yes. Of course.

(half beat)

Our party never bets on a loser and I'm afraid our candidate isn't really suited to win.

Well, that is too bad. You know my friend, he is suited to win.

INDUSTRIALIST

Yes, please extend our warmest greetings and admiration. We would love for him to join the team.

He would have only one demand; that you support a living wage and they you personally play your employees a living wage.

INDUSTRIALIST

Oh, well... we really weren't prepared to hear any demands.

ADONIS

He is serious.

INDUSTRIALIST

If you want Calvin Palmer in your party... Fair wages are a small price to

pay for political power. He is going to win.

There is an odd moment. The industrialist look at each other. They look opposed to the idea of a fair wage.

The spokesman for the group. However is polite.

INDUSTRIALIST

Let us think about it. We are reasonable men and we will carefully consider your proposal.

ADONIS

Well thank you for the cookies. They were delicious. They are better cookies than the ones at city hall. And that sofa is incredibly comfortable. Your car smells sweet too.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

The Lawyer, Adonis and Calvin are returning to the city.

ADONIS

This limo sure smells better than those goons' car. I like their cookies better than those the mayor offered us, but I'm not sure I like "them" better than the mayor.

LAWYER

So why don't you consider joining.

CALVIN

Because I'm an independent. It's important. And they make me sick. Both sides!

(half beat)

The political parties are like two soap companies. Both promise they clean a person but when you get down to it, neither works. And then they hit the market with "new and improved" and

sucked you in again. What are people going to do? Not take a bath?

(half beat)

An independent if they can win will end this monopoly they share. They won't actually do anything because they know eventually the other party will step on their dick and power will swing back to them.

INT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Adonis stands on a street corner handing out fliers "Register for Change" rally.

EXT. EVENING TELEVISION - NIGHT

BREAKING NEWS...

ANCHOR

In breaking news... the newest political poll in the race for mayor. Independent challenger Calvin Palmer has pulled to within five percentage points in what is developing into a close race. After a fake death certificate in the name of Mr. Palmer was released to the press, political analysts say things can go either way.

EXT. STREET SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Goons stop Adonis on the street.

GOON #1

Come here. Weed?

They offer him some smoke.

ADONIS

No.

GOON #1

What a beautiful boy you are. What nice hair and teeth. Perfectly healthy.

Goon #1 looks and talks like a predatory homosexual and Adonis is frightened.

GOON #1

Tell. Your friend Calvin Palmer not to attend the rally for change.

ADONIS

"Register for Change."

GOON

Whatever.

ADONIS

And if I don't.

GOON

Then you will never tell anyone anything ever again.

(half beat)

Go. Go and remember what I told you.

(half beat)

No rally in the park.

Adonis walks the street contemplating. Worrying.

EXT. STREET SIDEWALK - DAY

Adonis sits on a park bench. Calvin approaches.

CALVIN

What are you thinking about kid?

ADONIS

The election.

CALVIN

Yes. Things are going well?

ADONIS

Remember the "Register for Change" rally in the park tomorrow. It is the last day of campaigning. Television, radio, newspaper, social media. Everyone will be there.

Beat.

CALVIN

I want to say thank you for everything  
you have been done.

ADONIS

It is a big day, don't be scared.

CALVIN

Are you talking to me or yourself?  
(half beat)  
Why would I be afraid?

ADONIS

I was talking to you.

INT. TELEVISION NEWS - NIGHT

Spokesperson for the Calvin Palmer campaign have said that  
despite death threats and security concerns the "Register  
for Change" scheduled for tomorrow will proceed as planned.

INT. ADONIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Mom is rushing out of the apartment again for work. Adonis  
sits contemplating his life. Adonis stops her.

ADONIS

Mom, I need to talk to you.

JOYCE

Yes, honey but I have to go.

She notices the worried look on his face. She sits down.

ADONIS

I know you work two jobs and I know  
why. You don't eat right but the  
refrigerator is always full for me. I  
don't know anyone that works two jobs.  
I don't know anyone that knows anyone  
that works two jobs. I've never see a  
refrigerator like the one we have.

(beat)

I know what you do for me.

JOYCE

I'm proud of you, your school work.  
Your newly found political abilities.  
You hit a baseball.

ADONIS

I just wanted you to know you are a  
terrific mom. You are strong.

