

BloodLine

By

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Original ScreenPlay

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EXT. WOODS - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

The night is still, the forest floor is thick with trees. It is hard to see even for the most skilled tracker. Deep in the woods a thimble of light glows amongst the darkened trees. The crackling of a fire in the night air is heard, a bonfire blazes. A handsome mixed race male, with blondish brown hair and fair eyes is gazing into the flames. The glow from the blaze dances across T.J.'s (27) face.

T.J. (V.O.)

Some say fire has a sort  
of therapeutic effect on the mind,  
body and soul, purging it of all  
its demons. But what happens when  
the fire doesn't work and the  
demons you try to out run catch up  
with you?

FADE TO BLACK TITLE "BLOODLINE"

EXT. BALTIMORE CITY - DAY (FLASH BACK 2000)

It is a mid-winter day. Cars are driving along an urban South Baltimore street. Three KIDS (Jarrell, T.J. and Ryan) bundled up in winter clothing are walking along the sidewalk, wearing backpacks. They are engrossed in heavy conversation. T.J. (10), is wearing a skull cap, coat and jeans, leading the way.

YOUNG T.J.

I'm telling you, New England just  
drafted Jesus; Tom Brady will be  
the best quarterback in the NFL.

JARRELL

You think so?

YOUNG T.J.

Underdogs always bring rings.

RYAN

(To T.J. & Jarrell)

Not this year he won't.

T.J. and JARRELL stop and listen to their friend, RYAN.

YOUNG T.J.

Here we go.

JARRELL

Then who you pick to win this year?

(CONTINUED)

RYAN

The Ravens on the shoulders of the defense, of course.

Jarrell and T.J. bust out in laughter, continuing their walk home. Not paying attention, T.J. bumps into EBONY (22) an African American woman dressed in a business suit. She is accompanied by three BODYGUARDS walking into a local liquor store. Ebony grabs T.J. by the shoulders, ready to reprimand him. She stops herself. She studies his face. T.J. stands his ground.

T.J. (V.O.)

The day I met my sister was the day  
I was introduced to a life I never  
knew existed.

FADE OUT

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

In a low lit living room, the afternoon day light breaks through two windows covered with sheer white curtains. Ebony is having a conversation with a white woman dressed in nursing scrubs, T.J.'s mother, MARIAN (34). She looks tired and worn out from her shift. T.J. spies from the hallway.

EBONY

The boy needs to know his family.

MARIAN

(anger)

No he doesn't. I hid him from your family for a reason. Tatius is trouble and I'd be damned if I let my son near him.

EBONY

(sighs)

Marian, my dad died a year ago. I'm in charge now.

Marian sits on the arm of the couch, placing her hand on her chest out of disbelief.

MARIAN

How?

EBONY

(chuckles)

Heart attack, can you believe it? He's been shot and stabbed, but gets taken out by a stopped heart, chilling in his office.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAN

He was a tough man.

EBONY

Yes, he was. But there wasn't a day  
he didn't regret losing Jr.

DISSOLVE

BEGIN PICTURE SLIDE MONTAGE

The screen dissolves to black, old Polaroid pictures scroll across.

1st picture--Marian, a waitress, serves an older, handsome, fair skinned black man with hazel eyes. TATIUS SR. (40) sits alone, dressed nicely in a suit.

T.J. (V.O.)

Mom was twenty-five when she met  
dad. Apparently, this old man swept  
her off her feet.

2nd Picture - Tatius is putting a mink coat on Marian.

T.J. (V.O.)

He introduced her to the good life.

3rd Picture - a family portrait of Tatius with his other family, a black WOMAN and a YOUNG GIRL (Ebony).

T.J. (V.O.)

But hid having a whole other family  
across town.

(Pause)

And his work started to interfere  
with their love life.

4th Picture - Tatius has a gun pointed at a MAN'S head.

5th Picture - Marian holding a pregnant stomach, looking out the window.

T.J. (V.O)

When she became pregnant with me,  
only then did she see through my  
father's bullshit and leaves.

END PICTURE SLIDE MONTAGE

DISSOLVE

INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY CONTINUOUS

Ebony and Marian sit across from one another on the couch.

EBONY

I'm reaching out here. I want to know my brother. He doesn't have anyone to call family and you don't either. Falling in love with my father disowned you from yours, remember.

(Pause)

Junior-

MARIAN

(somber voice)

T.J., just call him T.J.

Marian stands up fighting herself. She paces back and forth deciding what to do.

MARIAN (CON'T)

God, I told myself I was done with you people. I wasn't going to let MY son go through what I went through.

(Pause)

But I wouldn't want him to think he was alone if something ever happened to me.

Marian stops pacing and faces Ebony looking her up and down.

MARIAN (CON'T)

You Promise to keep him away from the business?

EBONY

I put my life on it.

MARIAN

Ok-ok. Then I give you permission to be around my son. But, if I feel somethings not right, in anyway. I'm coming after you and your whole got damn business. I will go to the feds and tell them everything.

Ebony gives Marian a hard look.

EBONY

I hear you.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAN

Good.

(Pause)

T.J. get in here!

T.J. runs into the living room, Ebony stands up at his presence. Marian brings him in between her and Ebony.

MARIAN (CON'T)

T.J. I want you to meet Ebony, your sister.

T.J. (V.O.)

And just like that, my sister became my best friend, and the dad I never had.

FADE OUT

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

It's a nice calm afternoon in Druid Hill Park. The birds are chirping, RUNNERS are out, a MOTHER sits on a bench reading a book to her CHILD. Across the park, at the local basketball courts, a couple of games are going on. Three MEN in athletic wear are sitting in the bleachers. BISHOP BLACK (35), a handsome middle aged African American man is stuffing his face with popcorn. He counts out loud as young T.J. does push ups.

BLACK

(mouth full)

8 down...9 down.

He starts to suck his teeth trying to get a kernel out of his mouth.

YOUNG T.J.

(discomfort)

BLACK!!!

T.J.'s discomfort breaks Black out of his kernel search.

BLACK

(laughs)

Oh, sorry, 10. Alright, great job.  
Shake it out.

Young T.J. gets up, stretches out his arms and legs.

BLACK (CON'T)

Now, two laps around the court.  
Then when you come back give me 50 jumping jacks.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG T.J.  
What! You're joking, right?

BLACK  
Do I look like a clown? No, so  
until I paint my face and start  
riding a tricycle, you run.

T.J. grumbles, then starts running. Black turns his attention to his friends in the bleachers; VINNY, a slick good looking second generation Italian man in his mid 30's, and MR. FOX, a tall muscle built Russian man in his mid 30's.

T.J. (V.O.)  
Black, Vinny, and Mr. Fox were my sisters "go to" guys. They kept people in line. They were like brothers, always having each others back. To me, they were like uncles.

FLASH TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE - DAY (FLASH BACK 80'S)

A YOUNG BISHOP BLACK in his early twenties, walks in nervously. He looks amazed by the house's size and beauty. Tatius Sr. stands in a nice suit, rings on his hand and designer shades on his face, welcoming him with open arms.

T.J. (V.O.)  
My father recruited Bishop, or Black as he's called, just as he transitioned over to boss of Shire House. Back in my dad's old neighborhood, he told Black he'd bring him on board if he ever got a chance to run things.

Tatius, Sr. looks back at a TEENAGE EBONY. He holds out his hand reassuringly and brings her in between him and Black.

T.J (V.O., CON'T)  
Black had a major task. Not only was he to look after my dad, but my sister as well.

Black humbly introduces himself (M.O.S) to Ebony. He pulls out a small bear from his back pocket. The bear holds a bag of candy, Black gives it to Ebony. She smiles and hugs.

CUT TO

## EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD SIDEWALK - NIGHT (FLASH BACK 80'S)

Tatius Sr., accompanied by a young Black and two other GOONS are out harassing a MAN who owes him money. Tatius, Sr. takes out his silver custom made revolver and shoots him. He looks up from his dirty work, and a young PIZZA BOY is frozen dead in his tracks in fear. Tatius, Sr. calls the young guy over; a scared YOUNG VINNY walks slowly over.

T.J. (V.O.)

Vinny met my dad at the wrong place and time. But my dad was in a good mood. He tells Vinny, if the pizza in the box is his favorite, he'll let him go.

Vinny opens the pizza box. It's pepperoni. Tatius, Sr. smiles. He takes the box of pizza and drives away with his men. He leaves Vinny standing in the middle of the street with a wad of cash. Vinny looks at it and smiles, but then sees the dead body and runs like a bat out of hell.

T.J. (V.O.)

My dad left Vinny with the fattest tip he'd ever seen. The next day he quit his job.

CUT TO

## INT. GAME ROOM - NIGHT (FLASH BACK 80'S)

In a dark underground room, four MOB BOSSES sit and play a game of poker. Tatius, Sr. is one of the bosses. Behind each one of the men, BODYGUARDS stand. Black and Vinny stand behind Tatius, Sr. Tatius, Sr. slams his cards on the table. A white RUSSIAN MAN in a white suit and pink shirt yells out in disgust. Tatius, Sr. points to the tall muscular bodyguard behind him, MR. FOX.

T.J. (V.O.)

As for Mr. Fox, well, my dad won him in a card game. From then on, all three men struck fear in those who crossed my father.

FLASH TO

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT (FLASH BACK 90'S)

The room is dark, the smell of dampness and mold perfumes the air. The screams of a MAN can be heard. A single light is swinging back and forth. The shadows on the wall show a person being severely beaten. The shadow turns to a MAN sitting in a chair, bound, bruised, and bloody. Surrounding him are Black, Vinny, and Mr. Fox, who is sitting in the corner playing with his bloody hands.

BLACK

Come on Charley, tell us how the cops found out about the boss's plans and we'll let you go.

CHARLEY

(scared)

I-I can't.

VINNY

Why not?

CHARLEY

Cuz they'll kill me!!

Black and Vinny look at each other and start laughing.

BLACK

Charley, considering the situation you're in now-

CHARLEY

I'm serious, they'll do far worse.

BLACK

Oh really?

Black, insulted, grabs Charley and rips his shirt open. Vinny follows up and puts a blow torch to his chest. Charley begins to scream. Mr. Fox is in the corner laughing.

BLACK (CON'T)

Is this worse for you??!!

Charley breaks.

CHARLEY

(crying)

OK! I'll tell you. PLEASE JUST  
STOP!!

Vinny takes the torch off his chest. They wait for his reply. Charley has passed out. Black shakes him awake.

(CONTINUED)

BLACK  
Charley, Charley.

Charley opens his eyes slowly. Black is in his point of view. He explains slowly, fighting through pain.

CHARLEY  
The Blue Bloods.

VINNY  
What?

CHARLEY  
A couple of Blue Bloods heard me running my mouth off to a broad at the bar. They told me to snitch to the cops or they'd kill me, and I guess I told the cops.

Vinny gets irritated and leans down in Charley's face.

VINNY  
(irritated)  
You guess? Well guess what, I don't believe you. I believe you snitched for some cash and your rat ass got caught!

Vinny signals Black to leave out.

CHARLEY  
(to Black)  
Wait, where are you going? I told you the truth!

BLACK  
And we don't believe you.

Black leaves, Mr. Fox gets up. Before Vinny leaves he turns back around, gestures for Mr. Fox to come over, whispering in his ear.

VINNY  
(whispers)  
Send his head to the Blue Bloods...Show them what we do to eavesdroppers.

Vinny leaves, Mr. Fox starts walking towards Charley.

CHARLEY  
WAIT NO, NOT HIM! I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH, ANYTHING BUT HIM NOOO!!!

## DISSOLVE

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - DAY CONTINUOUS

Young T.J. has started his jumping jacks. Black and the guys are standing around talking. Ebony shows up in athletic wear. They all greet her. Ebony speaks to T.J.

EBONY  
How's my little champ?

YOUNG T.J.  
(sarcasm)  
Oh! I'm doing just fine. You know,  
just jumping around.

Ebony returns the sarcasm.

EBONY  
I see, look at you. And you're  
jumping so well.

YOUNG T.J.  
Ok, I get it. It's because I'm half  
white, right? That's why you're  
torturing me?

Ebony and the guys laugh.

EBONY  
(laughing)  
What, No! Look here little Michael  
Jackson, stop jumping for a sec.

T.J. stops jumping.

EBONY (CON'T)  
Who was the one who came to me  
crying, saying "sis, can you help  
me join the basketball team"?

YOUNG T.J.  
I wasn't crying.

Ebony gives T.J. a look. He backs down.

EBONY  
Right, so in order for you to be  
ready for tryouts you gotta start  
early.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG T.J.  
But I'm already good.

EBONY  
No, you're ok. Good is having your name in the local paper like your old man and me. So get down there and give me twenty.

YOUNG T.J.  
Man!!

EBONY  
I'll do it with you.

CUT TO

BEGIN BASKETBALL MONTAGE

Ebony and T.J. are doing a series of basketball exercises. Ebony blows on a whistle guiding him in perfecting his form. They start a one on one game, when a MAN from the neighborhood dressed in jeans and a shirt tries to run over to her. He is stopped by Black. Vinny runs up to Ebony and whispers in her ear, ending her and T.J.'s one on one game.

END BASKETBALL MONTAGE

YOUNG T.J.  
What's up?

EBONY  
Something has come up.

They start walking to a black Nissan sports car parked next to the courts.

YOUNG T.J.  
(jokingly)  
Can I come? You're just going to murk some people, right.

T.J. laughs. Ebony is about to get into the car when she stops. She puts her hand around the back of his neck in a loving, parent-like manner.

EBONY  
If there's one thing I don't want you ever to be a part of, it's what I do, ok? Promise me that?

T.J. reluctantly agrees.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG T.J.  
Promise.

EBONY  
Good!

She gets into the car and talks to T.J. out of the window.

EBONY (CON'T)  
Now getcha tail home before your  
mom kills the both of us.

YOUNG T.J.  
Oook...Hey Eb, can you spot me some  
cash?

EBONY.  
Sp-Spot you? Boy, I just gave you  
some money. Where that go?

YOUNG T.J.  
Spent it. Your lil' bro got too  
many lady friends.

Ebony hands him a couple twenty dollar bills.

EBONY  
Lady friends my ass. Don't get into  
trouble and don't spend it all at  
once.

Ebony drives off, leaving T.J laughing to himself.

FADE OUT

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY (FLASH FORWARD 2007)

A jock like BULLY body slams a nerdy TEENAGE T.J. (17) against a row of lockers. He tries to fight back. The hallway is full of ONLOOKERS jeering and laughing. There is no authority in sight.

T.J.  
C'mon Johnny, do we have to do this  
today?

JOHNNY  
What nigga??? If I said I want your  
got damn watch McCormick, that  
means GIVE ME THE GOT DAMN WATCH!

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY throws T.J. down the hall past a group of people. He lands hard, hitting his head. Vision blurred, he sees LONDON (17), an attractive black girl dressed in a skull cap, pull over sweat shirt, jeans and timberland boots, standing amongst the crowd.

T.J. looks again, she's gone. Johnny comes over, ready to take his prize. T.J. snaps out of it and kicks Johnny in the mouth. Everyone is stunned. Shaking it off Johnny grabs T.J. off the floor, jacking him up. T.J. braces himself for a blow to the face. London taps Johnny on the shoulder. Johnny stops his assault and turns around, T.J. still in his grasp.

T.J.

(to London)

You can go home London,  
everything's fine.

LONDON

(annoyance)

Clearly.

JOHNNY

(laughs)

Ooooh shoot...You gotta bodyguard,  
McCormick?

T.J.

No!

JOHNNY

(chuckles)

She should be, she just saved ya  
life.

Johnny lets T.J. go. The crowd quiets down. He turns his attention to London, looking her up and down.

JOHNNY (CON'T)

I never seen you before. You must  
be new. I would of noticed them  
nice lips you got.

He grabs London's chin gently, licking his lips. The crowd gawks and whistles. London looks at his hand, then at Johnny and smiles. In a quick flash London grabs Johnny's hand, twisting it, bringing him to his knees in pain. The crowd erupts seeing the action.

LONDON

Notice them now?

JOHNNY  
Ahhh! Fuck you bitch!

T.J. tries to get London off of Johnny. CAMPUS POLICE arrives, dispersing the crowd. They rush over and lift London off of Johnny. They slam her and T.J. on the floor in hand cuffs.

DISSOLVE

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

T.J. and London are handcuffed to a bench, waiting to be charged. Legs crossed, London fixes her stare straight ahead. T.J. breaks the silence.

T.J.  
You just had to jump in.

He looks around.

T.J. (CON'T)  
Everything was fine, till you showed up.

London is paying him no mind.

LONDON  
That's not how I saw it.

T.J.  
I was handling it. Till you decided, "hey let's cause more problems"!

T.J. holds up his arm that is cuffed to the bench.

LONDON  
(sarcasm)  
You're so right.

T.J.  
What?

London looks at him.

LONDON  
(sarcasm)  
It was silly of me to help. I mean, you lying on the floor should of told me you was good.

(CONTINUED)

T.J.

You know what your problem is? You don't listen, and you damn sure don't know how to control your temper. What's wrong with you? You could have broke his arm?

London uncrosses her legs and faces him.

LONDON

(serious)

What's wrong with me? What's wrong with you? Everybody at school should know not to mess with you.

She pokes him in the head.

LONDON (CON'T)

But for some reason you got a sign on ya head saying "I'm a punk ass bitch".

T.J looks down at his watch.

LONDON (CON'T)

That watch don't mean shit either. You'll never be as tough as your sister. Shit, you not even black, ya mom was just side pussy, and you happened to pop out.

