

A RICH RUDY TREATMENT

MOTOR CITY



...FIN

DETROIT, EARLY 1967: WINTER: MILLER, 17, is given a note and a key outside a lavish Brownstone House by the Local Neighbourhood Boss. Miller runs through the rain to deliver it to **RAMIREZ**, 18, in his tenement house. Behind Ramirez, Miller sees **SOPHIA**, 15 and quite the tomboy, dancing by herself. Ramirez slaps Miller; diverting his attention away from her. He smirks, grabs the key off Miller and sends him away.

Sophia turns round to catch a split second glance of Miller as he runs away and goes over to Ramirez to find out who he was? Ramirez senses Sophia's curiosity. To distract his suspicions Sophia steals the note from Ramirez, begging to go with him that night; Sophia: *'Please!'* Eventually Ramirez relents, to keep her happy.

Miller goes home to his white foster family, a rarity in '67; the racist graffiti scars adorning their house proving the point. Whilst, Miller is the model adopted son, it is clear there are tensions in the house, and they are because of Miller.

That night; Miller & Ramirez hook up to steal a Mob Bosses car parked outside a hotel; Sophia tags along. It's the first time Sophia and Miller meet face to face and there is a ridiculously palpable spark of connection between them. Even Ramirez can't fail to notice. Nervous to be this close to Sophia and angry that Ramirez has brought her, Miller wants to back out and tries to leave. But Ramirez forces him to stay and complete the job.

The Hotel Porter is part of the sting and has punctured the back tire, which the Chauffeur is now changing. With the Mob Boss gradually making his way unexpectedly back out to the car, the nervous Porter signals too early before the Chauffeur is finished. Ramirez, Miller & Sophia run across the street, jump in the car, start it up and speed away, the back tire only held on by half the amount of nuts.

Another Mob car gives chase as Miller drives for his life through the rainy, treacherous, ice-covered streets. Sophia & Ramirez scream with excitement. Bar some very close calls, Miller seems to be losing the Mob. They're nearly home free, just as the back wheel flies off, the car grinds to a halt at a busy intersection and a huge truck and the Mob car crash at full violent speed into them, sending Ramirez flying through the windscreen across the street. Sophia is knocked out and Miller is barely conscious, both of them in bad shape.

Miller carries Sophia out of the car and forces her to flee. Miller heads over toward Ramirez, who's lower body is twisted and badly mangled, as he lies motionless, seemingly dead, as the police arrive, beat Miller to the ground and take him into custody.

JUVENILE DETENTION: LATE SUMMER: Miller is released and heads home to a city he no longer recognises after the July '67 Riots; his foster parent's home is burnt down and there's no sign of Ramirez or more importantly Sophia... The streets are ripe with tension and danger and with nowhere to go, Miller signs up to the Draft & the Vietnam War.

DETROIT, 1974: SUMMER: Miller returns from Vietnam; no-one there to greet him amongst the crowds. Although we don't know them yet, **YOUNGBLOOD** and **CLERK** are amongst the returning GI's. Miller's still only 25, but he's seen too much, survived unimaginable horrors and has the nightmares to prove it.

Detroit is more corrupt, dishonest and racially divided than ever. Miller gets a shitty apartment; Clerk works in his local shop and tries to help Miller get a job; But there's no jobs at the Motor plants and no one wants a disabled, mentally unstable Vietnam Vet. He drinks to forget in 'The Old Miami' bar surrounded by other Vet's and the early sounds of the angry Punk Rock fuelling his desperation and fears.