

LEAP
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EXT. LITTLE MIAMI RIVER - YELLOW SPRINGS - EVENING - 1990

CHILDREN giggle as they chase fireflies in the dusk.

NADONIS (O.S.)

I want to swim.

NADONIS (7), in a one-piece, is on a log over the river.

ATHENA (V.O.)

You can't swim! You need lessons!

ATHENA (4), in her pajamas, PUSHES a tire swing past her.

MYRRHA (V.O.)

Haddox's aren't afraid to take a leap!

Obscured by shadows in the water their mother MYRRHA waves.

NADONIS (NERVOUSLY)

I don't know mommy. I can't see the bottom like a pool. Rat-Girl say you can't even see a darkie in there!

ATHENA (FEISTY)

Beat that rat-girl up sis! Jump!

Nadonis ducks the returning tire. Mother's hand reaches.

MYRRHA (WHISPER)

Don't EVER let mean words control you!
You are BEAUTIFUL! Jump, I got you.

Baby HORUS cries in a playpen in diapers next to grandmother HALLIE HADDOX who faces away from them, her long stark gray dreadlocks drape her rocking chair as she needlepoint's.

GRANDMA HADDOX (O.S.)

Often, a leap of faith is what is needed to master your deepest fears.
Let the water flow around you, nurture you. That's when life shines in.

Nadonis closes her eyes and lets nature's sound and feeling guide her, biting her lip, she moves her foot off of the log.

EXT. HUFFMAN DAM - DAYTON, OH - SUNRISE - ACT I 02.29.2020

NADONIS (O.S.)

Oh, I'm so beating you, slowpoke!

Four bicycle wheels, close to each other, jockey for position. Two exhausted BICYCLISTS come towards the dam.

MITCHELL (V.O.)

Oh, so you a CHEAT!

NADONIS SEBASTIAN, 38, African-American, in a warm YELLOW jacket, tight leggings, sneakers, earmuffs, arrives first.

NADONIS

Really? A CHEAT! Nadonis Sebastian is so not a cheat!

MITCHELL GARDNER (35) is tall, dark features, in shape, fakes tiredness as he flanks her. Wraps his arms around her.

MITCHELL (DISPUTING)

Oh, really?

NADONIS

Wait, let me refrain. I've NEVER CHEATED in a competition! I am a respectful competitor!

MITCHELL

And a very sexy one.

NADONIS

Ah, thank you.

MITCHELL

Nevertheless, still a cheat in a competition!

NADONIS

BOY!

They roughhouse before embracing. SPEED WALKERS walk past.

SPEED WALKER 1 (GIGGLING)

Oh, isn't that adorable?

SPEED WALKER 2

They need a got damn room!

SPEED WALKER 1

HENRY! We were once like that!

SPEED WALKER 2

Oh, I had a full set of choppers and hair then! Young and dumb don't count!

They laugh at the elder couple and watch the sunrise.

NADONIS

Oh, it's so beautiful. Ohio has the most beautiful sunrises. I can't believe you talked me into joining you on a crisp winter morning bike ride!

MITCHELL

And on a beautiful leap day no doubt!

NADONIS

Welcome to the Midwest. Don't like the weather now? Then wait another hour!

MITCHELL

That's gotta be at flood level.

NADONIS

Definitely! Use to come here as kids. Hike, fish, my parents loved outdoors.

MITCHELL

Is there a gate or blades down there? The dams out west are mainly hydroelectric.

NADONIS

Not that type of dam. From what I remember the dams in this area simply control the amount of water that goes downstream. Dayton was practically wiped out years ago by flooding.

MITCHELL

Well damn, well then good for dams.

NADONIS

Oh, shut up. So Mr. Triathlon man you wouldn't canoe the river right now?

MITCHELL

Right now? Oh hell no. The Mad River is absolutely MAD right about now!

NADONIS

Corny! But complements a mad week.

A car rides by slowly past other PEDESTRIANS. A pickup truck waits on the other side of the bridge, idling.

MITCHELL

I know right. My department was crazy swamped this week. I still have a stack of paperwork to go through.

NADONIS

I feel you. After our department got over that Wisconsin fiasco and then I was promoted, it's been nothing but a whirlwind since - I don't even know what day it is most of the time!

MITCHELL

Oh yes, assistant prosecutor, next up you'll be the elected prosecutor!!!

NADONIS

Ugh, maybe. CHRISTIAN has it on lock. Hamilton County loves him. Doesn't matter who's opposing, if I ran I would look like a turn-tail insider. The public would hate me.

MITCHELL

That's why you get him to endorse you. Age should be catching up with him, isn't it time for him to retire?

Nadonis shakes her head no.

NADONIS

It doesn't matter. He maintains his support and excellent ratings he can keep the prosecutor position until he croaks. Plus, I have a mark on my record with the Dayton scandal.

MITCHELL

That was your husband CECIL wrapped up with those corrupt councilmen, his dirt, not NADONIS Sebastian.

The truck is slowly driving close.

NADONIS

Yet, I am his wife. His scandal is my scandal.

MITCHELL

That won't be for long. I have a say in it, you're going to be Mrs.

Mitchell Gardner.

NADONIS
OH, Mitchell...

They embrace each other tightly, caressing each other. Suddenly the pickup truck GUNS THE ENGINE and comes towards them. Shocked, instinctively, Mitchell holds his hand up.

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)
LOOK OUT!!!

Nadonis can barely look before the large pickup SMASHES into her Huffy bicycle PROPELLING her and the bike into the air.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
Aaaaahhhh!!

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)
NADONIS!!!!

Nadonis sails over the guardrail as the truck tires SQUEALS past. Mitchell quickly grabs the back of her jacket as she swings in mid-air. She hits the side of the guardrail and looks down in shock at the raging water below.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
OH MY GOD!!!!

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)
Hold on Nadonis!

Mitchell struggles pulling her up by her arm. Nadonis sees her bicycle hit the sides of the dam before it is swept away.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
OH MY GOD!!! Pull me up! Pull me up!

She freaks out, kicking her legs, making it more difficult.

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)
Nadonis! Look up, look at me! Nadonis!

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
No not like THIS! I don't want to die!

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)
Nadonis! Look at me!

She finally looks up as he struggles with her arm.

MITCHELL

I meant what I said! Relax! I gotcha,
hang on to me, look at me!

They look into each others eyes as he gets close to her
shoulders, her jacket starts to rip. She panics.

MITCHELL

Nadonis! Focus! Reach with your hand!

She looks at him, swings her other hand over.

MITCHELL

Good, focus on me! I love you!

NADONIS

...I love you.

The truck revvs up as they can barely see the DRIVER glaring.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)

Pull me up! PULL ME UP!

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)

I got you Nadonis! I GOT YOU!

Reverse lights come on as gearshifts CRANK and tires spin.

Mitchell dangles over the rail struggling with her when the
truck lurches backwards towards them.

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)

NO! NO! NO!

Gut reflexes Mitchell puts his leg out to stop it. She gasps
as his eyes glaze over with the CRUSH of his body.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)

NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

The truck lurches forward as Mitchell's lifeless body
dismembers, falls, his hand lets go. She falls.

The howling wind and cold air whisk around as the sky rushes
away from her. She drops sixty-five feet into ice-cold water
enveloping her. The rush of the water propels her quickly as
she gasps for air seeing the concrete dam approaching.

Nadonis fights the current when Mitchell's lifeless body
slaps against the concrete walls and flops in front of her.
Her scream inhales water as his body protects her from

hitting the top of the opening. She goes under the dam.

Engulfed in water she is transported quickly underneath bouncing around with large debris. Her yellow jacket shreds off as she blacks out before exiting the other side.

INT. NADONIS'S LINCOLN SUV - NIGHT - FEB. 29TH 2024

A large semi-truck rushes past, horn blaring, rattling her rain pelted SUV. Nadonis suddenly wakes up, disoriented. She wipes the drool off of her face to see she is parked south on the side of a busy northbound highway.

NADONIS (CONFUSED)

What the hell?

She checks her body, she is okay, she has on thick PAISLEY PAJAMAS with a blue coat.

NADONIS

What is happening?! Where?

She panics as another semi-truck blares a horn. Ill, her body regurgitating food, she opens the door to puke. She looks out shocked over a rainy dark valley from a high bridge.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)

Noooo! NOOOOO!!

Slamming the door, she fumbles to start the SUV, it stalls before finally turning over. Scared, screaming, she lurches into oncoming traffic driving madly as cars swerve around.

She runs into a semi-truck head-on crushing her vehicle.

INT. NADONIS'S LINCOLN SUV - NIGHT (2) - FEB 29TH 2024

A large semi-truck rushes past, horn blaring, rattling her rain pelted SUV. She wakes up, disoriented, wipes drool off of her face to see she is again on the highway.

NADONIS (CONFUSED)

What the HELL?

She checks her body, she is okay.

NADONIS

I don't understand?!

She panics as another semi-truck blares a horn. She feels ill, she starts for the door but recalls what just happened.

She opens the window and pukes looking over the valley.

NADONIS

What is HAPPENING?! I was just...?

She flops back into the car, clutches the steering wheel.

NADONIS

Get a grip Nadonis, get a grip.

She sees her purse, she frantically digs for her cell phone. She attempts to turn it on, it has no power.

NADONIS

Seriously?

She finds her charger and plugs it in. She breathes uneasily, notices her dashboard, wipes her finger through a thick level of dust. A dust web is in the corner. Her phone comes on.

NADONIS

Thank God. Please answer.

She attempts to call Mitchell, her phone has no service.

NADONIS (DISBELIEF)

Damn it! Can't be serious!

Checking for service, there is no active account. She dials.

911

911 what's your emergency?

NADONIS

Yes, please, I'm trapped on the side of a highway, some bridge, I don't know where I am.

911

Keep calm ma'am. What is your name?

NADONIS

Nadonis, Nadonis Sebastian.

911

Okay, what type of vehicle are you in?

NADONIS

Uh, it's a Lincoln, Lincoln Aviator.

911
Taillight out?

NADONIS
Uh, I didn't know about the taillight.

Nadonis looks towards the back of the vehicle.

911
We had calls about a Lincoln pointing
the wrong direction on the Jeremiah
Morrow bridge. That must be you.

NADONIS
Yes, oh my God, that huge one on I-71?

911
Yes, that's the one. Glorious two-
hundred and thirty feet up over the
little Miami. So, Miss Sebastian, were
you drinking or suicidal?

