

Coming Out Of The Dark

Written by

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Based on Novel Through Her Eyes

FADE IN:

A young pregnant African-American woman is in the kitchen preparing a meal when her phone rings and she answers it.

JACKIE

Hello

DEMETRIUS

What are you doing?

JACKIE

I'm cooking dinner.

DEMETRIUS

Oh yeah? Whatcha making baby?

JACKIE

I'm frying fish and potatoes along with some whole kernel corn on the side.

DEMETRIUS

Sounds good baby. I'm hungry as hell. I'll see you in a little while.

JACKIE

Okay sweetie.

DEMETRIUS

Bye

JACKIE

Bye bye

Jackie hangs up the phone and goes back over to the stove to turn over her fish when she feels a pain in her stomach.

JACKIE (cont'd)

I know you're hungry. I am too.

Jackie takes the rest of the fish out of the skillet and goes into the living room where she sits in her recliner and begins to rub her belly and drifts off to sleep. She wakes up later and notices blood on the chair. She quickly grabs the phone and dials 911.

JACKIE (cont'd)

Please send an ambulance to 2013 Oakwood Drive.

OPERATOR

What is your emergency?

JACKIE
I'm pregnant and I'm bleeding down
there. Please hurry!

She begins to cry

EXT-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY-DAYLIGHT

The paramedics are rolling Jackie through the double doors.

EMT 1
We've got a pregnant woman here who
is hemorrhaging. The baby may not
make it!

JACKIE
What's going on? What's wrong with
my baby?

DOCTOR
Ma'am we're gonna try to find out.
Please calm down.

Shug comes into the room and grabs Jackie by the hand.

SHUG
I got here as soon as I could baby.
Demetrius is on his way. Are you
OK? What's going on?

The doctor begins to check her blood pressure.

DOCTOR
Your blood pressure is really high.
We're gonna have to get this baby
out now. Miss, I'm gonna have to
ask you to wait in the waiting
room.

JACKIE
You can't take the baby out now I'm
only six months pregnant.

DOCTOR
Ma'am you could die if we don't
induce the labor now there's a
possibility that you will die. I
know you're in pain, but I need you
to start to count backwards from
ten.

Jackie begins counting down.

JACKIE

Ten, nine, eight, seven.

The doctor puts the mask over her face and she falls into a deep sleep. When she awakes Shug and Demetrius are sitting at her bedside. Demetrius walks over to Jackie and grabs her by the hand.

DEMETRIUS

We have a beautiful baby girl.
She's one pound two ounces.

JACKIE

One pound two ounces!?! Where is my
baby? I want to see my baby!

DEMETRIUS

Calm down baby. They have her in
NICU. She's in an incubator. She's
not breathing on her own.

Jackie becomes hysterical and Demetrius manages to calm her down.

SHUG

Please Jackie just calm down.
They're doing all they can do.
We're just gonna have to put it in
the hands of the good LORD.

Demetrius holds Jackie closer to him and she drifts off to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK

INT-HOSPITAL ROOM-DAY

Family and friends are bringing stuffed animals and toys for the baby when the doctor walks in.

DOCTOR

Mr. and Mrs. Woodard the baby is
still not breathing on her own so
we need to know what you would like
to do.

DEMETRIUS

Well Doc we don't have the money to
keep her on life support and we
don't want to see her suffer. We've
decided to pull the plug and put it
into the hands of almighty GOD.

Jackie begins to cry as the three of them make their way down to the room where the baby is being held. Once inside of the room the doctor shuts off the machine and they all wait to see what will happen. The heart monitor continues to beep showing that the baby is breathing.

DOCTOR

Well I'll be! This is totally a miracle from GOD.

JACKIE

My baby is breathing on her all by herself! My baby is breathing all by herself.

DEMETRIUS

Praise GOD!

JACKIE

I'm going to name her Melanie,
Melanie Woodard.
(Smiling)

FADE TO BLACK

INT-SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYTIME

Shug is looking out of the window

SHUG

Melanie are you packed and ready to go?

MELANIE

Yes Mum Mum, I'm ready.

SHUG

Okay because I think I see your daddy's car coming.

Melanie grabs her bag and rushes down the stairs. When she gets downstairs she looks out of the window and notices that it's only the neighbor's car and not her dad. She lets out a heavy sigh.

MELANIE

Mum Mum... that's the neighbor's car.

SHUG

Oh baby I'm sorry baby. Their cars
look so much alike.

Melanie walks over to the coffee table and grabs her "Color Purple" book opens it and begins reading. After some time elapses Shug looks out of the window and sees Demetrius coming towards the house doing a silly dance.

SHUG (cont'd)

Melanie, your crazy father is here!

She opens the screen door and lets him inside.

DEMETRIUS

Hey Mum Mum.

SHUG

Hey Demetrius

Demetrius kisses Shug on the cheek and walks over to Melanie and gives her a big hug.

DEMETRIUS

And how is daddy's little lady?

MELANIE

I'm doing fine.

DEMETRIUS

You ready to go?

MELANIE

Yes sir. Just let me put my book
away and we can hit the road.

DEMETRIUS

What are you reading?

MELANIE

The Color Purple.

DEMETRIUS

The Color Purple? Don't you know
the whole movie by heart?

MELANIE

Dad, it's for school.

DEMETRIUS

Okay I was just asking.

Demetrius and Melanie both hug Shug and make their way outside to the car.

MELANIE

So what are we doing today daddy?

DEMETRIUS

We're gonna stop by your grandma Shirley's first, and then we'll probably go get something to eat.

MELANIE

Is she over there playing cards?

DEMETRIUS

They were over there playing when I called earlier. I'm not sure about now.

CUT TO:

Shirley's house and the card game.

CUT TO:

Melanie and Demetrius pulling up in front of Shirley's house and getting out of the car. Demetrius goes inside while Melanie stays outside with Q and Blair, who begin to pick on her.

MELANIE

Stop! Yall play too much.

Q AND BLAIR

Shut up.

MELANIE

No you shut up!

They both continue to tease her and Q pushes her down when Shirley comes to the door.

GRANDMA SHIRLEY

Yall better leave my baby alone. You don't put your hands on no girl. You want me to whop your ass lil boy? Come on in here girl and let Grandma see you.

Melanie gets up, brushes herself off, and goes inside with Shirley. Once inside she sees her brother Terron and the neighbors Mr. Steve and Ms. Pauline.

There is every kind of alcohol you could name. Shirley takes a seat at the table and Melanie pulls up chair right next to her.

-Dissolve to three hours later. The card game is winding down. Melanie and the other children have to help Ms. Pauline walk to her house across the street. Once they get her inside they come back to Shirley's.

DEMETRIUS

Come on baby. You ready?

MELANIE

Yeah I'm ready.

DEMETRIUS

Okay momma we're gonna get up outta here.

GRANDMA SHIRLEY

Alright yall be safe now. Mel come over here and give your granny some sugar.

Melanie walks over and kisses Shirley on the cheek.

GRANDMA SHIRLEY (cont'd)

Don't you be no stranger. Come back and see ole granny now. Ya hear?

MELANIE

I won't grandma. Good night.

GRANDMA SHIRLEY

Good night.

Mel and Demetrius get into the car and pull off.

CUT TO:

Mel and Demetrius pulling into the driveway, getting out of the car and going inside the house.

SUGAR

Hey baby. Hello Melanie.

Melanie doesn't speak. She continues to the spare room where she will be sleeping. Sugar and Demetrius look at each other.

CUT TO:

Melanie getting out of the shower and walking to her room. Demetrius is not too far behind.

DEMETRIUS

Mel do you have a problem with
Sugar?

MELANIE

I don't know. If I say no, you're
still gonna marry her anyway.

DEMETRIUS

**(He puts his hand on her
shoulder)**

Baby tell daddy how you feel.

MELANIE

Daddy she's taking you away from
me.

Melanie crosses her arms across her chest.

DEMETRIUS

No she isn't Mel. I am still going
to be your father. You do
understand that don't you?

MELANIE

Yes

DEMETRIUS

When I marry her we are still going
to hang out all the time just like
we do now.

MELANIE

You promise?

DEMETRIUS

I promise.

MELANIE

Can I move here with you?

DEMETRIUS

Now sweetie there isn't enough room
for you here with the boys here and
all. It's probably better for you
to stay with your grandma anyway.
Do you understand that?

MELANIE

I understand.

DEMETRIUS
Good, I love you Boop.

MELANIE
I love you too daddy.

Melanie gets into bed. Demetrius tucks her in, kisses her on the forehead, and turns out the light.

EXT.- SHUG'S HOUSE-DUSK

Melanie is outside playing double-dutch with her friends.

SHUG
Melanie come and get the phone baby. It's your daddy.

Melanie walks into the house, and picks up the phone.

MELANIE
Hey daddy.

DEMETRIUS
Hey Boop you doing okay?

MELANIE
I'm doing good. I was just outside jumping rope with Sheila and Angie.

DEMETRIUS
(sounding sad)
I've got some bad news Boop.

MELANIE
What's the matter daddy?

DEMETRIUS
Baby, Grandma Shirley died today.

Tears begin to fall and Melanie flops down on the couch while Shug watches from afar.

DEMETRIUS (cont'd)
Awww baby, it's okay to cry.

MELANIE
Why did she have to die?

DEMETRIUS
Only GOD knows the answer to that baby. We're going to be alright okay? Daddy has to hang up the phone now. I will call you later.

MELANIE

Okay daddy.

When Melanie hangs up the phone she begins crying more and Shug comes over to console her.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Mum Mum it's not fair that she had to die!

SHUG

I know sweetie, but everyone has to die one day, even you and I. It's just a part of life and I know you will miss her.

MELANIE

Yes I will, very much.

SHUG

Come on baby dinner's ready.

They walk toward the kitchen. Melanie just sits at the table playing in her food.

SHUG (cont'd)

Come on baby you've got to eat something. Your Grandma Shirley wouldn't want you to starve to death.

Melanie continues to just play in her food.

SHUG (cont'd)

Why don't you go ahead and take your shower and get ready for bed.

Melanie takes her shower and is looking in the mirror when she has a flashback.

INT-HOSPITAL ROOM-DAYTIME

Melanie is sitting next to Shirley's hospital bed in a chair.

GRANDMA SHIRLEY

(Very soft and sickly)

Hey Tinky

MELANIE

Grandma I can't wait until you're all better so you can play cards and we can cook dinners again.

GRANDMA SHIRLEY
 Yeah tha would be nice sweetie pie.
 But if we can't do those things
 always remember the good times we
 had okay?

Shirley begins to cough and Demetrius comes over to provide to her a glass of water through a straw.

DEMETRIUS
 You gonna be OK momma?

GRANDMA SHIRLEY
 Yes, I'll be fine.

DEMETRIUS
 Boop, you ready to go?

MELANIE
 Yes daddy. Grandma I'll be back to
 see you again soon. I love you.

GRANDMA SHIRLEY
 I love you too sweetie.

Melanie leans over and kisses Shirley on the cheek.

FADE TO BLACK

INT-FUNERAL HOME-DAYTIME

The funeral home is jam packed and Melanie is seated with Q and Blair. Melanie goes up to view the body and touches Shirley's hand. Taken back by the coldness of Shirley's hand she runs over to Demetrius and plants her head in his chest. When the funeral is over everyone goes to Shirley's house.

INT-DAYTIME-SHIRLEY'S HOUSE

Melanie is sitting in Shirley's rocking chair when Mart walks over.

MART
 Melanie do you want for me to fix
 you a plate?

Melanie just sits there staring into space. Q walks over.

Q
 It's going to be okay Tinky.
 Everything's gonna be just fine.

FADE TO BLACK

INT-SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYLIGHT

Shug is getting dressed to leave the house. After getting dressed she goes to Jackie's room.

SHUG

Jackie I'm getting ready to...

Jackie is lying in bed asleep. Shug makes her way downstairs where Melanie is playing a video game.

SHUG (cont'd)

Melanie tell your mama I had to go out to run a couple of errands and I'll be back.

MELANIE

Okay Mum Mum. Drive safely.

CUT TO:

Shug pulling out of the driveway and JOSH is walking down the street towards the house. He walks up on the porch and knocks on the door.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Who is it?

JOSH

It's me Josh

Melanie opens the door and Josh has a very big smile on his face.

MELANIE

Oh hey Josh.

JOSH

Hey Mel, is anybody here with you?

MELANIE

Yeah my mom is upstairs but she's sleeping.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Come on in.

Melanie sits back down and continues playing her video game. Josh sits down next to Melanie.

JOSH

You mind if I join you Mel?

MELANIE

Of course not, grab the other controller and hit the reset button.

Josh and Melanie begin playing the game for a while, then all of a sudden Josh stops the game and kisses Melanie on the lips.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Eeeww! Why did you do that?

JOSH

I like you Mel. Don't you like me.

MELANIE

Yes I like you but...

Josh grabs Melanie and puts his hand over her mouth and begins fondling her. Melanie fights to get away. She finally is able to bite his hand. Josh releases her and jumps up.

CUT TO:

Jackie sleeping and rolling over.

CUT BACK TO:

Josh and Melanie

JOSH

You little bitch!

Josh rushes out of the house leaving Melanie sitting on the couch which is wet because she peed on herself. Melanie runs upstairs to Jackie's room hysterical. She shakes her to wake her up. At first she doesn't wake up then she finally does.

JACKIE

What's the matter Melanie? Calm down and tell me what's going on.

MELANIE

Josh just tried to rape me.

JACKIE

He did what!? Fucking bastard.

Jackie gets up and starts putting on clothes to go confront Josh. As Jackie is leaving the house Shug is pulling into the driveway. Shug gets out of the car and enters the house where Melanie is sitting on the couch still crying.

SHUG
 What's going on here? Where's Jackie going, and why are you crying Melanie?

MELANIE
 Josh tried to rape me.

SHUG
 He did what!? That little bastard.

Shug picks up the phone and dials 911.

SHUG (cont'd)
 I need the police to come to 2013 Oakwood Ave. (pause) This son of a bitch done raped my baby!

CUT TO:

Jackie walking towards Shug's house.

CUT BACK TO:

Shug's house where Shug is hanging up the phone.

SHUG (cont'd)
(Hugging Melanie)
 Everything's gonna be okay baby.

MELANIE
 Okay Mum Mum.

Jackie comes back in the house.

JACKIE
 That mutherfucker wouldn't answer the door. His mom's car is gone so she must be at work.

Melanie goes upstairs.

SHUG
 What happened Jackie?

JACKIE
 I don't know. All I know is that Melanie woke me up screaming and hollering.

SHUG
 She was probably screaming for you from down here.

(MORE)

SHUG (cont'd)

You need to leave that shit alone Jackie. If you hadn't been up all night getting high you might have been up and this shit would never have happened.

JACKIE

Oh so now you're gonna turn this around on me and my drug use. Me and my business don't have anything to do with what happened.

SHUG

I'm tired Jackie, I'm tired of you and your brothers. Yall need to get ya shit together.

JACKIE

I'm tired too mama. You think I like the fact that I have an addiction.

SHUG

Well it doesn't seem to me like you're trying to do anything about it. Ever since that girl was a baby you've been fooling with that stuff. The buck has to stop somewhere baby. Something has to give.

Jackie goes upstairs to check on Melanie. The police knock on the door and Shug goes to open it.

OFFICER

Someone called us?

SHUG

Yeah I called you.

OFFICER

What seems to be the problem ma'am? I understand that someone was allegedly raped?

SHUG

Yes my granddaughter. The little bastard down the street come up in here and tried to take my baby's goods.

OFFICER

Is she here? Can I speak with her?

SHUG

Yeah she's up there. Jackie go and get your daughter.