A nerve is struck. T.J. jumps at her but is stopped by the hand cuffs.

LONDON (CON'T)

So, the pussy does have balls. I heard your dad, had a short temper.

T.J. checks himself, he settles down and sits back.

T.J.

I'm not like that man.

London sits back, basking in her victory.

LONDON

(chuckles)

Sure, every kid says they're not like their parent. And every kid who says it usually winds up like them, one way or another.

FADE OUT

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

It is a calm spring night. Two cars are parked outside the police station. Marian (39) is leaning against her Toyota Corolla, nervously smoking a cigarette, looking at the police station doors. Parked in front of her is a Chrysler 300, Ebony (29) is leaning against the car, waiting and watching in the same direction. Marian draws on her cigarette and blows out.

MARIAN

(anxious)

Where are they? You said he would handle it.

Marian looks at Ebony. Ebony continues to stare at the police station.

EBONY

(sternly)

I did and he will.

Marian drops her cigarette and rushes over to Ebony.

MARIAN

I swear Ebony, if that little pet of yours destroyed my boy's life, I'll-

EBONY

You'll what?

Ebony turns her head towards Marian, Marian holds her ground. They are interrupted by the doors of the police station opening; T.J. and London walk out along side Ebony's LAWYER. Marian rushes to T.J., checking him over.

T.J.

(embarrassed)

Moom, I'm fine.

MARIAN

Did anybody touch you? Be honest.

T.J.

Nooo.

London laughs and mutters under her breath.

LONDON

Pussy.

Ebony gives London a look. She stops talking.

(CONTINUED)

EBONY  
I'm glad you two are ok.

LAWYER  
They were treated quite well.  
Having his father's name kept them  
safe. All charges have been dropped  
by the "victim". Apparently he's  
been bullying T.J. for the past  
couple months. And London just ran  
in to help. The principal has over  
looked everything.

MARIAN  
Why didn't you tell me you were  
being bullied?

She touches T.J.'s face again. T.J. moves away from her touch.

T.J.  
Because it's nothing.

EBONY  
(to T.J.)  
Obviously not! You can't walk  
around with a name like ours and  
get your ass kicked.

Tension in the air, the lawyer dismisses himself.

LAWYER  
I see I'm not needed anymore. I'll  
leave you guys to discuss  
everything, Ebony.

London laughs. Ebony motions for her to get in the car.

EBONY  
You're going to start learning how  
to defend yourself, and we're going  
to teach you all break if we have  
to, including London.

T.J.  
(excited)  
You serious?!

London, listening from the back seat with the windows rolled down, makes a protest.

LONDON  
What? Noo, Ebony-

Ebony gives her another cold look. She sits back in the car.

MARIAN  
(to Ebony)  
My son will not become one of your  
prize fighters!

T.J  
MOM! What if Johnny starts bullying  
me again?

MARIAN  
That's what the law is for. You  
have a problem, call them.  
Something your father's side of the  
family has never seemed to get. Now  
get in the car.

T.J. gets in the car. Marian starts walking to the driver's side. Ebony pulls Marian over.

EBONY  
(annoyed)  
And I'll be damned if I continue to  
let my little brother get bullied.  
Think Marian, the boy is getting  
older. There are far worse people  
out there who would give anything  
to do more than just bully him. And  
considering who we are, the cops  
really won't care.

Marian reads Ebony's face and understands.

MARIAN  
I swear Ebony, if he winds up like  
Tatius...

Ebony looks over Marian's shoulder smiling.

EBONY  
He won't.

Marian gets in the car.

MARIAN  
That's if you don't pull it out of  
him first.

Marian speeds off, leaving Ebony in the street. Black calls out, holding the door open for her to get in the car. They drive off.

DISSOLVE

INT. GUN RANGE - DAY

Ebony's estate resides in Owings Mills, Maryland, not too far from Park Heights Ave. Her mansion has a beautiful garden and out door pool. Next to that, a private gym with a bath house and indoor gun range. T.J. and Ebony are going over a .22 caliber Colt pistol. T.J. is looking around, touching the bullets, not paying attention to Ebony. Ebony puts the gun in T.J's hand.

EBONY

This is a .22 caliber Colt pistol.

She takes her gun apart, showing him the bullet chamber and puts it back in the gun.

EBONY (CON'T)

It's easy to carry and easy to conceal.

T.J. is playing with his gun.

EBONY (CON'T)

Hey! Pay attention. The 22 may look like it ain't much, but get a bullet through the  
(pause)  
head.

T.J. is looking down the barrel of his gun. Ebony snatches it from him, slapping him upside the head.

T.J.

Aye! What the hell you do that for?

EBONY

(agitated)

What possessed you to do that!?  
Never look down the barrel of a gun! I can't deal with you right now.

Ebony walks away.

T.J.

What? C'mon Eb, Eb. It's not even loaded.

(CONTINUED)

T.J. puts the gun down next to him. It triggers the gun to go off.

T.J. (CON'T)  
Oh shit!

CUT TO

INT. GYM - DAY

Vinny, Black, Mr. Fox, and T.J. are on a mat next to a boxing ring in Ebony's gym, wearing athletic clothing. Far off in the corner London is hitting a punching bag. Black and Mr. Fox are sitting in folding chairs as Vinny talks to T.J.

VINNY  
Your sister has given us permission to toughen you up.

Vinny walks around T.J.

VINNY (CON'T)  
Look at this.

Vinny shakes his head at T.J. and picks his arm up.

VINNY (CON'T)  
Look at you. Why are you so small?

BLACK  
And pale?

MR.FOX  
(laughs)  
And zhalkiy. (Russian for "pathetic")

T.J.  
Hey, I'm not pale. This my fall color, and I can fight.

VINNY  
Didn't seem like it a couple days ago.

London, over hearing the guys' conversation, laughs to herself.

T.J.  
I only lost because Johnny was bigger than me.

(CONTINUED)

VINNY

Great! This means you should be able to handle London with ease then.

Vinny gestures for London to come over to them.

T.J.

Wait, what?!

London comes over in basketball shorts and a sports bra, her hands already taped from hitting the punching bag.

BLACK

(to T.J.)

London is here to teach you the fundamentals of basic fighting. Either you learn fast or get your ass kicked.

T.J. responds to Big Black, not keeping an eye on London.

T.J

(sarcastic)

Well that's great advice.

T.J. turns back around as London lands a right hook to the side of his face.

BLACK, VINNY, MR. FOX

OOOOOO!!!

T.J. stumbles, blood dripping from his mouth. He stands up in a fighting stance.

T.J.

That ain't fair, I wasn't ready.

London delivers another right hook, then a left, followed by a thrust kick, sending T.J. on his back. She stands over top of him.

LONDON

If you have time to run your mouth, I have time to hit you in it. First lesson for today.

DISSOLVE

INT. GUN RANGE - NIGHT

Ebony has her father's custom made .45 caliber revolver in her hand. T.J. stands and listens.

EBONY

When it comes to the .45 you either know how to shoot or you don't.

Ebony, looking at T.J., fires her gun at the paper target at the end of the range. She presses a button, bringing the target forward. The paper has a bullet hole in the middle of its head.

T.J.

Beast!

EBONY

Ok, your turn.

T.J. positions himself, takes a deep breath, and empties the whole cartridge at the target, yelling. He stands up, lets out a sigh and presses the button to bring the paper back. He missed the entire paper, but points at the edge.

T.J.

Look, I grazed it.

EBONY

Give me that.

Ebony snatches the paper from him.

WIPE TO

INT. EXERCISE CAGE - DAY

Ebony's gym has its own MMA fighting cage. T.J. is sparing with Mr. Fox in the cage. Mr. Fox throws a jab at T.J.'s stomach, causing him to grab it. Vinny and Black yell at him to get it together.

Mr. Fox side kicks T.J.. He blocks it, taking his knee to Mr. Fox's outer thigh, causing him to fall. T.J. knees him in the face. He tries to kick him again. Mr. Fox blocks it, flipping T.J. on his back, pinning him down.

WIPE TO

## INT. GUN RANGE - DAY

Ebony shoots a twelve gauge shot gun at a paper target. She presses the button, bringing the paper back to her. T.J. does the same. He hits his target in the chest. Ebony gives him a high five.

FADE OUT

## INT. GYM - DAY

T.J. is in the gym doing crunches and bench pressing 150lbs. Black spots him. He hangs upside down doing pull ups on a bar. Alone in the gym, he practices his kicks and punches on the punching bag.

DISSOLVE

## INT. GUN COURSE - DAY

T.J. and Ebony are in and out from behind blockades with assault rifles, targeting paper targets. Some of the targets are dressed as innocents. Picking up his side arm, he takes out the last few targets, meeting Ebony at the end of the course. T.J. fires a round in the air, scaring both of them. She snatches the gun away.

DISSOLVE

## INT. EXERCISE CAGE - DAY

T.J. has Black by the waist. Both struggle to pin the other one down. Ebony, Vinny, Mr. Fox and London cheer on. Black manages to break free and gets the upper hand, hitting a pressure point in T.J.'s arm.

Black slams T.J. on the ground, tossing an elbow to his nose, causing it to bleed. Black gets up as though he's won. T.J. sneaks up from behind and puts him in a sleep hold. Black passes out. Vinny goes over and tries to wake him.

VINNY

Black! Black!

Black can be heard snoring loudly. T.J. sees London smiling at him, but quickly stops.

DISSOLVE

INT. T.J. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Marian is in T.J.'s bedroom scolding him. She touches his face, looking at his cuts. T.J. pulls away, fighting the pain.

MARIAN

What the hell T.J. I'm calling the  
the FEDS!

T.J.

Mom don't. I'm ok really.

MARIAN

No you're not. You're face is all  
bruised, you walk with a limp. I  
told Ebony she has one chance with  
you and she just blew it!

Marian pulls out her cell phone, placing it to her ear. An automated voice for the F.B.I picks up. T.J. grabs his mothers arm out of desperation.

T.J.

Mom, please!!For the first time,  
I-I feel good about myself. Please  
don't do this to me?

T.J. looks at her with a plea in his eyes. Marian slowly hangs up the phone seeing her sons heartbroken face.

MARIAN

I'll let this slide, just for you.

T.J. hugs his mother out of relief.

MARIAN

I can't complain too much. School  
hasn't started yet. But once it  
does, this stops. You hear me?

T.J.

Yes.

T.J. gives Marian a kiss on the cheek.

FADE OUT

## INT. EXERCISE CAGE - DAY

London and T.J. are in the cage, sparing alone. T.J. is keeping up with her. London tosses out a punch with her right hand. T.J. catches it. She tosses out a punch with her left hand, he grabs that one, trapping her.

T.J.  
Ha, gotcha!

London head butts him hard in the forehead. T.J. stumbles back, grabbing his head.

T.J. (CON'T)  
Damn it!

T.J. looks up. London comes at him with a kick to the face. He grabs and reverses it, tossing her on the ground. He gets on top of her, punching her in the face. T.J. gets up like he has won.

London grabs T.J.'s foot causing him to fall on his chest. She gets up, wiping her mouth. London turns T.J. over getting on top, ready to return the favor. He grabs her, locking her in a bear hug. She struggles to get free. As she breathes in T.J. squeezes the air out of her. London head butts T.J., loosening his grip, but she doesn't get away. T.J. pins her to the ground, twisting her arm back.

T.J.  
Tap out!

LONDON  
Nnnoo.

T.J.  
I swear I'll break it!

T.J. pulls back tighter on her arm. Pain shoots through London's arm. She taps out.

FADE OUT

## INT. TURKISH BATH HOUSE - NIGHT

The Turkish Bath House is a beautiful area attached to Ebony's gym facility. T.J., bruised and battered, limps his way to the warm bath area. He takes off his towel and steps in the tub. He doesn't see London on the other side, sitting with a half bottle of wine.

(CONTINUED)

LONDON  
What are you doing?

T.J. jumps.

T.J.  
Jeez, I'm relaxing.

LONDON  
I was here first.

T.J.  
This place can hold like, 10  
people.

He lays his head back on the wall of the tub. London splashes water on him.

LONDON  
Get the hell out.

T.J.  
Shit! You're acting as if.  
(pause)  
You're naked aren't you?

LONDON  
No!

T.J.  
Sooo I can come over and sit by  
you?

LONDON  
No.

T.J.  
Too late.

T.J. heads over to London, chasing her. London tries to get away but the water slows her down. It becomes a fun game of chase. He finally grabs her and pulls her towards him. They lock eyes. They look each other over, but break their stare, letting each other go.

T.J.  
Liar. You got clothes on.

LONDON  
I never said I had them off.

T.J.  
You're right. Are you even old  
enough to drink?

LONDON  
Does your mom still hold your hand  
while you pee?

T.J. gives London a look, grabs the bottle of wine, and chugs down the rest of it.

LONDON (CON'T)  
(laughs)  
Whoa, slow down, thug life.

T.J. starts taking off his trunks.

LONDON (CON'T)  
Um, what are you doing?

T.J.  
It's more free. Live a little.

T.J. leans back against the wall, relaxing. He closes his eyes. London's bikini top hits his face. Shocked, he plays it off and smiles, laying back again. They both relax a few feet from each other, until London breaks the silence.

LONDON  
It might be the wine talking.  
(pause)  
But, I'm glad you stuck it out with us.

T.J.  
Are you now?

LONDON  
I said I was, don't push it.

T.J. sits up.

LONDON (CON'T)  
Even if you don't follow after  
Ebony, I'm just happy I don't have  
to baby sit you anymore.

T.J. smiles as London leans back.

T.J.  
True life. So, what's your story? I  
never exactly knew how you got  
here. Ebony said you were staying  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

T.J. (cont'd)  
one day and I went with it. I  
really thought she lost a bet.

T.J. laughs, waits for a response, but gets none. He sighs and leans back.

London hesitates.

LONDON

My mom was addicted to the pipe way  
before she had me. So, she gave me  
up.

FLASH TO

INT. GROUP HOME - DAY (FLASH BACK)

A YOUNG LONDON (5) is getting bullied by a group of KIDS. She is shoved from behind onto the floor. She curls into a ball with tears coming down her face. The FOSTER MOM pays no attention while she is on the phone.

FLASH TO

INT. GROUP HOME - DAY (FLASH BACK)

London (10) is still in a fetal position. The same kids, older, still kick her. London continues to stare ahead, this time no tears. She manages to grab one of her ATTACKER'S legs, biting into it. The boy yells, he falls to the floor, everyone backs away.

London gets up, facing the eyes staring at her. The foster mom comes running in. She looks at the boy, then at London. Angered, she grabs London and shakes her violently, yelling at her. London does not say a word. She punches the lady in the nose, breaking it. Looking at the mess she's caused, she takes off running out of the house.

FLASH TO

EXT. STREET - NIGHT (FLASH BACK)

It's a cold night. London (15) is homeless, sitting on a corner wrapped up in a blanket, cup in her hand. A car pulls up, rolling down its back window. A middle aged African man, MICKEY, calls out to her. Dressed in a red shirt with gold chains showing.

MICKEY  
Where do you live girl?

(CONTINUED)

London points across the street at the bridge. He shows her a wad of cash. Still silent, London hesitates. She looks around, then agrees nodding her head. She gets into the car.

FLASH TO

INT. MICKEY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASH BACK)

A group of YOUNG BOYS, ages (10-21) surround Mickey. On a table between them are bags of drugs and cash. He makes a speech, the boys applaud and cheer (M.O.S.). He calls a group of YOUNG GIRLS dressed seductively to come in the room. London, is amongst the girls dressed in bra and underwear. The girls are drugged. Mickey snaps his fingers, the girls disperse to the boys. Mickey goes and sits on the couch. His BODYGUARDS in the back look on. Mickey points for London to entertain him. Numb to the world, she starts dancing.

DISSOLVE

INT. MICKEY'S LIVING ROOM -- LATER THAT NIGHT

Everyone has left except London and Mickey. The room is dark. Mickey is on the couch smoking a blunt. London sits up and wipes her mouth. She gets up and starts to walk away. Mickey grabs her arm forcefully. London resists. He back hands her across the face. She hits him back. Excited by this, he throws her on the couch. They tussle, he takes off his belt and begins to whip her into submission.

FLASH TO

INT. TURKISH BATH HOUSE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

London is in an upright fetal position. T.J. is listening.

LONDON

Your sister rescued me. She exposed Mickey's illegal act of child slavery to the council. In their world that's forbidden. Punishable by death. I watched her personally slice his throat. Most of the kids got put back into the system. But not me. That's how I got here.

London gets out of the tub with her back toward T.J., covering herself. She gets her towel and bikini top. T.J. sees some of London's childhood scars going down her back.

FADE OUT

INT. SHIRE HOUSE ESTATE - MIDNIGHT

It's a quiet night. Everybody is asleep except for the usual GUARDS downstairs. T.J. comes up from the kitchen limping, munching on a midnight snack, heading to his room. He comes across London leaving his door, walking back down the hall to her room.

T.J.  
Looking for me?

T.J. startles London.

LONDON  
(whispering)  
Shit!

T.J.  
(whispering)  
Sorry.

Both are standing in the hallway in front of London's door.

T.J. (CON'T)  
(whispering)  
I'm sorry for making you remember  
all that stuff.

LONDON  
It's cool.

T.J. chuckles, trying to get the words out.

T.J.  
I can't say I get what you went  
through, cuz I don't. But I do know  
we're two outcasts who found a home  
and family in this house. And when  
it comes to you, I-I see you as a  
friend. My only friend actually-

London cuts T.J. off, placing her finger gently on his lips.  
She smiles at him.