NADONIS
No, no, well, I don't know. I don't
know how I got here.

A vehicle pulls over in front of her, lights in her face.

911
An Ohio State Trooper should be on the
scene now, please stay calm and you
can stay on the phone with me. I've
alerted him we have contact.

NADONIS
Oh okay, thank you. He's arrived.

An uniformed TROOPER exits and stands before police lights.
He slowly approaches as she squints and cracks the window.

NADONIS
Hello! I really need your help.

911
You're in good hands. Good night.

TROOPER
Ma'am I need you to step out of the
vehicle. Have you been drinking? Have
you taken narcotics?

NADONIS

No, no, not at all. I don't know how I got here. Please, help me.

The Trooper holds back as another TROOPER (2) arrives.

TROOPER

Ma'am, I said step out of the vehicle. Do you know where you are? Step out slowly and come towards me.

Trooper 2 sets up flares.

NADONIS

Yes, yes, I'm coming. Sorry, I'm just so confused. I don't even know how I got here. I remember on a dam with... oh my God. Mitchell. Oh, Mitchell.

Nadonis navigates between the railing and her vehicle.

TROOPER

Ma'am. Slow, step away from the rail.

She stumbles on the wet pavement. He grabs her and tosses her in front of the vehicle.

TROOPER

We have a jumper. Bring the bus.

Trooper 2 calls dispatch as the Trooper pats her down.

NADONIS

Wait! What are you doing?

TROOPER

Ma'am, were you intending to do bodily harm to yourself, to anyone else? What do you have on you? What are you on?

She feels him fondle her thighs, his back to the dashcam.

NADONIS

What?! Trooper! What is your name and badge number! Do you realize I am Hamilton County Assistant D.A!?

He pushes her towards the car. Trooper 2 looks away.

TROOPER

Oh, I've heard it all today. This

vehicle has expired plates, where did you get this from? Were you wanting to ram another vehicle?

She attempts to see his badge before he jams her face down.

NADONIS
You can't do this to me!

TROOPER (WHISPERING)
News flash that was some black slut like you that got what she deserved. Take you in just for telling stories.

NADONIS
That is me! I called 911 for help! I will have your badge and pension!

An ambulance and TROOPER 3 arrive.

TROOPER (GROWLING)
Threatening me?

He violently pushes her against the car as she squirms.

NADONIS
Nooo!! NOOO! You're hurting me!

In the struggle her hand brushes his taser.

TROOPER
Black lives DON'T MATTER!

Kicking her, he shoots her several times as she slaps down, blood pouring, her eyes open. The PARAMEDICS rush forward.

INT. NADONIS'S LINCOLN SUV - NIGHT (3) - FEB 29TH 2024

GRANDMA HADDOX (V.O.)
Nadonis be strong, you are a majestic lioness, they must pay attention.

A large semi-truck rushes past, horn blaring, rattling her rain pelted SUV. She wakes up, disoriented, wipes drool off of her face to see she is again on the highway.

NADONIS (DISORIENTED)
Grandma?

She panics as another semi-truck blares a horn. She feels ill, she starts for the door but recalls what just happened.

She opens the window and pukes looking over the valley.

NADONIS

I'm in some type of horrible DREAM!

She finds her purse and pulls out her phone, it has no power. She plugs it in. She exhales, looks at the dust and cobweb.

NADONIS

Okay, Nadonis, think, think. Get a hold of yourself.

She inhales, starts the vehicle slowly, it comes on.

NADONIS

Take your time, do it right. I got it.

She backs up slowly in the median until she has cleared the bridge. She heads towards a turnaround in the rainy mist.

She waits for a break in traffic and drives across the busy highway. Going southbound she sees the Trooper heading North.

NADONIS

Damn him.

On I-71 to Cincinnati, she turns on jazzy hip-hop. She smiles seeing Kings Island amusement rides towering over the roadway. She looks at new buildings curiously.

NADONIS

I don't remember some of these.

Taking the Kentucky loop to merge with I-75 North. She is relieved seeing large hills open up the bright city skyline.

NADONIS

Good to be home.

She drives over the Ohio River on the Brent Spence Bridge.

EXT. CINCINNATI - WALNUT HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Arriving at three A.M. at her home she spies an unknown car.

NADONIS

Whose car is that?

She attempts the garage door opener, it does not respond. Parking she approaches the home with her keys that don't work. She eyes the door chime. Remembers the hidden spare.

INT. CINCINNATI - FAMILY HOME - NIGHT

Softly opening it, looks around half expecting welcome party. She does not realize how long she has been gone.

NADONIS (CONFUSED)

Hello? I'm home... I survived...

She walks through the house and hits her shin on furniture.

NADONIS

Ouch, damn! That's not my couch? Ugh!

She makes her way to the kitchen, opens the refrigerator.

NADONIS

So hungry! What is this stuff? Where's his ratchet ass beer? Pinot? Oh, Lord.

She eats and drinks like she hasn't eaten in forever. She belches and looks to the stairs. UPSTAIRS she looks longingly at her sleeping boys' SIEGEL (15) and LANSING (9).

NADONIS (DISBELIEF)

Facial hair? You've grown...?

He stirs, she leaves him be. Lansing eyes open, puzzled.

LANSING

Mother...?

NADONIS

Shhh, go back to sleep.

She blows him a kiss as he nervously shuts his eyes. She slips over to her daughter, NAVIANY (4) room.

NADONIS

Wait? You're not a baby. Oh my GOD!

She talks too loud, Naviany stirs and awakens, sees her.

NADONIS

Oh, I'm sorry baby.

She starts to tremble, cry.

NADONIS (PANICKING)

No, sweetie, no!

NAVIANY

I want my daddy! Daddy!

NADONIS

It's okay, go back to sleep! You're having a bad dream!

She pushes the blanket up and quickly leaves. Standing in the hallway clutching her chest she hears moaning.

NADONIS

Oh hell no.

She peers in the master bedroom witnessing her husband CECIL SEBASTIAN deep in sex with a woman named JOCELYN, both nude.

NADONIS (CONFRONTATIONAL)

What the HELL IS GOING ON?

Cecil and Jocelyn look in dismay.

JOCELYN & NADONIS

Who the hell is *this bitch*?

Jocelyn jumps out of bed as Cecil is stuck stupefied.

JOCELYN & NADONIS

I'm his *motherfucking wife*!

JOCELYN (YELLING)

Stop mimicking me bitch! You're not supposed to be here!

NADONIS (YELLING)

I'm gone for the day and you've done got A HO and changed my house up! Replaced your fatty beer with damn cheap wine? What the fuck is wrong with you motherfucker! Rock bottom *wasn't enough*?

JOCELYN (YELLING)

Day? A Ho?! Slut! Who's the hell are you? You can't be talking to my husband like that! That shit *was years ago*! Bitch ass man, what YOU GONNA DO?

NADONIS (DISBELIEF)

HUSBAND?! What is going on Cecil?!

JOCELYN

CECIL!

CECIL (DISORIENTED)

...Nadonis? Is that you?

NADONIS (CONFUSED)

Who the fuck do you think it is? Damn it Cecil! Why are you doing this?!

CECIL

But, you're dead.

Nadonis looks at him in shock as Jocelyn goes to the closet.

JOCELYN

Oh, this crazy-ass pajama ho is about to really be dead.

Cecil fumbles for his glasses to get a better look at the dumbfounded Nadonis. Jocelyn is behind her with a metal bat.

JOCELYN

Cheating ass bitch. FUCK YOU!

The thunk of the bat sends her forward onto the bed. She stares at Cecil as blood oozes down her face blurring him.

INT. NADONIS'S LINCOLN SUV - NIGHT (4) - FEBRUARY 29TH, 2024

GRANDMA HADDOX (O.S.)

Nadonis you got this. You must distill your black woman's magic. Conjure the souls of Nefertiti, Amina, Isis,

A large semi-truck rushes past, horn blaring, rattling her rain pelted SUV. She wakes up, disoriented, wipes drool off of her face to see she is again on the highway.

NADONIS (UPSET)

Again? Really? Okay, Grandma this is insanity.

Another semi-truck blares its horn. She feels ill, she shakes it off drinking a bottle of water. She plugs in her phone and backs the SUV up slowly.

EXT. CINCINNATI - WALNUT HILLS - HOME - NIGHT

Nadonis looks at her home longingly. The time reads three A.M. 02/29/2024. She shakes her head in disbelief.

NADONIS

Has to be wrong.

Exiting, she walks past the car running her keys across it. She approaches the door and finds the spare key.

INT. CINCINNATI - WALNUT HILLS - HOME - NIGHT

Nadonis creep quietly through the home remembering where the furniture has been moved. She grabs food, stuffs it into her pockets. She opens a drawer and pulls out a flashlight.

Upstairs she can't help but peek into the children's rooms.

NADONIS

I lost time, I don't understand. Help me get through this.

She takes a deep breath as she has difficulty walking past the sounds of Cecil and Jocelyn having sex.

JOCELYN (MOANING)

Oh, that's good daddy!

CECIL (GRUNTING)

No one has ever done it to me like you

Nadonis frowns, then sticks out her tongue gag reflex.

NADONIS

Fucker said that to me ugh!

She rummages through a den pocketing small trinkets.

NADONIS

Mine, mine, mine!

Not finding what she's looking for she sees the bookshelf.

Up the ladder on the top shelf, she finds a hidden large vintage Holy Bible. She comes down and opens it. There is a opening holding a wooden box full of important papers.

NADONIS

Glad you're too stupid to find this! I should have never messed with you! Bitch ass man. Should tell the Feds about your hidden offshore accounts, huh, daddy! Fat mother...

Something catches her eye, Naviany is standing at the door.

NADONIS

Oh crap, baby, it's okay, it's okay...

NAVIANY

Daddy! There's stranger danger! Daddy!

NADONIS

Damn it!

Dashing outside the balcony doors, she looks down.

JOCELYN

Who? Cecil! Cecil! Call the police! I got your gun! Baby, step back!

Nadonis leaps off the second-floor porch balcony and rolls down a small incline. The NEIGHBOR witnesses the leap from his bedroom. Jocelyn is on the balcony looking around.

EXT. CINCINNATI - WALNUT HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Nadonis looks up in pain and hides as Jocelyn turns inside. She limps to her SUV as a door to the neighbor's house opens.

NEIGHBOR

There she is MATILDA, fetch!

NADONIS

What...?