Jackie goes upstairs to get Melanie. The officer and Shug continue talking.

OFFICER

What happened here today ma'am?

SHUG

I told you the little pervert up the street tried to rape my baby.

OFFICER

Do you know the person that did this?

SHUG

Yeah we know him. We know him well.

Jackie and Melanie come downstairs.

OFFICER

Is this the victim?

SHUG

Yes it is.

OFFICER

Hello young lady. What is your name?

MELANIE

Melanie...

OFFICER

Hi Melanie. Can you tell me what happened here today?

MELANIE

Josh tried to rape me.

OFFICER

Can you tell me exactly what he did?

MELANIE

We were sitting on the couch playing the game when all of a sudden he kissed me, and then...

At that moment Terron comes rushing in the door.

TERRON

What's going on with the dirty ass
cop..

Terron sees the officer and changes his tune

TERRON (cont'd)

Hey what's going on here?

SHUG

Josh tried to rape Melanie.

TERRON

He did what!? I'ma kill that
muthafucka.

SHUG

Calm down boy. The police are here
and we're gonna let them handle it.

TERRON

Where was everybody at?

SHUG

I was gone and Jackie was upstairs
asleep.

TERRON

She must have been in one of her
crack commas. Up all night smoking
that shit and my little sister
almost gets raped.

Terron punches the wall and storms out of the house.

OFFICER

You don't think he'll go and do
anything silly now do you?

SHUG

No I think he'll be okay. He's just
upset that his sister was almost
raped.

INT-SHUG'S HOUSE BATHROOM-NIGHTTIME

**Melanie is in the tub playing with her dolls when Jackie
enters and sits on the toilet with tears coming down her
face.**

JACKIE

Baby I am so sorry that I wasn't
awake to protect you.

MELANIE

It's okay mommy.

JACKIE

No it's not baby, I'm your mother and mothers are supposed to protect their children.

MELANIE

Mommy

JACKIE

Yes baby.

MELANIE

What's crack?

Jackie's crying intensifies.

JACKIE

Where did you hear that word from?

MELANIE

I heard Terron say you were in a crack comma when Josh was trying to rape me.

JACKIE

Crack is something that I never want you to do. It's not good for you.

MELANIE

Well if it's not good for you then why do you smoke it?

JACKIE

Go ahead and get washed up baby so you can go to bed. I'll explain it to you one day.

CUT TO:

Melanie is getting in bed when Jackie enters the room, lays in bed with her, and puts her head on her chest.

JACKIE (cont'd)

Melanie you know you can't tell your daddy what happened here today right?

MELANIE

Why not mommy?

JACKIE

You don't want your daddy to go to jail do you?

MELANIE

No, but why would daddy go to jail?

JACKIE

If you tell him what happened here today he will kill Josh and they would send him away for a very long time.

MELANIE

Oh no mommy I don't want for that to happen.

JACKIE

Okay so this will be our little secret okay?

MELANIE

Okay

They lay the in bed and Jackie holds Melanie

FADE TO BLACK

LATER

INT-SCHOOL HALLWAY-DAY

Melanie is walking down the hall when she approaches a small gang of children.

NISH

Bitch move out of my way.

MELANIE

Excuse me!

NISH

You heard me you welfare bitch.

MELANIE

First of all who you calling a bitch, and secondly your mama get her food stamps the same day my mama get hers. Don't get to school and try to get brand new.

NISH

Ugh... no she didn't.

MELANIE

Yes I did. You think you're better than everybody else cause you're mixed, but you aint no better than the next person.

NISH

Whatever...

The two girls walk away and Melanie walks in the opposite direction. She walks into a classroom and takes a seat.

NISH

Hey everybody I bet if I turned off the lights no one would be able to see Melanie.

Everyone starts laughing.

NISH

Hey Melanie why are your pants so short? Did the weatherman say we were gonna have some flash flooding today.

Melanie gets up and storms out of the classroom and runs to the girl's bathroom where she begins to cry.

CUT TO:

FADE TO BLACK

INT-HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY-DAYTIME

Melanie sees her friend Jazz walking down the hall and catches up to her.

MELANIE

Hey Jazz.

JAZZ

Hey Mel.

MELANIE

Are we studying for that test today?

JAZZ

Yeah we can do that.

MELANIE

Well let's hurry up girl I'm starving.

CUT TO:

Jazz and Melanie entering the lunchroom. They get their trays and take their seats.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Okay Jazz where do we start?

JAZZ

(Taking her book out of her bag)

Let's start with the periodic table.

Melanie turns around to see who made the remark. Jazz places her hand on Melanie's.

JAZZ

Mel let's just ignore them and keep studying.

MELANIE

(Gettin up)

Jazz if you don't mind we can study over the phone tonight. I'm not feeling this right now.

JAZZ

Okay that's cool with me. You just make sure you call me. Where are you going Mel?

MELANIE

I need to go and take care of something. I'll call you later.

Melanie dumps her tray and leaves the lunchroom.

CUT TO:

Melanie walking into the guidance counselor's office and taking a seat.

MS. WRIGHT

John let me call you back. I had a student just come in.

She hangs up the phone.

MS. WRIGHT (cont'd)

Melanie, tell me, what is bothering you, and why did you run out of the classroom the other day?

MELANIE

(With tears coming down her face)

Because I'm tired of being teased.

MS. WRIGHT

Have you tried making friends with the people who are teasing you.

MELANIE

I've tried but it's no use.

MS. WRIGHT

Have you tried to get involved with any extra curricular activities?

MELANIE

No.

MS. WRIGHT

Would you be interested?

MELANIE

I never thought about it.

MS. WRIGHT

Maybe you should try something out of your norm.

MELANIE

I think you might be right.

MS. WRIGHT

Well do you feel better now that we've talked?

MELANIE

Yes, I feel a lot better.

MS. WRIGHT

Well good, I'm want you to know that I'm here for you.

MELANIE

(Hugging her)

Thank you Ms. Wright

MS. WRIGHT

You're welcome and take care
Melanie.

INT-SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYTIME

Melanie walks in the door.

SHUG (V.O.)

SHUG (cont'd)

Melanie is that you?

MELANIE

Yes Mum Mum. It's me.

Shug comes out of the kitchen with an apron on. Her uncles are sitting in the living room watching TV.

SHUG

Hey sugar. Are you hungry?

MELANIE

No. I have a lot of homework to do.
I'll probably get something later.

Melanie goes upstairs to her bedroom, closes the door drops her book bag on the bed and just stares into the mirror.

FADE TO BLACK

INT-SCHOOL-DAYTIME

Melanie, Jazz and Gina are in the courtyard talking.

JAZZ

Man that was the most hype pep
rally I've ever been to.

GINA

If the pep rally was that tight I
can just imagine how good the dance
is gonna be.

MELANIE

Who you telling girl? I can't wait
this will be my first dance.

GINA

Do you have a date?

MELANIE

No. With who? Who's gonna ask me to
the dance?

JAZZ

Well if you could have your choice
of a date who would it be?

MELANIE

Don't ask no stupid questions. You
know I would take that junior
football play Justin Graves.

GINA

Oh really? Well don't look but here
comes Justin now.

Justin walks over to where the girls are standing.

JUSTIN

Hey Melanie.

MELANIE

Hello Justin.

JAZZ

Girl I'm gonna be late for class
let me get out of here.

Gina just stands there in awe. Jazz grabs her by the hand.

JAZZ (cont'd)

Come on Gina we're gonna be late.
Hey Justin...

Jazz and Gina walk away down the hall.

JUSTIN

So, Melanie you know the homecoming
dance will be here before you know
it.

MELANIE

Yeah I know. Since you're like the
star football player I know you're
going. Who are you taking Nish?

JUSTIN

It's my duty to go and no I'm not taking Nish?

MELANIE

Oh no? Well who will be the lucky girl to be on your arm at the dance?

JUSTIN

I was actually thinking about taking you.

MELANIE

Really?

JUSTIN

Sure. It's the least that I can do since you've helped me so much this semester in English.

There's a long pause

JUSTIN (cont'd)

Well what do you say?

MELANIE

Why of course.

They exchange phone numbers and head their separate ways. Melanie makes it to class and sits down. The substitute is telling the class what assignment their teacher left for them to do.

CUT TO:

Classroom and Melanie comes in late and the instructor looks at her.

MS. DUNN

Turn your books to Chapter 3 page 62.

Melanie and Jewel lean over to get their books out of their book bags.

MELANIE

Girl you will never guess what just happened to me.

JAZZ

What happened girl?

MELANIE

He asked me to go to the dance with him.

JAZZ

How did you get him to ask you?

MELANIE

He asked me own his own.

JAZZ

See Melanie! You are a sweet person and people are starting to notice.

MELANIE

I guess chivalry aint dead after all.

They give each other a high five

MRS. DUNN

Girls please be quite or I will send you to the principal's office.

Melanie and Jazz look at each other and laugh.

INT-SHUG'S HOUSE-NIGHTTIME

Melanie is on the phone with Justin.

MELANIE

What should I wear?

JUSTIN

Wear black dress pants and a dress shirt.

MELANIE

Black dress pants and a dress shirt?

SHUG (V.O.)

Melanie you ready!?

MELANIE

Coming Mum Mum! I have to go. I'm getting ready to go get my hair done. I'll talk to you later.

JUSTIN

Okay I'll talk to you later.

Melanie hangs up the phone and makes her way downstairs. Her and Shug go outside and get into the car.

EXT-HAIR SALON-DAYTIME

Melanie is getting out of the car.

SHUG

You sure you have enough money?

MELANIE

Yeah I'm sure. I'm getting the same thing done to my hair that I had done to it for Easter.

SHUG

Okay well just call me when you're done.

MELANIE

Okay.

Melanie makes her way into the salon and takes a seat. While she's waiting Nish comes through the door.

MELANIE (cont'd)

(Under her breath)

Oh my GOD

A stylist calls Melanie to her station.

STYLIST (V.O.)

Melanie!

As Melanie makes her way to the chair her and Nish make eye contact but say nothing to each other. Melanie gets to the chair and leans her head back in the sink while the stylist continues popping her gum.

STYLIST (cont'd)

Hey Mel, how are you?

MELANIE

I'm doing good.

STYLIST

What are you getting your hair done for today?

MELANIE

I'm going to my first high school dance.

STYLIST

That's nice. So I have to make you
look real sharp then.

Once she's done getting her hair washed she's put underneath a dryer right next to Nish. Her hair finishes drying before Nish's and the stylist gives her a mirror to look at the end results.

MELANIE

Oh my GOD. Thank you so much!

Nish looks on as Melanie pays for her new hairdo and calls Shug.

MELANIE (cont'd)

I'm ready Mum Mum.

INT-SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYTIME

Melanie comes downstairs dressed and ready to go.

SHUG

Is that what you're wearing to your
first dance?

MELANIE

Yep, this is what Justin suggested
I wear.

As Melanie waits she picks up a book and begins to read. She looks at the clock and then goes back to reading when all of a sudden there's a knock at the door and it's Justin. He enters with a black and white corsage that matches Melanie's outfit, a tan khaki shirt and black khaki pants. Shug stands with her camera in hand.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Justin this is my grandma Shug,
Shug this is my friend Justin.

JUSTIN

Hello Ms. Shug.

SHUG

Hello Justin. I'm please to meet
you. I've heard so much about you.
Okay kids let's get a shot of this
memorable moment.

They take a picture and Justin grabs Melanie by the hand as to say let's go.

SHUG (cont'd)
Let me get one more.

JUSTIN

Sorry Ms. Shug but we've really have to get going.

SHUG
Okay, you two have a good time now.
Cut a rug for me.

Justin and Melanie make their way out to the car where Justin opens the door for Melanie.

SHUG (cont'd)
He sure is a handsome young man. I
hope Melanie enjoys herself.

KENNY
She'll have fun. Don't worry momma.

INT-CAR-DUSK

Melanie and Justin are riding along on their way to the dance. Every so often they would look over at each other and make eye contact. They pull up at the school, get out of the car (Justin opens Melanie's door) and they walk inside hand in hand.

JUSTIN
Hey, I'll be right back. I need to
go to the little boy's room.

As Melanie walks in she's overwhelmed by all of the decorations. She walks further into the room and grabs a cup of punch and some snacks from the refreshment table. When she turns around she sees Justin dressed in a tuxedo along with the rest of the football team. She approaches him.

MELANIE
Why do you have on a tuxedo?

Before he could answer Nish walks up into the frame.

NISH
Wow Justin! You really brought her.
I guess I owe you.

MELANIE
(With hands on her hips)
What the fuck is she talking about!

NISH

Now you didn't think he asked you here because of your good looks. I mean come on! Who come to homecoming dressed in pants?

Melanie storms out of the room and finds an open classroom where she goes and begins to cry. Justin catches up with her just moments later.

JUSTIN

Melanie...

Melanie cuts him off.

MELANIE

You know it's one thing to put me down and make yourself feel good, but to humiliate me in front of the entire school is just fucked up!

JUSTIN

I needed the money for some new sneakers. The bet was to have you dress up different from everyone else and I did my part. Come on I'll take you home.

MELANIE

I will take that ride only because I have no other way home you black bastard.

JUSTIN

(Walkng towards the door)

Just come on.

INT-CAR-NIGHTTIME

Justin and Melanie are riding along and Melanie notices that her surroundings are very unfamiliar to her.

MELANIE

Where are we going? This isn't the way to my house.

Justin doesn't answer. He just continues to drive until the come up to a wooded area. Once they park Justin unbuckles his seat belt and starts kissing Melanie on the neck.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Take me home!

JUSTIN

I aint taking you nowhere, now come over her and suck this dick. If you don't do it I'll leave your black ass here!

Tears start to roll down Melanie's cheeks. He grabs her by the back of the neck and starts pulling her down towards his mid-section.

JUSTIN (cont'd)

If I feel your teeth I'll leave your ass out here.

A few moments go by as Melanie gives him oral sex.

JUSTIN (cont'd)

That's right Melanie. Suck it. That's right...

A few more moments pass and Justin climaxes.

JUSTIN (cont'd)

Oh... Oh... yeah...

Melanie opens the door and vomits. When she finishes Justin starts up the car and proceeds to drive Melanie home.

JUSTIN (cont'd)

What are you crying for? You act like I raped you or something.

MELANIE

You did rape me! You held me against my will and took advantage of me!

They continue riding until they pull up in front of Shug's house.

JUSTIN

If you tell anyone what happened I will make your life a living hell.

Melanie gets out of the car and rushes into the house. Once inside she doesn't speak to anyone. She just rushes upstairs to her room.

SHUG

Melanie is that you? Did you have a good time?

MELANIE (V.O.)

Yeah I did.

Shug comes into the room where Melanie is taking off her clothes getting ready to get into the shower.

SHUG

Are you sure you had a good time?
You're home awfully early.

MELANIE

Yes Mum Mum I had a good time. I
just wasn't feeling good and I
asked Justin to bring me home. I
just want to get a shower and lay
down.

As Melanie continued getting undressed all she could hear in her head was Justin's voice.

JUSTIN (V.O.)

If you tell anyone what happened I
will make your life a living hell.

Melanie takes her shower, brushes her teeth and gargles with mouthwash. When she finishes she lies in bed staring at the ceiling with tears rolling down the side of her face.

INT-MELANIE'S ROOM-DAYLIGHT

Melanie's alarm clock is going off. She hits the snooze button a few times and Shug enters.

SHUG

Melanie baby, it's time to get up.

MELANIE

Yes I know Mum Mum but I'm not
feeling well.

SHUG

**(She pulls the blanket off
of Melanie)**

Girl you better get your but up!