LONDON  
I get it. Good night T.J..

She goes into her room, leaving T.J. outside smiling.

T.J.  
Night.

FADE OUT

## EXT. MARIAN HOUSE - DAY

It is a nice summer day. T.J. is outside his old city row home, packing his Mom's car with boxes, fussing with London on how to pack the car. Marian takes pictures as Black, Vinny, and Mr. Fox come out with more boxes, taking them to a van. Ebony comes in between the two teenagers, fixing the box with ease.

T.J. (V.O.)

Years passed, but London and I remained friends. Even as I went off to college.

SMASH CUT

## INT. TATTOO PARLOR - NIGHT

London is sitting in a TATTOO ARTIST'S chair, getting a sleeve done, drinking out of a bottle. At the bottom of her hand the words "Shire House" are needled into her skin. Ebony sits off to the side, smoking a cigar, over seeing.

T.J. (V.O.)

London chose the fast life.

DISSOLVE

## INT. ARCHITECT'S OFFICE - DAY

T.J. is an intern, going through papers vigorously. He makes a couple of phone calls, flipping through pages of work. He sketches out a few drawings on a board as His boss watches him closely.

T.J. (V.O.)

I had my path set, she had hers.

SMASH CUT

## INT. GUN RANGE - NIGHT

A time clock is ticking on a table next to a disassembled sniper rifle. London is reassembling it back together, blind folded. She puts the last pieces together. Mr. Fox stops the time clock before it goes off and shows it to Ebony.

DISSOLVE

INT. HIGH RISE OFFICE - DAY

T.J. is leaning over a desk in a lavish office space with a window view. He is looking at a blueprint to a new building, talking to a CLIENT. They shake hands.

T.J. (V.O.)

I was working on a Master's, and moving up the ladder at a well known architectural firm in D.C. More and more I was away from home and Shire House. Eventually being away led me to something else...Love.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. SHIRE HOUSE MANSION - NIGHT ( FLASH FORWARD 2012)

It is a nice spring night. The air is still and calm with a bright moon shining down. A car pulls in front of Ebony's mansion. T.J. (22) is dressed casually in a blue button up, blazer and dark denim jeans with brown dress shoes. He opens his car door for a stunning young mixed Turkish woman, ADRIANNE (22). She almost matches T.J. in her spring dress and white sweater. He helps her out of the car; locked lovingly arm to arm, they walk up the steps to the front door.

ADRIANNE

I'm a little nervous.

T.J.

Don't be. I promise my family's not as bad as the news makes them out to be.

Adrianne laughs. She lets out a sigh as they stop in front of the door.

ADRIANNE

I just hope they like me.

T.J. grabs Adrianne's hand.

T.J.

Babe, trust me, they will.

T.J. rings the door bell. They both face the door.

T.J. (CON'T)

Oh yeah, I forgot, don't look Fox in the eyes.

(CONTINUED)

Adrianne looks at T.J. Mr. Fox opens the door. Mr. Fox grabs T.J., giving him a bear hug. Adrianne is taken aback by his size. She stops staring at him as soon as he looks her way. Mr. Fox talks to T.J. in Russian.

MR. FOX  
(in Russian)  
Ah, this must be Adrianne.

T.J. pats Mr. Fox on his muscular shoulder and replies back in Russian.

T.J.  
(in Russian)  
Yes this is, uncle.

Adrianne holds out her hand and speaks in Russian.

ADRIANNE  
(in Russian)  
Pleased to meet you, Mr. Fox.

Mr. Fox looks at T.J., then back at Adrianne. He responds back in English and smiles at the both of them.

MR. FOX  
I like her already. Come in, come in.

CUT TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

As they make their way through the massive mansion, Adrianne is caught by its grandeur. The interior of Shire House is lavishly decorated with a mixture of new and old century styling. She takes an even longer look at the house's security room As they pass by. They come to the common area where everyone is waiting. Black is the first to get up.

BLACK  
Ayyy! My favorite half white nephew is here.

T.J.  
I'm your only half white nephew.

T.J. laughs. He and Black shake hands and hug.

BLACK  
And this must be Adrianne.

Black hugs her.

(CONTINUED)

BLACK (CON'T)  
We hug in this family.

Vinny gets his turn. Marian comes in, very excited to see her son.

MARIAN  
T.J.!!!

Marian smothers him with a mother's affection. T.J. calls Adrianne over to meet her. Marian hugs her warmly.

MARIAN  
Oh, I have heard so much about you.

ADRIANNE  
Well, I hope it's good news.

Adrianne laughs.

LONDON (O.S.)  
I figured you had to be causing all the commotion.

T.J. turns around to an all grown up London (22). He catches himself staring at her. She walks up and hugs him.

T.J.  
You know how I like to make a scene. Adrianne this is London, my brother from another mother.

Adrianne laughs.

LONDON  
(chuckles)  
Shut up, Hi.

ADRIANNE  
Finally, I get to meet the infamous London.

LONDON  
(chuckles)  
Whatever he's told you I'm not that bad.

T.J.  
Where's Ebony?

EBONY (O.S.)  
Don't worry about where I am.

(CONTINUED)

Ebony (34), leaning against the door post, is dressed in a vested business suit. T.J., with the biggest grin on his face, goes and hugs his sister. T.J. calls Adrienne over. She looks at Ebony, admiring her. Before he can speak, T.J. is cut off by his sister.

EBONY (CON'T)

I know who you are, no need for introductions. Question is, do you know who I am?

Ebony playfully toys with Adrienne.

ADRIANNE

You're Ebony McCormick, head of-

EBONY

No, I'm T.J.'s older sister, the one you have to deal with if you break his heart.

Ebony smirks at Adrienne as she catches on. She smiles back.

ADRIANNE

What if he breaks mine?

EBONY

Then we will kick his ass together.

Adrienne and Ebony laugh together. T.J. feeling left out.

T.J.

(chuckles)

Ahhh, I am standing right here.

Ebony holds her arm out, encouraging Adrienne to take it. Adrienne takes it willingly with a smile.

EBONY

I don't know about these people but I'm ready to eat. Shall we?

ADRIANNE

We shall.

Ebony guides Adrienne out the common area, heading into the dining room.

DISSOLVE

INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Ebony is at the head of the table. T.J. and Adrianne are next to each other in the middle. Marian is sitting next to T.J., while Black, London, Vinny and Mr. Fox sit next to each other on the opposite side.

MARIAN

So, Adrianne, where are you from?

ADRIANNE

I'm from here, but I lived all over. In country, out of country, so I like to say everywhere.

Adrianne laughs.

ADRIANNE (CON'T)

But now I reside in D.C. I work at the Museum of Natural History as the head curator.

Marian is cutting into her chicken.

MARIAN

Oh wow, that's exciting. I'm guessing history is what you studied in college?

Adrianne swallows her food.

ADRIANNE

Yes, that's partly how I met T.J. I was his history tutor.

LONDON

I bet, the way his family history's all jacked up.

Everyone laughs.

T.J.

Oh, you're hilarious.

London pokes her tongue at him. T.J. mimics her.

MARIAN

Not at the table you two. What about your family? How did they take to you going out with my son?

Black leans over and whispers to Vinny.

(CONTINUED)

BLACK  
(to Vinny)  
Damn Marian, let the girl breath.  
She just said she curates shit.  
What else you want, a blood sample?

Vinny laughs.

ADRIANNE  
Well, my parents can't say too  
much. They died when I was young.

Everyone gets silent.

EBONY  
Good job Marian.

BLACK  
Damn.

Black whispers in London's ear.

BLACK (CON'T)  
(whisper)  
You two have something in common.  
You're an orphan, she's an orphan.  
You should make good friends. You  
need some.

Black laughs. London steps on his foot.

ADRIANNE  
It's fine. My older cousin took  
care of me. And my family left a  
"will", so I was well taken care  
of.

EBONY  
I'm sorry to hear that. I've lost  
both parents as well. One to a  
heart attack, another to a broken  
heart.

Marian looks at Ebony as she drinks from her wine glass.  
T.J. coughs, breaking the tension.

T.J.  
On another note, I have some good  
news. You're looking at the new  
C.E.O of "Architect Industries".

His family praises him.

(CONTINUED)

VINNY, BLACK, MR. FOX  
Congratulations!

LONDON  
I guess the nights and minor visits  
were worth it, huh?

MARIAN  
Oh, I'm so proud of you T.J.

Ebony reaches over and lovingly holds T.J. shoulder.

EBONY  
What I tell you, hard work and  
prayer pays off.

She lets him go.

T.J.  
Annnd one more thing. I own it.

The room goes silent.

MARIAN  
How?

VINNY  
You do know that's a lot of  
responsibility, right?

T.J. looks bombarded by his family. Adrienne holds his hand,  
calming him down.

ADRIANNE  
Babe, where did you get the money?

Marian drinks from her wine glass, sternly looking at Ebony.

MARIAN  
I bet I know.

Everyone looks at Ebony, who is still eating.

EBONY  
Yup, I sure did.

Ebony takes a sip from her wine glass.

EBONY (CON'T)  
I noticed T.J.'s interest in  
business and building design at a  
young age. I told him, if he  
graduated with a 4.0 and got his  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

EBONY (CON'T) (cont'd)  
Master's, I'd get him his own  
company.

Marian is about to protest. Ebony cuts her off.

EBONY (CON'T)  
His junior year, "Architect  
Industries" was filing for  
bankruptcy while he was interning  
there. I couldn't let it. I had  
money tied into them. I knew T.J.  
could and would help bring the  
company back, so I bought it. And  
T.J. held up his end of the deal.

Ebony lights a cigar.

EBONY( CON'T)  
So you actually got yourself a  
pretty rich boyfriend over there.

Ebony sits back and smokes her cigar.

FADE OUT

INT. POOL ROOM - NIGHT

London is down in the pool room playing a solo game. She makes a trick shot, causing three balls to go in, when Adrianne enters.

ADRIANNE  
Wow, that was nice.

London moves around the table trying to get another angle.

LONDON  
Thanks.

Adrianne walks over to the bar, sits and watches London. She has a drink in her hand and puts it next to London's. London cuts her eye. Adrianne moves her glass over.

ADRIANNE  
It must be hard being the only girl  
in the group.

London hits another ball in the side pocket.

LONDON  
I hold my own.

(CONTINUED)

London takes a little break, leaning up against the pool table, rubbing the cue chalk on the tip of her pool stick.

ADRIANNE

(friendly)

Well, you got me now. What is it  
you do?

London looks Adrienne up and down, then turns back around. Looking at the pool table, she lines up her next shot.

LONDON

I get rid of unwanted trash.

London shoots another ball into a corner pocket. Adrienne takes a sip of her drink. London smiles, gets up and goes over to the bar next to Adrienne, taking a sip from her drink.

ADRIANNE

You know, hit men or assassins date  
all the way back before Christ-

LONDON

Ok, look, I'm not trying to be  
rude, but I usually don't warm up  
to new people. So, if you came down  
here thinking you would be the  
first, you thought wrong.

London walks back over to the pool table. Adrienne gets up and goes over, watching London take another shot, her drink in hand.

ADRIANNE

T.J. told me how you like to put  
fear into people. Comes with the  
job I suppose. But let "Me" make  
one thing clear. You don't scare  
me. I could care less about a  
friendship with a mob boss's lap  
dog. History proves it never ends  
well for you guys anyway. My only  
concern is T.J.

Adrienne looks London up and down.

ADRIANNE (CON'T)

I'm not too keen on the  
relationship you two have. But I  
let it slide, because I don't like  
to be rude, and he's obviously the  
only friend you have. But just  
know, he's mine.

London stands up. T.J. comes down the steps interrupting the women. Adrienne kisses him passionately in front of London.

T.J.  
Whoa, hey, hello. Um, babe, you  
ready to go?

ADRIANNE  
Yes. It was nice meeting you  
London.

London smiles.

LONDON  
(sarcastically)  
Nice meeting you too.

Adrienne goes up the steps. T.J. goes over and hugs London  
good bye.

T.J.  
I swear she's the one.

LONDON  
If she gets your dick hard.

T.J. laughs, heading up the steps. London rolls her eyes and  
goes back to playing pool.

FADE OUT

INT. POLISH RESTAURANT - DAY (FLASH FORWARD 2014)

A nice quaint Polish restaurant sits in the downtown Canton area of Baltimore City. A few PATRONS are eating and drinking. The bartender, JOHN (60), is cleaning out a glass. Two MEN sit in front of him.

Ebony walks into the bar by herself and sits at the end of the bar. She doesn't look herself. She looks frail and sick. A hoodie covers her head. John speaks, his deep rooted Polish accent comes out.

JOHN  
This is the Dziki (wild bores) bar.  
Your kind of bar is across town.

Ebony ignores his remark. He looks at the two men sitting at the bar. He walks over to Ebony.

JOHN (CON'T)  
Hey czarna dziewczyna (black girl)  
Didn't you hear-

(CONTINUED)

EBONY

I advise you to get some sense you  
stare g'owno (old shit), before I  
knock some into you.

John looks back at the men and laughs.

JOHN

Or what?

John gets in Ebony's face. Ebony puts her custom made .45 revolver on the counter top. The two men at the bar show their guns. A stare down begins. John breaks the tense air with a smile. Laughter spreads to everyone. It's clear Ebony and John are friends. Ebony starts to cough, stopping the fun.

JOHN (CON'T)

You shouldn't be out here in your  
condition.

John gets her a glass of water. He pours himself a beer.  
Ebony sips the water.

EBONY

The hospital was starting to feel  
like prison.

John raises his beer to Ebony, along with the others.

JOHN

Cancer is a nasty devil. May your  
good health return to you.

The bar drinks to Ebony's health.

JOHN (CON'T)

But it's not safe. The Black  
Gorilla Gang has been targeting any  
and everybody. They got a new  
leader and he hasn't been following  
the rules.

EBONY

Then the council needs to do  
something about it.

Ebony, in pain, grabs her chest and reaches for her pills in her pocket. She takes one, chasing it with water.

JOHN

I agree, before we have a war on  
our hands. Everyone has their own

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (cont'd)  
turf. I'll be damned if I let them  
ratchets fuck it up.

John drinks from his glass. Ebony agrees with a nod.

EBONY  
London's back in town.

JOHN  
Is that so?

EBONY  
Yup, so if you need work done, get  
it done now, because she'll be  
heading down to Mexico in a couple  
weeks.

JOHN  
I do have a list. How's that  
brother of yours?

John drinks from his glass.

EBONY  
Engaged.

John puts down his glass, excited.

JOHN  
Would you look at that, the boy's  
finally taking the plunge. That's-

John is interrupted by three THUGS bursting into his  
restaurant, guns shooting in the air.

THUG #1  
Don't nobody move, give us all you  
got and we'll think about not  
killing you.

John's patrons cower. The leader of the thugs motions for  
the men to start collecting valuables. Ebony takes a sip of  
her water. The guy rushes and puts his gun to Ebony's head.

THUG #1 (CON'T)  
Bitch, I said don't move!

Ebony sighs and fires her gun from her side pocket, knocking  
him to the floor. John's two men at the bar take out the  
other two thugs. Ebony stands over the guy who threatened  
her life, his tatted face indicating he's with the "Black  
Gorilla Gang". The letters (BGG) is tated down his face like

(CONTINUED)

tear drops. The guy is still alive, in pain. John looks over from the bar finishing his beer.

EBONY

I believe it's time the council has a meeting.

Ebony cocks her gun, points it at the guy's head and fires.

FADE OUT

EXT. SHIRE HOUSE ESTATE - DAY (PRESENT DAY)

It's a fall day, leaves cover the ground. GARDENERS with leaf blowers are blowing leaves off the street. Moving trucks are parked along the entrance circle. London, on her motorcycle, rides onto the property, parking in front of Shire House doors. She heads inside when Vinny stops her.

VINNY

You can't block the entrance. Take your bike to the garage.

LONDON

Why?

VINNY

You blind? We're trying to prepare for a wedding.

A group of men walk past with the parts of a make shift wedding arch. London, annoyed, rushes into the mansion brushing Vinny off.

CUT TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE ESTATE - DAY

DECORATORS around the house are being directed by a WEDDING COORDINATOR. London is getting pushed around. Frustrated, she finds her way to the staircase, heading up to Ebony's office.

SMASH CUT

INT. EBONY OFFICE - DAY

Ebony is sitting in her chair behind her desk. Mr. Fox is standing beside her. Big Black sits on a couch off to the side. Across from her is a sleek stylish man, RANGO (36) with sun glasses on. His muscled bodyguard BAXTER is standing next to him. London bursts through the door.

(CONTINUED)

LONDON

I come back and you let them have  
the wedding here!?

Caught off guard, everyone is startled. London heads to Ebony's desk.

EBONY

(embarrassed)

London, I'm in the middle of a meeting. Mr. Rango, is looking to become an investor.

Guiding London to turn around with her eyes, London looks at the two gentlemen.

LONDON

I don't care. She did this on purpose.

Rango lights a cigar, draws it in, then speaks.

RANGO

I never took you as one to let your employees disrespect you like this, Ebony. Who is this hood rat?

LONDON

Hood Rat!!

London, offended, turns around, grabbing her gun out of her jacket and pointing it at Rango. Baxter pulls out his gun, setting off a chain reaction. Mr. Fox and Black pull out their guns. London studies Baxter and Rango. She sees a Turkish evil eye tattoo on Rango's neck. Ebony grabs her back by the collar onto the desk, whispering in her ear.

EBONY

(whisper)

You must have lost your Got Damn mind! I said I was in a meeting. If you mess this up for me, I swear personally, I will put a bullet in your head.