Nadonis looks as a huge Rottweiler is unleashed. She tries to speed up. Jocelyn yells on the phone as sirens approach.

NADONIS

Shit! Shit! Shit!

She hears the fast pitter-patter of the running dog's claws. She is almost in her SUV when it easily catches her, knocking her down, the bible contents strewn everywhere.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)

Nooooooo!

The dog thrashes her with its teeth as Nadonis screams. Her blood coating the wet pavement. Struggling, the last thing she sees is the city skyline go upside down before fading.

INT. NADONIS'S LINCOLN SUV - NIGHT (5) - FEB 29TH, 2024

GRANDMA HADDOX

Nadonis, don't give in to temporary

setbacks, accomplishments are forever,
find the perseverance in your blood.

A large semi-truck rushes past, horn blaring, rattling her rain pelted SUV. She wakes up, disoriented, wipes drool off of her face to see she is again on the highway.

NADONIS (SIGHS)
I'm going crazy! Insane.

Another semi-truck blares its horn. She feels ill, her body regurgitating food. She shakes it off drinking a bottle of water. She plugs in her phone and backs the SUV up slowly.

EXT. CINCINNATI - WALNUT HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Nadonis pulls up flustered at her home at three A.M. At the neighbors, the dog licks his mouth watching in a dark window.

NADONIS
Fuck that dog.

She pulls off. She drives around the city.

NADONIS
Wi-fi... payphone... Where can I find
that in the middle of the damn night?

She has an epiphany and drives to an all-night diner.

INT. CINCINNATI - ALL NIGHT DINER - NIGHT

The diner has scattered late-night PATRONS. She finds money in her purse and approaches the counter.

NADONIS
Coffee and grits, toast, please.

The WAITRESS nods and walks off. Nadonis roots through her phone contact list as she eyes an old payphone in the corner.

NADONIS
Ma'am, does that phone still work?

WAITRESS
Depends on how it's feeling.

At the phone she tries ATHENA. She receives her voice mail.

NADONIS
Athena, hey, I know when we last

talked, we weren't on good terms. Uh, I don't know what's going on. I've had the most horrible day you wouldn't even imagine. I still don't understand what's happening. I could use a shoulder to lean on.

She taps the receiver several times to make another call. She attempts Mitchell, it's disconnected.

NADONIS

What, sheesh.

She roots through her contacts. Calls her brother HORUS.

HORUS

The F? Do you know what time it is?

NADONIS

Horus! I'm so sorry for calling late but I'm glad you answered I really need some help, see...

HORUS

Yo, stop playing. Who is this?

NADONIS

Horus, it's me Nadonis, your big sister, duh. I need your help...

HORUS

Yo! Whoever this is, this shit isn't funny! Fuck off!

The phone line goes dead. She huffs and searches again, the waitress eyes her suspiciously as she puts the bill down.

NADONIS

Thanks, I got it.

Most numbers on her contacts are disconnected or voice mail. Nadonis pays for the food as she attempts to call LISA.

MAN

What the hell? This better be good this time of night!

She hangs up, flustered. Her notices her boss CHRISTIAN PHILLIPS business card is in the flap of her phone case. She calls and he actually picks up.

CHRISTIAN

Hello?

She sees a number of Sam I Am towing scribbled on the card.

NADONIS

Sam?

She remembers the name Sam I Am towing on the pickup truck.

CHRISTIAN

Hello? ...Nadonis?

Bad idea. She hangs up and sees the WI-FI password. She signs in and tries social media and email but gets frustrated with disabled accounts. Stumbling on the prosecutor's website she gasps seeing she has been replaced by Cecil Sebastian.

NADONIS

I'm in the damn twilight zone! Oh my God. I need help. I need some damn help. I'm going plum ape shit!

A grizzled FISHERMAN growls.

FISHERMAN

Temptriss of Medusa, sacrilegious!

Nadonis looks at him cross-eyed as he goes outside.

WAITRESS

Ma'am, do you need me to call anybody?

She looks around, the STAFF and PATRONS are all looking at her funny. Outside, several vagrants are around her vehicle. She brushes off the onlookers and rushes outside.

NADONIS

Rich kid, asshole, paint me as a villain.

EXT. CINCINNATI - DINER - NIGHT

A VAGRANT in dirty clothes and holey shoes is running his sharp fingernail across her fender.

NADONIS

Hey, get your hooks off of my vehicle or I'm calling the police!

She holds her phone up as the man eyes her and snickers.

VAGRANT
You ain't doing shit lady.

Another VAGRANT II is behind her vehicle peeing on it.

NADONIS
Leave now, I'm calling...

FISHERMAN
No, you're not Recy!

He hits the back of her skull, knocking her down. She writhes on the ground in pain holding her head. He referred to her as an historical figure. She attempts to rise.

VAGRANT
I told you you weren't doing shit!

She grips Mace in her purse as VAGRANT II cackles.

FISHERMAN
Siren of Assyria!

He grabs her shins as she flips around and sprays the Mace.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
Get off me!!!

FISHERMAN
Ahhh my retinas Shahmaran!

Vagrant I kicks the mace and punches her as she fights back. A patron starts to come out of the diner.

VAGRANT II
I would step back in grasshopper.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
Aaaaaah!

She goes numb as they yank her between them surrounding her. She stares into the falling rain as everything goes black.

INT. NADONIS'S LINCOLN SUV - NIGHT (6) - FEB 29TH, 2024

GRANDMA HADDOX (O.S.)
Often, a leap of faith is what is
needed to master your deepest fears.

A large semi-truck rushes past, horn blaring, rattling her rain pelted SUV. She wakes up, disoriented, wipes drool off

of her face to see she is again on the highway.

NADONIS
No, No, NO, NO!

The second semi blares its horn in the rain.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
SCREW YOU! You know what! Y'all gon
make me lose my mind!

She leaps out, stomping and sliding in the rain and mud. She yells in front of her SUV as vehicles go by BLARING HORNS.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
Kiss my ass! Fuck you! Suck a dick!

Enraged she walks out onto the highway flicking off cars.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
This is bullshit!! Bullshit! BULLSHIT!

One car brakes hard as another goes left of center into the guardrail, a third plows into the first. The Trooper arrives.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
I'm not going to take it! FUCK IT!

She goes to the rail, looks out over the valley.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
Is this what you want?! Is this what
you really want? Show me a GOT damn
sign this is it!

A bright lightning bolt cracks down as she jumps onto the rail and clutches the fence. The cop rushes her.

TROOPER
Ma'am! Ma'am!

NADONIS
Back off pervert! You're the fucking
problem! Reform the Got damn police!

TROOPER
What? Ma'am! Let me help you!

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
This is what the Got Damn Universe
wants! The universe wants me to LEAP!

Leap, I SHALL!

Emergency vehicles arrive as the Trooper attempts to grab her as she climbs up and leaps off of the Jeremiah Bridge.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
Fuck everything!!!

The Trooper makes it to the ledge watching her fall.

Nadonis screams not in fear but anger as she sails two hundred and thirty-nine feet to the river below.

Nadonis watches the damp sky disappear as the horizon engulfs her, a thin line of sun runs across. She closes her eyes. The howling wind sweeps around her as she plummets to her demise.

EXT. LITTLE MIAMI RIVER - YELLOW SPRINGS - EVENING - 1990

MYRRHA (WHISPER) (O.S.)
Don't ever let mean words control you,
EVER! Leap, I got you, sweetie.

GRANDMA HADDOX (O.S.)
Let the water flow around you, nurture
you. That's when the light shines in.

She closes her eyes and let's nature's sound and feelings guide her, biting her lip, she moves her foot off of the log.

INT. NADONIS'S LINCOLN SUV - NIGHT (7) - FEB 29TH, 2024

A large semi-truck rushes past, horn blaring, rattling her rain pelted SUV. She wakes up, disoriented, wipes drool off of her face to see she is again on the highway.

NADONIS (WEEPING)
Okay, okay, I'm listening...

She curls into a ball at the second horn, plugs her phone in and watches the time. She is unresponsive as the trooper arrives and taps the window, shines his light inside.

TROOPER
Ma'am open the door, I'm here to help.
Are you suicidal, are you here to hurt
yourself or anyone around you?

She looks up at him in disdain before looking away.

TROOPER

Ma'am...ma'am...

He raises his baton to bust her window. She glares at him as their eyes lock before he lowers it. The ambulance arrives and she opens the locks for the paramedics.

PARAMEDIC

Sir? Excuse us.

The Trooper bites his lip and steps aside. She relaxes as they carry her away. He peers into her vehicle.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - MORNING - ACT II

Nadonis opens her eyes, everything is blurry, the room is stark white, she breathes a sigh of relief. A NURSE enters.

NURSE

Good morning! You're awake! Welcome back. I'm the Nurse on duty JUDY. I just need to take your vitals sweetie.

The nurse checks her pulse and IV's. Nadonis looks around.

NADONIS

How long was I out?

JUDY

It's March 5, so five days. Honey, you don't need to talk if it's too difficult. How's your breathing, you were so congested. Do you need any water, something to eat, anything?

NADONIS

Did I jump?

JUDY

Uh, would you be here if you did? That bridge is humongous. We're glad you're here, a representative from psychotics will be by to ask you a few questions. But, first Doctor SINGH will be in to check up on you. Toodles.

The nurse throws the disposables into a hi-tech instant bio disposal before leaving. Nadonis passes out.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

She awakes to see a man with an iPad.

TONY

Oh, good you're awake, I'm Tony with registration. We're having an issue running your insurance card. Do you have current insurance?

She passes out again.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - NIGHT

She awakes to see another attendant.

MOLLY

Oh, hello, I'm the attendee, Molly. Did you want me to remove this? Seems you ordered too much from hospitality.

She looks down to see hospital food she does not remember.

NADONIS

Did I eat?

MOLLY

Looks like you took a few bites. Threw up a little. Hard to tell. Are you still hungry?

Nadonis passes out again.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - MORNING

She awakes to a doctor probing at her with a stethoscope. She squints from his light on his UV wand.

DR. SINGH

Good morning. How are you feeling?

NADONIS

Nauseated, fuzzy, headache, blinded.

DR. SINGH

Oh, sorry. On a scale of one to ten, how's your pain?

He turns off the UV light.

NADONIS

A good eight.

DR. SINGH

Okay, looks like you went through a good amount of trauma. We'll increase your morphine and we're waiting on the test results of your brain injury. We'll get a good idea of what we're dealing with here.