Melanie gets up, gets dressed, and leaves the house. On her way to the bus stop she encounters homeless people and the neighborhood drug dealers. Once she gets to the bus stop she figures she will miss the bus purposely. The bus passes and Melanie comes out from behind the bushes. She walks back home, gets to her room and kicks off her shoes. Shortly after that Jackie enters the room.

JACKIE
(Eating a bowl of cereal)
Mel. Mel... Melanie!

MELANIE
(Sounding half sleep)
Oh... what!

JACKIE
What are you still back here?

MELANIE
I wasn't feeling too well this morning so I decided to come back home.

JACKIE
Momma! Melanie done came back home and is up here laying down.

Melanie sits up in bed quickly.

MELANIE
Oh my GOD I can't believe you just snitched me out! Why don't you just go back where you were and smoke you some more crack!

Jackie smacks Melanie.

JACKIE
Don't you worry about what I do, I am still your mother and you will respect me dammit!

Shug enters the room.

SHUG
What are you doing back here?

MELANIE
I missed the bus.

SHUG
Oh no problem. Let me run downstairs and put something on so I can take you to school.

Shug goes back downstairs to put on some clothes while Melanie and Jackie stand there staring at each other. Melanie puts her shoes back on, and goes outside to get in the car.

CUT TO:

Melanie getting in the car. Once inside Shug pulls off and Melanie starts to cry.

SHUG (cont'd)
What's the matter baby? Why are you crying?

Melanie plays in her head again the comment Justin made before she got out of the car the night before.

JUSTIN (V.O.)
If you tell anybody what happened I will make your life a living hell.

MELANIE
I'm not feeling to good.

They pull up in front of the school and Melanie gets out.

INT-SCHOOL HALLWAY-DAYLIGHT

As Melanie enters the building everyone is pointing and whispering as she makes her way to her class. Once she arrives she sees Nish as soon as she gets in the door.

NISH
I told Justin you were easy and that you would suck him off.

MELANIE
Bitch whatever, aint nothing easy about me and Justin didn't do shit to me.

NISH
Well that's not what he's telling everybody else slut.

Melanie slams her book down on the desk.

MELANIE
I got your slut.

MRS. DUNN
Okay class settle down.

Melanie gets up and walks out of the classroom to the bathroom. Not long after that Mrs. Dunn enters the bathroom. When she approaches Melanie in the stall, Melanie points to writing on the wall that reads "For some good head call Melanie Woodard 984-3865"

MRS. DUNN (cont'd)

Oh my GOD Melanie. Are you alright sweetheart? Honey everything is going to be okay. Do you know who did this?

MELANIE

Nish...

Melanie gathers herself and goes back to the classroom. While her and Mrs. Dunn make their way back Mrs. Dunn stops and talks to another teacher who happens to step out of the door to let another student go the bathroom.

NISH

Damn girl you took long in the bathroom! What were you doing sucking somebody off in there?

Everyone starts laughing.

MELANIE

Yeah your mama taught me everything I know, so when you get home tonight don't forget to ask her who your real daddy is.

Nish gets up out of her seat as if she's ready to fight.

NISH

Bitch I'll whop your ass!

Melanie gets up out of her seat ready to go. Mrs. Dunn enters the room and steps in between them.

MRS. DUNN

What did you say young lady? You go to the principal's office right now.

As Nish leaves grabs her things and leaves out of the classroom.

INT-LUNCHROOM-DAYLIGHT

Melanie is sitting alone at a table when Ashley walks up and sits down.

GINA

What's up Melanie?

MELANIE

Nothing much, just trying to shake these haters.

GINA

Girl I aint the one to gossip but there's a rumor going around that you sucked off Justin when yall left the dance the other night. Is that true?

Melanie gives her a funny look and continues to eat her lunch. When she doesn't get a response Ashley gets up to leave when Jazz comes over and takes a seat.

JAZZ

Hey what's up girl?

MELANIE

Nothing much girl, just tired of all the bullshit going on at this school.

JAZZ

I feel you girl...

MELANIE

I don't think I'll be here next year. I just can't take it anymore Jazz.

JAZZ

If you leave then I'm leaving too. Where would we go?

MELANIE

I was thinking about going to City High. I know a lot of people there and it wouldn't be hard to make new friends.

At that moment Nish and Justin walk by, Melanie just rolls her eyes at them and the bell rings.

INT.SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYTIME

Melanie is just getting in from school.

SHUG

Hey baby. How was school today?

MELANIE

It was okay. (pause) Mum Mum I think I want to transfer to a new school next year.

SHUG

Transfer, why? Pointe High is where your brothers went to school. You don't like it there?

MELANIE

It's not that I don't like it. I just don't like the people there. Plus I know a lot of people at City High and I wouldn't have a problem making new friends.

BRANDON

New friends, to hell with new friends, you're on the honor roll. Don't change schools because you don't have any friends.

MELANIE

Uncle Brandon it doesn't matter what school I go to I'm gonna stay on the honor roll.

SHUG

Well if that's what makes you happy then I guess we've got to get you transferred then.

MELANIE

Thanks Mum Mum. I knew you would understand.

EXT.-CITY HIGH-DAYTIME

Shug is dropping Melanie off at school. As she gets out to the car she is greeted by old friends.

DEE

Hey Melanie girl. I can't believe it. They told me you were coming here but I just didn't see you leaving Pointe High. They've got the bomb football team.

MELANIE

Girl to hell with that football team, if you knew all the hell I went through with some of those bitches over there at Pointe you'd be mad at me for staying the whole school year.

INT-LUNCHROOM-DAYTIME

Melanie kindly gets up to relocate. She sees her cousin Dee and takes a seat at her table.

MELANIE (cont'd)

What's up Dee?

DEE

Nothing much girl, how have you been? I heard you were coming here.

MELANIE

Yeah girl I had to get out of Pointe before I killed somebody or got killed.

DEE

What homeroom you in?

MELANIE

428... You're not eating?

DEE

Girl I can't eat that shit they
serve. I usually bring my lunch. I
just got up late this morning.

MELANIE

Well I'm going to get me a tray.
Hell it's free why not.

**Melanie goes to get her tray, comes back and sits down to
start eating.**

INT-SHUG'S HOUSE-DUSK

**Melanie, Shug, and Jackie are sitting in the living room
watching TV.**

SHUG

So how was your first day over at
City?

MELANIE

It went fine Mum Mum. I didn't have to put up with all of the nonsense that I did at Pointe High.

SHUG

Well that's good to hear.

JACKIE

Yeah that is good to hear. You know your dad's brother Eric went to City.

MELANIE

No I didn't know that. I wonder why dad didn't mention it to me?

JACKIE

Probably because he got kicked out.

They all laugh.

FADE TO BLACK

INT-CLASSROOM-DAYTIME

Melanie is in class deep into her work when her instructor walks over to her desk.

MS.DUNN

Melanie the principal would like to see you in his office.

MELANIE

Me, why?

MS. DUNN

I'm don't know. I'm sure it's nothing bad though. Take your things with you class is almost over.

Melanie grabs her things and heads to the principal's office. When she arrives the principal is looking through a book smiling.

MELANIE

You wanted to see me?

DR. LAWYER

Miss Woodard I presume?

MELANIE

Yes that's me, but I haven't been in any trouble.

DR. LAWYER

Don't worry you're not in any trouble. I'm sorry to take you away from your class but I was just looking through the school talent book and these submissions you made are extraordinary.

MELANIE

(Blushing)

Well thank you Dr. Lawyer.

DR. LAWYER

You have a gift for writing and I was wondering why you're not in the journalism club?

MELANIE

I didn't apply although I did write a sample piece. I decided not to join because I have a job now and I wouldn't be fully committed to the club.

DR. LAWYER

I can understand that. You are a very exceptional writer. I can't wait until you write your first book. You are going to write a book aren't you?

MELANIE

I was thinking about it.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT.-SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYLIGHT

Melanie is approaching the house with her new friend Ben. She opens the door and they both go inside. Shug, Kenny, Brandon, Terron, and Jackie are all sitting in the living room.

MELANIE

Hey everybody this is Ben. Ben this is my grandma Shug, my uncles Brandon and Kenny, my brother Terron, and my mother Jackie.

BEN
Hello everyone.

TERRON
So Ben do you have a job?

Before he could answer Terron answered for him

TERRON (cont'd)
No!

BEN
Yes I do. I do construction work.

All of the men say in unison while Shug is just staring.

TERRON BRANDON KENNY
He aint got no damn job!

JACKIE
Are you fucking my daughter?

MELANIE
Oh my GOD mom! I can't believe you
just asked him that.

**Everybody looks at Ben and Melanie waiting for an answer. Ben
and Melanie answer in unison.**

BEN & MELANIE
No

SHUG
Sweetie how old are you?

MELANIE
He's twenty-three Mum Mum.

SHUG
Now what in the world does a twenty-
three year old want with a girl who
just turned seventeen?

TERRON
Ben I'm going to tell you right
now. You think you're slick. So
slick in fact that I can see the
oil puddles when you walk past me.
I feel it in my spirit something
aint right about this dude. I can
tell.

Ben gets up and walks towards the door.

BEN
I'll call you later Melanie.

Ben leaves out of the door.

MELANIE
Wait Ben don't go!

Ben continues and leaves out of the house.

MELANIE (cont'd)
Yall are so embarrassing!

Melanie storms upstairs to her room and slams the door. Once inside she flops on the bed and begins to cry until she cries herself to sleep. When she awakes she checks her phone to see if Ben has called.

MELANIE (cont'd)
Damn! I knew it. He doesn't want anything else to do with me. Melanie lays back down and the phone suddenly rings. She answers.

MELANIE (cont'd)
Hello.

BEN
Hey Mel.

MELANIE
Ben?

BEN
(Laughing)
Yeah it's Ben who else is it supposed to be? You're not seeing anyone else are you?

MELANIE
I am most certainly not. I didn't think I would hear from you again after the way my family embarrassed me when you were here.

BEN
I wasn't tripping on that. Family will be family right?

MELANIE
You can say that again.

BEN

So what's up Mel? You feel like going to see a movie?

MELANIE

I would love that.

BEN

Okay be ready in an hour.

MELANIE

Alright sweetie see you later.

BEN

Alright sexy, bye.

Melanie hangs up the phone and starts rolling around in the bed she is so happy.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.-SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYLIGHT

Melanie is in the mirror messing with her hair when Jackie walks into the room.

MELANIE

Man I forgot senior pictures were today. I need to do something about my hair.

JACKIE

Why don't you just gel it down and put it in a ponytail? You have enough hair don't you?

MELANIE

L-O-L mama, you've got jokes I see.

JACKIE

I know a crackhead that does hair does a pretty damn good job too.

MELANIE

Mom I'm serious. These are my senior pictures I'm talking about here. And you need to stop calling people crackheads when you're doing the same thing they're doing.

JACKIE

Melanie see that's where you've got it twisted.

(MORE)

JACKIE (cont'd)
I'm not a crackhead I just like to
get high from time to time not
every day.

They both laugh.

JACKIE (cont'd)
So do you want me to call her or
what?

MELANIE
Okay mom, call her but if she
messes up my hair I'm blaming you.

JACKIE
Baby trust your mama for once. I
know how important these pictures
are to you. I wouldn't have you out
there looking like a fool.

Jackie picks up the phone and dials a number.

JACKIE (cont'd)
Kira you wanna make a few quick
bucks? (pause) No not like that. My
daughter is taking her senior
pictures today and she needs a nice
quick hairstyle to rock for her
photo shoot. (pause) Can you be
over here in the next 15 to 20
minutes? (pause) Okay I'll see you
then.

Jackie hangs up the phone.

JACKIE (cont'd)
She'll be here in about 15 to 20
minutes.

MELANIE
Cool. Mama can I ask you a
question?

JACKIE
What baby?

MELANIE
What you know about rocking
something?

JACKIE
Lil girl I know more than you think
I do.

They wait for a few minutes and there's a knock at the door Jackie answers it and it's Kira.

JACKIE (cont'd)
Damn girl what took you so long.

KIRA
I got here as soon as I could. You act like I'm driving or something.

JACKIE
This is my daughter Melanie,
Melanie this is Kira.

Kira starts taking things out of her bag getting ready to do Melanie's hair.

INT.-PHOTO STUDIO-DAYLIGHT

Melanie and Demetrius are waiting for the photographer to return.

MELANIE
Daddy what if I smile wrong or blink?

DEMETRIUS
You have a beautiful smile, you will do just fine.

MELANIE
Okay, but you always say that.

DEMETRIUS
That's because it's always true. And who did your hair it really looks nice.

MELANIE
Dad you wouldn't believe me if I told you, but thanks for the compliment.

INT.-SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE

Melanie is in the nurse's office talking with the nurse.

MRS. REID
Melanie I'm gonna miss you next year. It was really nice having you to help me around here.

MELANIE

I'm gonna miss you too Mrs. Reid.

MRS. REID

So Melanie, now that you're a senior what are your plans for college?

MELANIE

I really want to go but I don't know if I'll be able to.

MRS. REID

Oh no, why is that?

MELANIE

I won't have the money.

MRS. REID

Have you considered applying for financial aid? You know there are different government loans and grants that you can get to help you with your costs. Have you applied anywhere?

MELANIE

Yeah I've applied at Del-State, Wilmington College, the University of Delaware, and Delaware Tech.

MRS. REID

Wow that's a lot of schools.

At that moment a student enters the office.

MRS. REID (cont'd)

How may I help you?

CEDRIC

I'm not feeling good. I think I have prostate cancer.

Melanie and Mrs. Reid look at each other and start laughing. Mrs. Reid goes into her desk, pulls out a hall pass, and signs it for the student to return to class.

MRS. REID

Boy you better get back to class. You should have studied for the test.

Cedric takes the pass and leaves out of the office.

MELANIE

Well Mrs. Reid I have to get to class myself.

MRS. REID

Okay Melanie, I hope you get into one of those schools.

MELANIE

Thank you Mrs. Reid.

Melanie leaves out of the office and heads to her class. Before she can get there she's approached by her friend Will.

WILL

Hey Mel, wait up!

Melanie turns around.

MELANIE

Oh, hey Will. What's up?

WILL

Oh nothing much. I'm sure you know prom is coming up soon.

MELANIE

Yeah I know.

WILL

So do you plan on going?

MELANIE

I sure do.

WILL

Who are you going with?

MELANIE

I'll be going alone. I don't have a date.

WILL

Really? I don't have a date either. So why don't we go together?

MELANIE

Will are you asking me to go to prom with you?

WILL

Yes I am. Will you go with me?

MELANIE
Yes I will Will.

EXT.DAVID'S BRIDAL-DAYTIME

Melanie and Shug are pulling into the parking lot at David's Bridal. They go inside and start browsing the store looking for the perfect dress. They finally pick out one and Melanie goes to the fitting room to try it on. When she comes out Shug sees her and begins to cry.

MELANIE
Mum Mum stop it. You're making me cry.

SHUG
I'm sorry Melanie, it's just that I raised you and now you're all grown up going to prom.

MELANIE
You did a great job raising me too.

SHUG
(Wiping tears)
Thank you baby. Will's eyes are probably gonna pop out of his head when he sees you in this dress.

MELANIE
Mum Mum you're a mess.

EXT.-SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYTIME

Q and Melanie are coming out of the house getting into a car.

MELANIE
Thank you for picking me up Q.

Q
Aw no problem Mel. You know if you ever need me all you've got to do is call. Besides this is a big day for you. I want everything to go just right.

They pull off and head to the mall so that Melanie can get her makeup done.

INT.-MALL- DAYLIGHT

Melanie and Q are walking into the walking into the mall and they go into the store where Melanie will be getting her makeup done. She gets her make-up done and they exit the mall and go back to the car.

