

Reign Hellfire

By

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EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE - NIGHT

PAN up to the door of the house.

Michael, a family man, is walking to the front of his house where he dumps garbage in his trash bin. He hears the door to the house creek slightly but figures it is only the wind. He goes inside, a cold hand covers his mouth while a distorted, filtered voice talks.

???

Don't move, don't scream.  
Just listen.

Michael is scared now but controls his temper. Through muffled talking, he complies, and the mouth uncovers his face. He turns around to see a figure in a dark blue metallic suit.

???

You're Michael Chambers,  
right?

MICHAEL

Y-y-yes, I am...

???

I saw what happened to  
your wife Isinia  
yesterday. I send you my  
dearest condolences.

Michael starts tearing up. He looks at a picture of him and Isinia.

CLOSE UP ON ISINIA AS GUNSHOT ECHOES IN THE BACKGROUND

MICHAEL

Please, don't. I can't  
take it anymore. All I  
have left are my kids.  
Please don't take them.  
What do you want from me?

???

I want your blessing for something.

Michael perked his ears and wiped his tears. He became focused

???

Got your attention, do I?

MICHAEL

Yeah, I don't understand. Are you a cop or something, cause I can't take any-

???

Trust me, I'm not a nark. What kind of cop sports a mechanical suit? I'm sure not even the military has this type of tech.

MICHAEL

Yeah, no cop would wear that or even deserve to. But why are you here?

???

I know what it's like to lose a loved one. I used to live a couple blocks from here. During the riots 25 years ago, I was orphaned for a time until my extended family came for me. My parents were killed during that time.

Michael eases his tensed body listening to the mysterious figure

???

Unlike you though, I  
couldn't get proper  
justice for their deaths.  
But I'm giving you that  
choice now.

MICHAEL

What choice?

The mysterious figure inhales and exhales deeply as the  
tension builds in the room. The silence is deafening.

???

Let me ask you something,  
be completely honest with  
me.

MICHAEL

I will, I will. Just  
please don't hurt me.

???

I won't. I can tell you're  
already broken; I'm not  
trying to crumble your  
spirit into more shards.  
What do you want done to  
that officer?

MICHAEL

I... I want him taken to  
jail... forever.

???

Is that all? Does a part  
of you want him... dead?

MICHAEL

Excuse me?

???

I said what I said. You heard that correctly. Do. You. Want. Him. Dead?

MICHAEL

Yes. I do, but I'm not a murderer, I can't kill someone. My wife wouldn't want me to stoop that low, no matter how much the cynical part of me wants him 6 feet under.

???

You wouldn't have to. You can still get your desires fulfilled and respect your wife's wishes because I'd do it.

MICHAEL

Oh no, I can't ask you to do that. But I mean, how would you be able to?

???

With these.

The mysterious figure starts flaunting its weapons: micro missiles, lasers, disposable gadgets, and other mechanisms. Michael is about to scream from fear but is shushed by the mysterious figure again. They give the warning not to scream, and Michael quickly calms down.

???

So, are we good to go? I won't force you to give me the green light to kill him. But I promise, he WILL NOT get off free. The choice is yours.

Michael contemplates for a second. Out the corner of his eye, he sees family portraits involving Isinia and his kids.

MICHAEL

(Regrettably)

Lord forgive me for what  
I'm about to do. Alright,  
I accept.

???

I thought you would.  
Everyone deserves to be  
avenged and no one should  
have that option revoked  
by the system. I promise  
that any spilled blood is  
on me, not you. Besides, I  
know I'll love the  
attention.

The mysterious figure sticks their hand out for a handshake.

???

I'll make sure the message  
to the public is clear.

Michael lets out a sigh of worry and relief. He clenches his eyes shut and opens them as he shakes their hand. As they finish, a car pulls up in the driveway. It's his kids coming back from their jobs.

???

I'll head out through the  
back. If someone finds  
out, you're screwed, and I  
have other people to help.

Michael understands and helps the mysterious figure by escorting them to the back of the house. They prepare to take off, but Michael grabs their arm.

MICHAEL

Forgive me, but I have to  
ask you something.

???

Clocks ticking.

MICHAEL

I know, but who are you  
and why are you doing all  
this?

The mysterious figure nudges Michael's hand off their  
arm and turns their back toward him. They exhale  
briefly.

???

Why am I doing this? Well,  
I hate it when wild  
animals aren't kept in  
check, so sometimes I feel  
you just have to put them  
down. So no other lives  
are harmed. They're just  
sheep in wolves' clothing.

MICHAEL

I see...

???

As to who I am? Call me...  
Azrael.

Michael's eyes widen. He hears the front door lock starts  
to turn and is on alert.

AZRAEL

Stay safe Michael. For  
them.

AZRAEL takes off and leaves the premises. Michael takes a second to process what has happened. Just then, the front door opens, and both of his sons come inside the house. They ask if he's ok and Michael assures them everything will be fine.

FADE OUT

THE END