JOYCE

What are you saying? Who wants to hurt  
you?

ADONIS

I know.  
(beat)  
I know what you do for me.

JOYCE

I know that you know, honey. I love  
you.

ADONIS

I love you too, mom.

Mom almost doesn't leave. She exits but is very worried  
about her son.

INT. PIZZA PARLOUR - NIGHT

The pizza parlour burns, arson by the goons.

INT. ADONIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Adonis is finished eating. He gets a text and  
rushes out of the apartment.

INT. CHICAGO ALLEY - NIGHT

Adonis runs out of his apartment down to the  
street and into an alley.

He is surrounded by goons with pipes and knives.

Adonis puts up a fight but is stabbed and struck on the  
head with a lead pipe. He falls unconscious.

INT. CHICAGO PARK - MORNING

The podium and speaker rostrum goes up. The political decorations are put out. Flags and banners signify a political rally soon. The security arrives and EMTs. They clearly expect a crowd. Calvin arrives. He looks around for Adonis. He is about to take the podium and deliver his speech.

But the lawyer gets a text. And call to Calvin.

LAWYER

Are you there?

CALVIN

I'm here.

(half beat)

Just getting ready, working up my nerve.

LAWYER

There has been an accident and Adonis is in the hospital.

Calvin doesn't take the stage but leaves.

LAWYER

Are you there? Did you hear me? I'm guessing you have left for the hospital?

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Adonis is in critical condition. He has a serious brain injury. His head is wrapped in bandages. He is hooked up to every sort of machine. His mother is holding Adonis' hand.

Calvin walks in and is very down. It is a tragedy.

Time passes...

The lawyer arrives.

MOTHER

The doctor said he has a serious injury. He might die.

CALVIN  
I'm very sorry.

LAWYER  
Perhaps he will recover. We can hope.

CALVIN  
I'm responsible. He is good kid and I  
put him in danger. I should have known.  
(half beat)  
Please forgive me. It was reckless to  
involve your boy at such a tender age.

MOTHER  
It's not your fault. It was the work of  
Carothers. They threatened Adonis. He  
tried to tell me, but...  
(half beat)  
He did.  
(half beat)  
He tried to communicate that... I could  
tell what he was trying to say.  
(half beat)  
He hid the threats from everyone.  
(half beat)  
They gave me his phone.

Calvin flips through the messages and reads the  
various threats.

MOTHER  
He told me, 'Mom, appear weak when you  
are strong, and strong when you are  
weak.'

CALVIN  
He read it in a book.

MOTHER  
He is so smart.  
(beat)  
I'm not sad.  
(beat)  
I'm proud of my son.

CALVIN

I won't let him down. This will not be  
for nothing.

Calvin turns to leave the hospital room.

CALVIN

I'll be back.

LAWYER

It's important that you be here.

(half beat)

You can go to the rally but please  
hurry back.

CALVIN

Yes. This is more important.

Calvin leaves. He walks to the lake and into a  
fog bank.

EXT. CHICAGO PARK - DAY

The crowd is chanting, "Calvin, Calvin!"

Carothers and his aide are backstage.

CAROTHERS

No Calvin Palmer?

AIDE

No, sir.

CAROTHERS

Maybe our trick has worked?

Carothers takes the stage... Things become quiet but the  
crowd begins to boo and shout obscenities.

MAN IN CROWD

It was a freakin' trick all along.

SECOND MAN IN CROWD

This politicians is making us out for  
fools.

CAROTHERS

Where is Calvin Palmer?

(half beat)  
He must be stuck in traffic?  
(half beat)  
While we wait let me tell you how foolish "change" actually is. You think you want it, sure.  
(half beat)  
But we take care of you now, you have phones and rent subsidy. Food stamps. And there really is no need to work. We educate your children. For this I think you owe us. You owe politicians your vote. That is a small price to pay for the benefits you receive.  
(half beat)  
The crowd quiets down. Many are poor. And the mayor's speech can't help appeal to their self interest.  
(half beat)  
Calvin Palmer likes to say that politicians promise things and then disappear after the election.  
(half beat)  
But let me point something out. Your benefits don't stop after the election and remember that.  
(half beat)  
And, look at what has happened today. Calvin Palmer has disappeared. Where is he? He couldn't wait until after the election?  
(half beat)  
Who will do the work of running this city and your lives?  
(half beat)  
Think about it? If he isn't here today, what makes you think he will be here for you tomorrow?  
(half beat)  
If you vote for him and your benefits disappear, don't say I didn't warn you.