Ebony lets her go. London straightens herself.

LONDON

Excuse my actions.

She leaves. Everyone sits back down.

RANGO

Bravo. I guess I made the right choice to invest in you after all.

FADE OUT

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

London is eating an apple, leaning back against a beautifully hand carved marble island. Ebony comes in. She heads to the fridge, grabbing a bottle of water, and leans back on the island next to London.

EBONY

I would think someone of your stature had better sense.

Ebony drinks from the bottle, looking at London.

LONDON

(attitude)

I apologized.

Ebony cuts her eye at London.

LONDON (CON'T)

(submissive)

Did you lose the client?

London bites the apple.

EBONY

No.

Ebony sips from her bottle, still looking at London.

LONDON

What's so special about this guy?  
I've never seen you do business  
with him before.

EBONY

Must you know everything?

LONDON

If it could be detrimental to your health, yes.

EBONY

He worked for one of my black market connects. I use to sell guns through them to low level terrorists groups.

(CONTINUED)

LONDON  
(shocked)  
Ebony!

EBONY  
(chuckles)  
Relax, I cut ties with Rango's boss  
after 9/11. He left because of the  
risk as well. Now he's back,  
looking to start his own thing up  
in Pennsylvania.

LONDON  
How much did he offer?

London bites apple.

EBONY  
Two and a half million.

London, chewing on the apple, chokes. Getting herself  
together, she wipes her mouth.

LONDON  
What?

She laughs, putting the apple down.

LONDON (CON'T)  
Did you just supply him for the  
year?

Ebony laughs.

EBONY  
(laugh)  
You would think.

LONDON  
Well, if you're cool with this guy,  
then I'm cool as well.

EBONY  
You wouldn't of had a choice  
anyway, I'm the boss.

Both of them laugh, Ebony drinks from the bottle, changing  
the subject.

EBONY (CON'T)  
So, you're really not feeling them  
having the wedding here?

LONDON

No I'm not. Why are they having it here anyway?

EBONY

Something happened to the church. Look, it's past three years. Adrienne isn't going anywhere.

LONDON

And my dislike for her isn't either. I tried to be friends with her. But nooo. She swears I want T.J.

Ebony laughs and places her hand on London's shoulder.

EBONY

Well do you?

London snatches away, disgusted.

LONDON

What? No!

EBONY

(chuckles)

You sure? Because your attitude now has even me questioning.

LONDON

No Ebony. It's, it's just something about her. She gives me a bad vibe.

London holds her arms like she feels a cold chill. Seeing her down, Ebony pulls London close to her.

EBONY

I think the vibe you're getting, is fear of possibly losing your best friend.

London leans her head on Ebony.

EBONY (CON'T)

Look, everything will be fine London. You and T.J. will remain close. Just let him go for one day, ok. His day, so please, be nice?

London pulls away and grabs Ebony's water.

(CONTINUED)

LONDON  
Tell her that.

She takes the water, drinking it as she leaves.

FADE OUT

EXT. GARDEN - AFTERNOON

FAMILY and FRIENDS are gathered together to witness the wedding of T.J. and Adrienne. Set outside in Ebony's lavishly decorated garden, Adrienne takes the scene away with her beautifully hand crafted designer dress. The groomsmen, Vinny, Black, Mr. Fox and two of T.J.'s COLLEGE FRIENDS are handsomely dressed, matching Adrienne's BRIDESMAIDS. Ebony and Marian look on like proud parents. The PRIEST over seeing everything. T.J. embraces Adrienne. The guests and family members clap and cheer as they walk down the aisle.

DISSOLVE

EXT. TENT - EVENING

The noise of multiple conversations is in the air. The sound of forks hitting plates can be heard amongst the conversations. A glass is raised with champagne bubbling. People quiet down.

Ebony is dressed in her finest suit. Down the decorated table sits the usual crew, Vinny, Mr. Fox, and Black along with the bridesmaids and groomsmen.

London sits to Ebony's right in a beautiful black dress, her sleeve tattoo adding to her unique beauty. In the middle sits a mature, handsome, T.J., next to him his bride, Adrienne.

EBONY  
I raise a toast to my favorite  
little brother.

T.J.  
I'm your only little brother.

Vinny yells out.

VINNY  
You never know, the way your father  
got around!

Everyone laughs.

(CONTINUED)

## EBONY

I raise my glass to you little brother, because I- I can't help but be proud of you. You have defied all odds, managed to stay right in a world that's all wrong, and fell in love.

She looks at Adrienne.

## EBONY (CON'T)

Adrienne, I want to thank you for taming this wild beast. I thought he was going to end up like his sister, never settling down. But you are his world and I know he is yours. Take care of my brother and I officially welcome you to the family.

Ebony looks around.

## EBONY (CON'T)

I raise my glass to both of you, and please bring me some nieces and nephews. To Adrienne and T.J.

Everyone Laughs.

## BEGIN WEDDING MONTAGE

T.J. and Adrienne share their first dance together and cut their wedding cake. The wedding reception turns into a party. Everyone lets loose. The dance floor is filled, everyone is dancing and having a good time.

At the bar Vinny, Black, Mr. Fox, and London take shots with John and his men. They encourage Marian to join in. Adrienne takes a break. Content, she sits back watching everything. She sees Marian and John flirting with each other, Vinny, Black, and Mr. Fox dancing with the bridesmaids. She spots London and T.J. playfully messing with each other like little kids.

## END WEDDING MONTAGE

DISSOLVE

INT. SHIRE HOUSE MANSION - LATER NIGHT

The cool air of night moves the remaining guests inside to talk and mingle. London heads outside to the balcony with her coat to smoke. Adrienne follows her. T.J. notices them leaving , but continues mingling.

CUT TO

EXT. BALCONY - LATER NIGHT

London is leaning over the balcony looking over the estate, seeing the glow of city lights in the distance. She is smoking on a filter hookah pipe. Adrienne walks up behind her.

LONDON

Anybody ever tell you it's not safe  
to sneak up on a person like me?

London turns around facing Adrienne, looking her up and down. She blows out smoke.

ADRIANNE

Sorry.

London leans back against the balcony.

LONDON

Why are you out here? Shouldn't you  
be entertaining guests?

Adrienne watching her, breaks her trance, reaching into her pocket. London, on guard, watches her. Adrienne pulls out a electronic cigarette.

ADRIANNE

I was thinking, since it's  
official, let's cut the high school  
shit and start acting like family.

Adrienne lights her cigarette and blows out.

LONDON

Get the hell outta here. After all  
the shade you've tossed? Now you  
want to be friends?

London turns back around looking over the balcony, Adrienne puts her cigarette back into her pocket.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIANNE

I came out here to make amends, but  
clearly you're not woman enough to  
take an apology when given.

London faces Adrienne.

CUT TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE MANSION - CONTINUOUS

T.J. is keeping an eye on Adrienne and London. He looks  
tense.

CUT TO

EXT. BALCONY - CONTINUOUS

The women move closer to one another

ADRIANNE

I've come to the conclusion you  
don't like me because I got T.J.  
and you didn't.

LONDON

Please. You're right about me not  
liking you though.

ADRIANNE

Why?

LONDON

Because you reek of suspicion. Out  
of all the broads he's brought into  
this house, you are the only one  
who sets off alarms. And my vibes  
never lie. Call it a killer's  
instinct.

CUT TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE MANSION - LATER NIGHT

T.J., Black, Vinny, and Mr. Fox all notice the exchange  
happening outside.

BLACK

That doesn't look good.

T.J.

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

VINNY  
(to T.J)  
Better get on it.

Mr. Fox drinks from his beer bottle.

MR. FOX  
(in Russian)  
Zhenshchina (women).

T.J. dismisses himself and goes out to Adrienne and London.

CUT TO

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Things have become more heated.

ADRIANNE  
I set off alarms?! I've paid  
attention to the phone calls and  
how you two interacted. That's why  
I had to cut that off.

London leans back up against the balcony and chuckles.

LONDON  
Jealousy is a hell of a drug. It's  
evident you're an insecure woman. I  
wonder how long this marriage will  
even last.

London turns around looking over the balcony, lighting her hookah pipe. T.J. steps in, breaking the tension. Adrienne storms off. T.J. tries to calm her down.

T.J.  
Babe!

Adrienne heads inside. London smokes her pipe. T.J., angered, confronts London.

T.J. (CON'T)  
WHAT THE HELL LONDON??! She is my  
wife!

LONDON  
Tragic.

T.J.  
This shit isn't funny!

He knocks the pipe out of her hand. She faces him.

(CONTINUED)

T.J. (CON'T)  
Whatever it is you two got against  
one another, end it!!

LONDON  
End it? I never started it! You  
need to check your wife! This chick  
has you on a leash, T.J. And it's  
so tight she pulls you away from  
those who've known you the longest.

T.J.  
So this is about us?

LONDON  
No-No dumb ass, FAMILY!!! Everybody  
can act like shit is cool, but I  
can't. It's been five years since  
you actually been home or talked to  
anyone!

T.J.  
That's not true, I visit!

LONDON  
LIES! You have been gone so long,  
you didn't even know Ebony was  
sick!

London chokes up. She goes back to the railing looking out.

T.J.  
Sick? how sick?

T.J walks over and stands beside London.

LONDON  
Sick as in we almost lost her.

T.J.  
Why didn't she tell me?

LONDON  
She tried, multiple times.

They face each other.

LONDON (CON'T)  
But you continued to be busy with  
work and trips with Adrianne. I  
don't care that you're married. I'm  
happy for you, really. But if this  
means you forget family, than I  
don't want to be around you or her.

(CONTINUED)

London walks away, leaving T.J. on the balcony.

CUT TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE MANSION - NIGHT

Black and Vinny avoid eye contact with London as she comes back inside. Black acts as if he is talking to a waitress, Vinny messes with a plant next to the door.

DISSOLVE

INT. EBONY OFFICE - NIGHT

Ebony is in her office, leaning against her desk on her cell phone listening. She fiddles around with objects on her desk. T.J comes in wanting to talk. She stops him, waving her finger. She gets off the desk walking around. T.J. looks annoyed, anxious to talk to her.

EBONY

My guys will be there eleven p.m.

T.J. stands over by the massive book case that lines the wall. Ebony walks over to him, signaling that her conversation is ending. Ebony gets off the phone, looking at T.J.

EBONY

I'm sorry, I had to take care of some business.

T.J.

It's ok, I understand.

Ebony leads T.J. out of the office. He stops.

T.J. (CON'T)

No! It's not ok. Why didn't you tell me you were sick?

Ebony is caught.

EBONY

It wasn't that bad.

T.J. moves around out of disbelief.

T.J.

Not that bad? If we almost lost you, that's bad.

(CONTINUED)

EBONY

I didn't want you to worry, you know how you get. Besides, you have the company and Adrienne now.

T.J.

Eb, you're my sister, my blood. What the hell does a company and a girl have over you?

EBONY

Look, I'm better now. I have my good days and my bad days. So far God's been blessing me with good ones.

T.J.

That's not enough. You need to step down until you fully recover.

EBONY

No.

T.J.

No? What do you mean, no? This is your health we're talking about.

Ebony walks over to the book shelf, looking at the books, touching them, twisting the family ring on her finger.

EBONY

Have you ever heard of the term "Organized Chaos"?

T.J.

Yes. Where are you going with this?

EBONY

Our father was king of "Organized Chaos". He grew up working for one of the first original mob bosses in Baltimore, "Shire House". He was loved so much by him, that when Shire House died he passed leadership over to dad, giving him this ring.

Ebony takes the ring off and tosses it over to T.J.

T.J.

And who was Shire House?

T.J. looks the ring over. Ebony gets her drink of Crown Royal off her desk.

EBONY

A white man with a devious vision  
to rule Baltimore's under belly.  
Never married, never had any kids,  
but for some reason he took a  
liking to our father and gave him  
everything.

She sips from her glass.

T.J.

I still don't get what this has to  
do with you stepping down?

EBONY

When he took over, dad had an  
epiphany. "Why create chaos, when  
you can't control it". He dropped  
an iron fist on all the drug  
dealers, street gangs, and even the  
other mobs, making Shire House  
untouchable. We had only one other  
rival family. But dad had such a  
control over the city, when he  
died, the streets turned to chaos  
again. Nobody could tame it, not  
even the other mobs. Till I came  
along. I made it my duty to tame it  
again till the day I die or I find  
someone strong enough to keep it  
together.

T.J. looks at the ring.

T.J.

Who was the rival family?

Ebony sips from her glass.

EBONY

I don't know. He never told me.

T.J. thinks everything over.

T.J.

I'll take over.

Ebony looks at T.J. and laughs. She walks over to him,  
putting her arm around him, leading them out of the office  
back to the reception.

EBONY  
(laughing)  
Boy, you wild.

T.J. stops Ebony inside the doorway and confronts her.

T.J.  
I'm serious.

He looks down at the ring, fiddling with it, twisting it.

T.J. (CON'T)  
I've watched you for years.

Ebony reaches out and holds his shoulder. Looking him straight in the eyes, she cuffs the back of his neck, taking the ring out of his hand.

EBONY  
This is not your burden to bare.  
This ain't for the faint of heart.  
Things will go right, but you must  
be prepared for things to always go  
wrong.  
(pause)  
I'll be fine little brother, trust  
me.

She leaves the room, walking back down the steps, her hands folded behind her. T.J. follows right behind.

FADE OUT

INT. SHIRE HOUSE GARAGE - DAY

Ebony's MEN are packing a shipping container with crates of narcotics onto a semi-truck. Two SUV's are parked on both sides of the truck, one tan and the other dark blue. Ebony is with her team - Black, Vinny, Mr. Fox, and two new RECRUITS .They are going over plans for a drop off of drugs to Rango. Black is dressed semi casual, while Vinny is decked out in his best trucker outfit. The other two Drivers are dressed in casual clothing.

BLACK  
(to Vinny)  
You really out did yourself. You  
look like you're moving your whole  
family across the border, Ese.

Everyone laughs.

(CONTINUED)

VINNY  
(sarcasm)  
Ha, ha, I'm Italian.

BLACK  
Same difference.

EBONY  
Ok enough with the jokes. Vinny  
you're in the truck.

Ebony looks to the new recruits.

EBONY (CON'T)  
(to the recruits)  
You two will drive in the tan SUV  
following the truck as back up.

Ebony starts to cough and turning her head, she continues.

EBONY (CON'T)  
We're not trying to look  
suspicious.

She starts to cough harder, struggling to finish.

EBONY (CON'T)  
Now...yy-you guys are going to pull  
out...in two minutes, so mm make-

Ebony starts wheezing in between coughs. She stops talking and turns away from the group. Everyone stops what they are doing, looking worried.

BLACK  
Somebody get me a chair and some  
water?!

One of Ebony's MEN gets a chair, as Black goes next to her side, trying to calm her. Ebony spits out a wad of blood.

BLACK (CON'T)  
Where's your medicine?

Vinny commands the new recruits to start out.

VINNY  
Wait at the gas station like we  
said. When you see me drive by,  
follow.

The recruits leave. Vinny yells at everyone else loading the truck.

(CONTINUED)

VINNY  
GET BACK TO WORK!!

He walks over to Ebony.

EBONY  
Black, you and Fox are in the other SUV as point. Make sure you guys stay ahead of Vinny.

BLACK  
No, not after what just happened. Someone needs to stay here with you.

EBONY  
I'll be fine.

BLACK  
Nooo. Fox you stay here. I can manage.

Mr. Fox agrees.

EBONY  
Fine, I don't feel like arguing. Make sure you guys are at the drop at eleven p.m. Leave the whole truck with Rango's men, they'll give you the money. If anything seems short you know what to do.

Vinny goes over to the men packing the truck. The last package is loaded. Black pulls Mr. Fox over to him for a private conversation.

BLACK  
(in Russian)  
Keep an eye on her brother. She'll fight you about her meds.

MR. FOX  
(in Russian)  
I'll tie her down if I have to.

Black and Mr. Fox embrace in a brotherly hug. Black runs to the SUV.

MR. FOX  
(to Vinny)  
Ciao Brother.

VINNY  
Yea Yea. Will you two grow some.  
You act like it's our first drop.

Vinny starts the truck and pulls out of the garage, followed by Black.

DISSOLVE

INT. BEACH HOUSE BAHAMAS - DAY

It is a beautiful sunny day on the island of Nassau, Bahamas. T.J. and Adrienne arrive, greeted with flowers and a personal BUTLER who escorts them through the house. The house is beautiful and spacious with a living room, dining room and Master bedroom and bath. Connected to it is a balcony overlooking the ocean. Adrienne goes off, leaving T.J. with the bags. T.J. tips the butler. Adrienne is running around looking at everything. T.J. heads to the balcony and calls Ebony.

CUT TO

EXT. BALCONY BAHAMAS - DAY

T.J. and Adrienne are looking at Ebony from their phone.

ADRIANNE  
We just had to call and say thank you. Ebony, this place is beautiful.

EBONY  
Well I'm glad you and the hubby like it.

T.J.  
Yea, we do sis, thanks.

EBONY  
No prob, you guys have fun.

Adrienne and T.J. laugh.

ADRIANNE  
Oh we will.

Adrienne winks at Ebony, laughs and walks away.

T.J.  
And you stay out of trouble.

(CONTINUED)

EBONY  
Will do.

T.J.  
Love you sis.

EBONY  
Love you too, kiddo.

CUT TO

INT. EBONY OFFICE - DAY

London comes in the office wearing ripped jeans, with leggings underneath and a T-shirt with black smudges on her shirt. She sits in the chair that's in front of Ebony's desk. Ebony cringes at her appearance.