NADONIS

Brain injury?

DR. SINGH

You took a good wallop, with signs of a cerebral hemorrhage, fascinating is we saw traces of cerebrospinal fluid which seem to have all evaporated. Question is, how? And when? We'll figure it out with the lab results...

Nadonis passes out as the doctor studies her.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

She awakes as another Nurse is checking her vitals.

CHIDAI

Oh, hey, I'm Chidai, the evening resident nurse, how are you feeling? Do you need anything?

NADONIS

Ugh, is it still March 5th?

CHIDAI

No honey, it's March 8th.

NADONIS

Shit.

CHIDAI

I'm sorry, we're doing everything we can to help you recover.

NADONIS

Yeah, I fell under a stupid dam!

The nurse looks at her awkwardly writing down information.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Molly removes crumbs from her sheets and takes dirty dishes.

NADONIS

Whoa, did I eat?

MOLLY

Uh, yah, you ordered half the menu and ate like you haven't eaten in years.

Nadonis looks at all of the plates.

NADONIS

Oh my goodness, all of this?

Molly smiles and nods as she finishes setting the room.

NADONIS

Did my husband ever come? My children?

MOLLY

Husband?

Nadonis passes out again.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - MORNING

TONY

Miss Sebastian, your insurance cards are invalid. We called your insurance company and they state were canceled four years ago. If you don't have any coverage or money, for that matter, you need to fill out these papers.

NADONIS

What? Four years?

Nadonis looks at the stack of papers and passes out.

INT: CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Doctor Singh and other DOCTORS surround her with iPads.

DR. SINGH

...and the traumatic experience seems to have transpired by all studies close to four years ago with significant scar tissue to her vertebrae and brain cells. We found

traces of Cerebrospinal fluid with additional evidence of some type of self-propelled bio needle drainage...

DR. NSHUTI

Some type of neuraxial anesthetic to the brain? Unfounded!

DR. SINGH

Exactly!

The doctors look at her in wonderment taking notes. One speech is translated on a mid-air projector. Nadonis sleeps.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - MORNING

Nadonis opens her eyes to find a woman, SHILOH ZARANTOS, leaning against the wall of the room watching her. She has on jeans and a trench holding her posture like a man. Short faded hair, light makeup. She holds a notepad and a phone.

NADONIS

Hello...?

Zarantos speaks with a thick accent as she flashes her badge.

SHILOH

Wow, when my partner told me that up here is actually a VIC who is, wait for it, actually alive! From a case so cold my daddy's testicles have frostbite! I said he was full of shit. The whole unit didn't believe it. He so owed me a bottle of Hurricane. But damn, here you are in the flesh, actually living proof, wow again!

NADONIS

I'm not sure what you're referring to officer. Check with my office, they may be better able to fill you in on my status. I've seemed to have suffered an injury from an accident. What did you say your name was?

SHILOH

Oh, I didn't, but Detective Shiloh Zarantos. So, office? You were saying, and what office would that be?

NADONIS

I work for the prosecutor's office.

SHILOH

The prosecutor's office huh, oh really, so we're in the same union. Interesting. Haven't seen you up there as of late. So, let me get this straight, you were off work, went on an adventure, something happened? Who were you with?

NADONIS

Uh, yes, it was the weekend, I went bike riding...

SHILOH

With...?

NADONIS

Obviously you know who he is. We had a horrible accident. Excuse me, am I being charged with something? I am the victim here, abducted maybe.

SHILOH

Victim huh. Let me digress, exactly, like where and when was this alleged accident? Which 29th when they found you on the bridge? Or the dam? Sometime in between? You have these doctors fascinated with your miraculous progress.

NADONIS

Officer, I assure you, there must be a logical explanation for everything. Last I remember, I, somehow, I fell off a bridge... there was a truck...

Nadonis trails off, the tragedy on the dam upsetting her. Shiloh steps back as a hospitality CLERK brings Nadonis food.

NADONIS

Thank you.

CLERK

You're so welcome.

Nadonis nibbles at her food.

SHILOH

So, a truck you were saying...?

NADONIS

Officer, oh excuse me, detective, may I eat, please?

SHILOH

Oh yeah, sure, eat up, get better. It would be easier to have this conversation down at headquarters.

NADONIS

Seriously? I'll talk to my boss, they'll represent me if I have to. I haven't done anything wrong.

SHILOH

Oh, oh yeah, the prosecutor's office. Right, good luck with that. Tell Christian I said hello. I'll be back.

The detective laughs and leaves. Nadonis grumbles and eats.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Nadonis flips through television channels confused. She eyes her purse and phone and attempts Christian..

CHRISTIAN

Christian Phillips, I am in a meeting right now, please leave a message...

NADONIS

Christian I...

She ends the call, bites her lip. Attempts to call Mitchell. The line is disconnected. Fighting back tears she tries Athena, receives voicemail.

NADONIS

Athena, hey, I know when we last talked, we weren't on good terms. Uh, I don't know what's going on. I've had the most horrible last week or two you wouldn't even imagine. I still don't understand what's happening. I'm at Trihealth Hospital. I could use a shoulder to lean on.

She huffs, attempts Horus.

HORUS
Hello? Who's this?

NADONIS
Horus, hey, it's your big sis Nadonis!
I'm so glad you answered. You wouldn't
believe the last few weeks I've had!
Believe it or not, I miss you!

The phone is silent, she looks if it's still connected.

NADONIS
Horus...?

She hears heaving breathing and a sigh.

HORUS
Look motherfucker I'm not sure who
this is but this shit isn't funny!
Call here again imma take it back to
the streets and handle that!

The call is disconnected as she looks in shock. She takes a
deep breath and calls Cecil.

JOCELYN
Hello? Hello? Who is this?

She hangs up. Shakes her head in bewilderment.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - MORNING

Nadonis is rudely awakened.

TONY (FLUSTERED)
Excuse me, Miss Sebastian? Hello? Good
morning. I'm sorry, the credit cards
you provided have been declined. Your
application with the state has also
been flagged for fraud. It's pending
litigation. How will you be paying for
your hospital stay? Ma'am? Ma'am?

Nadonis closes her eyes.

DR. SINGH
Well, our medical miracle, how are you
feeling? Besides your pesky visitors?

NADONIS
I'm maintaining doc, I do feel better,

but just a little confused about my medical situation.

DR. NSHUTI
A miracle of science indeed.

Dr. Nshuti appears out of the hallway with another group of DOCTORS observing from outside the room.

DR. SINGH
Our apologies for some of our wonderment. To put in layman terminology you really should be as deceased as the rumors claim you are.

NADONIS
I don't understand, like how long was I out? I had the accident on the 29th. Somehow I got to that bridge the same night and then ended up here. I've been with you guys the last almost two weeks. Why does it seem like years?

DR. NSHUTI
Try four. Do you know where you were?

Nadonis looks at him in disbelief.

DR. SINGH
The math adds up Mrs. Sebastian, you've lost years of your life. Amazingly evidence concludes you were in some type of self-induced coma since February 2020.

NADONIS
Wait, what? That can't be. Self-induced? Why would I do that? And then, where was I lying in this coma?

DR. NSHUTI
Was hoping you could enlighten us. Were you abducted by the assailant?

DR. SINGH
We haven't a clue where your body laid all this time. We checked all the tri-state area medical records, from Dayton to Columbus to Northern Kentucky. Absolutely nothing. Last you were here was February 29th, 2020.

NADONIS

What the fu...? The phone...

DR. NSHUTI

You pulled off an amazing disappearance trick. Hence the police frustrations. Bravo. Bravo.

DR. SINGH

Excuse Dr. Nshuti, he's very excited about your situation. You've been the talk around the cooler for the last two weeks. Amazingly you were also well taken care of during that time. The fluids around your brain injury had been drained somehow with non-medically approved methods. We found a cluster of small pinholes around the nape of your neck which possibly could have been acupuncture needles.

NADONIS

Acupuncture?!

DR. SINGH

In theory, we're still studying your ex-rays. You quite have the medical community baffled. The best thing is you're here and healthy and current readings show positive results. You should be ready for dismissal soon.

NADONIS

Okay, my brain really is about to explode with all of this information!

DR. NSHUTI

Your brain has already handled a lot, physically you're fine, let's digress, who would you know that may have some special talents to perform such a delicate task?

NADONIS

I, I have no idea...

DR. SINGH

Mrs. Sebastian, you were essentially off the grid, certified dead for 1462 days. The mystery of your disappearance lies within yourself.

Nadonis is silent as she thinks hard.

DR. SINGH

Think about it, maybe some alternative form of medicine. Whatever it was, it worked. Be sure to get with Dr. Matherson for a psych follow up.

She shakes her head yes as they leave. She spots Tony coming looking disheveled, she rolls over *faking sleep*.

INT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - MORNING

Sunlight awakens her as Molly is cleaning and writing notes.

MOLLY

Good morning sleepy head. Congrats, the doctor has released you pending your paperwork. He just wants you to follow up with Dr. Matherson and seek physical therapy. Are you ready to go home? I'm sure you can't wait.

NADONIS

Home? I'm not sure if I have one.

MOLLY

I am here for assistance, is one of your family members coming?

NADONIS

I wish it could all be so simple.

Tony see's them leaving and tosses his laptop in frustration.

EXT. CINCINNATI - TRIHEALTH HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

Molly escorts Nadonis out of Trihealth. She looks into her purse, looks at her expired credit cards, a few dollars.

NADONIS

I'm screwed.

Shiloh and detective FENDI ALEXANDERS, tall in a pastel pink jacket, approach them.

FENDI

Really screwed now sweetie.

MOLLY

Officers, Mrs. Sebastian has already

answered your questions. You have no jurisdiction here, respect please.

FENDI

Such a cute aide, can we get two coffee's with plenty of cream please?

MOLLY

These two have been asking questions to staff all morning. They don't have a warrant, and you haven't been arrested. Do you want me to ask security to escort them out?

NADONIS

Please.

MOLLY

I hope your family comes. It's been a pleasure serving you.

Nadonis nods yes as Molly smiles and goes to security.

SHILOH

See, I told you. Here in flesh and blood. I have to give her the award for the best disappearing act ever.

FENDI

Back from the dead, what a great trick, I wonder what other tricks she has up her sleeve?

SHILOH

I tend to wonder, speaking of the dead, what was she trying to cover up?