MELANIE

Dang Q this makeup is itching me.

Q

You've never worn makeup before?

MELANIE

No.

Q

Are you serious? Wow!

MELANIE

Don't wow me Q. Every time I wanted to wear it you told me I was too young for it.

Q

You're still too young now, but prom is special.

MELANIE

I'm eighteen now. I'm not a child anymore.

Q

You are what I say you are.

MELANIE

Q do me a favor and grow up.

Melanie and Q pull back up to the house. They go inside and Jackie and Shug help Melanie get ready for the prom.

JACKIE

Wow look at you! You're looking good baby.

MELANIE

Thanks mom but this makeup is really making my face itch.

SHUG

Your dad came by earlier and dropped of this beautiful corsage.

(MORE)

SHUG (cont'd)

He told me to tell you to have a good time and to take a lot of pictures.

MELANIE

He's not coming over to see me off?

SHUG

No baby, he said he had to work a double today.

MELANIE

Oh well, let me get dressed. Will should be here in a little while.

Melanie comes out of the bathroom in her dress.

SHUG

Look at my beautiful princess.

JACKIE

Isn't she beautiful?

Melanie's cousin Toy pokes her head in the door.

**Will pulls up to the house in an all black Mercedes Benz.
Melanie comes out onto the porch with Jackie and Shug.**

MELANIE

(Under her breath)

Aw shit.

Will steps out of the car in a black tuxedo.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Hello Will.

WILL

Hey Melanie.

MELANIE

Will this is my cousin Toy, my Grandma Shug, and my mother Jackie.

WILL

Hello everyone.

SHUG, JACKIE, & TOY

(In unison)

Hello Will.

WILL

Well are you ready to go?

MELANIE

Yeah I'm ready. Bye yall.

SHUG

Bye baby, yall have a good time.

JACKIE

Bye sweetie, enjoy yourself.

TOY

Have fun girl.

Will and Melanie go down to the car and Will opens the door for Melanie. He gets in on the driver's side and as they pull off the family watches them down the street. Jackie and Shug are crying.

INT. PROM-NIGHTTIME

Will and Melanie are walking into the prom. Everyone is stopping them telling them how good they look. Melanie spots Dee walks in her direction and begins tearing up.

DEE

Your sensitive ass is always crying.

MELANIE

(Wiping tears and laughing)

I'm sorry. You just look so good girl.

DEE

Well you look good too. Do you see me crying?

MELANIE

I guess I'm just sad that you didn't get a date but happy at the same time that you look so stunning. I just don't understand how a girl as pretty as you didn't get a date.

DEE

I don't have a date by choice. I'll be alright, you guys go on and have yourselves some fun.

Melanie and Will make their way to the dance floor and begin dancing.

EXT.-SHUG'S HOUSE

Melanie and Will pull up in front of the house.

MELANIE

Will I just want to thank you for
such a wonderful evening.

WILL

No thank you Melanie. I really
enjoyed myself tonight. We have to
do this more often.

They both laugh.

MELANIE

Good night Will.

WILL

Good night Ms Woodard.

Melanie gets out of the car and goes up to the house. When she gets on the porch Jackie opens the door.

MELANIE

Mom were you waiting up for me?

JACKIE

No, I just got in and I heard you
guys pulling up. So how did it go?

MELANIE

We had a good time.

JACKIE

That's good. So does this mean you
won't be seeing anymore of Ben?

MELANIE

No mom. Will and I are just friends
and that's all.

JACKIE

But Will is so cute and he's more
in your age group.

MELANIE

Mom don't forget I'm eighteen now.

JACKIE

Well I was just thinking that...

MELANIE

Mom save it.

Melanie takes off her shoes and goes upstairs while Jackie watches her.

INT.- SCHOOL AUDITORIUM-DAYTIME

It is graduation day and Melanie and her class is about to walk out to take their seats. Melanie spots her family (Demetrius and his new girl Pammy, Jackie, Shug, Margaret, Q, and Terron) and begins waving to them as they wave back. The valedictorian starts to give her speech.

DEE

Oh my GOD! Does this speech have to be so damn long?

MELANIE

I know right? I'm ready to get my diploma and leave already.

DEE

I know what you mean Melanie.

The speech finally comes to a close and they begin calling the graduates up to receive their diplomas.

DR.LAWYER

Anthony Vickers (pause) Melanie Woodard.

As Melanie walks across the stage her family chants her name in her support.

DR.LAWYER (cont'd)

Class of 2003 congratulations!

EXT.- FRONT OF THE SCHOOL-DAYLIGHT

The entire family is outside waiting for Melanie to come out.

JACKIE

Congratulations baby.

SHUG

I'm so proud of you.

DEMETRIUS

Come here and give daddy a big hug.

She hugs Demetrius

SHUG

Look at my baby all grown up. Come on over here and give your Granny some sugar. I just loves ya so much.

TERRON

Congratulations sis.

Q

Yeah congratulations, you're still not grown yet though.

They all laugh.

INT.- MELANIE'S ROOM-DAYTIME

Melanie's in her room cleaning up when she hears a knock at the door. She yells downstairs and gets no answer.

MELANIE

Is anybody gonna get that door!?

She looks out of the window and sees Ben standing there shifting his weight from side to side. As she makes it halfway down the stairs the knocking intensifies.

MELANIE (cont'd)

I'm coming!

As she makes it to the bottom of the stairs she sees Kenny sleep on the couch. When she opens the door Ben storms right past her without saying anything. She follows him up the stairs to her room. When he enters the room he sits on the bed with his hands clasped together looking at the floor.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Is everything okay baby?

BEN

Melanie give me a hundred dollars.

MELANIE

Give you what?

BEN

I know you've got it Mel.

MELANIE

The last time I checked you were a grown ass man, older than me in fact.

BEN

Baby are you going to give it to me or what?

MELANIE

No, 'cause you don't know how to pay people back.

BEN

What, I bought you clothes and shoes.

MELANIE

Did I ask you to buy me those things?

BEN

Are you gonna give it to me or not?

MELANIE

For the last time Ben, no.

BEN

That's okay I'll get it from my other girl then.

MELANIE

Well you just do that then.

BEN

I don't need your ugly ass money anyway. You need to clean up this nasty ass house and get yourself some new glasses.

MELANIE

This house wasn't all that dirty when you were fucking me in it, now was it?

BEN

I can't believe I wasted two years of my life fucking with you.

MELANIE

You can pack your shit and get the fuck out and take it over your other bitch's house.

BEN

(Loudly)

Melanie you better leave me the hell alone!

MELANIE

I don't give a damn about you raising your voice. If that's what you have to do to feel like a man then yell your head off. Trust and believe you're gonna need me before I need you.

Ben gets quite and sits down on the bed.

BEN

(Calmly)

Mel they're about to cut my lights off baby.

MELANIE

Well you better take those two hundred dollar shoes back and that hundred dollar outfit you just bought.

BEN

Whatever Mel.

MELANIE

Those are your lights Ben. You need to get your priorities in order. Better yet go and ask that other chick you're fucking to give you some money for your light bill.

BEN

Fuck you Melanie.

MELANIE

No fuck you Ben. Now get your shit and get the fuck out of my dirty house.

BEN

Baby you know I love you.

He tries to kiss her but she resists.

MELANIE

Goodbye Ben.

Ben grabs his things and Melanie follows him down the stairs to the door. As she closes the door and turns around her uncle Kenny is standing there eating a sandwich with mayo in the corner of his mouth.

KENNY

Is everything alright?
Melanie just looks at him and goes
to Shug's room and lays on the bed.

SHUG

What's the matter baby?

MELANIE

Mum Mum it's Ben.

SHUG

What about him? I heard yall up
there with all that noise.

MELANIE

He just said some things to me that
I thought I would never hear come
out of his mouth to me. I am so
done with him.

SHUG

I know he probably said some things
to you in the heat of the argument,
but he'll be back.

MELANIE

No he won't, cause I aint taking
him back.

SHUG

Sure you will. You're a woman
scorned.

MELANIE

I don't think so.

SHUG

I've been there and back. Trust me
I know.

MELANIE

Okay we'll see.

Melanie leaves out of the room to head back upstairs. On the way she bumps into her uncle Kenny again. He's eating doughnuts and sipping on a glass of milk.

KENNY

Hey Mel, you wouldn't happen to have \$5 you could spare for old unk would you?

Melanie just looks at him and goes back upstairs. Once she makes it back to her room she calls her friend Alexis.

MELANIE

What's up girl?

ALEXIS

Nothing much, just sitting here bored.

MELANIE

I just kicked Ben's ass the curb.

ALEXIS

You did what?

MELANIE

You heard me right. I fired Ben.

ALEXIS

What happened?

MELANIE

He came over here with an attitude about his lights about to get cut off and, had the nerve to ask me for a hundred dollars. I told him to take back some of those expensive ass sneakers and clothes that he's always buying and he might have enough money to pay his fucking bills.

ALEXIS

As much as I hate to say it girl but I'm glad you left his ass alone. He hardly ever calls you and I personally think he was just a little too old for you.

MELANIE

Why haven't you said anything before?

ALEXIS

Because I knew that is what made you happy being with him. I knew you just had to see for yourself.

(MORE)

ALEXIS (cont'd)

I told you a long time ago that
dude I introduced you to at Donna's
party was really feeling you.

MELANIE

You talking about Lo?

ALEXIS

Lay, his name is Lay.

MELANIE

Oh yeah I remember him. He was
kinda cute. He was really diggin on
me though?

ALEXIS

He sure was. You couldn't tell?

MELANIE

No not really. I personally thought
he was checking you out.

ALEXIS

Do you want me to give him your
number?

MELANIE

Hell, why not.

ALEXIS

Okay I'll do that. Look girl I
gotta go. I'll be sure to give it
to him the next time I see him.

MELANIE

When do you plan on seeing him
again?

ALEXIS

He's always coming to the mall.
Girl he shops more than me.

MELANIE

Okay you make sure you do that.

ALEXIS

Alright I'm out.

They hang up and Melanie lays there looking at the ceiling.

EXT.- APARTMENT BUILDING-DAYTIME

Melanie is standing outside waiting for Lay to pull up. When he does he's driving a Candy red Grand Prix. He gets out of the car.

LAY

Hey miss lady. How are you doing?

MELANIE

I'm doing fine.

LAY

Well are you gonna invite me in?

MELANIE

Yes I'm sorry. Where are my manners? Come on in.

They go inside of the building and go up three flights of stairs and begin walking down a hallway.

MELANIE (cont'd)

I'm sorry about the workout, but the elevator is out of order.

LAY

That's okay. It's good to get a workout from time to time.

MELANIE

From the looks of it you're always in the gym working out.

LAY

I do manage to get in the gym from time to time.
They get to the door and walk in.

MELANIE

Please have a seat and make yourself comfortable. Can I get you something to drink?

Lay takes off his jacket, sits down, and turns on the TV to the football game.

LAY

Sure I'll have a Long Island Iced Tea.

MELANIE

(Looking in the fridge)

Yeah right, I wish. There's orange juice, Pepsi, Kool Aide, and water.

LAY

What color Kool Aide?

MELANIE

Red.

LAY

My favorite, I'll have a glass of that please.

MELANIE

Really, red is my favorite too.

Melanie pours two glasses of Kool Aide and sits down on the couch next to Lay.

LAY

So how was your day?

MELANIE

It was fine.

MELANIE (cont'd)

How was yours?

LAY

It was okay.

The door opens and it's her aunt's girlfriend.

RITA

Where is Becky?

MELANIE

She went to do laundry and get her something to eat.

BECKY

So she just left you here in charge of the house huh?

Lay sits there trying to hold back his laugh. Becky comes in the door with bags in hand and pushing a laundry cart.

RITA

Where in the hell you been?

BECKY

I went to do a load of clothes and to get me something to eat. Besides I didn't know you were coming over here. I told you don't be popping up at my crib like that.

RITA

Come here, I need to talk to you.

BECKY

Talk to me about what? I already told you there is nothing else to talk about.

As Rita and Becky walk out of the door arguing, Melanie whispers to Lay.

MELANIE

I'm so sorry you have to be here for all of this.

LAY

(laughing it off)

It's cool.

Melanie and Lay continue watching the game and Lay moves closer to Melanie. A few minutes pass and Becky comes back in the door holding her eye.

BECKY

That bitch hit me in my eye.

MELANIE

Are you okay Aunt Becky.

BECKY

Yeah I'm fine. That bitch is crazy. I told her it was over and she persists to pop up over here when she feels like it.

MELANIE

Aunt Becky this is Lay. Lay this is my Aunt Becky.

BECKY

Nice to meet you Lay.

LAY

Same here Ms. Becky.

BECKY

Please just call me Becky. I'm so sorry you had to witness that bullshit. I told that bitch it was over. I don't know why she keeps coming over here.

Melanie and Lay start laughing.

LAY

It's cool.

BECKY

Melanie is this your new man?

MELANIE

Aunt Becky!

Melanie and Lay look at each other.

LAY

We're just friends right now, but you never know what could happen. (pause) It was nice meeting you Becky, but I have to get going. Melanie do you need a ride home.

MELANIE

Yeah that'll work.

Lay puts on his jacket and walks out of the door into the hallway.

BECKY

(Whispering)

Girl he's a cutie.

Melanie smiles at Becky and walks out of the door.

EXT.- NIGHTTIME-FRONT OF BECKY'S APARTMENT

Melanie and Lay are getting into the car getting ready to drive off.

LAY

I just wanted you to know that I enjoyed myself in spite of everything.

Lay puts on his seat belt.

MELANIE

Yeah, me too except for when my
aunt's girlfriend came over with
that bullshit.

They both burst out laughing.

EXT.- SHUG'S HOUSE-NIGHTTIME

Melanie and Lay are pulling up to Shug's house and Melanie is unbuckling her seat belt when Lay grabs her and gives her a kiss.

LAY

You have a good night Miss Lady.

MELANIE

Good night Lay.

Melanie goes into the house. When she shuts the door she leans on it and lets out a big sigh. Melanie then goes upstairs, takes a shower and puts on her night clothes. Not long after she lays down her phone rings. She answers it very quickly.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Hello

LAY

You didn't think I was going to
call did you?

MELANIE

To be honest with you, no I didn't.

LAY

I just wanted to call and wish you
good night again.

MELANIE

Awww... well that was sweet of you.
Good night to you too.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- MELANIE'S ROOM-DAYTIME

Melanie is laying on her stomach looking through a magazine when she tries to call Lay.

MELANIE

Hello may I speak to Lay?

LILLIAN (V.O.)
May I ask who's calling?

MELANIE
This is Melanie.

LILLIAN (V.O.)
Well Melanie I have news for you
honey, Lay is a married man.

MELANIE
Excuse me?

LILLIAN (V.O.)
Lay is married so there is no need
for you to be calling here. Bye..

Melanie looks at the phone and hangs it up. She then goes downstairs in the kitchen to make her a sandwich. While she's there the doorbell rings. When she goes to open it it's Lay.

LAY
Hey miss lady. How are you?

MELANIE
Hey you. What's going on? I've been
trying to call you. I called your
cell phone and I called your house.

LAY
Oh you must have called while I was
in the store.

MELANIE
While you were in the store huh?
Well like I said I called your
house too.

LAY
Well I wasn't at home baby.

MELANIE
I know you weren't home. Your mom
made me aware of that.

LAY
So you know I'm telling the truth.

MELANIE
Yeah I know you're telling the
truth. She also made me aware of
another interesting fact.

LAY

**(Moving closer to try and
sneak a kiss)**

Oh yeah, and just what was that?

MELANIE

(Pushing him away)

She told me you're married Lay!