LONDON  
Who was that?

EBONY  
T.J. and Adrienne. They made it to the beach house safely.

Ebony stares at London's dirty jeans in her chair.

LONDON  
(sincere)  
That's nice. The newlyweds on their honeymoon.

Ebony seems confused with London's change of attitude.

EBONY  
What's gotten into you?

London laughs, playing with her nails.

LONDON  
Gosh "E", I can grow up. I realized maybe I can let up on the poor girl. They got married a week ago.

Ebony gives London a look.

LONDON  
Don't look at me like that.

EBONY  
Mmhmm.

(CONTINUED)

London laughs Ebony off and crosses her legs. Ebony looks at the holes in London's jeans and shakes her head in disappointment.

LONDON

Have you talked to Black?

EBONY

They're right on schedule.

LONDON

Good.

(pause)

Fox told me you had a spell.

Ebony picks up a book next to her laptop and takes it back to the book shelf.

LONDON (CON'T)

You need to stop acting like a baby  
and take your meds.

Ebony playfully replies.

EBONY

(jokingly)

Real gangstas don't take medicine.

London gets up from the chair and heads over to Ebony.

LONDON

Oh, don't you sound smart. How do  
you expect to recover if you don't  
take it?

London holds Ebony's arm caring. Ebony walks back over to the front of her desk and leans against it leaving London.

EBONY

I hate the side effects. I don't  
think straight when I take them.

LONDON

I rather you be out of it than  
coughing up a lung or worse.

London walks over to Ebony, facing her.

LONDON

Please take the pills?

EBONY  
(sighs)  
Ok, I will.

London stops, and looks Ebony over like she doesn't believe her.

LONDON  
I'll be checking while I'm away. If they tell me you're not taking them, I'll be forced to clean the house.

London grabs a dirty cloth from her back pocket and starts to wipe Ebony's desk down. Ebony grabs London's hand.

EBONY  
I will woman, damn! You know I got OCD.

LONDON  
(laughs)  
I'm about to take a shower, then work my shift at the bar.

EBONY  
I hope they put you in the stock room.

London laughs, walking away, taking off her shirt, revealing her beautiful finished sleeve tattoo that goes all the way around one side of her back. She leaves. Ebony standing alone in her office, can't contain herself goes behind her desk, opens a draw and pulls out cleaning wipes.

FADE OUT

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

It is a chilly fall night. Fifty yards away, waves are crashing back and forth onto a remote beach. Black is outside his SUV, pacing back and forth. The two recruits are in their SUV keeping warm. Vinny is parked in between them. Black pulls out his phone and calls Ebony.

EBONY (V.O.)  
Hello.

BLACK  
We're here.

(CONTINUED)

EBONY (V.O.)

Good.

BLACK

But it's just us. They said they would flash their lights when they saw us. We haven't seen a thing.

EBONY (V.O.)

You are ten minutes early.

Black notices some movement off in the distance.

BLACK

You're right. I'm just not feeling this location and I'm worried about you.

EBONY (V.O.)

If they aren't there in the next twenty minutes, leave. And don't worry about me, I'm fine. Fox is here, as well as MACK, WILLY, and TRAVIS.

BLACK

I hear you. Hit you in twenty.

Black hangs up and walks back to his car. He grabs something out of it and starts walking towards what caught his eye.

VINNY

What she say?

BLACK

Wait twenty minutes.

The Drivers look on, keeping an eye out for trouble. Black texts Mr. Fox.

VINNY

So, where are you going?!

BLACK

I thought I saw something.

Black holds up a night vision scope. He doesn't see anything, but keeps walking.

DISSOLVE

INT. EBONY OFFICE SHIRE HOUSE - NIGHT

Mr. Fox is laying on the couch while Ebony is typing on her laptop. Mr. Fox gets up. Looking at his watch, he talks to Ebony, his accent thick.

MR. FOX  
It's time for you to take your pills.

Ebony waves him off.

MR. FOX  
Ebony, the "will" can wait. I'll fix you something to eat.

Ebony sits back from her work.

EBONY  
Ok.

Mr. Fox smiles and leaves.

DISSOLVE

EXT. BACK GATE - NIGHT

An unknown hand is pressing the access code to the back gate of the property. Camera wires are cut, shadows go by.

DISSOLVE

INT. HALL WAY SHIRE HOUSE - NIGHT

Mr. Fox comes down the steps, heads into the kitchen. Under the staircase in the security office, TRAVIS, one of the guards, is looking at the security cameras. He is on his walky-talky talking to WILLY, directing him to where an alarm has been triggered.

WILLY  
(on walky-talky)  
The front gate?

Beat.

TRAVIS  
(walky-talky)  
No fool, the back gate.

Hearing the commotion, Mr. Fox comes back out.

(CONTINUED)

MR. FOX  
What's wrong?

TRAVIS  
Nothing, just the back gate is  
acting up again. Willy's out fixing  
it.

DISSOLVE

INT. EBONY'S OFFICE SHIRE HOUSE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Taking a break from her "will", Ebony picks up the remote to her surround sound system and turns it on. The sounds of Nneka comes out of her speakers. She leans back in her chair.

CUT TO

INT. MOBEY'S BAR & NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

Down in Fells Point, at a club called "Mobeys", London is behind the bar. The hour of club life has not quite hit yet. A handful of PATRONS are scattered about. A MAN sits at the bar, getting a jump start on his drinking. He finishes up his Jack and Coke.

MAN  
A pretty thing like you should be  
on Baltimore Street.

London, busy replacing a bottle, laughs.

LONDON  
Flattered, but I got class and this  
is just a side gig.

She puts the glass down next to the other ones like it. The man drinks the last of his drink.

MAN  
What's your other job?

London prepares another round.

LONDON  
Wouldn't you like to know.

London hands him his second round. He looks at London's sleeve. It has the "Grim Reaper" dressed in a black robe with a scythe. He sees the words "Shire House" at the end of her had. He smiles understanding, raises his glass to her.

CUT TO

INT. OFFICE SHIRE HOUSE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Ebony is waiting for Mr. Fox to come back with her food. She looks out the window over the pool. She notices movement far off in the distance. She edges her chair closer.

SMASH CUT

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Black raises his night vision scope again, seeing what looks like a big boulder. A gust of wind blows, the boulder moves. Black drops the scope and pulls out his gun, cautiously moving forward .

SMASH CUT

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY SHIRE HOUSE - NIGHT

Ebony leans over the banister, looking down, calling Travis.

EBONY

Travis!

Travis comes out from the security hole.

TRAVIS

Yea boss?

EBONY

Where's Willy?

TRAVIS

He went out to fix the gate.

Ebony runs back into her office.

CUT TO

INT. EBONY OFFICE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Ebony races to her computer, pulling up the security system, looking through footage. One camera shows Willy dead with a gun shot wound to the head and a FIGURE in all black standing over him. More FIGURES in black run past him with guns. The figure looks up and shoots out the camera. Ebony grabs her phone and presses an alert app.

CUT TO

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A drug bust is taking place. COPS are everywhere. An undercover cop, RICK (32), wearing a bullet proof vest slams a SUSPECT against a squad car. His phone goes off. He grabs it, still holding on to the suspect. He tells another cop to take care of the criminal. He runs off and hops in a squad car, speeding off.

CUT TO

INT. MOBEYS BAR & NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

The club has gotten crowded. London is busy filling up drinks for CUSTOMERS. Her phone is on the counter going off, unnoticed. The man at the bar gets her attention.

MAN  
Hey, Hey!!

London faces him with a bottle in her hand. The guy points to her phone. Seeing her phone, she drops the bottle.

DISSOLVE

INT. EBONY OFFICE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Ebony, Mr. Fox, Travis, and Mack are putting on bullet proof vests and loading their guns. Rain is heard falling on the house.

MACK  
(to Ebony)  
Who are these guys?

EBONY  
I don't know, but they mean business. They killed Willy.

Travis and Mack look at each other. Mr. Fox is still loading ammo into semi-automatic rifle.

EBONY (CON'T)  
They don't know we mean business as well.

Ebony finishes loading her .45.

TRAVIS  
I wish the range wasn't so far away.

(CONTINUED)

MR. FOX

Why, so they can kill us with our  
own guns?

Mr. Fox puts his automatic rifle on his shoulder. They all head out to the hallway.

CUT TO

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

The recruit honks his horn at Vinny. Vinny checks his phone and runs from his truck to Black's SUV. Black has stopped in front of the strange looking boulder.

VINNY

The house is being hit!!

Black is instantly blinded by a truck's high beams right in front of him. Two MEN come up from under a camouflage tarp covering the truck. Holding two rocket launchers, they fire at the vehicles, killing Vinny and the other two Drivers.

Before Black can retaliate, shots ring out. He drops to the ground. One MAN hops off the back of the truck. His silhouette walks up to Black, aiming his gun at him. A shot is fired.

SMASH CUT

INT. DINING ROOM HALL - NIGHT

Mr. Fox and Ebony are pinned down in the dining room. The long dining room table covers them. Bullets fly over top causing debris to fall. They fire back. The FIGURES reload in a hurry, giving Mr. Fox and Ebony time to get up and take them out. Covering each other's backs, Mr. Fox and Ebony reload.

MR. FOX

How many was that?

EBONY

I lost count. This is too  
organized, it was planned.

MR. FOX

(in disbelief)

Rango?

(CONTINUED)

EBONY  
We'll find out when my gun is at  
their head.

Mr. Fox looks down at his bleeding arm.

EBONY  
You good?

MR. FOX  
I'll manage. Your leg?

Mr. Fox looks down at Ebony's bleeding leg.

EBONY  
I have another one.

They finish loading their guns.

EBONY (CON'T)  
I'll go left.

MR. FOX  
I'll go right.

DISSOLVE

INT. CAR - NIGHT

London is speeding as fast as she can to get to the house. She puts her phone to her ear, trying to reach Ebony. Her phone goes to voice mail. London gets angry, tosses her phone, and drives even faster.

SMASH CUT

INT. SHIRE HOUSE MANSION LEFT WING - NIGHT

It's pouring outside. Ebony is limping down the left wing of her mansion. Her 12 Gage shotgun drawn, a scream is heard descending down the window next to her, then a thud.

Ebony lowers her gun. Looking through the window, she sees Travis' face. Another face in the glass is not her own. She turns around and is shot out the window by a high powered gun. She lands next to Travis' body, shotgun knocked out of her hand.

Baxter, Rango's giant sized bodyguard, jumps out the window. Ebony gets up, pulling out her Colt .45, pointing it at him. She fires, he doesn't fall. She fires two more times, he does not fall. Closing in on her, he knocks it out of her hand. She throws a punch. He catches her arm, grabbing it, twisting it, as he lifts her off the ground.

(CONTINUED)

She punches him in the face. It doesn't phase him. He tosses her back on the ground. Rain is pouring off of them. She scrambles to get her gun, grabs it, and is ready to shoot when she is shot in her other leg by Baxter. He seizes his chance and knocks her out with the butt of his gun.

DISSOLVE

INT. EBONY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ebony is blacking in and out on the floor, in the middle of her office. Her hands are tied to the back as she lays helpless, head bleeding. Mr. Fox is tussling with two MEN who keep trying to subdue him. He keeps trying to break free to get to her. Two other MEN in black are standing next to Ebony. She looks up and sees Baxter in the distance. She hears a familiar voice.

Vision hazy, Rango, in a nicely tinted blue suit and long blue fashionable trench coat is standing in front of her. He leans down in her face, talking to the two men. He talks arrogantly and in a playful manner.

RANGO

I wonder if I should put my dick in  
her mouth?

He gets up, laughing psychotically, playfully hitting one of the men next to Ebony. Mr. Fox is still struggling to get to her.

MR. FOX

Don't you touch her.

RANGO

Will somebody please shut him up??

Baxter goes over and punches Mr. Fox in the face with his gun.

RANGO (CON'T)

Thank you.

Ebony finally gets herself together, manages to lean up on her injured legs.

EBONY

R-Rango.

Rango kneels down again.

(CONTINUED)

RANGO  
Oh, hey there sleepy head.

Ebony lunges at him. She is held back by the two men watching her.

EBONY  
You did this?!

Rango gestures for his men to stand Ebony up.

RANGO  
Possibly.

Rango gets excited.

RANGO (CON'T)  
Oook, it was me! Setting up the meeting that is, but setting up this whole thing, oh no.

Ebony is piecing things together.

EBONY  
Vinny, Black??

RANGO  
Dead. But we're keeping the shipment. All of Philly's addicts thank you.

EBONY  
(angered)  
Why are you here then? You got what you wanted!

Mr. Fox wakes up.

RANGO  
Not everything my dear. That's why I had to lessen your security. I gotta give it to you though. I came here with a handful of men. I'm leaving with four. But this whole set up was really about you and your family.

EBONY  
What?

Rango walks away.

(CONTINUED)

RANGO

You see, 20 years ago, a very prominent family was killed tragically in a fire that seemed to have been started by a gas leak. At least that's what the police report said.

Rango walks around Ebony.

RANGO (CON'T)

However, what the report didn't say was that before the fire, the family's home had been invaded. Everyone was tortured, even the children, and eventually brutally murdered. All because somebody's father broke a cease fire agreement between two rival families to gain power over the entire city.

Rango comes back around, facing Ebony, his collar undone. He pulls it back. He revealing a Turkish evil eye tattoo on his neck. Mr. Fox recognizes the tattoo. Ebony does not. Rango grabs Ebony by the neck. Mr. Fox tries to fight to get to her.

RANGO (CON'T)

Because of him I lost an eye.

MR. FOX

Let her go! It's not her fault. She wasn't there! It was Tatius.

Ebony is struggling to breathe. Mr. Fox uses all of his strength to get free. The guards have to tackle him.

RANGO (CON'T)

Will someone please put that beast out of its misery?

Baxter leaves from his spot with Ebony's gun. She follows him with her eyes. Baxter shoots Mr. Fox in the head, silencing him for the last time, dropping Ebony's gun. Rango lets Ebony go. She drops to the floor, gasping for air.

RANGO (CON'T)

Thank you. Long story short. Your dear ol' dad slipped up that night and let two kids live. Locking us in a room thinking the fire would

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RANGO (CON'T) (cont'd)  
get to us. But we managed to  
escape, my lovely little cousin and  
I, who I might add, has a personal  
vendetta against you.

Rango's phone rings.

RANGO (CON'T)  
Speak of the devil.

He takes the call and walks off to the side. Ebony looks over at Mr. Fox mournfully. Rango comes back over to her, gesturing the men to pick her up again.

RANGO (CON'T)  
It's for you.

He puts the phone to her ear.

ADRIANNE (V.O.)  
Hello, sister-in-law.

DISSOLVE

EXT. BALCONY - BAHAMAS - MIDNIGHT

It is a beautiful night. The moon's light is shining on the balcony. T.J. is sound asleep. Adrienne is out on the balcony talking to Ebony.

ADRIANNE  
Now before you say anything, I just  
want to say I'm so sorry for the  
collateral damage.

EBONY (V.O.)  
Bitch, where's my brother?!

ADRIANNE  
Now now, no need for that type of  
language. T.J. is sound asleep. I  
put him to bed hours ago. You don't  
have to worry about him. I actually  
love him. It's you I'm after.

CUT TO

INT. EBONY'S OFFICE - NIGHT CONTINUOUS

Rango's phone is still to Ebony's ear.

EBONY

I brought you into my home, both of  
you.

Ebony looks at Rango

EBONY (CON'T)

Treated you, like family Adrienne.  
And this is how you repay me, by  
pulling this shit?!

ADRIANNE (V.O.)

Blame your father, Ebony! He went  
back on his word. Both of our  
houses made a truce. He looked my  
father in the eyes, then stabbed  
him in the back!

EBONY

That was 20 years ago. I had  
nothing to do with that!!

ADRIANNE (V.O.)

A 20 year wound that will finally  
heal.

EBONY

What about T.J.? You would do this  
to him?!?

ADRIANNE (V.O.)

A sacrifice I'm willing to make.

(pause)

London was right to have her  
suspicions. I really hope there are  
no hard feelings, Ebony. You know  
how our world works, a life for a  
life.

EBONY

Don't you hang up on me, Adrienne!

Rango takes the phone from Ebony's ear.

RANGO

I guess she hung up.

Rango turns around, putting the phone in his pocket. He  
turns back around stabbing Ebony in the side with a large

(CONTINUED)

knife, piercing through her vest, twisting it. Ebony's eyes widen. Rango's men hold her up as she loses her balance. Rango plunges the knife into the other side, twisting it. She coughs up blood. He gets close to her, whispering in her ear.

RANGO (CON'T)  
(whispering)  
I've waited 20 years to do this.  
Tell your father I said hello.

A tear comes down Ebony's face. The men let Ebony go. She drops to the floor, gasping for air, her lungs fill with blood as she bleeds out. She starts to lose consciousness. Something wet is poured over her. The smell of gasoline. She opens her eyes. Rango's men are pouring gasoline on and around her. Faint police sirens are heard coming their way. Ebony starts to laugh.

RANGO  
What are you laughing at?

Ebony struggles to talk in between her pain and passing out.

EBONY  
You and your cousin...D-don't think  
you'll get away with this.

Rango and his men are ready to go. They pour the gasoline leading to the door way. Ebony manages to lift her head to look Rango in the eyes.

EBONY (CON'T)  
You and I both know it's a cycle.  
Don't underestimate my brother. He  
is my father's son. He will come  
for you and he will kill you.

Rango lights a cigar with a match.

RANGO  
We'll see about that.