NADONIS

Uh, I don't know what you're fishing for but I'm not hiding anything. I've lost four years of my life and you're wanting to interrogate me about the unknown. I could have been abducted!

SHILOH

Abducted huh. Four years, how convenient. Colluding with them? Why did you reappear? Expecting a payout? Attempting to reclaim your status? Tell me *all about it!*

FENDI

Stockholm syndrome. I'm jelly the whole disappear and reappear leap year to leap year. Nice touch.

NADONIS

Coincidence. I don't know.

SHILOH

So, to be direct. Why did you and your accomplice kill your lover and fake your own death? Money? Power? Money?

NADONIS

I'll be contacting my lawyer thank you. Have a good day.

FENDI

Oh, the D.A.'s office? Believe you're dropped off that mailing list, lost that employee parking space hmm four years ago?

SHILOH

Public defender will love this!

NADONIS

I said have a good day!

Molly walks back as the police are reluctant to leave.

MOLLY

Officers this is private property and you have no warrant. Have a good day officers. I said good day!

SHILOH

Be sure to provide an address! Hate to see you disappear another four years!

FENDI

Maybe the ex-hubby will come. Oh wait, the new Missus would so not be happy!

MOLLY

SECURITY please escort Cincy finest off property. This is harassment!

FENDI

Don't get your panties in a bunch. We'll be in touch!

Security rush over as the detectives make their way looking smug across the parking lot. Nadonis waits for nobody.

EXT. CINCINNATI - U.C. CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

Nadonis acts if she is getting a cab before briskly heading to the University of Cincinnati. She looks nervously over her shoulder for the detectives. She looks at new buildings and students with new technology. She bumps into a STUDENT.

STUDENT

Hey, watch it bum!

NADONIS

I'm so sorry. Bum?

Students rush past on their way to classes wearing the latest masks and gadgets making her feel more out of it. She stops in the quad lost. A SECURITY GUARD approaches her.

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am, are you lost? How may I assist?

NADONIS

Oh, isn't there a credit union near?

SECURITY GUARD

Are you a student here?

NADONIS

I used to be. Could you please point me in the direction of it?

The security guard gives her a look over.

SECURITY GUARD

Panhandling isn't allowed on campus. Get back to wherever you came from.

She looks at him sideways.

NADONIS

Excuse me? Do I look that badly?

SECURITY GUARD

Come on lady, look at you! Whatever you're on it doesn't have anything to do with that credit union. Now, why don't you get off this campus before I contact the police?

She grimaces, looks at his face.

NADONIS

Oh, really you're serious?

SECURITY GUARD

Serious as a heart attack.

NADONIS

What does that mean?

She notices the detectives walking around looking for her. She thinks for a moment, pulls out her phone.

NADONIS

Let me call to LISA GOODSBE to fill her in on how low rent security guards here treat alumni. This is absolutely ridiculous. Now, where's her number?

Nadonis scrolls through her phone knowing she can't call out.

SECURITY GUARD

Wait, Lisa Goodsbe, dean of the business school?

NADONIS

That's her. A good friend of mine, we graduated together. Really close.

He squirms watching as she acts as if she's calling.

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am, don't worry about it. Go east towards the library and make a left. It'll be in the adjoining building.

Nadonis hurries down the path constantly looking over her shoulder. She feels every passing student is glaring at her.

INT. CINCINNATI - U. C. CAMPUS - CREDIT UNION - DAY

She enters as a TELLER looks at her cross-eyed.

TELLER

Uh, can I help you?

NADONIS

Yes ma'am I need to access my account and order a new debit card.

TELLER
Your account number and
identification, please.

She hands information over, the teller types in the number.

TELLER
This account has been closed for over
three years. And, this ID is expired
also, I couldn't even grant your
request even with an open account.

The teller passes back her information.

TELLER
Can I help you with anything else? Do
you need information about a shelter?

NADONIS
Shelter? Wait, I had over fifty grand
in that account. Where did it go?

TELLER (DISBELIEF)
Closed accounts are sent back to the
State government. You would have to
file for a return on their website.

NADONIS
Excuse me? That's my money. I
shouldn't have to write to anybody. I
earned that.

TELLER
Ma'am, you'll have to take that up
with the state. You are not a current
member of this credit union. You may
fill out an application with your new
information.

NADONIS (UPSET)
I need to speak to your supervisor. I
have been an upstanding member of this
credit union for twenty years.

TELLER
You aren't one now.

NADONIS (UPSET)
That's my money. I'm entitled to my
money! That's mine.

TELLER

Security.

NADONIS (PANICKING)

What wait, that's my money!

Security guards rush up and grab her by her arms.

SECURITY GUARD

Come on, ma'am. Let's go.

NADONIS (YELLING)

No, no, no. That's my money, mine!

The SUPERVISOR escorts security dragging her outside.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)

I trusted this place, I trusted you
with my money. That's my money!

EXT. CINCINNATI - U.C. CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

Nadonis is dragged to a security car as a guard calls police.

SECURITY GUARD

...yes, her identification is expired.
Yes, I'm not sure where she came from.
She comes back as deceased?

NADONIS

Let go of me, I know my rights...

A woman arrives with several FACILITY members.

LISA

When I heard some crazy lady on drugs
in pajamas and spouting off she was
the Nadonis Sebastian I had to come to
see who this woman is, the nerve of
someone acting like they're...

Nadonis looks up at Lisa.

LISA (SHOCKED)

Oh my God, Nadonis Sebastian! What the
HELL? *Where did you come from?* Guards,
let her go right now! Tell the police
no mind. Are you kidding me?

SECURITY GUARD

It's too late they're on their way.

NADONIS

Lisa?

Lisa bends down, grabs Nadonis shoulders.

LISA (FLABBERGASTED)

Shit, seriously *where did you come from?* I don't understand. I spoke at your funeral. Damn. Come on, let's get out of here.

SECURITY GUARD

Ma'am? Miss Goodsbe?

LISA

Hold them off. Hand me her items.

Lisa drags Nadonis towards the parking lot as sirens are heard. Nadonis sees the detectives in an unmarked car.

NADONIS

We have to go.

LISA

Right, we can't go back to my office. What in the hell did you do? How did you get here? God, I don't understand.

NADONIS

I just wanted to withdraw my money.

LISA

Of course, of course. I've never seen you dressed so pitiful. My car, my car is over here. This is insanity!

INT. CINCINNATI - LISA'S CAR - DAY

They pull off into traffic as additional police cars arrive.

LISA

I have so many questions. This is incredible. Back from the dead.

NADONIS

Lisa...

LISA

Are you a zombie? This is nuts!

NADONIS

Lisa...

LISA

Frozen in carbonite like Han Solo...

NADONIS

LISA!!!

LISA

Sorry. Sorry Nadonis. Tell me everything. Ugh, this is really uh...

NADONIS

Weird? Tell me about it. I woke up on the damn Jeremiah Bridge days ago I guess to jump. I was just released from Trihealth. I lost FOUR YEARS of my life and I don't have an explanation. My job, my career, my family, everything is gone...

LISA

You fell off a dam four years ago Nadonis. They found evidence of you and a man downstream...

NADONIS

Mitchell Gardner.

LISA

He wasn't Cecil.

Nadonis groans and sinks into the seat.

LISA

So, are you telling me right? You survived being sucked through a dam, the police *obviously didn't find enough evidence* but labeled you as dead. And as far as you know, you woke up sitting on the Jeremiah Bridge? That's *incredible*. So, where were you?

NADONIS

I have no idea.

LISA

Were you just dropped off? Did you walk there? I don't get it.

NADONIS

I was in my SUV.

LISA

Wait, so where is it now?

NADONIS (FRUSTRATED)

Towed. Everything is damn expired. I needed my money to pay the impound.

LISA

So, wherever you were, your vehicle was also. Did you notice anything inside it to tell you where you were?

Nadonis sits up.

NADONIS

There was an inch of dust, cobwebs. Like it didn't move the entire time.

LISA

Okay, one location, four years, then wala you're on a bridge. Are you sure you didn't ingest anything? Was it some type of drug? Aliens? What?

NADONIS

Lord. Nothing voluntarily. I don't do drugs. I'm not a weak-minded person.

LISA

So, who would do that to you?

Nadonis sighs, bites her lip and looks out at the city.

INT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - MORNING FLASHBACK

Nadonis reads books by the window in her grandma's library. She eyes a huge book, the HOLY BIBLE. She opens it as items fall out, a small vial bursts on the floor. It stinks as she backs up. She looks at Grandma's knees as she comes in.

GRANDMA HADDOX

Child, what have you gone and done now? Oh no, looks like you found my special hiding place.

She drops a wet towel over the steam rising from the smashed vial. Crystals and ointments roll out of the hidden storage.

GRANDMA HADDOX
Don't want to inhale that.

Nadonis backs up, feels ill, immediately vomits.

GRANDMA HADDOX
Let it out child, let it out!

The room starts to swirl as Nadonis hallucinates.

NADONIS
What is happening Grandma? What is
happening! I'm scared, I'm scared!

Grandma kneels down, grabs her face, her thick silvery dreads
looking alive, she faces Nadonis with her glassy blind eyes.

GRANDMA HADDOX
Haddox girls are never scared!!
Embrace wisdom!

Nadonis eyes go coal black as she sees everything.

INT. CINCINNATI - LISA'S CAR - DAY

LISA
...And it took me forever to write
that eulogy for you, I agonized over
exactly what to say, our college
years, keep in mind your children were
hearing this...

NADONIS
Take me to Cecil's.

LISA
Wait, what? Are you kidding me? Do you
know he's the current assistant
prosecutor? Your old job? Do you know
he had his own private investigation
against you after your death and your
affair? You must be on something
thinking that's a good idea...

NADONIS
Well, fuck him. He isn't shit. And no,
I was not aware of the private
investigation, but thanks for filling
me in. Take me over there.

LISA

Nadonis as your friend and current confidant after your phenomenal ordeal I would advise you this is not a good idea. I mean, really...

NADONIS (FRUSTRATED)

And do you remember me bailing him out of that bribery scandal in Dayton? Do you know how many men went to jail, prison over that? And this man cried at my feet, telling me he wasn't any good, he'll do better. Once I came up here at my job, what was he doing? Still crying over spilled milk, laying around in his filthy ass robe and drawers, drinking beer out of a sippy cup, not helping with the children, and being a pitiful excuse of a man. Why do you suppose we were divorcing? Oh, he took advantage of me out of the way. I see that. Let me go to my house, my house I paid for. Damn it.