LAY

Melanie my mother is a trip.
Anybody I talk to she tells them
that because she has this idea in
her head that I should be with this
certain person whom she just
happens to like so much. I'm not
married baby. As a matter of fact I
came over here to ask you...

**Lay goes into his pocket pulls out a ring, gets on one knee,
and proposes to Melanie.**

LAY (cont'd)

Will you marry me?

Melanie looks Lay in his eyes.

MELANIE

Yes, yes I will.

**Melanie holds out her hand so that Lay can put the ring on
her finger. They embrace and kiss. Shug comes into the
kitchen and clears her throat. They stop kissing and look in
her direction.**

SHUG

It looks to me like you two
lovebirds need to get yall a room.

Melanie holds out her hand to show Shug the ring.

MELANIE

Lay asked me to marry him Mum Mum!

SHUG

You say did. Well aint that nice.
I'm so happy for the two of you. So
when's the wedding?

MELANIE

We don't have a date for the
wedding yet Mum Mum.

SHUG
Well GOD bless ya anyway.

INT.- DAVID'S BRIDAL-DAYTIME

Alexis, Jackie, Shug and Melanie are at David's Bridal looking for a dress.

MELANIE
I want to try all of them on.

SHUG
I didn't think I'd be alive to see the day you got married.

ALEXIS
I didn't think I would be either Ms. Sugar.

They all laugh and Melanie tries on a few different dresses then she spots one that she really likes and goes over to the rack and gets it.

MELANIE
This is the one. I want this dress right there.

She goes into the fitting room and puts it on. When she comes out everyone looks on in amazement. Jackie begins to cry. Alexis is taking pictures with her phone.

JACKIE
Oh my GOD. Turn around and let me see.

MELANIE
Mom please don't embarrass me.

JACKIE
I'm not gonna embarrass you. You just look so beautiful. (pause) My baby is getting married.

TWO MONTHS LATER

INT.- SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYLIGHT

Melanie and Lay are in her room watching TV.

MELANIE
Lay I think I'm pregnant.

LAY

What makes you say that?

MELANIE

I haven't been feeling too good lately and I missed my period.

LAY

So you just know that you're pregnant huh?

MELANIE

No I didn't say that. I said I think I'm pregnant.

LAY

Well we need to get one of those over the counter pregnancy tests then. (Pause) I'll run to the store and get one now.

MELANIE

Do you want me to ride with you?

LAY

Nawl baby you stay here and chill. I'll be right back.

MELANIE

When you come back you can just come in the door. Everybody knows who you are.

LAY

Okay Miss Lady.

Lay leaves out and Melanie watches him all the way until the door closes. She then picks up the phone and calls Alexis.

MELANIE

Hello.

ALEXIS

Hey girl what's up?

MELANIE

Not much, just sitting here waiting for Lay to get back from the store.

ALEXIS

Oh yall hanging out today huh?

MELANIE

If that's what you wanna call it.

ALEXIS

He must have went to get yall a bottle then.

MELANIE

Nawl girl he went to get one of those pregnancy test kits.

ALEXIS

A pregnancy test? You're pregnant?

MELANIE

I don't know girl. I think so. I've been feeling some kind of way lately and I missed my period.

ALEXIS

Well you sure don't sound like someone who may be pregnant. Why do you sound like you're not happy about the possibility?

MELANIE

I don't know girl. When I told Lay he didn't seem too enthused about the situation.

ALEXIS

Well he went to get the test didn't he?

MELANIE

Yeah, but I just wasn't feeling his vibe.

ALEXIS

I wonder what that's all about.

MELANIE

I don't now but I'm gonna find out. Girl let me go down here so I can take this chicken out of the freezer so it can thaw out. I'll call you later.

ALEXIS

Okay.

MELANIE

Bye.

They hang up and Melanie goes downstairs to the kitchen. While she's taking the chicken out of the refrigerator Lay comes in the door and Melanie yells from the kitchen.

MELANIE (cont'd)
Is that you bay?

LAY
Yeah it's me.

Melanie comes out to greet him and they go upstairs to Melanie's room. Lay hands her the test and she goes to the bathroom.

MELANIE
Well here goes nothing...

Lay sits on the bed and puts his hands under his chin like he's in deep thought. A few moments later Melanie returns.

LAY
Well...

MELANIE
It's a negative.

LAY
Well that's okay baby. We'll try again.

MELANIE
I'm so sorry for the false alarm. I really thought this was it.

LAY
Baby it's okay. When the time is right GOD will give us a child.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- GROCERY STORE-DAYTIME

Melanie is coming to the cash register to check out when she sees Lay's brother Markel.

MELANIE
Hey Markel!

MARKEL
(Turning around)
Oh hey Melanie. How've you been?

MELANIE

I've been hanging in there. I'm sure your brother told you about the false alarm.

MARKEL

No. What false alarm?

MELANIE

Oh nothing major, it's just that a couple of weeks ago I thought I was pregnant and I wasn't.

MARKEL

Is that right?

It's Markel's turn to check out. He asks the clerk for a pen.

MARKEL (cont'd)

Do you have a pen I can use real quick?

The clerk hands him her pen and gives him a piece of paper from the feed on the register. Markel writes his number down on the piece of paper.

MARKEL (cont'd)

Here you take my number and call me. I have to get going. I've always liked you Melanie. You make sure you call me okay?

MELANIE

Okay

Markel checks out, pays the cashier, and grabs his bag.

MARKEL

You take it easy... call me.

MELANIE

You too, I will.

Markel leaves out of the store. Melanie starts putting her items on the belt.

CASHIER

Damn girl he is a cutie. What did you say to get his number?

MELANIE

Nothing, that's my future brother-in-law.

INT.- SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYLIGHT

Melanie is coming in the house and when she enters she goes to the kitchen, puts away the groceries, pours herself a cup of orange juice, goes into the living room, turns on the TV and calls Markel.

MELANIE

Hello

MARKEL

Hello

MELANIE

What's up Markel?

MARKEL

Nothing much, who is this?

MELANIE

It's me Melanie.

MARKEL

Oh, damn you sound good!

MELANIE

Thanks Markel. What's up?

MARKEL

Look I'm not gonna beat around the bush with you. My brother can't have any kids and he's married.

MELANIE

What!?

MARKEL

Yeah he got snipped a few years back after his wife had their last child.

Melanie drops the phone, runs to the bathroom and starts throwing up. Markel is still on the phone waiting for a response.

MARKEL (cont'd)

Hello...helloooo...hello...

While Melanie is in the bathroom Jackie hears and comes to her aid.

JACKIE

Mel what's wrong?

MELANIE

I just got off the phone with Lay's brother and he told me that Lay is married and can't have any more children.

JACKIE

He told you what!? Give Lay's number, I'm gonna call that muthafucka right now.

MELANIE

It's in my cell phone.

JACKIE

Where is your phone?

MELANIE

It's in the living room on the floor.

Melanie grabs the toilet and starts vomiting a little more. Jackie goes into the living room, retrieves the phone and tries to call Lay. Melanie gets up and makes her way to her bedroom.

INT- MELANIE'S ROOM-NIGHTTIME

Jackie enters the room and wakes Melanie.

JACKIE

(shaking Melanie)

Mel...Mel wake up.

MELANIE

What is it mama?

JACKIE

I just got off of the phone with Lay's mother and that son of a bitch is married.

Melanie starts crying loudly and Jackie embraces her. Terron runs up the stairs to make sure everything is okay.

TERRON

What's going on?

JACKIE

We just found out that Lay is married with children.

TERRON

What? He better not ever bring his punk ass over here again. Mel if you marry this dude I'm done with you.

INT.- MELANIE'S ROOM-DAYTIME

Melanie is laying in bed looking at the ceiling when Shug enters the room.

SHUG

Don't you lie here sulking over this man for too long. You're still young and you have your whole life ahead of you. Lay didn't expect to fall in love with you but he did. He's a good man baby. He's just having trouble right now and he thought that you could be his safety net. (pause) You may be safety net, but he has to close that door before he opens one with you.

Melanie sits up and looks at Shug.

MELANIE

Shug..

Shug cuts her off.

SHUG

Now I'm not saying what he did to you was right because it wasn't, but that man loves you and I have a feeling you haven't seen the last of him. If you love someone let them go and if they come back to you again they're yours. Melanie you have to let him go.

MELANIE

I can't. I still love him.

SHUG

Melanie let him go. One day at a time sweetheart. Trust me it will get easier. You may not think so now but it will.

INT.- PARK-DAYTIME

Ben and Melanie are sitting in the park.

BEN

You're thinking about that dude
aint you?

MELANIE

Yeah.

BEN

So then why won't you contact him
and tell him that?

MELANIE

Because he hurt me and lied to me,
I can't take him back.

BEN

Okay Mel but if you think you need
to be with him I'll fall back.

MELANIE

No, I'm with who I want.

Ben looks at his watch.

BEN

You bout ready to go?

MELANIE

Oh so now you're mad?

BEN

No I'm not mad at all. I just have
something to do in about an hour.

MELANIE

Well come on and drop me off then.

**They walk to the car, get in, and Ben takes her home. They
pull up in front of Shug's house.**

MELANIE (cont'd)

Alright I guess I'll talk to you.

BEN

Okay I'll call you later.

**Melanie gets out of the car and goes inside. When she gets
inside she sees Shug sitting on the edge of her bed with her
oxygen mask on wrapped in a blanket and going over a list.**

MELANIE

Hey Mum Mum. Everything okay?

SHUG

Yeah everything's fine. Now Melanie make sure that you have his Aqua Doodle game, his Play Station, his action figures, and did I forget anything?

MELANIE

Mum Mum we got all of this stuff already.

SHUG

I'm just making sure. You see to it that Christian has a great Christmas. (pause) Melanie what day is it?

MELANIE

It's Thursday Mum Mum.

Shug starts crying.

SHUG

Oh my GOD Melanie I'm so scared. I'm losing track of what day it is.

MELANIE

That's okay. I forget what day it is sometimes too.

SHUG

Melanie I'm tired. My kids are all grown up and on those damn drugs and fighting and arguing all the time. I'm just tired.

MELANIE

They'll come around Mum Mum.

SHUG

Now Melanie I did teach you how to pay bills shop for groceries and write checks didn't I?

MELANIE

Yes you did, but why does it sound like you're going somewhere?

Shug doesn't answer.

SHUG

You mom loves you and even though she's on those drugs you are going to get her back.

MELANIE

Where is all of this talk coming from?

SHUG

Don't worry baby it's just an old lady speaking that's all.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- SHUG'S LIVING ROOM-NIGHTTIME

Kenny and Brandon are arguing over a piece of chicken.

KENNY

You know muthafucking well I don't like the dark meat!

BRANDON

I don't give a damn what kind of meat you like brother. It's first come first served up in here.

CUT TO:

Melanie stops reading her book and looks at the door. She gets up out of bed to go downstairs to see what the commotion is all about.

KENNY

You aint leave nothing in there but legs and thighs.

BRANDON

You better be glad I left anything at all!

KENNY

Nawl you better be glad you left anything at all!

BRANDON

And suppose I didn't?

KENNY

If you didn't I'd be kicking you ass right about now!

BRANDON

Boy it'll be a cold day in hell
before I let you whop my ass!

Melanie enters

MELANIE

If yall want to fight yall need to
take it outside. It aint going down
like that up in this house!

Shug comes out of her room and tries to stop the arguing.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Now see yall done woke up Shug with
all of this mess.

SHUG

**(Getting in between Kenny
and Brandon)**

Yall need to hush up all this
nonsense.

KENNY

You need in there and get back in
the bed mama this aint got nothing
to do with you.

SHUG

It has everything to do with me.
This is still my house dammit!

KENNY

We all know whose house this is.

SHUG

Well you show'll not acting like
it. Keep it up and your asses gonna
be out on the street.

KENNY

I aint gonna be on no street.

SHUG

Maybe not, but you gonna get your
drunk ass up outta here.

KENNY

I hate you. I'll be glad when you
go ahead and die.

Kenny storms out of the house and slams the door. Jackie comes in the door with a female friend as soon as her leaves out. Shug and Melanie go to Shug's room. Brandon sits down on the couch, grabs the remote and turns on the TV. Jackie's friend sits on the couch

JACKIE

What the hell done crawled up his
ass?

BRANDON

That crazy muthafucka wanna argue
about what pieces of chicken were
left in there for him to eat.

JACKIE

He aint paid for no food up in
here.

BRANDON

That's all I'm saying.

JACKIE

Where' s mom and Melanie?

BRANDON

They're in mama's room.

JACKIE

Girl I'll be right back.

Jackie walks to Shug's door and just stands there listening.

SHUG

Melanie whenever you decide to have
children you make sure you raise
them right. If they get on them
drugs you leave their ass in them
streets, 'cause when you smother
them and don't let them leave on
their own they will never leave.

Jackie knocks on the door and lets herself in.

JACKIE

Everything okay in here?

SHUG

Everything's fine. Aint it cold out
there? Why don't you stay home more
often?

JACKIE

I am mama. Tonight was my last night. I'm done. I'm going to change my life.

SHUG

Your daughter needs you Jackie

JACKIE

Mama I know and I am truly done.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- MELANIE'S ROOM-MORNING

Melanie is getting up and going through her morning ritual. Once she dresses she goes downstairs and enters Shug's room to find her laying on the floor.

MELANIE

Mum Mum what are you doing on the floor? Come on get up from here. Melanie attempts to pick Shug up off the floor. When she doesn't respond she lays her on the bed and shakes her.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Mum Mum...Mum Mum!

Melanie starts screaming and Kenny comes running into the room.

KENNY

Mama! Mama!

MELANIE

Call 911!

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- MELANIE'S ROOM-NIGHTTIME

Melanie is in her bedroom calling Lay.

MELANIE

Hello.

LAY

Hello.

MELANIE

Hi Lay. How are you?

LAY

I'm good. Who is this?

MELANIE

This is Melanie. Remember me? What did you erase my number out of your phone?

Melanie starts crying.

LAY

What's wrong Melanie.

MELANIE

Shug died this morning.

LAY

Oh my GOD! I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

MELANIE

I guess I'll be okay? Are you gonna come to the funeral?

LAY

When is it?

MELANIE

We haven't made any arrangements yet, but when we do I'll call you and let you know.

LAY

Okay. You be strong...

MELANIE

I'll try my best.

LAY

Alright I'll talk to you soon.

MELANIE

Bye.

Melanie hangs up.

INT.- CHURCH-DAYLIGHT

The funeral director is opening up Shug's casket. Kenny, Brandon, and Jackie are all crying. Melanie walks over to Margaret and grabs her hand.

Those in attendance begin walking by to view the body and pay their last respects.

CUT TO:

Everyone from the funeral move to the basement of the church to eat. Jackie walks over to Melanie's table.

JACKIE

Melanie are you going to eat?

MELANIE

No mom I'm not hungry?

JACKIE

You have to eat something. I will fix you a plate.

Jackie gives Melanie a hug and a kiss.

INT.- SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYLIGHT

Melanie is coming from the mailbox looking at the mail. There's is nothing but bills. When she gets inside she picks up the phone to call Ben.

MELANIE

Hello.

BEN

What's up baby?

MELANIE

Ben these bills are steadily piling up. I can't do this all by myself.

BEN

So what do you want me to do.

MELANIE

Ben I need your help.

BEN

Why should I have to always help when there are two grown ass men living there.

MELANIE

I understand that, but you're living here too.

BEN

Melanie I'm going to contribute this one last time and then I'm moving out. You can come with me if you want.

MELANIE

I can't just up and leave. This is my grandmother's house.

BEN

Fine, then Melanie you stay, I'm out.

MELANIE

You can't just leave I'm pregnant.