He drops the match over the gasoline stained carpet. It catches fire. They close the door. Ebony stares down the flames and welcomes her death.

FADE OUT

## EXT. SHIRE HOUSE FRONT LAWN - NIGHT

London pulls into the front entrance of the estate. She sees smoke coming out of Ebony's office. The fire department and police are already there. She gets out of the car, runs inside.

CUT TO

## INT. SHIRE HOUSE - NIGHT

She enters and looks at all the damage. Mr. Fox's body is carried out. She hurries up the stairs. She is stopped by an undercover cop, Rick. She sees police and fire fighters coming in and out of Ebony's office. Rick won't let London in. She sees him trying not to tear up.

LONDON

No...No.

She pushes past him.

CUT TO

## INT. EBONY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Ebony's body is charred black, positioned the same way she had fallen. London heart drops, she begins to breath heavily. A couple of cops off to the side are laughing. Angered, London looks like she is about to let them have it. She is stopped by Rick, causing everyone to look. Rick carries her out to the hallway.

LONDON

Let me go, Rick!! Those fucking pigs don't even care. Look at their faces. Let me go!!

London breaks, falling to the floor. Rick consoles her.

DISSOLVE

## INT. BEDROOM - TWILIGHT

T.J. and Adrienne are fast asleep when T.J.'s phone rings. He answers it and sits up.

T.J.

WHAT?!

Adrienne hears T.J.'s outburst, opens her eyes and smiles.

FADE OUT

## INT. CHURCH - DAY

The sanctuary of a church is packed wall to wall with MOURNERS. Ebony and Mr. Fox's caskets are centered in front of a pulpit, surrounded by an abundance of flowers. The front row, off to the right, is filled with family and Ebony's men. London is laying on Rick's shoulder, silent tears fall as he holds her.

Adrianne is putting on a show, holding T.J.'s hand, crying and wiping tears away. T.J. sits, looking ahead at his sister's casket, numb. As the PREACHER begins the eulogy, T.J. continues to stare at Ebony's casket. Overwhelmed by the sniffing and preaching, he stands up and makes his way out of the sanctuary.

DISSOLVE

## EXT. GRAVE SITE - AFTERNOON

It is a cold fall day and the breaths of the MOURNERS can be seen cutting through the droplets of rain. T.J. holds the umbrella that covers him and Adrianne. His face is stern. They are all looking at the casket as it is being lowered into the ground.

LATER.

The rain has stopped. Mourners say their goodbyes, hugging T.J. and London. Marian and Adrianne are in the limo waiting for them. John and his men approach them. He hugs T.J. aggressively, then lets him go.

JOHN

Your sister was like my own, the black daughter I never had. It's a shame how she went out. If you ask me, that's how your father should of gotten it. She kept the council and these streets in order. Not afraid to share, unlike Tatius. There's talk you won't take over, let alone retaliate. But I say you will. I know a McCormick when I see one.

Everybody waits for T.J.'s reply.

T.J.

As of right now, I cannot answer if I'll take over.

T.J.'s voice takes a sudden turn. He speaks coldly.

(CONTINUED)

T.J. (CON'T)  
But my sister's killers will pay  
for what they have done.

John smiles and puts his hand on T.J.'s shoulder.

JOHN  
May God help'em. You decide to  
follow behind Ebony, give me a  
call. I sit on the council.  
Wouldn't be hard to vote you in.  
Shire House would be turned over to  
you with ease. Keep an eye on him  
London.

John motions for his men to move. T.J. and London begin to walk back to the limo, surrounded by Ebony's men. T.J. gets a phone call. He stops dead in his tracks.

DISSOLVE

INT. HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Still in their funeral clothes T.J., London and four of Ebony's MEN sit in Black's hospital room. T.J. is sitting in a chair facing an incapacitated Black.

T.J  
(to Black)  
The hospital told us what happened.  
Said you fought your way past those  
guys with what little strength you  
had left.

Black is ignoring T.J., looking out the window.

LONDON  
It's a good thing the state trooper  
decided to check the truck. The  
doctor said you could of died from  
the blood loss.

BLACK  
I wish I did.

Black looks at T.J.

BLACK  
For twenty years I stood by your  
sister's side. And in one night  
she's taken just like that. I knew  
something was odd, Rango showing up  
like that. I should of stuck with  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BLACK (cont'd)  
my instincts...And Fox and Vinny,  
they were my brothers.

T.J.  
It's not your fault. Nobody knew  
what was coming.

BLACK  
Rango's gonna get his. And when I  
deliver it to him-

Black works himself up. He starts to cough and grab his chest where he is bandaged. London stands by him to calm him.

BLACK (CON'T)  
Have you found him yet?

LONDON  
We're looking, but so far no sign  
of him.

Black looks up worried, then gets an idea.

BLACK  
Get my phone out over there.

London gets Black's phone out of his pants pocket, and hands it to him. Black scrolls through it. He pulls up a map and points. He turns it and shows everyone.

BLACK (CON'T)  
One thing I can say about Ebony,  
she was slick. She tracks  
everything. From the crates to the  
truck. Looks like this piece of  
shit is in Philly.

LONDON  
Well, lets drag his ass back down  
here.

T.J.  
No, not yet. I want him to feel  
safe, like he did us. You rest easy  
uncle, I got this.

FADE TO BLACK "A MONTH LATER

EXT. BUSY DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

It is a chilly winter day. People are moving past each other during morning rush hour in downtown Washington. D.C. Adrianne is on her phone trying to reach Rango.

CUT TO

INT. RANGO'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Rango is asleep. Startled by his phone, as it falls on the floor off his couch. He picks it up, answering groggy and hung over, his glasses not on his face.

RANGO

Hel-Hello.

ADRIANNE (V.O.)

Where the hell have you been?? I've been trying to get in touch with you all week.

Rango grabs his face. He grabs his shades off the table and puts them on.

RANGO

For what?

CUT TO

EXT. BUSY DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

Adrianne is moving in and out between people.

ADRIANNE

We have a problem. I underestimated my husband. I stopped by the company. He wasn't there.

CUT TO

INT. RANGO'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rango, in his boxers, walks over to the window. The noise of downtown D.C comes through the phone.

RANGO

It's nothing. He owns the damn thing. He can take off when he wants.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIANNE (V.O.)

I don't know, lately he hasn't been himself, coming in late, leaving early. Spending more time at Shire House. We live in D.C., Rango, D.C. Nobody likes Baltimore that much. Something's not right.

Rango is picking his nose.

RANGO

Relax baby cousin. You're thinking too hard. He's harmless. If he wanted to do something he would of done it by now. You said it yourself, he's not about this life. I would love to see him try me.

Rango laughs

ADRIANNE (V.O.)

I hope you're right. I pray you're right. Just, just stay safe, ok? You're all I have left.

RANGO

Don't worry little cousin, I'll be fine.

Adrianne hangs up on Rango. Baxter comes in the room.

BAXTER

Is there a problem?

RANGO

No, but let's move the truck after the girls leave tonight. Not like we need it anymore. We made our profit.

Rango smiles at Baxter with a sinisterly

FADE OUT

INT. T.J. AND ADRIANNE'S HOUSE - EVENING

T.J. and Adrianne's home is a comfortable three level house with a two door garage. It is nicely decorated with pictures of their family lining the staircase and mantle over their fire place. Adrianne enters, looking for T.J. Putting her purse away in the foyer closet, she calls out for him, going into the kitchen.

KITCHEN

(CONTINUED)

Adrianne spies a bag of Chinese food and a letter next to it on their island table.

T.J. (V.O.)

Sorry about dinner, Beautiful. Had to fly up to Philly to handle some business for the company. I won't be home tonight, don't wait up.  
Love you.

Adrianne puts down the card. She gets her phone and calls Rango.

DISSOLVE

INT. RANGO'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

There is loud music coming from Rango's surround sound. He, along with Baxter and two of his MEN, are being entertained by a couple of STRIPPERS. He does not hear his phone go off.

DISSOLVE

INT. T.J. AND ADRIANNE'S KITCHEN - EVENING

Adrianne slams her phone down, angry. She nervously starts pacing the floor. She stops pacing, picks up her phone and calls T.J. His phone goes straight to voice mail.

CUT TO

INT. RANGO'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Rango and his men are living it up like it's their last days. The air is filled with the smell of weed. A small table is set aside with lines of cocaine. The men are gathered around, watching the three strippers work for their pay.

CUT TO

INT. CAR - NIGHT

T.J. is sitting in a car outside of Rango's house, looking down at the clock, when London gets in.

T.J.  
Is that the truck?

LONDON  
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

T.J. reaches into the glove box and pulls out his gun. It's Ebony's. London smiles at it, then looks at T.J. T.J. is busy loading his gun when he notices London staring at him.

T.J. (CON'T)  
What?

LONDON  
God, you look like your father.

T.J. looks at London with a stern face.

T.J.  
Get yourself together.

CUT TO

INT. RANGO'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Music still blasting, Rango is in the living room having fun with one stripper, while another one of his men is in the dining room with another. One guy mans the front door.

CUT TO

INT. CAR - NIGHT

T.J. and London are in the car waiting for the clock to strike 8 p.m. T.J. just happens to see London fixing herself to get ready to go in. She feels him staring.

LONDON  
What?

T.J.  
Nothing.

London looks down at the clock.

LONDON  
It's time.

She tucks her gun behind her back, in her pants.

LONDON (CON'T)  
Don't chicken out on me.

T.J.  
Trust me, I won't.

CUT TO

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

T.J. gets out of the car, tucking his gun in his pants. They start walking across the street.

T.J.  
You take the front, I'll take the back.

LONDON  
I believe that was the plan.

T.J. runs off to the back of the house like a cat in the night. London makes her way onto Rango's porch and rings the door bell.

DISSOLVE

INT. RANGO'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

Standing next to the door, Rango's bodyguard sees London through the peep hole. Confused, he counts the strippers. He then looks back out at London.

BODY GUARD #1  
Hey boss...

Rango brushes his bodyguard off. The bodyguard shrugs and opens up the door to find London's gun in his face. She gestures to move. They walk in as she closes the door behind them.

RANGO  
Who is it?

Still held hostage, the guard doesn't answer. BODYGUARD #2 sees London from the dining room. He moves the stripper out of his way. Pulling out his gun, too slow, he is shot by London. The stripper screams, Rango gets up, moving his stripper out of the way. T.J. comes up behind him without him knowing, holding a gun to his head.

T.J.  
Uh Uh Uh. I'd hate to shoot a man with his pants down. Now call your man.

Rango, not afraid, fixes himself and pulls out a cigar, lights it and turns, facing T.J.

RANGO  
No.

(CONTINUED)

Rango blows the smoke in T.J.'s face. London shoots her hostage in the head. He drops to the ground, the two strippers scream, T.J. cocks his gun.

RANGO (CON'T)  
Ba-Baxter, Baxter!!!

Baxter comes rushing down the steps with a stripper right behind him. London's gun aimed at him, he comes down slowly, the stripper holding his hand. They stand next to Rango.

T.J.  
If you ladies don't want to die  
tonight, I advise you to leave now.

The three strippers collect their cash and leave the house as fast as they can.

DISSOLVE

INT. RANGO'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Rango and Baxter hands are tied behind their backs. London has her gun on Baxter and T.J. has his on Rango.

T.J.  
Now I'm going to ask this nicely.  
Why did you kill my sister?

Rango laughs, talking to Baxter.

RANGO  
This guy. Look how he holds his  
gun.

Baxter and Rango start to laugh. T.J. sighs and grabs his head out of frustration. He punches Rango in the face, then begins to beat him. Baxter moves to help, but is stopped by the sound of London's gun cocking. T.J. jacks Rango up by his collar. Bruised and bloody, Rango cracks under pressure.

RANGO  
Alright...Alright!! I'll tell you.  
But you have to come close.

T.J. listens in, Rango whispers in his ear.

RANGO (CON'T)  
(whisper)  
I fucked your mama...And she was  
dry.

(CONTINUED)

Both Rango and Baxter bust out laughing. T.J. starts to laugh as well. Rango and Baxter stop, surprised by his psychotic behavior. T.J. looks Rango in his eyes then shoots Baxter in the head.

RANGO (CON'T)

Shit!!!

T.J.

Open your mouth.

Rango refuses. T.J. cocks his gun again. Rango opens his mouth. T.J. puts his gun inside Rango's mouth.

T.J.

Since you like to talk so much, you have till three to give me an answer. One...two...thre-

Rango starts to yell uncontrollably. London, smiling, stops T.J. He takes the gun out of Rango's mouth. Rango coughs.

RANGO

I will, I will. But I don't think you want to hear it.

Rango coughs.

T.J.

Tell me or I swear I'll blow your head off!!!

RANGO

ALRIGHT!!! It was your wife!!!

London cocks her gun.

LONDON

Ok, that's it.

RANGO

I'm serious! Your wife is my cousin. Twenty years ago your dad killed her dad, the leader of "The Blue Bloods", and our entire family.

T.J. lowers his gun.

LONDON

He's trying to trick us.

RANGO

I'm not! Check my phone. How do you think we got into the house?

T.J. comes back, pointing his gun in Rango's face, grabbing him.

T.J.

Don't you say her name! You have no right in saying her name!!

RANGO

She got into your mind man. Stole your heart, all just to get to Ebony. A life for a life, a family for a family.

Rango laughs in T.J.'s face arrogantly.

RANGO (CON'T)

And personally, I loved every minute of it. Watching the life drain from her eyes as I twisted the blade.

Rango laughs his psychotic laugh. T.J. yells out of anger and puts three rounds into Rango's chest, causing him to cough up blood. He falls onto T.J. He holds on to Rango and whispers into his ear.

T.J.

(whisper)

How's that for soft hands.

He sticks the gun under Rango's chin and pulls the trigger.

CUT TO

INT. CAR - DAWN

London and T.J. are back in Baltimore. London is driving. The car is silent, neither of them are talking to each other. T.J. takes out Rango's phone. London cuts her eye to him then back to the road. T.J. scrolls through Rango's phone, until he gets to a contact that says "Cousin". T.J. calls the number, the phone rings. London looks over again at T.J. and then at the road. T.J. lets out a sigh of relief. He hangs up the phone. He smiles at London when the phone rings back. He answers.

ADRIANNE (V.O.)

Hello...Hello...Rango?

(CONTINUED)

T.J. hangs up the phone, face pale, staring straight ahead. London looks over at him.

LONDON

Fuck!

DISSOLVE

INT. EBONY OFFICE - MORNING

London is in what remains of Ebony's office. She walks along the book shelf touching the burnt books timidly with her hands. Emotions running deep, she claws the books as she heads over to Ebony's desk. London sees a picture from the wedding. She smiles. Everyone is in it, Black, Vinny, Mr. Fox, Ebony, Marian and T.J. She comes across Adrienne's face. Out of anger, London knocks everything off the desk, falling back in the chair, sobbing.

INT. GUN RANGE - MORNING

T.J. is in the gun range, door locked. Guns line the table. He fires gun after gun. He finally has had enough and stops, leaning against the table. He takes his gun and leaves the range.

CUT TO

EXT. SHIRE HOUSE GARAGE - MORNING

T.J. pulls out of the garage, speeding off in his car. London tries to stop him from driving away but he doesn't hear her. Tires screeching, he leaves.

FADE OUT

EXT. MARIAN'S HOUSE - MORNING

Marian has moved from her inner city row home to a nice quaint country home in the county. It has some land to it, a barn, and a couple of neighbors by her side. T.J. pulls up to Marian's driveway. He runs to the porch, knocking on the door violently. Opening the door in her robe, Marian stands looking at her son. She sees the gun. He hugs her.

DISSOLVE

INT. MARIAN'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Marian has made coffee. The room is silent. The house is eerily quiet. She breaks the silence, looking down at the gun on the coffee table.

MARIAN

T.J...

(pause)

What's wrong?

T.J. leans in close to his mother.

T.J

Remember when you told me about dad?...How...How when you found out about his lies, you said it-it felt like you just died inside? You thought the love was real.

T.J. leans back, staring at his gun on the table.

MARIAN

T.J...

(pause)

...what did you do. son?

She snaps T.J. out of it.

T.J.

I killed him.

MARIAN

Killed who?

T.J.

I stuck the gun under his chin and-

T.J. makes the motion of him shooting a gun. Marian gets up.

MARIAN

Jesus Christ, T.J! Who was it?

T.J.

The bastard who killed Ebony.

Marian paces back and forth.

MARIAN

What did I tell you? What have I always told you?...Let the cops-

(CONTINUED)

T.J.  
HANDLE IT!!!

Marian stops in her tracks.

T.J. (CON'T)  
I did and they have done nothing.  
So, I took matters into my own  
hands.

Marian goes on her knees next to her son trying to bring him back.

MARIAN  
Do you hear yourself? This isn't  
you! This is what I tried to keep  
you away from.

She is holding his hands. He looks at his mother.

T.J.  
For what? Why? So I can be like  
YOU?...WEAK!!! Dad hurt you and you  
did nothing.

He gets up, moving her out of the way, grabbing his gun.  
Marian cries to herself. T.J. is pacing the floor.

T.J  
MY WIFE...YOUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, SET  
EVERYTHING UP! Over something dad  
did, not Ebony.

MARIAN  
What are you talking about, T.J.?

T.J. goes down on the floor next to Marian.

T.J.  
Adrienne had Ebony killed.

He hugs his mother, eyes watering.

T.J. (CON'T)  
And for that she can't live.

T.J. gets up. She tries to pull him back. He walks to the door.

MARIAN  
T.J., you can't! Leave it to the  
law. No more blood!!