LISA (SOFTLY)

What about that grand jury inquiry into Christian's project where you were the team lead. That came up shortly before your uh... disappearance.

NADONIS

Lisa, what about it?

Nadonis narrows her eyes at Lisa.

LISA (SIGHS)

Okay, okay, I got you. Don't tell me I didn't forewarn you, as a friend. How do you think your kids will take it, they haven't seen you in four years. They believe you're dead.

NADONIS

There is something there that belongs to me. I need this item. When it's time I'll see my kids, right now I know they are at school. I got this Lisa. Let me handle my business. I have a lot to do.

They pull up into the Walnut Hills neighborhood.

LISA

How would you know this, It has been four years? I'm sure he has gotten rid of all your stuff!

NADONIS

It's there. Thanks, I owe you.

LISA

Hey, I'll call the impound and see about your car okay? My friend, I got your back. Are you sure about this?

Nadonis hops out of the car as they pull up to her old home.

NADONIS

I appreciate that Lisa. I'll call you.

LISA (CONFUSED)

Yes, wait, you don't want me to wait? What phone? Did you even know if they continued homeschool after Covid? God, did you even know about Covid?

Nadonis is already up the walkway.

EXT. CINCINNATI - WALNUT HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Nadonis walks up to her old house, tense, waiting for anything to happen. She looks over at the neighbors, the dog is sitting in the window, watching.

NADONIS

Rotten ass dog.

She peers in the windows, it's quiet, she retrieves the spare key and heads for the door, before she can insert the key, it opens. She looks in shock at a shocked Siegel.

SIEGEL (SURPRISED)

Oh my God! Mom??

Nadonis looks in shock as Siegel gasps.

NADONIS

I...um...I...

SIEGEL (EXCITED)

Is it really you? Oh my God, I had a

dream about you the other night that you were alive, and here you are!

NADONIS (DISORIENTED)

Oh my God, you are so big...I...

Sigel steps out and hugs her hard as she does not know how to react. She finally relaxes.

REGINIKA (PHONE)

Wait, who's that bitch? Who's big? Your momma's dead, what the fuck is going on?

Siegel remembers he's on his projection phone with her.

SIEGEL

Oh, oh, sorry Reginika... listen let me call you back, something huge is happening.

REGINIKA (PHONE)

Huge? What the hell?

NADONIS

Oh my God, do you have a girlfriend? Her language. Oh I've missed so much.

SIEGEL

Reginika, I'll call you later. Mom, this is crazy. Where have you been? How are you alive?

REGINIKA

Wait!

He hangs up on her.

NADONIS

This is a horrible idea...

She turns to escape.

SIEGEL (SURPRISED)

No wait, mother, come inside, why are you leaving? Don't you want to see me? I'm about to have lunch...

NADONIS

No, I, listen I came to retrieve something important and...

SIEGEL

What is it? I'll get it. I'm so confused. Dad said nothing about you... Really, where have you been?

NADONIS (SIGHS)

...Uh, I really don't know.

A car pulls up with Cecil and Jocelyn, Siegel keeps talking as the adults lock eyes awkwardly.

SIEGEL

...and I finally joined baseball like we had talked about, even though dad kept insisting on football, I...

They step out of the car looking at Nadonis confused.

JOCELYN

Wait...who the hell is...?

CECIL (DISORIENTED)

Nadonis...?

SIEGEL

...I hit a grounder which made it past 3rd base with bases loaded bringing all of us in...

NADONIS

Siegel, Siegel, honey. I'm so glad you found something to be passionate about but right now I need you to FOCUS...

JOCELYN (UPSET)

That bitch is dead! What the hell?!

SIEGEL

Yes, yes, mother, I love you...

NADONIS

I love you too. Quick that big old school Holy Bible, remember, I would read out of it to you. I need you to fetch that for me. I believe it's still in the study on the top shelf.

CECIL (STAMMERING)

Nadonis, how? We buried you. I thought...

JOCELYN (UPSET)
 What the hell is she doing here? Huh,
 Cecil? Did you know about this? Huh?
 Are you still married to this bitch?

CECIL
 I don't understand...

Seigel looks at his dad's confusion.

NADONIS
 Siegel...

SIEGEL
 Right, Holy Bible, I remember it
 there, I got it.

NADONIS
 I'll meet you out back.

Nadonis hurries towards the back yard as Siegel fetches the
 book. Jocelyn grabs a garden tool.

JOCELYN
 Oh this bitch. I'm about to fuck this
 heifer up.

CECIL
 Oh my God. Uh, wait honey...

Nadonis looks over her shoulder worriedly as she rounds the
 corner before sliding into a MUDPIT. She writhes around in
 shock and sinks deeper into it. Jocelyn catches up.

JOCELYN (EXCITED)
 Oh, I gotcha now bitch!

Jocelyn swings the tool, Nadonis ducks out of reach.

JOCELYN
 Damn it!

CECIL (DISORIENTED)
 Jocelyn calm down. Nadonis, what are
 you doing here? Where did you come
 from? We had your funeral!

Cecil attempts to hold back Jocelyn who keeps swinging.

NADONIS (CONFUSED)
 What is this mud pit? What is going

on? Cecil!

JOCELYN

Shut up bitch! Damn it, come closer!

Nadonis hears the barking, she looks to see the neighbor holding the snarling dog on their patio.

NEIGHBOR

Are you guys okay over there?

CECIL

Hoover thanks, we're okay. Nadonis, we're building a pool. Remember, you didn't want one.

JOCELYN

That's my pool! MINE! You heard? Paid with your death benefits ho! Come HERE

NADONIS (YELLING)

Your pool?! I paid for this house also. This is my yard! My yard!

JOCELYN (YELLING)

Your yard?! Your yard?! Aaagh bitch!

Jocelyn swings wildly, almost falling into the pit herself.

CECIL

Jocelyn! Calm down! You're going to fall in also. Shit!

JOCELYN (YELLING)

Oh, you vouching for this bitch? Huh? Where have you been hiding her all this time? What the hell is going on?

NADONIS (YELLING)

I paid for this house! I did that! I said no damn pool! What is happening!?

NEIGHBOR

Hey, I contacted the police!

His dog is frothing at the mouth as sirens are heard.

CECIL

Nadonis, what you mean? Did you forget what you did? Damn, I had to sign your death certificate. What the hell did

you do? Where did you come from?

JOCELYN

Aaah! And stupid did you forget she so-called died with a lover? Fuck that bitch! They probably faked the whole damn thing and ran off together! Weren't they being investigated?! Grrr, *let me get my hands on her!*

CECIL

What did you do? What did you do?

Nadonis sinks more into the pit as Jocelyn can't reach her.

NADONIS (DISORIENTED)

I don't know! I don't know!

POLICE I

Cincinnati Police! Ma'am we'll have to ask you to put the rake down now!

Police have descended on them, startling them.

CECIL

Jocelyn honey, did you hear the lady?

JOCELYN (YELLING)

Ahhh I want to fuck up this SKANK!

POLICE II

Ma'am, we don't want to ask again!

Jocelyn and Nadonis glare at each other as she slowly puts down the rake. The police have their hands poised over their guns as the neighbor's dog barks and lurches at the fence.

POLICE I

Sir, please control your animal!

POLICE II

Ma'am, the rake! 2nd warning!

JOCELYN (COMPLYING)

Aah! Okay!

Siegel suddenly comes out of the back door carrying a locket.

SIEGEL

Hey moms, I didn't find the book but I found this...

POLICE I & II
Police! Drop it!

The police actually pull the guns on a startled Siegel.

CECIL (YELLING)
No! Wait!

The dog lunges forward over the fence knocking the neighbor over as Siegel stands like a deer in headlights.

POLICE I (YELLING)
Drop it now!

NADONIS (SCREAMING) (O.S.)
Siegel!! Noooo!

The fast pitter-patter of the dog's claws claps across the back porch. A gunshot goes off and screams are heard as Nadonis falls face-first into a protruding rock.

EXT. CINCINNATI - WALNUT HILLS - HOME - DAY

A Paramedic treats Nadonis wounds on her muddy face.

NADONIS (DISORIENTED)
Grandma no!

PARAMEDIC
Ma'am I'm going to insist you sit back, I'm tending your wound.

She groans and sits back wearily rubbing her head as they tend to her. She looks around the chaos and remembers what happened. She jerks back up again.

NADONIS (PANICKING)
Oh my God! Siegel!

PARAMEDIC
Ma'am, that young man has been waiting for you. He wanted you to have this.

The paramedic hands her a locket. She looks as Siegel waves at her. She breathes a deep sigh of relief and waves back. She watches a VETERINARIAN haul off the dead dog as the neighbor argues with police. Shiloh and Fendi approach.

FENDI
Ouch, that gotta sting!

SHILOH

You've been busy since the hospital.
Come take a ride.

Nadonis sighs heavily.

INT. CINCINNATI - POLICE INTERROGATION - DAY

NADONIS

Is this really a necessity? Am I under
arrest?

She raises her handcuffed arm.

SHILOH

No, of course not.

FENDI

It's a precautionary thing. For your
own safety. Understand assistant D.A.

Nadonis sighs heavily as a clump of mud falls onto the table.

FENDI

Janitorial is gonna rip us a new one.

Officer DANNY arrives and exchanges a folder with Fendi.

DANNY

We got her.

FENDI

Thanks, Lopez, we'll update you.

Shiloh leans back and smirks at her as Fendi walks over and
opens the folder, lays photographs on the table.

FENDI

Your impounded SUV presented a bevy of
goodies. Recognize any of these?

Nadonis looks in amazement as she looks at pictures of a
bloody bicycle lock, a dirty spade, a man's left sneaker, a
clump of hair weave, dried lotus leaves.

NADONIS

This wasn't in my vehicle, I don't
recognize most of this.

SHILOH

The lock you recognize, I saw the

look. You were bicycle riding, it's either yours or the murdered. That dark spot on it, that's blood.

NADONIS

What did the tests say? You did run a DNA analysis correct?

FENDI

50% is yours, the rest is inclusive. We'll figure it out, we are the detectives, don't you worry my dear.

NADONIS

Really, I wondered? Cause seems you're the muscle and you're the wife. Freaky Friday thing going on.

FENDI

Watch it Jezebel. I make a good wifey

SHILOH

Cute. Size 12 shoe, matches the missing one from the deceased. Why did you hide it in your hatch?