INT. MYSTERY BUILDING - DAY

Raphael tries to stop him from entering the building.

RAPHAEL  
You revealed yourself.

CALVIN  
I'm not staying. I just need to see  
Peter.

Raphael doesn't budge.

CALVIN  
I'm not playing with you! Stand aside!

Raphael looks deeply into Calvin's eyes.

Long beat.

Raphael steps aside.

Calvin cuts in line and approaches Peter who is at the  
Christianity desk.

PETER  
Do you have a number?

CALVIN  
Yes.

He holds it out, "1,238,033".

Peter points to the "Now serving" sign; it reads  
"238,209"

PETER  
It's not your turn. Sit down.

CALVIN  
I will NOT sit.

PETER  
You are back. Illegally. I can't help  
you.

CALVIN  
Sir, I beg you to speak with God.

PETER  
She is busy.

CALVIN

Please save the live of my friend. He is a boy. A good boy. He doesn't deserve to die.

PETER

No one deserve to die. But that is the way things are.

(half beat)

You went to do a simple job and look what you have done. You have entered an election. Revealed yourself and now you can't check until 2037 - twenty years.

(half beat)

You are selfish and you only want to be elected.

(half beat)

Don't you think about the ramifications?

CALVIN

No, I didn't. But why must a young boy be punished because I want to make a change in government?

PETER

You have made a joke out of it.

Mohammed comes out of his office to the Christian desk. He whispers to Calvin.

MOHAMMED

You abused your powers.

The Christian god, Sheryl Crow, looks up from her desk. Mohammed's interference sparks her interest.

CALVIN

I'm not selfish. I want to improve things in Chicago.

Yes. I've been selfish. But if I can improve things just a little bit I might be redeemed.

PETER

That's not the way it works.

CALVIN  
I know but...

PETER  
You want change?

CALVIN  
No, I want to save the young boy.  
(half beat)  
He has some dreams of a better life.  
You know how young people are.  
Idealistic.  
(half beat)  
He deserves to see if the changes take  
place or not. Either way he should  
witness thing.  
(half beat)  
Please sir.

We see on her desk the name plate, "God".

Sheryl Crow presses a button on her desk intercom. Her voice comes over the speakers.

GOD  
Peter, can I see you in my office  
please?

POV Calvin. Everyone in the processing center. Hindi, Muslims, Jews, bureaucrats and applicants they all stop working and watch. Peter shuts the door and they have a short discussion. Peter aggresses and exits God's office.

Peter approaches Calvin again.

PETER  
She is willing to make a deal. If you  
win the election, the boy will live. If  
you lose the election, then he will  
come here.

CALVIN  
I understand. Thank you.

Calvin leaves the processing center and returns through the fog bank back to Chicago.

EXT. CHICAGO PARK - DAY

The evil and corrupt mayor is completing his speech.

CAROTHERS

Thank you and god bless you.

The crowd cheers. He exits to a waiting limousine.

It looks very bad for Adonis and Calvin. The crowd is totally hoodwinked.

INT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Calvin returns to the bedside. The mother is asleep in a chair holding his hand. The lawyer is reading reports on his tablet.

CALVIN

We will win the election. Right?

LAWYER

We are five points down.

CALVIN

I've made a deal with God.

LAWYER

God doesn't make deals.

CALVIN

I have one.

(half beat)

If I win the boy lives.

LAWYER

And if you lose.

CALVIN

Well...

(beat)

We will win the election right?

LAWYER

Probably not.

(half beat)

You missed the rally and people have  
lost faith.

CALVIN  
Adonis will lose his fight with death.

LAWYER  
The mayor has taken advantage of this  
tragedy. He will buy or bully every  
vote in sight.

(half beat)  
I don't know what you can do.

(half beat)  
The mayor will probably win re-  
election.

CALVIN  
I know what to do.

Calvin rises and leaves the hospital.

INT. TELEVISION STATION - PRIME TIME

Calvin enters the station as a ghost. He stands watching  
the TELEVISION REPORTER through a glass window. There is  
a long beat as Calvin contemplates

Calvin concentrates and reveals himself.