T.J. opens the front door.

(CONTINUED)

MARIAN (CON'T)  
YOU WANT TO BE LIKE YOUR FATHER, GO  
RIGHT AHEAD!!! BUT KNOW THIS. YOU  
LEAVE OUT THAT DOOR, YOU'RE NO SON  
OF MINE!

T.J. looks back at his mother. He leaves, slamming the door, his mother crying.

MARIAN  
GOT DAMN YOU, TATIUS!!!

DISSOLVE

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

T.J.'s car is parked outside a bar located next to the harbor. The night is chilled and dampness is in the air. Fog covers the still water.

CUT TO

INT. BAR - NIGHT

T.J. is at the bar, head down. He raises his hand to the bartender, signaling another drink.

BEGIN SUPER 8 FLASH BACK MONTAGE

FLASH TO

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY (FLASH BACK)

T.J. is with his FRIENDS, tossing a football back and forth. Adrianne is sitting with her FRIENDS on the lawn when T.J. runs through them, trying to catch the football. T.J. catches the ball and tosses it back. Adrianne starts to fuss him out. T.J. fusses back and Adrianne puts her hand to his face, shutting him up. T.J. smiles at her.

FLASH TO

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - DAY (FLASH BACK)

PEOPLE are walking in and out of the movie theater. T.J. and Adrianne are walking back to his car, left over popcorn in his hand. He opens the door for Adrianne. She gives him a kiss on the cheek as she gets in the car. She smiles at him.

FLASH TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY(FLASH BACK)

T.J. introduces Adrienne to his family. Ebony hugs Adrienne lovingly. Ebony turns away. Adrienne stabs her in the back. A loud thud snaps him out of his thoughts.

END SUPER 8 FLASH BACK MONTAGE

SMASH CUT

INT. BAR - NIGHT (PRESENT DAY)

The BARTENDER is leaning over T.J., calling him.

BARTENDER  
Aye...Aye buddy.

T.J. gets himself together, wiping his face.

T.J.  
I'm...I'm up. Get me another.

BARTENDER  
Sorry man, I think you had enough.

T.J. gets annoyed.

T.J.  
Look man, I-I ain't tryin to fuss,  
just give me my got damn drink!

BARTENDER  
No.

T.J. takes out his gun and puts it on the counter. The bartender looks at the gun, then T.J., then at three MEN behind T.J. T.J. looks at the men, then turns back around.

T.J.  
(chuckle)  
You think they can help you.

The bartender gives T.J. another round. T.J. puts his gun away. His phone buzzes in his pocket. He pulls out his phone it's a text from London.

LONDON (TEXT)  
WHERE ARE YOU??!!

T.J. replies

(CONTINUED)

T.J.  
(texting London)  
At the bar in fells point.

T.J. puts his phone back into his pocket and takes a sip of his drink. One of the guys grabs T.J. from behind, pulling him out of his seat. They start scuffling. They take the fight outside, the bartender following with a bat.

SMASH CUT

EXT. OUTSIDE BAR - NIGHT

One of the men slams T.J. into his car as he pulls his gun out. The gun flies out of his hand, landing a couple feet away. T.J. knees the man in the face and punches him back, knocking him out.

Going to get his gun, another man jumps on his back. T.J. flips him over, when another one pins him down. They restrain him on his knees in front of the bartender.

The bartender hits T.J. in the stomach with his bat, then hits him in the face, knocking him out. They toss him in the harbor. T.J., unconscious, drifts away under the water. He feels a hand grab hold of him.

He looks up seeing Ebony. His will power drives him to the surface, gasping for air. He pulls himself back onto the ground, coughing up water. T.J gets himself together. He sees his gun, gets it, and goes back into the bar. Four gun shots ring out.

SMASH CUT

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Bruised battered and soaking wet, T.J stands, panting, looking at the bodies on the floor. He wipes his mouth, a sadistic smile comes on his face. London grabs him out of the bar.

SMASH CUT

INT. CAR- NIGHT

It is pouring outside. London is driving as fast as she can to get him far away from the scene of the crime. T.J. is leaning on the window quiet, yet still intoxicated

LONDON  
Shit T.J.! You can't go around,  
fucking shooting people because  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LONDON (cont'd)  
you're angry. I'm angry too! You  
gotta think!

T.J.  
I only wounded them.

LONDON  
It doesn't matter! Now I gotta call  
Rick, to clean up your mess!

T.J.  
(chuckles)  
So, that's his purpose is? The  
clean up.

LONDON  
(annoyed)  
You think this shit is funny?

T.J. ignores her, looking out the window. They are about to drive past the cemetery where Ebony is buried.

T.J.  
(whisper)  
Stop...

LONDON  
We got bigger problems going on,  
and you're out acting stupid. I  
swear I could hit you right-

Still fussing, London does not hear him.

T.J.  
STOP!!!!

London slams on the brakes as they slide to a stop in front of the cemetery.

DISSOLVE

EXT. GRAVE SITE - NIGHT

Still raining and pitch black, T.J. looks along the rows of graves for Ebony's tombstone. London follows right behind him. He finds it. It is a magnificent tombstone that towers over him. He leans up against it.

T.J.  
I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry. Please  
tell me what to do? I don't know  
what to do...

(CONTINUED)

Looking over, T.J. sees his father's tombstone mocking him.

T.J.  
This is your fault! Are you happy?!

He pulls out his gun and shoots at his father's grave.

T.J  
ARE YOU FUCKING HAPPY!!?? You  
destroyed our family!! Now I must  
carry this cross alone!

T.J. keeps pulling on the trigger, but the gun is empty. London walks up behind him and takes the gun away. He turns around agitated and tries to get it back. She pushes him away; angered, T.J. swings at her. She avoids him. He stumbles.

T.J. rushes her, slamming her into his father's headstone. He throws a punch. She moves and he hits the tombstone. He throws another, she grabs it and holds it. He tosses another, she catches that one. T.J.'s anger turns to sadness, then sobbing. They both fall to the ground, crying together, holding each other.

DISSOLVE

INT. T.J.'S BEDROOM SHIRE HOUSE - NIGHT

Discarded wet clothes line the floor. Lightning flashes through the window. Heavy breathing and ruffling of sheets can be heard. London scratches T.J.'s back out of excitement. London reverses their position, pinning T.J. to the bed. T.J. leans up, holding London, forcing more excitement between them. London stops him, staring into his eyes. A hurt and lost soul stares back at her.

London gently caresses his head, bringing her hand down to the back of his neck as Ebony would. This action brings him home. He looks at her. London's silent facial expression reassures him everything will be fine, he's not alone. He musters up a smile, catching London off guard turning her back over, causing her moan in anticipation.

DISSOLVE

INT. EBONY'S OFFICE - MORNING (DREAM)

It's hazy. T.J. is in Ebony's office walking around. A MAN in a suit is standing, looking out the window with his hands folded behind him. T.J. tries to see who it is. As he gets closer, the man turns around. It's his father. TATIUS, Sr. smiles at T.J. He's an older man in his 50's, tall and handsome. T.J. gets closer. Tatius Sr. speaks to him.

(CONTINUED)

TATIUS  
Hello son.  
(pause)  
Please sit.

Having no control over his body, T.J. is forced into a chair behind him. He tries to remove himself but cannot. Tatius, Sr. walks to the front of the desk, facing T.J.

TATIUS (CON'T)  
I heard what you said, I'm here to help.

T.J.  
I don't-

TATIUS  
Need my help? Yes you do. You don't know what to do - remember. It's simple...Kill Adrianne.

T.J.  
I can't. I thought I could. I still love her.

Tatius, Sr. comes towards him. T.J. is forced to stand up. Tatius, Sr. hugs him.

TATIUS (CON'T)  
If she loved you, this cycle would not have continued. You said nothing comes before you and your sister...

Tatius, Sr. holds T.J. as Ebony would, cuffing the back of his neck.

TATIUS (CON'T)  
Now end it, before she ends you.

T.J. turns around to see Adrianne pointing a gun at his head. She fires it.

SMASH CUT

INT. T.J'S BEDROOM SHIRE HOUSE - MORNING (PRESENT DAY)

T.J. opens his eyes, jumping up frantically, touching his body. He looks over to see London sound asleep. He kisses her cheek. She pushes him away. He chuckles at her reaction. He sits on the side of the bed and lights a cigar. He grabs his gun, pointing it in front of him and smiles a sadistic smile.

(CONTINUED)

T.J.  
POW !!!

DISSOLVE

EXT. RANGO'S HOUSE- MORNING

Cop cars and caution tape line Rango's home. BY- STANDARDS try to get a look at what's going on. CRIME INVESTIGATORS are coming and going. One of the detectives on the scene is Rick, blending amongst the cops.

Adrianne makes her way over, pushing past the crowd. The coroners bring out body bags. They follow each other in a line. The last one comes out.

Adrianne cannot contain herself. She goes past the caution tape, stopping the men. Rick rushes over to stop her from unzipping the bag. He looks at her. They look at each other. He lets her arm go and unzips the bag for her.

Rango's cold dead face, mangled from the gun shot wound, peers through the slit. Adrianne opens the bag a little wider to get a better look. She begins to breathe heavily, a tear streams down her face.

RICK  
Miss.

Adrianne does not hear him.

RICK (CON'T)  
MISS!!!

Adrianne looks at Rick.

RICK (CON'T)  
Do you know this man?

Adrianne pulls herself together.

ADRIANNE  
No-No I don't. I thought I did.

RICK  
Are you sure?

ADRIANNE  
Yes, I'm sure...sorry.

Adrianne gives Rango one last look as she walks away. She moves back under the caution tape, disappearing into the crowd. Rick signals for the coroners to continue what they were doing. Adrianne heads to her car.

(CONTINUED)

CUT TO

INT. ADRIANNE'S CAR - MORNING

Adrianne starts her car. Before driving off, she breaks down, crying uncontrollably. Her phone rings startling her.

T.J. (V.O.)  
Hello beautiful.

Adrianne stops crying at the sound of T.J.'s voice.

T.J. (V.O., CON'T)  
You like how I evened the playing field? Hurts, doesn't it?

Adrianne caught, holds her ground.

ADRIANNE  
Touche darling. I never thought you had it in you.

Adrianne puts her car into drive, and drives off.

CUT TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE HALLWAYS - MORNING

T.J. is in his robe, walking the hallways of Shire House. Talking to Adrianne. Cuts from the night before show on his face.

T.J.  
There's a lot of things we didn't think any one of us were capable of doing.

ADRIANNE (V.O.)  
This is true. So what is it you want to do love? We can't keep playing cat and mouse games.

T.J.  
Come on Adrianne, you and I both know you are not one for getting your hands dirty. So I've decided for you.

ADRIANNE (V.O.)  
What?

(CONTINUED)

T.J.  
You have till tonight to leave the country. If not, I'll find you and personally end your life.

CUT TO

INT. SHIRE HOUSE TROPHY ROOM - MORNING

T.J. walks into the family trophy room, looking over previous mob bosses history. Paintings line the room. He spots a painting of Ebony and her mom. He walks over and touches it.

T.J.  
And Adrienne, don't take me lightly.

T.J. hangs up on Adrienne. He turns to a huge painting of his father standing strong and proud, holding the same silver Colt .45 revolver he now has. On his wrist is the watch that was passed down to him.

He looks at his wrist. In the other hand that matches the one holding his father's chest, the family ring. He pulls it out of his robe, looks at it, and walks out of the room.

FADE OUT

EXT. SHIRE HOUSE BALCONY - LATER THAT DAY

It is a nice winter day. T.J. is standing out on the balcony in jeans, t-shirt and a leather jacket, looking over the estate. London comes out, bundled up in a jacket. She stands next to him, leaning against the railing.

T.J.  
Ten years ago we couldn't stand each other.

LONDON  
(amused)  
Now look at us. You know this was a one time thing?

T.J.  
I hope not.

London looks at T.J., seeing he's serious. He smiles at her. She keeps her tough exterior.

(CONTINUED)

T.J.

Oh what the subconscious mind brings  
to light when we're drunk.

LONDON

I wasn't drunk.

They both laugh.

T.J.

I brought Adrienne into our home,  
and let her take everything away  
from us.

(pause)

I'm sorry, and I want you to know I  
handled it.

Beat.

LONDON

Good, I wasn't sure you could.

T.J.

The night Ebony was killed, she was  
working on her will. In it she left  
the family ring to me.

T.J. pulls out the family ring.

T.J. (CON'T)

She never wanted me to do this, but  
I'm going to the council.

LONDON

T.J., you don't have to just  
because Ebony's gone.

T.J.

I know, but everything that has  
happened has brought me into it. I  
just want to know, will you still  
be here?

London stands up, takes the ring, looks at it, then at him  
with loving eyes.

LONDON

Yes.

FADE OUT

## INT. ADRIANNE'S &amp; T.J.'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Adrianne is frantically packing. Reaching in her night stand, she grabs a picture of her family. She stares at it, stops packing and heads into her walk-in closet. Getting on her hands and knees she starts knocking on the wooden floor board. She listens out for a hollow sound, finally finding what she is looking for under a shoe rack. She opens the floor and pulls out a wooden box.

She opens the box. Inside it contains envelopes full of currency from around the world, her passport, and a picture of a man attached to a small letter. She reads the letter, closes the box and leaves the room.

FADE OUT

## INT. HOOKAH BAR - NIGHT

The Arabian Knights Hookah Bar is a local hangout spot in the heart of Towson, Maryland, surrounded by other shops and Towson University up the street. Adrianne is sitting at a table with an older rough looking Turkish gentleman. He is the man from the picture, ABDI (60). He is broad in stature and stern in the face, an old warrior. Adrianne slides the box towards Abdi and he goes through it. Adrianne starts to speak in Turk.

ADRIANNE

(Turk)

My father said if there was a time  
I ever was in trouble, you were the  
one to go to.

Abdi takes a sip of his tea and puts it down. He speaks in English, but his Turkish accent can be heard.

ABDI

How many languages do you speak?

ADRIANNE

Eight, not including English. My  
father made sure I was well  
rounded.

Abdi takes another sip of his tea.

ABDI

Ahhh...Your father, he was a good  
man. We fought many times beside  
each other back in the old country.  
I never understood why he never  
gave you a Turkish name.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIANNE

Mom was American and she wasn't  
having that.

Abdi laughs.

ABDI

American women are allowed to speak  
their minds.

Abdi puffs from his hookha. Going off into a short gaze, he leans back in his chair.

ABDI (CON'T)

It was such a tragedy to hear what happened to them. I always said if I could have gotten my hands on Tatius... Accidental fire my ass. Everyone knows he did it.

ADRIANNE

What if I told you, you could have your chance. Tomorrow. It's not him, but his son, my husband.

Abdi leans forward, intrigued.

ADRIANNE

This is why I am here. I already killed his sister, Ebony.

ABDI

(excitement)

That was you? Allah be praised...Your father would of been proud.

ADRIANNE

But I've underestimated him. What I've done has awakened something in him. He's out for blood. He has already killed my cousin.

ABDI

Rango?!...This means you are the last blood.

ADRIANNE

So is Tatius' son. He is forcing me to leave or suffer death by his hands. But I'll be damned if I let him scare me so easily. I will end this feud between our two families

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ADRIANNE (cont'd)  
with the last remaining bloodline.  
More blood will be spilt.

ABDI  
Well, you have me on board. I will  
round up a couple men. We are at  
your service.

Abdi begins to speak in Turk.

ABDI (CON'T)  
(Turk)  
An enemy of your father is an enemy  
of mine.

Abdi finishes his tea. Adrienne blows smoke from her hookah.

FADE OUT

INT. MARIAN'S HOME - MORNING

Marian's door bell rings. She opens the door. Adrienne stands with two unknown MEN dressed in black.

ADRIANNE  
Hello Marian.

DISSOLVE

EXT. MARIAN'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

London is walking over to Marian's porch, leaving a message on T.J.'s voicemail.

LONDON  
I know you're meeting with the  
council, but something's up. Marian  
called, which she never does. I'm  
here now. You need to get here  
ASAP!!

PORCH

London hangs up the phone, steps on the porch and rings the doorbell. Nobody comes to the door. She starts to knock but the door opens as her hand hits it.

CUT TO

INT. MARIAN'S HOME - DAY

London walks in, pulling out her silencer pistol. Checking the living room, She heads into the kitchen.

KITCHEN

She stops in front of the elevated microwave. She holsters her gun in the back of her pants.

LONDON

Marian!!!

A MAN'S reflection in the microwave appears. He shoots at London. She ducks in time as the bullet hits the microwave. London pulls out her gun, putting a bullet in his head. She is rushed by another MAN in a black jacket. He slams her up against the kitchen counter, knocking the gun out of her hand. Their feet move the gun away from London.

London is punching him in the back. The man in the black jacket gets the upper hand, punching her in the face. London blocks the man's next two punches, counter attacks, and uses the kitchen counter as her boost. She pushes the man with her feet into the kitchen table and chairs.

She tries to go to her gun, but is clipped by the man, falling onto the floor hard. The man grabs her by the leg, dragging her back to him. She turns around and kicks him in the face. They manage to get to their feet.

The man grabs London and slams her against the wall. She knees him in the stomach, then punches him in the face. He stumbles back into the counter. London goes for another punch to the face. He grabs her arm, reversing their position.

He tries to slam her head onto the marble counter top. She stops him, bracing herself. The man lifts her up, sliding her over the counter top into objects on the surface, knocking over the cutlery.

He lifts her into the sink filled with dish water, trying to drown her. He holds her head under water. London struggles for her life, managing to push herself up, gasping for air. He forces her head back under the water. She feels for the faucet hose, and turns on the hot water.