NADONIS

If we were having an affair why would it be hidden?

SHILOH

We're asking the questions here Miss Sebastian. Did you bury Michael's ligaments with the spade? We found sedimentary deposits and limestone sprinkled throughout the vehicle. Very rich minerals. So where did you hide his missing arm?

NADONIS

His...what?

FENDI

His bloody arm that you wretchedly pulled out of the socket when you murdered him. Oh, wait as you say it wasn't you.

SHILOH

So, tell us, your plan, as you brutally murdered Mitchell Gardner,

was it a brilliant escape diving through the dry dam or was it a tragic misfire? You pulled off a terrific whodunit then fell off the grid-like the Unabomber for four years.

NADONIS

Okay, time for me to go, take these off of me. I have rights.

FENDI

Rights? That's a null scenario!

SHILOH

So how does it feel to be officially dead? No social security, bank accounts closed, no digital footprint, try driving your vehicle, oh we got you then, and the kicker, no constitutional rights. You forfeit. Again I ask, where have you been?

Nadonis leans back, mouth agape.

FENDI

Poor deranged little miss. Pulled off the ultimate ghosting but you missed.

SHILOH

Yes, you have fewer rights than an alien at this point Ms. Prosecutor. Do you remember the study of law at all?

NADONIS

I...

FENDI

Oh, we're pulling on a loose thread, lets pull.

SHILOH

You're nothing, you don't exist, your own children don't even know you, you might as well have never been alive.

FENDI

Should have stayed dead.

NADONIS

I. Want. To. Speak. With. A. Lawyer.

FENDI

You got jokes muerto.

SHILOH

Speaking of which, your time in office was surrounded by corruption, fraud, bribes, embezzlement. You and your lover were being investigated and it was traced to the top.

SHILOH

Mr. Christian Phillips.

FENDI

Oh we've started a probe. We can help you, were you held against your will?

SHILOH

Easily leaving the position open to your poor widowed husband. Was that the plan, did your ex force you to kill Michael and make you disappear?

FENDI

Help us, help you get your life back. Nadonis, isn't that what you want?

She looks blurrily at the police officers through tears streaming down her face. Their voices deepen and fade out.

SHILOH

As if taking a random leap into the abyss solves anything.

EXT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY - NIGHTMARE

GRANDMA HADDOX (V.O.)

Often, a leap of faith is what is needed to master your deepest fears.

Her mother's arms come out of the blur reaching for her as her grandmother speaks, her back turned to them.

MYRRHA (WHISPER) (O.S.)

Haddox's aren't afraid to take a leap!

Athena swings behind her on a tire swing.

ATHENA

Leap! LEAP!

The sunbeam caress her face, she closes her eyes, bites her lip, she moves her foot off the log.

The skyline twists above her as she falls of the dam. The howling wind and the cold air whisk around as the sky rushes away from her. She drops sixty-five feet into ice-cold water. The rush of the water propels her forward as she gasps for air and looks at the concrete dam approaching quickly.

A lotus flower rushes past her.

INT. CINCINNATI - POLICE JAIL CELL - MORNING - RAIN

Nadonis stirs in her sleep, awakes in a dark jail cell. Rubs her eyes adjusting to the unfamiliar space. She sits up startled by CHRISTIAN PHILLIPS sitting in the dark. He is dressed in a crisp Brooks Brother suit, jewelry, dress shoes.

NADONIS

Christian?!

CHRISTIAN

I had to come to see for myself if the rumors were true. Here you are in the flesh, fantastically alive and well. Not some gross facsimile of a human.

NADONIS

How nice to see you as well, I suppose. And no, I'm not a zombie. Are you here to help me get out?

He leans forward, adjusts his tie.

CHRISTIAN

Your sudden appearance puzzles me deeply. Tell me, what did you hope to accomplish coming back from the dead?

NADONIS

Obviously, I didn't. What agenda are you accusing me of?

CHRISTIAN (LAUGHING)

Accusations are futile. Nadonis my dear some very good people, on both sides of the political sphere helped secure your position. A vibrant young African-American woman, smart, assertive. You were doing good things in Dayton, we were watching. Pulled

you up the political ladder, put you in a burgeoning position of power. Making power moves as they say.

NADONIS

Under you.

CHRISTIAN

You were ecstatic being under me. Blossoming. Punch drunk obsessed. From your humble beginnings being a street advocate for fair housing, the homeless, blight. So adorable, it was in actuality quite captivating.

NADONIS

I had a purpose. I'm glad you found it so, I guess, cute. So, if this friendly visit is not for legal help, why are you here Christian?

CHRISTIAN

To be frank, what's concerning is the bevy of knowledge you possess about confidential files and what is your plan. Certain files you understand died with you. Now magically here you are. Nadonis Sebastian, in the flesh. So, see, certain business does not need to see the light of day.

NADONIS

So, wait are you admitting to attempting murder because of these precious files implicating you in these fraudulent activities you were acquitted for? Oh my GOD.

She looks out the cell nervously. He leans forward.

CHRISTIAN (LAUGHING)

No worries, they aren't going to help you. Now see, you've lost all of your rights, no identification, no social security, you don't even exist. You couldn't even get a measly Facebook account, how ironic. You are dust in the wind. You could be gone tomorrow and absolutely no one would realize you were gone. What a unique predicament you have found yourself

in, isn't it Nadonis Sebastian?

NADONIS

Are you threatening me? Here?

CHRISTIAN

Me threaten you? How absurd. Were you asleep having elaborate fantasies ? You must have forgotten, I run this place. I run this city. Try me if you dare, oh yes, you're a ghost. Ghosts vanish in the night as you did.

NADONIS

Some ghosts have stories to tell.

CHRISTIAN

Do say? Well I'm confident no wild stories you may remember from years ago would hold up in court against me or my office. We run a tight ship, you should know, at one point you were our shining star. A star that fizzled.

She bites her lip and leans back on the wall glaring at him.

NADONIS

We're done here.

CHRISTIAN

Sure, sure. For now.

He stands up, nods at her.

CHRISTIAN

Oh right, one more thing.

He presents a file with photographs of a white man by his truck SAM I AM Towing, some of which are of his death.

CHRISTIAN

That man you mentioned, Sam. SAMUEL KINGSTON, If you recall, was one of your contractors you used to clean up blighted property. He in turn simply discarded the items in adjoining neighborhoods to pocket additional money. You got him fired, sued him, took his livelihood. He came back and took vengeance out on you and Michael.

NADONIS

Excuse me? This man? Seriously? Are Shiloh and Fendi aware of this?

CHRISTIAN

They are now. Case can now be officially closed.

He motions for the guards to release him.

NADONIS

That's it? Where is he now? Are they arresting him?

CHRISTIAN

That picture there, in the hospital, was after his lungs collapsed from Covid 19 in 2020. It's done.

NADONIS

Wait, when did I mention Sam? And wasn't Covid contained overseas? How did you get this?

CHRISTIAN (LAUGHING)

Tsk, already forgot the scope of my power. You really were gone. How fascinating. Good day.

NADONIS

No, wait!

The guard lets him out as Christian nods and grins before exiting. Nadonis huffs staring dumbfounded at the pictures.

EXT. HUFFMAN PRAIRIE DAM - DAY - FLASHBACK

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)

I got you Nadonis! I got you!

NADONIS (SCREAMING)

Pull me up! Pull me up!

Mitchell is struggling to get her up as he is halfway over the rail. The driver guns the engine and backs up quickly.

MITCHELL (SCREAMING)

NO! NO! NO!

The crushing smash of his body, his eyes glazed over.

NADONIS (SCREAMING)
 Nooooooooo!!!!

The driver lurches forward as Mitchell's lifeless body falls off the bridge. His distorted face in the rear of the pickup truck watching her fall. Nadonis is still screaming as his hand lets go. His arm is detached.

She vividly recalls seeing the name SAM I AM TOWING on the side of the truck along with Mitchell's blood splatter.

The sky rushes away from her.

GRANDMA HADDOX (V.O.)
 Often, a leap of faith is what is
 needed to master your deepest fears.

EXT. NADONIS LINCOLN TOWNCAR - NIGHT - NIGHTMARE

Nadonis wakes up suddenly, rattled, disoriented. She wipes drool off of her face. She looks around. She is parked South on a highway as cars drive past going North. She screams as a truck blares its horn.

INT. CINCINNATI - POLICE JAIL CELL - MORNING -

She wakes up clutching herself making sure she is intact. She breathes relief watches a sunbeam out the small window.

NADONIS (WHISPERING)
 I hear you Grandma. I'll figure out
 the truth. I have faith.

A CORRECTIONS OFFICER arrives with the sunrise.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER
 Ayo, Sebastian, you're free to go.
 Your ride is here.

Nadonis gets her wits about her and follows the officer.

NADONIS
 Who...?

As she signs release papers she spies Lisa at the CLERK desk.

LISA
 Hey, beeeeyotch! Said I would look out
 for you my ace boom boom!

NADONIS

Oh my God, Thank you!

Lisa rushes out and they hug before heading to the door.

LISA

You're going to be excited.

NADONIS

What, why?

EXT. CINCINNATI POLICE STATION - DAY

LISA (EXCITED)

I am such a good and genius friend,
say it, say it!

NADONIS

Are you crazy, what did you do?

Lisa pulls out Nadonis passport, waves it around.

LISA

I guess since I'm a cray bitch you
don't want this I.D. that could um,
help you get your social security
back, um, your driver's license, um,
what else, your dignity?

NADONIS

Give me that! How did you get this?

LISA

Behind this beautiful face, I do
possess a brain somewhere. How I got
to be a law professor the world will
just have to wonder haha.

NADONIS

This is major, I can get my car back
when they are done shredding it,
access some cash. Really how did you
do this, how can I repay you?

LISA

Remember that Jamaican girl's trip?
The one you were too smash-faced off
those beautiful but dangerous mixed
drinks? Slept on the floor with your
head in a bucket? Clothes inside out?

NADONIS

Argh, I try to forget that.

LISA

Yes, darling, that fiasco. Don't worry, I have pics to bribe you later hehe. Anyway, somehow when you clogged up the toilet on the flight home you spilled your purse and in our haste to avoid the US Marshalls thinking we were terrorists somehow several of your items ended up with me. Call that divine fate but you were no longer here and this was a small memento. It doesn't expire for several more years. Now you can use it to get your life back. How ironic. You're welcome.