He walks into her office. The reporter can see him.

REPORTER  
Who are you?

CALVIN  
I'm Calvin Palmer.

REPORTER  
Oh! Finally. It's very nice to meet  
you.

CALVIN  
You told Adonis, my campaign treasurer  
and manager, I would be welcome to  
appear on television.

REPORTER

I did. But aren't you worried it is too late?

CALVIN

He is in the hospital.

REPORTER

Yes, heard that. I'm sorry. Politics in our city is a full contact sport.

CALVIN

Unfortunately.

REPORTER

Hopefully he will be okay.

CALVIN

I'm afraid that he will not be okay.

REPORTER

Oh. I'm sorry. I've been reporting on politics in this city for 20 years and I'm sorry. I'm just jaded. This happened four years ago, a candidate was shot.

CALVIN

So how do you want to do this?

REPORTER

Well, it will need to be live. It's primetime and in a few minutes people will turn their televisions off.

CALVIN

Well, let's begin.

She walks Calvin to the studio and he sits. She whispers to several of the staff and they swing into motion. They put a mic on Calvin. They man various cameras.

They go live.

REPORTER

We are pleased to welcome into the studio mayoral candidate Calvin

CALVIN

I'm pleased to be here.

REPORTER

We missed you yesterday at the rally for change.

CALVIN

Yes, I'm very sorry.

REPORTER

Can you explain what happened? A lot of people were disappointed.

CALVIN

Yes, well. Let me try to explain.

INT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

In the mayor's office... Carothers gives instruction to his dozen or so goons.

CAROTHERS

Liquor. Make sure you have plenty of it. No that's not right make sure THEY have plenty of it. I don't want you guys drinking. Understand.

(half beat)

Money, have plenty of money to distribute. And don't none of it find it's way into your pockets.

(half beat)

And hit them with this small favor that I need. And don't forget the welfare. If they hesitate threaten them with the loss of benefits.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

LAWYER

That was your second appearance.

CALVIN

Yes.

Long beat.

EXT. CHICAGO STREETS - ELECTION DAY

We see the goons finding all the whinos and giving them booze. The Goons pick them up in white rental vans. There are six alchoholics in the van and they are going to vote.

Mayor Carothers is your friend and he needs your help today. Can you help him?

HOMELESS MAN

What do you want us to do?

GOON

A simple thing. Vote.

HOMELESS MAN

I already voted.

GOON

Who did you vote for?

HOMELESS MAN

Calvin Palmer of course, he got me in the treatment center.

The van slams on the breaks. And the goons throw the man out of the van to the sidewalk.

The other homeless men watch and we get the impression that they will also vote for Calvin, but they are afraid to reveal that. They are trying to choose between the bottles of whisky in the back of the van.

The van brings the men to the polling location.

They get out and go in.

Time passes.

They exit the building and return to the van.

You vote for the mayor?

GOON  
(clearly lying)  
Uhh. Yeah. Sure.

The goon hands them each a small bottle of whisky. When the goon turns his back they chuckle a bit and smile at each other.

Goon #2 is standing outside the polling station handing out money to senior citizens and others that approach him.

HOMELESS MAN  
Hey can I have some money?

GOON  
Shut up, you got whisky.

The homeless man tries to hand back the whisky and eyeballs the money goon #2 is handing out.

GOON #2  
The mayor need you support.

Third goon drags a different man into an alley and he is beaten.

EXT. TELEVISION NEWS - LATE AFTERNOON

ANCHOR  
Join us tonight for comprehensive election coverage in what appears to be an election with a huge voter turn out.

ANALYST  
Every one in Chicago and their dog appear to have voted today. But just in case you haven't voted yet. There is still time.

ANCHOR  
Estimates are that upwards of 80 percent will vote today, far higher than the 41 percent that voted four years ago.

ANALYST

If you feel you have left something undone today, stand up and walk to the nearest polling station. Remember only you can make a difference.

INT. MYSTERY BUILDING - NIGHT

Seven or eight people, who are waiting for their afterlife processing, leave the building. They pass Raphael who appears to be telling them not to reveal themselves. But they ignore the warning.

They leave the fog bank over the lake. They walk to various voting stations. They stand at the end of the line to vote.