Grabbing the hose, she sprays scalding hot water in her attacker's face. He screams in pain. She manages to loosen his grip. Coming up out of the water she reaches for one of the steak knives on the counter. She turns around and slices the man's neck. He stumbles back, falling on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

London stumbles out of the kitchen, picking her gun up off the floor. Still dazed, a cut by her eye begins to bleed. She yells for Marian.

LONDON  
MARIAN!!!

LIVING ROOM

She takes a second to breathe when she is ambushed again by the same man. He tackles her over the couch. They land on the coffee table, breaking it. The man is on top of London. She manages to get her gun and fires two rounds in his chest. She throws the man off of her, her left arm incompacitated with pain. Angered, she kicks his lifeless body. She gathers herself together, holding her arm, and heads to the dining room.

DINING ROOM

The windows are open, letting the cold winter air blow through. Adrienne is standing behind a terrified Marian who is sitting in a chair. Adrienne has a gun to Marian's head. London looks at Adrienne, then Marian.

ADRIANNE  
Uh Uh Uh. You wouldn't want to hit sweet Marian.

LONDON  
She's not my mother.

ADRIANNE  
Ouch.

LONDON  
I thought T.J. handled you?

ADRIANNE  
As you can see he didn't. You know he's soft. His verbal threat almost had me though.

Adrienne chuckles. London mumbles to herself.

LONDON  
(mumbling)  
Dammit T.J.  
(pause)  
No worries, I'm happy to do it myself.

London's hand tightens on her gun.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIANNE

And you deserve to be the one to  
pull the trigger. You out of  
everyone suspected something. I  
applaud you for that.

LONDON

But before I kill you, what did you  
get out of this, hurting T.J.?

ADRIANNE

Revenge. I destroyed everything  
Tatius ,built and loved just like  
he destroyed everything that  
belonged to me. Now, how will this  
city survive with its fallen  
kingdom?

LONDON

We'll see, after I put a bullet  
through your head.

London and Adrienne's fingers tighten on the their triggers. London gets distracted when Abdi comes into the dining room, both firing on each other. Their bullets land. Abdi, protected by a bullet proof vest, takes the hit. London is hit in the chest. Marian screams as she falls back on the floor, blacking in and out.

Adrienne, dragging Marian, stands next to Abdi. They look over London's body. He's dressed in army fatigues. He has a wired ear piece in his ear. Adrienne bends down, putting her finger in London's wound. London moans in pain. She takes her finger out of London's wound, gets up and walks away. Marian tries to go to London's aid, but is dragged away.

LIVING ROOM

ABDI

What do you want me to do with her?

Adrienne stops and turns to Abdi, then looks at Marian.

ADRIANNE

I'm sorry you had to go through  
this.

Adrienne pulls off Marian's gag. Marian spits in Adrienne's face. Adrienne wipes it off.

MARIAN

My son has every right to feel how  
he does. After all he's done for

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MARIAN (cont'd)  
you. All this, over a twenty year  
grudge. I hope he sends you to hell  
right next to Tatius.

Adrianne turns as if she is going to leave, inhales deeply, and hits Marian with the butt of her gun very hard. The force knocks her out.

ADRIANNE  
Shoot! I broke a nail.

Adrianne looks at Abdi, who laughs. Four more of Abdi's MEN come through the front door. Two of the men grab Marian's body off.

ADRIANNE  
Hurry, let's finish this.

DISSOLVE

INT. MARIAN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING LATER THAT DAY

Through Marian's living room window, three black cars can be seen pulling up outside her house.

CUT TO

EXT. MARIAN'S HOUSE- EVENING LATER THAT DAY

T.J. rushes out of his car followed by Black, who walks with a small limp. Four of his MEN follow beside them as they head to the front door.

T.J.  
You two come with me, you two go  
with Black.

MEN  
Yes sir.

Black and the two men go off to the back leaving T.J. and the other two men to deal with the house.

CUT TO

INT. MARIAN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING CONTINUOUS

T.J. opens the door. His gun is drawn. Following behind him are his two men. He sees the mess all over the floor. He motions for them to spread out. They go off, checking the rest of the house on the first floor. They signal to him that it's clear. T.J. heads upstairs. He moves quietly up

(CONTINUED)

the steps. He hears Black and the other men come in down stairs.

CUT TO

INT. HALLWAY - EVENING

T.J. gets to his mother's bedroom. The door is shut. He can hear water running. He braces himself and opens the door, gun drawn.

T.J.  
(whisper)  
Ma!...Ma!!

DISSOLVE

INT. MARIAN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

He walks over to the master bathroom door. As he walks over he sees the floor is soaking wet.

MASTER BATHROOM

He opens the door. His mother's lifeless body is in the tub, over flowing with water. He runs to her, frantic, slipping as he goes to her. He pulls her body out, cradling her.

DISOLVE

INT. MARIAN'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING CONTINUOUS

T.J. comes down the steps with Marian's lifeless body. He is whispering in her ear. Everyone turns around as he makes his way to them. He walks over to one of the men and gives her body to him.

He whispers in his ear (M.O.S.). The man understands nodding. He tells another man to accompany him (M.O.S.). The men walk out the door. He gets a last glimpse of his mother. Black grabs his shoulder. Turning him around, he hands him a phone.

BLACK  
It's for you.

T.J. presses play on the video file. Abdi and his men are torturing London, who is hanging from her hands in a barn in chains. Her face is bloody. Her body is marked up with bruises and cuts. The men are yelling at her in Turk, but she is not making a sound. The camera moves and Adrienne's face appears on the screen. T.J.'s hands tighten around the phone. Adrienne walks over to London. They lower her down. She can hardly stand.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIANNE

Oh hey there, lover. As you can see, I didn't leave. Thought I should take care of some much needed business first.

Adrianne gets close to London. Her back has gash marks. She moves the camera to London's arm where her sleeve used to be. Now all that's there is bleeding flesh.

ADRIANNE (CON'T)

About that. Abdi here.

Abdi waves.

ADRIANNE (CON'T)

... is an old friend of my father's. He loves trophies from his kills.

Abdi walks to the camera laughing, holding up London's ripped flesh. Adrianne walks away from London. The Turks pull her back up.

ADRIANNE (CON'T)

You see T.J., this is how you even the playing field. Take away everybody till there is no one left but us.

The video ends and T.J. looks up from the phone.

BLACK

Was that Marian's barn?

T.J.

Yes.

SMASH CUT

EXT. MARIAN'S BACK YARD - EVENING LATER THAT DAY

T.J. rushes across the snow covered lawn followed by Black and his men. They are headed to the barn behind the house. T.J. opens the barn doors. London is no longer hanging by her hands. They replaced the chains with hooks piercing through her chest. Her head is down, hands in front of her. Bruised and bloody. She is motionless.

DISSOLVE

INT. BARN - EVENING LATER THAT DAY

T.J. walks up to her. He touches her leg and feels a slight pulse. He turns back to Black and his men.

T.J.  
She's alive!

One of T.J.'s men finds the pulley that is hoisting London in the air and starts to lower her.

T.J. (CON'T)  
Black help me-

London musters up strength to speak.

LONDON  
T-T.J...

T.J., hearing London's voice, faces her.

T.J.  
I'm here.

Black goes around to the back of London and gently tries to raise her from off the hooks. London yells in agony.

LONDON  
STOP!!!

Black lets her go as quickly and gently as he can. She yells in pain.

LONDON (CON'T)  
SHIT!!! MMMM, you can't do anything  
for me, just let me go.

T.J. looks sad and defeated.

T.J.  
No! You're not going anywhere, you  
hear me. You better man the fuck  
up!

Black pulls T.J. away. They talk quietly away from London.

BLACK  
She's right, the hooks are in too  
deep. Even if we take them out,  
she'll bleed out before we can get  
her help.

(CONTINUED)

T.J.

Then what do you suggest we do?

Black pulls out his gun.

T.J. (CON'T)

Noo.

T.J looks at London.

T.J. (CON'T)

She's one of us...US Black!

BLACK

That's why one of us has to do it.  
I don't like it either, but she's  
right, there's nothing we can do!

T.J. goes over to London, grabbing her face gently,  
whispering in her ear.

T.J.

You can't go out like this, you  
hear me. I can't lose you, too.  
We're gonna try one more time, ok?

London nods, tears in her eyes, giving it one last try. T.J.  
signals Black and his men to help one last time. The hooks  
move but are too much for London. Her yelling stops them.

LONDON

T.J., just do it.

T.J. looks away, then back at London. He walks away, wiping  
his eyes. He pulls out his gun, Black and his men watching.  
He paces the floor.

T.J.

FUUCCKK!!! You can't-I can't...  
Gahhh...Are you sure?

London nods her head, tears streaming down her face. T.J.  
pulling himself away, raises his gun to London's head.

LONDON

Don't pussy out on me.

T.J. chuckles, his hand is shaking. He moves his finger over  
the trigger and pulls it. A shot rings out.

CUT TO "BLACK"

EXT. MARIAN'S BACK YARD - NIGHT

Night has finally cast its shadow. A full moon lights the night. T.J. rushes across his mother's back yard towards the house. Black pushes past his limp to catch up, trying to stop him.

BLACK

T.J.!

T.J. turns around, pointing his gun at Black.

T.J.

I swear to God Black, if you say one word trying to stop me, I will shoot you dead.

Steam is beaming off of him, his eyes set on Black. A cold stare like none ever seen in them before.

T.J. (CON'T)

"I" am finishing this!

Black backs down.

BLACK (CON'T)

Ok...Ok.

T.J. continues his journey.

BLACK (CON'T)

What if you die?

T.J.

Then this war is over.

T.J. pulls out his phone and calls Rick.

T.J (CON'T)

Rick, I need you to look up a Turkish man by the name of Abdi.

DISSOLVE TO "TWO DAYS LATER"

INT. HOOKAH BAR - DAY

Abdi and his men are drinking, smoking and having a good time singing old Turk songs. Their guns are laid out on the table. Abdi pours drinks for other guests sitting at his table.

CUT TO

## EXT. HOOKAH BAR - DAY

A squad of COPS and S.W.A.T quietly surround outside the bar, guarding the back and front entrances. Rick walks into view with a bullet proof vest and badge showing. Three S.W.A.T men line the front of the door, ready to knock it down. Rick gives the signal.

SMASH CUT

## INT. HOOKAH BAR - DAY

The front door is knocked down startling everyone. Two of Abdi's men grab for their guns but are cut down by members of the S.W.A.T team. Patrons in the bar scream, scattering. Abdi and his last two remaining men escape out the back door.

CUT TO

## EXT. OUTSIDE HOOKAH BAR - DAY

Abdi and his men are stopped at the sound of guns drawn and a horde of cops in front of them. They have their hands up. They look at each other. The warnings of the cops fall on deaf ears. Abdi and his men pull out their guns, opening fire at the cops. A hail of gun fire rains out.

CUT TO "BLACK"

## EXT. HOOKAH BAR - DAY

The screen is dark, the sound of a bag being unzipped is heard. Rick's face is looking down into a black bag. Abdi's dead face is seen peering out. Rick pulls out his knife, a cold look is in his eyes as he stares at the body.

CUT TO "BLACK"

## EXT. BLUE BLOOD ESTATE - NIGHT

T.J. is waiting outside the skeleton of a massive mansion that rivals the image of Shire House. It is haunting in the moon light. T.J. waits outside his car, when a black car pulls up. Two of T.J.'s MEN drag a fighting hand cuffed Adrienne out of the car.

She stops fighting as soon as she sees him. T.J. walks down the mansion steps, hands in his jean pockets. He stops in front of Adrienne and puts his hands through her hair and kisses her passionately, then lets her go.

(CONTINUED)

T.J.  
I've missed you, beautiful. It's ok  
fellas, you can uncuff her. Luke,  
give her your gun.

T.J.'s men look at him funny, but do as he says. LUKE gives Adrianne his gun. They get in the car and drive away. Adrianne puts the gun in the back of her pants.

T.J. (CON'T)  
Shall we?

T.J. holds out his hands, leading Adrianne to the mansion's entrance. Adrianne walks up the steps, trying not to make any sudden movements. She reaches the front door. She stares at it. She looks at the door, then back at T.J., who encourages her to go inside.

DISSOLVE

INT. BLUE BLOOD MANSION - NIGHT

Cautious, Adrianne leads the way. Voices of the past fill her ears, old paintings and family portraits, damaged by the fire, not taken down, still line the wall. She stops in front of the staircase that leads up to the second floor which is no longer there.

She touches the hand railing, silent tears coming down her face. T.J. walks past her, hands folded behind. She keeps an eye on him. He walks into what's left of the family's living room.

LIVING ROOM

There is no ceiling. Two couches remain, charred and old. He sits on one couch, looking up at the stars. His breath can be seen in the night air. He lights a blunt as Adrianne finishes her tour. He lets the smoke fill his lungs and blows it out his nose. Through the smoke he sees Adrianne walking in. She goes and sits on the opposite couch across from him. T.J. leans up off the couch and hands her the blunt. Adrianne wearily takes it. T.J. leans back, looking up at the night sky.

T.J.  
Instead of leaving, you chose to  
make the second biggest mistake of  
your life.

T.J. leans over and pulls out a big plastic, see through bag. In it contains Abdi's arm. He tosses it on the table in front of Adrianne. She stares at it.

(CONTINUED)

T.J. (CON'T)  
You really thought he could help  
you?

Adrianne smokes on the blunt heavily.

T.J. (CON'T)  
(sighs)  
Back to where it all began.  
(pause)  
You ever find it funny how the  
actions of parents can effect the  
outcome of how their children grow  
up?

Adrianne blows out smoke and passes the blunt to T.J.

ADRIANNE  
Let's get this over with.

T.J.  
You're in a hurry to die.

ADRIANNE  
I just know how this will end.

T.J. blows out circles, finishing up the blunt.

T.J.  
Do you now? I know one thing,  
they're proud we kept the grudge  
going. Even if that meant ending  
what love we had for each other.

T.J. leans in, looking at Adrianne.

T.J. (CON'T)  
I'm curious, did you ever love me?

Adrianne lets out a sigh, and looks into T.J.'s eyes. She begins to tear up, looking down.

ADRIANNE  
Yes.

T.J.  
Then what happened? Why do all of  
this?!

Adrianne looks up into T.J.'s eyes.

## ADRIANNE

I had long put my painful past behind me. Falling in love with you, I thought, ended my thirst for revenge. Till that night I met your sister. Seeing her and all she had, all that Tatus had taken from me. The grudge came back and was deeper than the love. A debt had to be paid and it was paid in blood. A family for a family, it's how our world works.

T.J. is getting angry.

## T.J

Fuck this world! I'm tired of hearing that. Nobody had to die Adrienne...NOBODY!! Ebony didn't even know what she inherited. I didn't know! London didn't. AND MY MOTHER DAMN SURE DIDN'T!!! You have taken everything AWAY FROM ME! You turned me into...

(pause)

Into a monster. And what better way for you to die then by the hands of your own creation.

T.J. draws out his gun. So does Adrienne. They both fire on one another, shooting each other. T.J. drops his gun. He gets up, grabbing his side, blood on his hands. He stumbles. Adrienne, leaning over on the arm of the couch, grabs her side. She sees blood. She yells out of anger, rushes T.J., jumping on his back, choking him.

They struggle with each other. T.J. slams her up against a wall, causing her to lose her grip. He goes to punch her, but she moves out of the way. The old wall crumbles as his hand goes through it.

Adrienne punches T.J. in his wound, causing him to buckle. Adrienne runs, trying to get the gun. T.J., angered, pulls his hand out of the wall.

Adrienne reaches the gun. T.J. pulls the old rug from up under her, causing her to fall back, knocking the gun out of her hand. They wrestle back and forth on the floor.

T.J. manages to get Adrienne off of him. He gets on top of her and wraps his hands around her throat. Adrienne struggles for air.

(CONTINUED)

ADRIANNE  
T.J. Don-Don't.

T.J.  
Why? I thought this is how our  
world works.

ADRIANNE  
I'm sor-sorry.

Adrianne struggles, scratching his face. She looks into his eyes. They are cold and lifeless. She begins to black out.

T.J.  
No, this is how it ends.

Adrianne slips away from the world. T.J. gets up off the ground, holding his side, not saying a word. He walks out of the mansion, closing the door.

FADE OUT

EXT. SHIRE HOUSE ESTATE WOODS - NIGHT

T.J. is deep in the woods on Shire House property, where no one can find him. He places dry wood and leaves in a pile. He douses it with gasoline and lights a match, setting it on fire. T.J. is standing, gazing into the flames. He tosses his father's watch and ring into the flames. The glow from the blaze dances across his face. As a single tear streams down his face, he breaks down.

T.J. (V.O.)  
Some say fire has a sort  
of therapeutic effect on the mind,  
body and soul, purging it of all  
it's demons. But what happens when  
the fire doesn't work and the  
demons you try to out run catch up  
with you?

He pulls Ebony's gun from his waist. He touches his side, in of pain. He gets ready to toss the gun into the flames; he stops himself, he looks down at it.

T.J (V.O., CON'T)  
Well, for people like me, you  
either out run them, fall victim,  
or become one.

T.J. checks for bullets. He closes the cartridge. His phone rings, Black is calling him. His vision blurs, he sways. He falls back on the ground, looking up at the stars. Black and

(CONTINUED)

his men call out to him. Their voices can be heard echoing in the woods. He points the gun straight into the air, smiles a sadistic smile--

T.J.  
Pow!

CUT TO BLACK