BEN

You're what?

MELANIE

I'm pregnant Ben.

BEN

Dammit Melanie how did this happen?

MELANIE

How do you think you genius?

BEN

Well I hope you're not. How do you know for sure?

MELANIE

I'm going to get pregnancy test today.

Melanie hangs up the phone.

INT.- DOCTOR'S OFFICE

Melanie and Demetrius are sitting in the doctor's office awaiting the results of her pregnancy test when the doctor enters the room and opens his chart.

DOCTOR

Well Miss Woodard your pregnancy test was positive. Congratulations.

MELANIE

Positive?

DOCTOR
 Yes Miss Woodard you are
 approximately 2 months pregnant.

DEMETRIUS
(Laughing)
 Congratulations baby. I wasn't
 prepared to be a grandfather but I
 guess I have no choice.

INT.- SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYTIME

Melanie and Demetrius are pulling up in front of Shug's house. Demetrius kisses her on the cheek.

DEMETRIUS
 I've got to get ready to go to work
 baby. You call me if you need
 anything.

Melanie gets out of the car, goes inside, and immediately calls Ben.

MELANIE
 Hello.

BEN
 Hello

MELANIE
 I'm eight weeks pregnant Ben.

BEN
 Are you serious?

MELANIE
 No this is the joke line calling
 you. Of course I'm serious.

BEN
 Wow eight weeks...

MELANIE
 Yeah eight weeks.

BEN
 Alright do you need anything?

MELANIE
 No not right now.

BEN
 Okay I'll be over there tomorrow..

MELANIE

Okay bye.

Jackie comes out of her room and sees the paperwork and prenatal vitamins on the coffee table.

JACKIE

Oh my GOD my daughter is pregnant!

Melanie gets up out of the chair.

MELANIE

Yes I am.

JACKIE

Did you take your vitamins yet?

MELANIE

No.

JACKIE

You've got to take your vitamins baby. I'll get you some water. Melanie picks up the remote and changes the channel. Jackie returns with the glass of water and Melanie takes her vitamins.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- SCHOOL-DAYTIME

Melanie is in class poking at her belly. Class lets out and she goes home and is poking her belly more. She picks up the phone and tries to call Ben.

CUT TO:

Ben is at his other girlfriends house watching TV he picks up his phone, looks at it and puts it back down.

CUT BACK TO:

Melanie hanging up from trying to call Ben and calls Alexis.

MELANIE

Hello

ALEXIS

What's up mama?

MELANIE

I need you to take me to the emergency room.

ALEXIS

The emergency room, why, what's going on?

MELANIE

I haven't felt the baby since this morning.

ALEXIS

I'll be right over.

Not long after they hang up Alexis is rings the doorbell.

ALEXIS (cont'd)

Come on girl we've got to get you to the emergency room.

They go outside and get in the car.

INT.- HOSPITAL EMERGENCY-DAYLIGHT

Melanie and Alexis enter the emergency room. The woman at the desk hands them a clipboard.

RECEPTIONIST

I need for you to have a seat and fill out this paper work. Do you have two forms of identification?

MELANIE

Yes I do but this is an emergency.

RECEPTIONIST

Ma'am all of these people in here have emergencies. Please fill out the paperwork and we will see you according to your emergency.

Melanie has a seat and fills out paperwork, then hands it to the receptionist. At that moment Jackie and Demetrius enter the emergency room.

JACKIE

What's going on baby?

MELANIE

Mama I haven't felt the baby move since this morning.

DEMETRIUS

What are you doing sitting here?

MELANIE

The nurse told me that they're taking people according to their emergency.

JACKIE

She said what?

Demetrius and Jackie go over to the receptionist desk.

JACKIE (cont'd)

What kind of a hospital are you people running here? My daughter is sitting over there with a situation that needs immediate attention and you have her sitting here on some waiting list. Bitch I will have your ass at the dog pound cleaning up shit if you don't get my daughter back there to see a doctor.

At that moment a nurse comes from the back with a wheelchair and calls Melanie.

NURSE

Melanie Woodard!

Melanie gets in the wheelchair and is rushed to the maternity ward. As soon as she gets in the room they insert an IV, check for the baby's heartbeat.

NURSE

Ma'am your baby is not breathing.

Melanie starts to panic.

Melanie what do you mean my baby's not breathing? Please do something. Don't let anything happen to my baby!

NURSE (cont'd)

Please calm down the doctor will be in to see you in a minute.

The doctor enters the room and approaches the nurse.

DOCTOR

What's our situation here?

NURSE

She's pregnant and the baby isn't breathing.

DOCTOR

We're gonna have to break her water right now. We can't wait. We have to get this baby out now.

MELANIE

Is my baby going to be okay?

DOCTOR

We don't know yet ma'am. We're gonna have to induce your labor.

INT.- RECOVERY ROOM

Demetrius, Jackie, and Alexis are sitting in the room with Melanie waiting to hear from the doctor.

DEMETRIUS

I'm wondering why this chump Ben won't answer his phone. He just had a baby enter this world and he aint even here to greet it.

The doctor enters the room.

DOCTOR

I'm sorry folks we did all we could do.

Everyone starts crying. Alexis leaves the room right behind the doctor.

MELANIE

No...no... I want my baby!!!

Jackie holds Melanie in her arms while rocking her back and forth. Demetrius just sits there looking at the floor. He suddenly stands up and puts his arms around Jackie and Melanie and they all cry together.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- CHURCH-DAYLIGHT

The family is gathered at the baby's funeral. Melanie enters with Demetrius and spots Ben.

MELANIE (cont'd)

For someone who didn't give a damn about his son, why are you here now?

BEN

Melanie I'm not gonna argue with you today.

Demetrius walks her over to her seat.

MELANIE

Mama, tell the funeral director not to let him see my son.

JACKIE

I'm not doing that. Even though he wasn't there he's grieving just like we are baby.

People get up and start viewing the body. Then it was Melanie's turn. Ben gets out of his seat to go up with Melanie and she grabs hold of Demetrius even tighter. When Melanie gets to the casket she breaks down. Ben and Demetrius try their best to calm her down. Alexis and Jackie take her out into the lobby. Ben walks over to the casket and begins to cry as Demetrius puts his hand on his shoulder to console him.

EXT.- SHUG'S HOUSE-DAYLIGHT

Q, Terron, Ben, Brandon, and Kenny are helping load up a moving truck.

KENNY

Where's the cooler?

MELANIE

The cooler is where it's gonna be until the job is done. It aint gonna be no drinking on the job. When yall get done you can drink all you want to.

TERRON

Yeah Unk we don't want for you and Brandon to get started.

BRANDON

Aw fuck you man.

TERRON

You my uncle and all but that don't mean I won't fuck you up now Unk.

Q

Man come on let's get this shit done. I aint trying to make this no all day thing.

CUT TO:

INT.- MELANIE'S NEW APARTMENT-DAYLIGHT

Kenny is closing the door to the moving truck.

KENNY

Alright where's the cooler? I know them 40's ought to be good and cold by now.

BRANDON

It's in the Q's trunk. You're right bro I know them bitches got to be right.

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Terron and Melanie are laying in Melanie's be looking at the ceiling engaged in conversation.

TERRON

So how do you like your place so far?

MELANIE

I really like it. I walk around this bitch butt naked if I feel like it. I don't have to deal with anybody's bullshit.

TERRON

I'm very happy for you sis. (pause)
Has anybody ever said anything to you about who's supposed to get the house?

MELANIE

No, no one's said anything to me about it. Why?

TERRON

I think it's just fucked up that nobody has stepped up to the plate and tried to find out what the deal was. I was thinking about trying to get it.

MELANIE

You were?

TERRON

Yeah and I want your name on the deed too.

MELANIE

Terron I'm not getting caught up in one of your illegal scams. You won't have my ass sitting in jail looking stupid.

Terron gets up and takes a folder out of his book bag, opens it, hands some papers to Melanie and she looks them over.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Terron you are going straight to jail. Do not pass Go do not collect a penny.

They laugh.

TERRON

Okay you're laughing now, but we're gonna see who gets the last laugh.

MELANIE

Boy get out of my room. I gotta take my butt to bed. I have to be at work in the morning.

TERRON

Alright sis, good night.

MELANIE

Good night.

CUT TO:

The next morning Terron and Melanie are getting ready to leave the apartment.

TERRON

So what's up for the weekend?

MELANIE

I don't have anything planned. I'm off. What's up?

TERRON

I was thinking about coming through and throwing a little something on the grill. What do you think?

MELANIE

As long as you've known me, when have you known me to turn down some barbecue?

TERRON

Never, so I guess we have a date then.

MELANIE

I guess we do. Come on here boy I gotta go before I'm late for work.

TERRON

How are you getting to work?

MELANIE

I think I'm gonna walk this morning.

TERRON

You want me to walk with you?

MELANIE

No I'll be okay. You just make sure you're here this weekend for the barbecue.

TERRON

Aight I'll see you later sis.

They go their separate ways. While walking Melanie comes to a crosswalk and gets stopped by a red light. A young man approaches her and they talk while waiting at the light. By the time the light changes she gives him her phone number and they go their separate ways.

CUT TO:

Melanie at work cashing out customers. After the last customer she looks at her watch and it's time to go so she logs out and takes her drawer to the back to count it.

INT.- MELANIE'S APTARTMENT-DUSK

Melanie is on the phone with Marcus the guy she met on her way to work.

MELANIE

If I had a man you wouldn't have gotten my number this morning.

MARCUS

Oh is that right? Well tell me a little something about yourself.

MELANIE

What do you want to know?

MARCUS (cont'd)

Do you have any kids?

Melanie pauses for a few seconds.

MARCUS (cont'd)

Hello.

MELANIE

I'm sorry. No I don't have any children.

MARCUS

Are you okay?

MELANIE

Yeah I'm fine. It's just that I had a miscarriage and...

MARCUS

(Cutting her off)

Oh I'm sorry to have taken you back there.

MELANIE

It's okay, you didn't know. So tell me a little something about yourself.

MARCUS

What do you want to know?

MELANIE

Do you have any children?

MARCUS

No I don't.

MELANIE

Are you sure about that?

MARCUS

Absolutely.

MELANIE

Would you like to have kids?

MARCUS

One day maybe, I'm still young.
What are you doing tomorrow?

MELANIE

I have to work, but nothing after
that.

MARCUS

Can we hook up?

MELANIE

What do you mean hook up?

MARCUS

Get together and do something.

MELANIE

Something like what?

MARCUS

I don't know, how about a walk
through the park, maybe get some
ice cream.

MELANIE

That sounds nice.

MARCUS

What time are you off tomorrow?

MELANIE

I get off at 5:30.

MARCUS

You want to meet me at Washington
Park, say around 6:30?

MELANIE

Sure we can do that.

MARCUS

Okay 6:30 tomorrow Washington Park
it is. I guess I'll see you then.
You have a good night?

MELANIE

You do the same. I'll see you
tomorrow.

They hang up.

CUT TO:

Melanie and Marcus walking through the park.

INT.- MELANIE'S JOB-DAYLIGHT

**Melanie is walking into her job. She punches in, gets her
drawer and goes to her register.**

KIM

So did you hook up with the new
guy?

MELANIE

Yeah we hooked up?

KIM

So what did you do?

MELANIE

We just got some ice cream and
walked through the park for a
little while.

KIM

You sure that's all you did,
because you're smiling like he made
your night?

MELANIE

Yes I'm sure, and he did make my
night but not how you're thinking
he did.
Melanie gets a customer and she
cashes her out.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Like I was saying he did make my
night. I enjoyed walking through
the park and talking with him.

MISSIE approaches them.

KIM

Melanie you have a call on line
one.

**Melanie goes into the break room to take her call. When she
picks up the phone it's Jackie and she's crying hysterically.**

MELANIE

Mom calm down. What's the matter.

Jackie finally calms down.

JACKIE

Terron is gone!

MELANIE

I told that boy to stop doing
illegal stuff, now he done got
locked up. How much is his bond?

JACKIE

Melanie Terron is dead!

MELANIE

Stop playing mama, that's not even
funny.

JACKIE

I wouldn't call you on your job
joking about nothing like this.
Your brother is gone home baby.
Melanie stands there in a daze with
the phone in her hand. Missie
enters the breakroom.

KIM

Melanie is everything okay?

Melanie snaps out of her trance.

MELANIE

My mother just told me my brother
died.

MISSIE

Oh my GOD I'm so sorry Melanie.

MELANIE

My brother can't be dead we're
gonna have a barbecue tomorrow.

Melanie calls Terron's cell phone.

TERRON'S VOICEMAIL (V.O.)

Hello...

MELANIE

Hello Terron?

TERRON'S VOICEMAIL (V.O.)

Hello...

MELANIE

Terron it's me Melanie.

TERRON'S VOICEMAIL (V.O.)

Ha haaa.. I got ya! This is Terron
sorry I can't take your call.
Please leave me a message and I
will call you as soon as possible.

MELANIE

Aw shit

Melanie hangs up and calls Terron's friend Tony.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Hello, Tony?

TONY

Yeah this is Tony. Who dis?

MELANIE

Tony this is Melanie Terron's
sister. May I speak with my brother
please.

TONY

Melanie I hate to have to be the
one to tell you this but your
brother is passed away.

MELANIE

No, no, no... what happened to my
brother.

TONY

He came in this morning drunk
around 3 o'clock and he went
straight into the bathroom saying
that his stomach was hurting. I
asked him if he was gonna be okay
and he told me yeah.

(MORE)

TONY (cont'd)

When I woke up this morning around eight I came downstairs and he was on the floor naked and had lost his bowels. I'm sorry Melanie.

Melanie hangs up the phone and breaks down. Missie walks over, hugs her, and they cry together.

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-DAYLIGHT

Melanie and Marcus are sitting in the living room.

MELANIE

Did you apply for that job online that I told you about.

MARCUS

Yeah I applied for it. I haven't heard anything yet though.

The phone rings, Melanie answers it and it's Jackie. Marcus gets up and goes to get dressed.

MELANIE

Hey ma.

JACKIE

What are you up to?

MELANIE

Nothing much, just trying to enjoy my day off. What are you doing?

JACKIE

Oh nothing. Just calling to see how you were doing. Did Marcus find a job yet?

MELANIE

Nope not yet, but he's looking though.

JACKIE

Is he there?

MELANIE

Yep.

JACKIE

Girl you better quit letting that no good nigga lay up and mooch off of you.

MELANIE

Mom that's not the case, look I
gotta go.

**Melanie hangs up the phone and gets back on her computer.
Marcus re-enters the room with a shirt in his hand.**

MARCUS

Who was that?

MELANIE

My mother.

MARCUS

Baby let me get \$20.

MELANIE

I don't have it.

MARCUS

What do you mean you don't have it?

MELANIE

Just what I said, I don't have it.

MARCUS

Who the hell you getting loud with?

MELANIE

I'm getting loud with you. I don't
know who you think you're talking
to my daddy stays way on the other
side of town.

**Marcus slaps Melanie, she swings back and catches him on the
chin and they begin to tussle. Marcus gets the best of
Melanie and he gets up and walks out of the door.**

INT.- MELANIE'S ROOM-NIGHT

**Melanie is asleep in bed when Marcus enters drunk and
staggering, sits on the edge of the bed and shakes Melanie's
leg to wake her.**

MARCUS

Melanie wake up!

Melanie wakes up and shields herself

MARCUS (cont'd)

I'm not gonna hit you. I just want
to apologize for what happened
earlier.

Melanie sits up on the bed and hugs her pillow.

MELANIE

Marcus I want you out of my house.
This relationship has gone all to
hell.

MARCUS

Baby I told you I'm sorry.

MELANIE

I can't do this anymore. You have
to leave.