DEAD CHICAGOAN #1

Is my name still on the voter registration list?

And why wouldn't it be?

The man shrugs and hands the election worker his voting card. She stamps it and hands him a ballot.

DEAD CHICAGOAN #1

What about mine?

EXT. TELEVISION NEWS - LATE AFTERNOON

ANCHOR

Experts say this mayoral election has pulled very close as Calvin Palmer is making a late surge after his last minute television interview last night. The polls close in the next hour and we will have result as soon as they become available.

The television shows various shots of people voting. The city is engaged.

EXT. POLLING STATION NEAREST ADONIS' HOME - DAY

The election officials are closing up, but there is a long line of "pro-Palmer" people still wanting to vote. The police come and try to arrest the people on the street (in line to vote) for loitering. They would be successful but a television van pulls up and starts filming the ruckus.

ELECTION OFFICIAL

No, these people were in line when the polls close. They can vote and..

REPORTER

If you interfere, you and the mayor will be on the news tonight.

The election official and the reporter's camera frighten the police. The policemen walk away and call the mayor's office.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

MAYOR

Okay, I will take care of it.

The mayor signals the goon squad and they leave.

EXT. POLLING STATION NEAREST ADONIS' HOME - DAY

The polling station closes as the last vote cast their ballot. When the ballot boxes are being loaded the goons steal the truck and drive off with the ballots.

Adonis' friend, a kid on a bicycle, chases the truck. Fortunately they only go ten or so blocks and they stop. They dump the ballots in a garbage dumpster. The kid on the bike observes everything.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Adonis' heart beat is erratic. Clearly something is wrong. The nurse enters the room and checks the equipment and Adonis. The look on her face is ominous. Mother is worried. Calvin and the lawyer and perfectly traumatized.

EXT. GARBAGE DUMPSTER IN AN ALLEY - DAY

The ballot boxes have been dumped in the trash. The kid on the bike pulls out his Obama phone and calls someone. Soon, tens of people all with oil burning cars show up. The man who's truck was damaged by the pot holes drives up. The people retrieve the ballots and load them on the truck.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The television is reporting..

NEWS ANCHOR

With 99% of the precincts reporting, it appears that Mayor may have dodged a bullet. He is 80 votes at this time.

ANALYST

Well let's not get ahead of ourselves. There is one precinct still to report and it is one of the most pro-Palmer areas. In fact that neighborhood has recently earned the name "Calvin Central".

NEWS ANCHOR

No I'm hearing in my ear. We are calling it.

ANALYST

That's wrong. You are making a serious mistake.

NEWS ANCHOR

Our producers are now declaring Mayor Carothers the winner. It appear that he will now begin his second term in office.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Adonis straight lines... the machine signals that he is dead. The mother weeps and lawyer cries. Calvin looks like a ghost, no pun intended.

INT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

The truck with the lost/late ballots arrive. The polling official responsible for the boxes and the people haul them inside. The election official doesn't want to accept them but the people threaten to riot. Reluctantly the official agrees.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Adonis is dead and the weight is on Calvin's shoulders.

There is a long beat - ten seconds. The nurse and doctor are rushing in that direction. But the machines register no life.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - NIGHT

On television, there is an argument in the studio. The sound is cut as the reporter and the analyst curse each other.

In the production booth, the producer wants the director to go to commercial. The director refuses and wants all this aired. There is so much cursing however he does cut the sound.

The fight ends on television ends when someone brings a paper to the broadcasters. They sit down again.

ANCHOR

We have a late breaking report. Calvin Palmer has apparently come from behind to win the election for Mayor of Chicago. With 100% of precincts reporting Palmer has won.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The heart monitor begins to beep again. Adonis is alive about the time the nurses and doctor responds.

Mother, Calvin and the lawyer are all relieved.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The television stations are reporting the celebration on the streets and people are showing their stamped voting cards to the television cameras. They dance and sing.

A juvenile hoodlum is about burn a car and others (progressive thinking Calvin Palmer supporters) stop the kid.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Adonis comes out of the comma. He opens his eyes and sees his mother. She is overjoyed.

Adonis turn to the lawyer and Calvin.

ADONIS

What are you doing here?

(half beat)

You should be working on the election.

CALVIN

It's not important.

Calvin points to the television.

END CREDITS over, celebrations on the street.

FADE OUT