MARCUS

I understand, but can I get my
things tomorrow?

MELANIE

Yes you can, but if you don't come
and get them I'm throwing all of it
away and I mean every word.

**Marcus gets up and staggers out of the room. When Melanie
hears the door shut she lies down and falls back asleep.**

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT

**Melanie is listening to music and getting dressed to go to
work. Once she's dressed she picks up her wallet off of the
coffee table and there's no money in it.**

MELANIE

Son of a bitch!

**Melanie sits down on the couch and starts crying. When she
pulls herself together she picks up the phone to make a call.**

MELANIE (cont'd)

Yes hello, this is Melanie Woodard
in apartment 27 and I need to have
my locks changed. (pause) No
someone has a copy of my keys and I
no longer want him in my apartment.
(pause) I'll be here all day I
can't go to work now because I
refuse to leave my apartment empty.
I don't trust that bastard.

FADE TO BLACK

MELANIE

He did more than that. That bastard stole from me. There's nothing I can't stand more than a liar and a thief.

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Melanie is on the computer MySpace (JUFWBE) She types Lay's name into the browser and his picture comes up. She puts the cursor over the friend request box and sits there for a moment.

SHUG (V.O.)

You haven't seen the last of Lay.

MELANIE

(Whispering)

I'm still in love with him. She clicks on the friend request box, gets up from the couch and goes into the kitchen to pour herself a glass of wine. When she returns from the kitchen she sits back down to see if her request had been accepted. She falls asleep that night sitting on the couch with her computer in her lap.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-MORNING

Melanie wakes up and immediately log into her account when she does she sees that Lay accepted her request along with a message. Melanie is smiles a very big smile and checks her inbox.

Message on computer screen:

Hey there Miss Lady. How have you been? Call me. My number's below. We need to talk.

Melanie writes the number down in her tablet and rips it off. She then takes a shower and heads off to work.

INT.- MELANIE'S JOB-DAY

Melanie is cashing out a customer. She looks at her watch and lets out a big sigh.

MELANIE

Oh my GOD I'll be so glad when this day over.

KIM

You know the more you look at your watch the longer the day becomes.

MELANIE

I know I just need to be patient, which is not one of my greater attributes.

KIM

What's with all of the impatience anyway?

Melanie reaches in her pocket and hands the number to Kim.

KIM (cont'd)

Okay.. who in the hell is Lay?

MELANIE

Oh shit I forgot. You weren't working here yet. Lay is the man that I love with all of my heart. We parted ways and now he's come back to me.

KIM

Damn you must really love this guy. You're walking around with his number in your pocket.

MELANIE

I just got his number this morning and I didn't get a chance to program it into my phone yet.

KIM

Oh, well I hope that when you two reconnect he makes you as happy as you seem now. I know how your luck has been with men.

MELANIE

I think everything will be honky doory.

(MORE)

MELANIE (cont'd)

My grandma Shug told me that if you love someone you have to let them go, and if they come back then they're yours.

KIM

Well good luck girl that's all I can tell you, and be careful.

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-DAY

Melanie is just getting in from work. She throws her bags and pocket book on the couch, takes the number out of her pocket and stares at it for a moment.

MELANIE

Okay I can do this... No I can't, who am I kidding? He's probably in love with someone else.
Melanie takes her phone out of her pocket book and dials the number.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Hello may I speak with Lay please.

LAY

Speaking...

MELANIE

Hey Lay it's Melanie, how are you?

LAY

I'm good. I know who this is. I know that voice oh too well. Hello Miss Lady how are you doing?

MELANIE

I'm doing okay, even better now that I'm talking to you.

LAY

Melanie I've always thought about you.

MELANIE

Really?

LAY

Yes

MELANIE

You know I still think about the terrible stunt you pulled that broke my heart.

LAY

I know you do and I am truly sorry.
I was going through a tough time.

MELANIE

That's what they all say.

LAY

(getting loud)

That's the truth Mel!

MELANIE

Lay I don't even know what that
means coming from your mouth.

(pause)

LAY

I guess I deserve that.

MELANIE

Anyway what's new with you?

LAY

Nothing much, I'm divorced now.

MELANIE

Really?

LAY

Yeah I got divorced right after we
broke up.

MELANIE

So how are the kids?

LAY

They're doing fine..

**Melanie and Lay talk on the phone for hours. They eventually
hook up and go out on dates with the children.**

INT.- MELANIE'S JOB-DAY

**Melanie is cleaning the conveyor belt at her register when
her boss walks up and hands her an envelope.**

MELANIE

Billy where did you get this from?

BILLY

It was mailed here.

MELANIE

Okay thank you.

Billy walks off and Melanie opens the letter and begins reading it.

MAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Hey bitch you tell that muthafucka Marcus he has three days to get me my money or else his ass will be found stanking in an alley somewhere. And no this is not no fucking joke. 72 hours bitch.

INT.- MELANIE'S HOUSE-DAY

Melanie is coming in the house with shopping bags when the phone rings. She sits the bags down in the kitchen and rushes over to the phone.

MELANIE

I'm coming, I'm coming.. Hello.

LAYLA

Hi Miss Melanie.

MELANIE

Who is this Layla?

LAYLA

Yes ma'am.

MELANIE

Well hello there young lady how are you?

LAYLA

I'm doing fine.

MELANIE

That's good. Where's your dad?

LAYLA

He's standing right here.

MELANIE

Oh is he.

LAYLA

Miss Melanie can me and Lanisha
come with my daddy when he comes
over your house tonight?

MELANIE

Sure you can sweetheart, you girls
are always welcome here.

LAYLA

Yay, thanks Miss Melanie.

MELANIE

Okay Layla see you soon sweetie.

LAYLA

Bye

Layla hands Lay the phone.

LAY

Hey Miss Lady.

MELANIE

Hey baby what's up?

LAY

Nothing much, just getting the kids
dressed.

MELANIE

Where are Layton and Layair?

LAY

They're in there on that dog gone
Xbox.

MELANIE

Oh okay. Well baby I'm about to get
this lasagna started and I guess
I'll see you in about an hour or
so.

LAY

Okay baby I'll see you then. I love
you.

MELANIE

I love you too.

**They hang up and Melanie takes the groceries out of the bags,
then starts preparing the lasagna.**

MELANIE (cont'd)

Now where is that damn Ricotta
cheese?

Melanie finishes preparing dinner, takes a seat in the living room, picks up a magazine and starts reading. Not long after the doorbell rings. She gets up to answer it and it's Lay and the girls. Layla runs up to Melanie first.

LAYLA

Miiiiissss Melanie!

Layla gives a big hug.

MELANIE

Oh my goodness Layla, you and your
big hugs!

Lanisha just walks past.

LANISHA

(very low)

Hello Miss Melanie.

Melanie watches her as she walks past and she shakes her head at her.

MELANIE

Hello Lanisha

Lay and Melanie hug.

LAY

I missed you baby

MELANIE

Aawww me too sweetie.

LANISHA

Miss Melanie.

MELANIE

Yes Lanisha

LANISHA

It sure smells good in here.

MELANIE

I made my famous lasagna for you
guys.

Lay and the kids take off their jackets/coats and sit down at the dinner table.

Melanie goes into the kitchen and grabs a pitcher of iced tea. She returns and fills everyone's glasses.

LAY

I'm so hungry I could eat an ox
right now.

Everyone makes their plates and enjoy their meal. Afterwards all of the women help to clean up while Lay is in the living room watching TV.

CUT TO:

The girls and Melanie are in the kitchen cleaning up.

LANISHA

Miss Melanie how do you know when a
boy likes you?

MELANIE

Well it depends. Does he act
different around you?

LANISHA

He stutters every time he's around
me and he usually never does that
I'm told.

MELANIE

It sounds to me like you have a
secret admirer then.

LANISHA

Don't tell my dad though, okay?

Melanie zips her lips shut and winks at Lanisha.

MELANIE

My lips are sealed.

Lay comes into the kitchen.

LAY

Yall about done? You girls have to
get up early.

MELANIE

Yeah we were just wrapping it up.

LAY

Okay get your coats girls.

LAYLA

Do we have to go daddy?

LAY
What did I say?

LAYLA
Okay daddy don't have a baby.

They all laugh

LAY
I'm gonna take them home. I'll call you later.

MELANIE
Alright.

Lay gives Melanie a small peck on the lips.

MELANIE (cont'd)
Good night ladies.

LAYLA AND LANISHA
Good night Miss Melanie.

After walking Lay and the girls out Melanie get ready for bed.

INT.- SCHOOL-DAY

Melanie is just arriving at the school where she's doing an internship. As soon as she signs in Josie immediately comes over to fill her in on what her day will consist of.

JOSIE
Good morning Melanie.

MELANIE
Good morning Josie.

JOSIE
We're gonna try out something new today Mel. How would you feel about hosting a group of pregnant adolescents?

MELANIE
You mean to tell me you want me to hold group with a bunch of pregnant teenagers?

JOSIE
Yes Melanie. I really need your help on this one.

(MORE)

JOSIE (cont'd)

Stephanie called in sick and I have to go to a meeting in Wilmington. Do you think you can pull it off?

MELANIE

Yeah I think I can handle it. When are they supposed to be here?

JOSIE

They're scheduled to be at eleven. Until then will you please alphabetize these files, clean the office, answer any phone calls that come in until Marcy gets here, and clean the break room? I have to get going.

MELANIE

Okay.

JOSIE

Thanks Melanie, I really owe you one.

Melanie starts organizing the files, she vacuums the office, and answers a couple of phone calls. Josie comes in and takes over the phone. Melanie looks at the clock and it's almost eleven. She goes to the break room.

MELANIE

Oh you guys are here already? We'll let me introduce myself. My name is Melanie and I will be hanging out with you all today. Stephanie called in sick so here I am. Today you all can pick the topic for the group. Whatever you guys want to talk about is fine with me.

TAMIKA

Let's talk about how it feels to be pregnant.

The group talks for hours on end. They have lunch and everyone seems to be having a good time except for one girl.

CUT TO:

Melanie is gathering her things getting ready to leave when Josie enters the room.

JOSIE

So how was your first day?

MELANIE

I loved it. The girls accepted me with no problem which made everything so much better. Everyone got along just fine, but there was one girl who seemed like she was on a whole different planet the entire time.

JOSIE

That's great. Just remember that you're not supposed to get involved with any of the students outside of the facility. And be sure to watch out for Velvet cause she'll be watching you like a hawk.

MELANIE

I don't think I've met her yet.

JOSIE

You haven't she's been away on vacation since you started. You'll get a chance to meet her. Just be careful what you say and do around her. She always finds something wrong with all of the interns we have here.

MELANIE

Okay I'll be sure to do that. You have a good night Josie.

JOSIE

You too.

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Lay is watching TV when Melanie walks over and tries to give him a kiss to which he resists.

LAY

Honey I'm watching the game.

Melanie gives Lay a very funny look and goes into the kitchen to begin cooking dinner. When she finishes she makes their plates and puts them on the table.

MELANIE

Baby dinner's ready!

LAY

Since the game is on I think I'm gonna eat in here tonight.

Melanie takes him his plate and he begins eating while she goes to her plate and starts eating her food.

LAY (cont'd)

What the hell is this?

MELANIE

Uh, it's curry chicken.

LAY

Well it doesn't taste right.

Lay gets up and takes his plate into the kitchen.

MELANIE

Well since you don't want to eat it you can go back home and eat there.

Lay comes back into the living room and sits on the couch to continue watching the game. After a few seconds Melanie grabs the remote and turns off the TV.

LAY

Why did you do that?

MELANIE

Since you don't like my cooking all of a sudden then I guess you don't like my cable either.

Melanie stands in front of the TV for a few seconds and then storms out and goes to her room. Not long after Lay comes into the room and leans on the door threshold right after her.

LAY

Mel I'm sorry for snapping about the food.

Lay goes into his pocket, pulls out some money and puts it on the bed.

LAY (cont'd)

This ought to cover the money you spent on the food.

MELANIE

I'm still mad Lay, this money make me feel a little better though.

Melanie smiles at Lay.

LAY

So we're good then?

MELANIE

Yeah we're cool.

LAY

Okay I'm gonna go back downstairs
and finish watching the game.

CUT TO:

Melanie creeps downstairs to the living room and tries to steal a kiss from Lay and he resists.

MELANIE

What is it with you? First you
don't want to eat my cooking now
you don't want to give me no
affection. I'm going to bed.

LAY

Fine then I'm sleeping right here.

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-DAY

Melanie wakes up and goes downstairs. When she get there she notices that Lay has left already. She picks up the phone and calls Alexis.

MELANIE

Hey girl.

ALEXIS

Good morning sunshine. What's up?

MELANIE

Nothing much, just getting up. Girl
you will never guess what happened
last night.

ALEXIS

I probably won't girl, so why don't
you just go ahead and tell me.

MELANIE

Lay came over last night and I made
curry chicken for dinner like I've
done a hundred times before.

ALEXIS

Uh huh...

MELANIE

This Negro had the nerve to say that it didn't taste right. On top of that I made two passes at him and he declined without hesitation. I think this nigga got some new pussy.

ALEXIS

Yeah those are the tell tell signs. So what are you gonna do?

MELANIE

I'm not sure yet. What do you think I should do?

ALEXIS

The best thing to do is to sit him down and have a one on one conversation with him. Find out where his head really is. You think he's really playing the field though?

MELANIE

Ever since we've gotten back together he's never acted like this. Then when I get up this morning and came downstairs he was gone. Aint said bye or nothing.

ALEXIS

What do you mean when you came downstairs?

MELANIE

Oh I didn't tell you, he decided to sleep on the couch last night.

ALEXIS

You mean to tell me slept on the couch?

MELANIE

Yep.

ALEXIS

It sounds to me like you have a really serious situation on your hands. You better have a long talk with him, the sooner the better.

MELANIE

I think you're right. Let me call his ass right now. Girl I'll call you back after while.

ALEXIS

Alright girl, handle your business.

MELANIE

Alright I'll talk to you later.

ALEXIS

Okay bye.

Melanie hangs up and calls Lay, but she gets no answer so she leaves a message.

MELANIE

Lay this is Melanie. I need for you to call me as soon as possible it's very important.

As soon as she put the phone down it rings. When she answers it, it's Lay.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Hello.

LAY

Yeah what's up you called me?

MELANIE

Yeah I called you. Why didn't you answer the phone? You must have been talking to that bitch.

LAY

Whatever Melanie, what's up?

MELANIE

We need to talk.

LAY

Okay let's talk.

MELANIE

No not now, I need for you to come over here.

LAY

I'll come over there, but I can't come right this minute.

MELANIE

I don't want you to come right this minute I have to get ready for work.

LAY

Well what time do you get off?

MELANIE

I get off at 5:30.

LAY

Okay I'll be over there at six. Is that okay with you?

MELANIE

Why don't you just pick me up from work?

LAY

Okay I can be there by 5:30.

MELANIE

Okay I'll see you then.

They hang up and Melanie goes to get ready for work.

EXT.- OUTSIDE OF MELANIE'S JOB-DAY

Melanie is standing outside of her job waiting for Lay to arrive. After a few minutes he pulls up and Melanie gets in the car.

LAY

Sorry I'm late.

MELANIE

What happened to 5:30?

LAY

I got caught up in the middle of something.

MELANIE

Well why didn't you call me to tell me you were gonna be a few minutes late?

LAY

Because I was driving and I don't like to be on my phone while I'm driving. So what it is it we need to talk about?

MELANIE

Lay you know I love you with all of my heart.

LAY

Mel why do you love me so much?

MELANIE

Because you opened your heart up to me and gave me a chance. You let me meet your family, your kids and you mom, and I know it wasn't an easy thing for you to do. My only question is why can't you love me?

LAY

Mel it's not that I don't love you I do love you, but only as a friend.

Melanie gets quiet for a few seconds before she responds with tears in her eyes.

MELANIE

You only love me as a friend after all that we've been through?

LAY

Mel you want to have children and I can't provide that for you.

MELANIE

Have you even tried to see what options you even have as far as having children?

There's a moment of silence as they pull up to Melanie's apartment.

MELANIE (cont'd)

So all I am is a friend to you? You need to come in here and get all of your shit out of my house buddy.

Lay puts the car in park and they both go inside where he starts to gather his things while Melanie sits on the couch sobbing. Lay tries to come over to console her but she just pushes him off.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Don't touch me. Get the fuck out of my house!

Lay continues to gather his things and when he finally has all of his things he stands in the door and just stares at Melanie for a few seconds.

LAY

Remember this is the way you wanted it.

MELANIE

Get out Lay! Get out of my house!

Lay leaves the premises, after which Melanie takes goes and runs herself a bubble bath and gets in the tub.

MELANIE (cont'd)

(Kicking and screaming)

Why did I let him hurt me again
GOD, why!?

Melanie drops down in her bubbles and her phone starts to ring. She picks it up and sees that it's Lay and sits the phone back down. The phone continues to ring and she finally answers.

MELANIE (cont'd)

What?

LAY

I'm sorry Mel, I never meant to hurt you, but all I can say is that I tried, I don't love you the way you love me. You want children and I know I am not capable of providing that for you. Mel you didn't fail, I was the one who failed you. My heart won't let me forget about you. You deserve someone who is gonna love and cherish you.

(MORE)

LAY (cont'd)

Someone who will give you what your heart desires, and your heart desires a child. Mel I see how you glow when you're with my children.

MELANIE

Lay will you please do me a favor?

LAY

What's that baby?

MELANIE

Lose my number.

Melanie hangs up. A few minutes later the phone rings again, she looks at the caller I.D. and answers it.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Hello.

LILLIAN

Hello honey, how you doing?

MELANIE

I'm fine Miss Lillian, how are you?

LILLIAN

Other than this small pain in my lower back I'm doing good myself, thank the LORD.

MELANIE

That's good.

LILLIAN

I was calling to see if you were still coming to church with me this Sunday.

MELANIE

Yes ma'am I'm still coming.

LILLIAN

I just talked to Lay and he told me that he wasn't going to be able to make it.

MELANIE

Oh yeah, and what was his excuse to why he couldn't be there?

LILLIAN

He told me that he was going on a trip with a friend.

MELANIE

Uh huh, he must be going with his new girl then.

LILLIAN

His new girl?

MELANIE

Yes Miss Lillian, Lay and I are done. He's decided to move on.

LILLIAN

Are you serious? Melanie I didn't know that. I thought yawl were happy together and would one day get married.

MELANIE

So did I Miss Lillian, but sometimes things don't always go the way we plan them.

LILLIAN

I really don't understand that young man. He had a good woman by his side. You were there for him and those children. I don't know what's wrong with him Melanie.

MELANIE

Neither do I miss Lillian. He don't have to worry about me no more. I am truly done.

(pause)

MELANIE (cont'd)

Miss Lillian I have to go. You take care of yourself.

LILLIAN

You do the same baby. Don't you be no stranger now.

MELANIE

I won't Miss Lillian.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Bye Miss Lillian

LILLIAN

Bye baby.

Melanie hangs up

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-MORNING

Melanie is in bed asleep when her alarm clock goes off. She turns it off and goes into the bathroom to take a shower. When she gets out her cell phone rings and she answers it.

MELANIE

Hello

MARCUS

Well, well, look who answers her phone.

MELANIE

Who is this?

MARCUS

I miss fucking that tight pussy.

MELANIE

Who the hell is this?

MARCUS

Who do you think it is baby? It's Marcus, I know we've been out of touch for a while, but you could never stay away from me.

MELANIE

Goodbye Marcus! Don't call this phone no more.

Melanie immediately hangs up and makes a phone call.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Hello, Detective Anderson?

OFFICER

This is he, how may I help you?

MELANIE

Detective Anderson this is Melanie Woodard. Marcus just called my phone.

OFFICER

Okay Miss Woodard calm down.

MELANIE

What the fuck do you mean calm down? I haven't talked to this man in over a year and now he's calling me.

OFFICER

Miss Woodard I'm going to put out an A.P.B on him right now and bring him in for questioning. In the meantime don't go anywhere alone and please be careful.

MELANIE

Okay, thank you detective. I'm sorry for cussing at you.

OFFICER

It's okay Miss Woodard, you be safe.

Melanie hangs up the phone and calls Jackie.

MELANIE

Hey mama.

JACKIE

Hey baby what's going on?

MELANIE

That crazy Marcus just called my phone.

JACKIE

He did what? How did he get your number?

MELANIE

I don't know ma. I just called Detective Anderson and he said that he would put out and A.P.B on him.

JACKIE

Well good, do you want me to come over there?

MELANIE

No I'll be okay. I'm getting ready to go to work and when I get off I gotta pick up a couple of things from the grocery store.

JACKIE

Okay if you need anything you call me. Do you still have that mace that I gave you?

MELANIE

Yeah mom I have it.

JACKIE

Okay baby you be careful.

MELANIE

I will. Bye.

JACKIE

Bye.

They hang up Melanie gets up to get dressed for work. Once she's dressed she goes outside, gets in her car and heads out to work. She finishes her day at work and goes to the supermarket.

EXT.- SUPERMARKET-DAY

Melanie is just pulling into the parking lot at the supermarket. She gets out of the car, goes inside and begins to shop. While looking at the label on a box she gets tapped on the shoulder and drops the box.

LAY

Hey Miss Lay

MELANIE

Don't do that shit!

LAY

What's the matter?

MELANIE

Don't be sneaking up on me like that, what the hell is wrong with you?

LAY

Oh it's like that?

MELANIE

You're damn right it's like that. Where's the piece of meat you left me for?

LAY

What piece of meat?

MELANIE

I guess the grass wasn't so much greener on the other side huh?

LAY

Mel there was never another woman. I just had to back off. I told you how I felt knowing that I couldn't give you a child.

MELANIE

Oh that's right, that's when you decided to just be my friend.

LAY

Mel I've been thinking about you a lot lately and I miss you.

MELANIE

Yeah you would say that since things didn't work out with you and Olive Oil.

LAY

Will you stop it! I wanna take you out to dinner Mel. Will you have dinner with me?

MELANIE

Why should I have dinner with you?

LAY

Because I love you and I want to be with you.

MELANIE

I guess we can do that. You still owe me dinner anyway from the last time I saw you.

LAY

I gave you money that night to cover everything.

MELANIE

And...

LAY

So you wanna meet me at the Olive Garden on Tucker St. tonight at eight.

MELANIE

Okay I'll see you tonight then.

LAY

Alright I'll see you later.

They part ways

INT.- OLIVE GARDEN-NIGHT

Melanie is sitting at a table sipping on a glass of wine while she waits for Lay. She looks at her watch.

MELANIE

I'm gonna give his ass five more minutes and then I'm out of here.

Melanie waits a few more minutes and tells the waiter to bring her the check.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Waiter will you bring me the check please.

At that moment walks up from behind with a bundle of roses.

LAY

These are for you Miss Lady.

MELANIE

You're really trying to get back in aren't you? I hope you don't think you're getting none.

LAY

Melanie that's the last thing on my mind, I asked you out to dinner tonight because I know I made a mistake. I love you Mel and I wanted to ask you if we could pick up from where we left off?

MELANIE

Who do you think you are that you can just walk in and out of a woman's life when you feel like it?

LAY

Mel I was stupid for leaving you and I want you in my life.

Melanie spots the waiter and calls him to the table.

MELANIE

Never mind bringing the check,
could you please bring me another
glass of wine. As a matter of fact
just bring the whole damn bottle
please. (pause) Now let me try to
understand this. You want me to
just roll over for you like I'm
some kind of fucking dog?

LAY

No Mel I'm not saying that at all.

The waiter returns with the bottle of wine.

MELANIE

Thank you... So what exactly are you
saying Lay? Do you have any idea of
what you've put me through since
we've met?

**Melanie starts to cry and Lay attempts to console her by
putting his hand on her shoulder.**

MELANIE (cont'd)

Don't you touch me.

LAY

Come here Mel. Please don't cry
baby.

**Melanie pours herself another glass of wine and takes a
really big gulp.**

MELANIE

I can't do this Lay. I have to go.
I thought that I would be strong
enough to talk to you but I just
can't.

LAY

Okay then we won't. We will talk
about it some other time.

MELANIE

Waiter please bring me the check.

LAY

I got that.

**Melanie gets up to leave and she almost falls. Lay catches
her.**

LAY (cont'd)

Melanie are you sure you're in any conditions to be driving?

MELANIE

Melanie I'm a big girl, I can handle me.

Lay picks up her keys from the table.

LAY

Mel I can't let you leave out of here like this. I'll take you home.

MELANIE

You would just love that wouldn't you?

LAY

Come on Mel.

Lay escorts Melanie outside to his car.

EXT.- PARKING LOT-NIGHT

MELANIE

I don't need for you to take me home. I drove my own car here.

LAY

Come on Mel get in. We can come back and get your car in the morning.

MELANIE

What the hell is this we shit? You aint back in.

LAY

Fine we'll drive your car. Quit being so damn stubborn will you.

Lay finally gets Melanie into the car and drives her home. On the way she falls asleep. When they arrive at Melanie's apartment he carries her into the house and lays her in her bed. After lying there for a while Melanie wakes up from a bad dream.

MELANIE

Lay... Lay!!!

LAY

I'm right here baby, what' wrong?

MELANIE
Just hold me please.

Lay holds Melanie in his arms and they end up making love.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- MELANIE'S KITCHEN-DAYTIME

Lay is in the kitchen preparing breakfast. He takes Melanie a plate and wakes her up.

MELANIE
Oh baby thank you.

LAY
What would you like to drink milk
or orange juice?

MELANIE
I'll take a glass of O.J. please.

LAY
Coming right up.

Lay leaves to get the orange juice when Melanie's phone starts to ring and she answers it.

MELANIE
Hello

JACKIE
Hey baby girl, what are you doing?

MELANIE
I'm sitting here in bed having
breakfast.

JACKIE
You're in bed eating breakfast?

MELANIE
Yep.

JACKIE
What a way to spoil yourself.

MELANIE
Who said I made it myself?

JACKIE
Oh... well excuse me. Who's there
with you?

MELANIE

Mom you wouldn't believe me if I told you.

JACKIE

Tell Lay I said hello, and it's about time.

MELANIE

How did you know?

JACKIE

Did you think yall met in the supermarket by coincidence?

Lay enters the room, puts Melanie's glass on the night stand and lays on the bed on his elbows with his hands under his chin.

MELANIE

(laughing and looking into Lay's eyes)

You are so whack for that one.

MELANIE (cont'd)

I've gotta go mom I'm eating I'll call you later.

JACKIE

Okay bye.

Melanie closes her phone and starts eating her food.

MELANIE

You and my mom working together huh?

LAY

Aren't you glad that we're working together?

MELANIE

I most certainly am. Come here and give me a kiss you sly little fox you.

Melanie puts her food to the side and they begin kissing

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- JEWELRY STORE-DAY

Melanie is just walking inside of the jewelry store.

OSCAR

Hello Miss Melanie. You coming to pick up your ring?

MELANIE

Not really I was in the area and thought I would stop in to see if it was ready.

OSCAR

Yes ma'am it's ready. You sure that size nine is going to work?

MELANIE

Yeah I'm sure.

Oscar goes to the back, returns with the ring and hands it to Melanie.

OSCAR

Melanie I have to say this ring is gorgeous and although it's very rare for a woman to propose to a man, I think it's romantic.

MELANIE

Thanks Oscar. I guess you can go ahead and wrap that up for me.

Oscar wraps up the ring, Melanie pays for it and heads home.

EXT.- MELANIE'S APARTMENT-DAY

Melanie is pulling up to her house when she spots Lay's car. She gets out of the car and goes inside to find Lay on the couch watching TV.

MELANIE

Hey baby.

LAY

Hey Miss Lady.

MELANIE

Lay I want to cook a special dinner for us tonight.

LAY

I already made dinner baby. I was just waiting for you to get here.

MELANIE

Oh okay. Well let's sit down and eat, I'm starving.

They go into the kitchen, make their plates, come back into the dining room, sit down and eat. When they're done Melanie goes into the living room to get the ring.

MELANIE (cont'd)

I'll be right back. You stay right here.

When she returns she has her hands behind her back.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Lay we've had our ups and downs and I remember before my grandmother died she told me that I hadn't seen the last of you. I've forgiven you and I'm ready to move on to the next step.

She takes the ring from behind her back, gets on one knee and pops the question.

MELANIE (cont'd)

Lay Bryant will you marry me?

Lay sits there for a moment speechless and finally answers.

LAY

Yes baby I will marry you.

Melanie puts the ring on his finger, they both stand up and embrace in a kiss.

LAY (cont'd)

Melanie I also have something to tell you.

MELANIE

What is it?

LAY

While we were separated I knew I would find you again so I had my vasectomy reversed.

MELANIE

Lay are you serious?

LAY
As serious as cancer.
Melanie
I love you Lay

LAY (cont'd)
I love you too baby.

They embrace in another kiss.

FADE TO BLACK

INT.- CHURCH-DAY

Jackie and Lillian are helping Melanie with her dress.

MELANIE
You were right mother-in-law this
dress is perfect. Mom will you fix
my veil please?

**Once they get Melanie ready she walks out into the hallway
and Demetrius is standing in there.**

MELANIE (cont'd)
Daddy I didn't think you were
coming.

DEMETRIUS
I only have one daughter and I love
you too much to miss your day. Boop
are you absolutely sure you want to
do this?

MELANIE
Yes daddy I love Lay and he loves
me.

DEMETRIUS
Well if as long as you're happy
that's all that matters.

**Demetrius and Melanie walk out into the church and he walks
her down the aisle.**

CUT TO:

The alter

PASTOR

Dearly beloved we are gathered here today to unite this happy couple Ms. Melanie Woodard and Mr. Lay Bryant.

CUT TO:

Jackie

JACKIE

I told myself I wasn't going to cry.

CUT TO:

PASTOR

The alter If anyone can show cause as to why this man and woman should not be married speak now or forever hold your peace.

The doors to the church open suddenly and Marcus barges in pointing a gun at Melanie.

MELANIE

Marcus please, don't hurt anybody!

MARCUS

If anybody moves I'll shoot her! If I can't have you nobody will. Bitch you dying today!!!

Lay pushes Melanie out of the way and at that very second Marcus fires a shot that catches Lay in the chest and he falls to the ground.

MELANIE

Oh my GOD, somebody call an ambulance.

Marcus turns and runs out of the church. Jackie and Lillian rush over to assist Lay.

THREE YEARS LATER

EXT.- MELANIE AND LAY'S NEW HOUSE-DAY

Melanie and Lay are sitting in lounge chairs in their backyard holding hands while three little girls are playing in a swimming pool.

MELANIE (V.O.)

By the grace of GOD Lay was able to make a full recovery. Marcus was caught and ended up getting fifteen to life for attempted murder in the second degree. After all I had been through I learned one very important thing, and that is never to give up on GOD, because he will never give up on you.

One of the little girls gets out of the pool and walks over to Melanie and Lay.

KASHYA

Mommy I gotta go potty.

MELANIE

It's your turn baby.

Lay gets up, kisses Melanie, and takes Kashya inside.

FADE TO BLACK