NADONIS

Uh, that was KEISHA.

LISA

Keisha? What?

NADONIS

Keisha clogged the toilet after discovering swordfish didn't agree with her. And I never got my items back from you after you disappeared with some Jamaican flight attendant. I don't even remember you back at the airport. How did you even get home?

LISA (MUMBLING)

Oh shit, yes, HENRY whew sah! Yummy. Yah, now that I can't and don't want to forget; Oh. My. God.

Lisa fades out reminiscing. Nadonis snaps her fingers.

NADONIS

You're horrible. Earth to Lisa, return

LISA

Sorry, sorry. Are you ready to go back to Jamaica? I mean, I'm just saying...

NADONIS

Well, he was cute, I don't blame you.

LISA (LAUGHING)
Right, right, you feel me?

NADONIS
Damn, those were good times. Thank
you, thank you for this.

They hug on the sidewalk near the street.

LISA
Isn't that what friends are for?

NADONIS
Good friends, damn I miss you.

LISA
I miss you too. I have another
surprise for you, let's go.

They turn towards her car.

NADONIS
Oh, snap, what could that be?

LISA
Someone is dying to see you and...

They stop in their tracks, Cecil is between them and the car.

LISA (SHOCKED)
And... no, no, that's not who I was
talking about. Eww as if!

CECIL
Nadonis, I thought that was you.

They glare at him.

NADONIS (CONFUSED)
What are you doing? Why are you here?

LISA (UPSET)
Girl, let's go, come, come.

CECIL
I could ask you the same thing.
Jocelyn is in there filing a
restraining order on you. It's fate.

NADONIS
Oh shit, that bitch is here? Oh, yes,

it's time to go.

CECIL (PLEADING)

Wait, wait, she just went in there.
Let me say something really quickly.

LISA

Oh here we go, I can smell the
bullshit from over here. I don't think
mouthwash can help that.

NADONIS

Lisa, ugh, just wait a moment.

CECIL

Thank you, just a moment.

LISA

Miss me with that, I'll be in the car.

NADONIS

Don't thank me yet. You have two
minutes. Speak.

CECIL

All I need. I brought you something.

He hands Nadonis her own funeral memorial pamphlet.

CECIL (CONT'D)

I honestly thought you were gone. We
all thought you were no longer with
us. What did you expect to show up
back here like this? That everything
would be okay? That our children would
be okay? You didn't think before doing
that stunt at the house would affect
them? You have Siegel stuck on stupid!

NADONIS

I'll be honest, no, it wasn't thought
out. To be fair, I was still in denial
that I had missed years of my life.

CECIL (UPSET)

Denial, denial. I had been in denial.
I had to move on, Jocelyn, the job,
the pool, you feel me? You so-called
died with some chump from work. Am I
mistaken, that you had stepped out of
our marriage?

NADONIS (WHISPERING)

I can't deny that.

CECIL

I was a damn widower Ladybug. A widower before I was even fifty. I never expected that. What did you expect by turning back up here?

He wipes his brow.

NADONIS

Answers.

CECIL (UPSET)

Answers. What answers? Again, why you step out of our marriage? Like why were you involved in some scandal at your work? After you preached all high and mighty about what I did in Dayton? Huh? Did you forget that? I've seen the documents from Christian. Your signature was all over the place!

NADONIS (CONFRONTATIONAL)

And that's what you believe. Really? And wait, you've had your time. I was the assistant prosecutor, remember. My job was to sign off on things that the D.A. pushed on me. That same exact position you have slid into now. So tell me how is he greasing you up?

CECIL

Well, I...

NADONIS

Well, I what? This is the same man that just left this facility a day ago threatening me. What information I may have about his crimes. Oh, you're a good one. Maybe he saw in you from your past deviations to really keep working his plan. You encouraged fraudulent behavior by awarding fake minority firms demolition contracts. Mitchel and I had a conscience, we were questioning his motives. So, yes I have to wonder who was really behind the wheel of that truck? Was it you Cecil? Was it you?

CECIL (STAMMERING)
 What, no, of course not Ladybug, I...

NADONIS
 Don't call me that!

Jocelyn emerges from the police station.

CECIL
 Shit, here she comes.

NADONIS
 Cecil Sebastian. I was a widow way before you were one. That bullshit you pulled in Dayton obsessed you. You took the bribes, Cecil, you and your cronies. You missed jail time, they didn't. But you put me in jail, you withdrew from the marriage long ago, I don't know what planet you were on. Drinking your damn sorrows away. You alienated me and the children. We didn't know if you were coming or going. You missed birthdays, our anniversary. Our anniversary Cecil. My soul may have stepped out when you were mentally tapped out. I never was physical with that man, never. You and our children were my world. I still loved you. We both made mistakes.

CECIL
 Damn. I loved you too. You really didn't? God we both did didn't we.

Nadonis shakes her head no, wipes tears from her eyes. Jocelyn is still a few yards away, see's her.

JOCELYN (SHOCKED)
 What the hell? What *that bitch* doing here? Cecil!!!

CECIL
 Shit, we'll talk later. I'm sorry.

NADONIS
 I'm sorry too. Bye Cecil.

She locks eyes with him as she heads to Lisa's car.

JOCELYN (YELLING)
 Ayo, bitch, where you going now? You stay away from my man, you heard me? Stay away from my home! Hey! Hey! I'm talking to you!

Jocelyn is about at the car as Lisa pulls off, Nadonis flips her off. She spits at the car.

JOCELYN
 Try me you raggedy whore. Cecil, what the hell? Really?!

He sighs watching them depart before shrugging and leaving.

INT. CINCINNATI - POLICE STATION - DAY

Shiloh stares out the window watching Cecil and Nadonis talk. Fendi comes up behind her eating a sandwich.

FENDI
 Something doesn't feel right, does it?

Shiloh shakes her head no.

FENDI
 All wrapped up nice and pretty by the D.A. Likely scapegoat to cover up the real perp, or perps huh?

SHILOH
 Wow, you have learned something from me. Uncanny, are you reading my thoughts? So what do you suppose is the next move?

Fendi chomps down on the sandwich, wipes his face.

FENDI
 Next move? The next move is on the next case. This one is a wrap. You go up against the DA, case closed. I need to go shit. Godspeed.

Shiloh watches their departure, shakes her head.

INT. CINCINNATI - LISA'S CAR - DAY - ACT III

Nadonis watches Cincinnati's skyline.

EXT. CINCINNATI - RIVERFRONT - FOURTH OF JULY (FLASHBACK)

Nadonis and Mitchell walk the riverfront eating ice cream, watching fireworks over the Ohio river.

NADONIS

So much water. Cincy has the best fireworks. It's amazing.

Mitchell comes behind and hugs her waist from behind. She gasps as he runs his face behind her neck with light kisses.

MITCHELL

Not as amazing as you.

She is lost in temptation, caressing hands before resisting.

NADONIS

Oh my God. No, Mitchell, no.

MITCHELL

Everything okay?

He softly releases her.

NADONIS

Yes, yes. It's too good. I'm sorry.

MITCHELL

I didn't do anything wrong did I? It's been such a wonderful evening.

NADONIS

Yes, yes it has. And no, you didn't. It's me, I'm doing wrong. I'm doing too much ugh.

MITCHELL

You said your marriage was on the rocks, failing, you're contemplating divorce right?

NADONIS

I let it run right through my hands like flowing water through the sand.

She caresses her ring finger. They stay quiet.

MITCHELL (WHISPERING)

Poetry. I understand, I believe I do.

NADONIS

I'm sorry, I'm sorry sweetie. It is wonderful with you, you are so attentive, you listen to me, you're funny, we have a great time together. You haven't though, been through this heartache that I'm going through. This is really hard on me. Often I don't know how to go on.

MITCHELL

I believe in you. You can do anything.

NADONIS

Ugh, I'm glad you see something I don't. I'm trying.

MITCHELL

It's okay beautiful. I'm here for you when it's time.

Nadonis leans onto him as they watch the fireworks.

EXT. CINCINNATI - LISA'S CAR - DAY

Nadonis notices the scenery change as Lisa enters the Over the Rhine neighborhood. She sits up alert.

NADONIS

Where in the world are we?

LISA

Over the Rhine neighborhood, don't you remember running around here getting into trouble as undergraduates?

NADONIS

Uh, yeah, but it wasn't sprinkled with trendy butter squash restaurants and lame gift shops! We were lucky to even survive hanging out down here!

LISA

Oh, you really have been gone, girl. The white boys with dreads riding bikes invaded and completely gentrified OTR! Girl, this was already happening when you were the assistant!

NADONIS

Shut it Lisa, you know I was up to my

scalp working for that devil and navigating through political upheavals then coming home to kids. My mind was more scattered then than now. The first time I think I had even got out on the town was with...

Lisa looks over at her.

LISA
Your lil side piece?

NADONIS
Oh, my goodness. You're awful, hey he's no longer here to defend himself.

LISA
Yes, I'm sorry, you're right. I am awful. Let me throw a few hail Mary's and do a confession.

NADONIS
Oh, you Catholic now?

LISA
Are you kidding me?

NADONIS
I think that's the corner where that crazy street preacher robbed us! Go figure! We're looking for weed and now what the hell is there? A CBD oil and Hemp store! How things come around!

LISA
Yep, yep, that man prayed for our souls and then preyed for donations!

They laugh as they pull up to a flat.

NADONIS
And who lives here? Did you move down here? Gentrifier! Stealing!

LISA
Heavens no, and don't let all the glamour and glitz fool you. The real OTR still lurks around nearby. I can smell puke from here.

NADONIS

You are nuts!!!

INT. OVER THE RHINE - ATHENA'S FLAT - DAY

They walk up a set of stairs before Lisa knocks on a door.

NADONIS

This better not be some modern
marijuana quest, just because it's
legalized doesn't mean I want any.
It's best to keep my head clear. I
have to figure out what I'm doing.

LISA

Like I would be on a weed run during
the workweek. Now, on the weekend I
can get faded with um, my hot neighbor
haha you know what I mean!

NADONIS

You are horrible! If only your
students saw you off work!

LISA

They better have proof! I would deny
everything!

The door opens, she is shocked seeing her sister ATHENA.

ATHENA

Hi Sis!

NADONIS (DISBELIEF)

I, I, Athena? How? What?

Athena hugs her shocked sister who finally submits back.

NADONIS (CONT'D)

I, I, don't understand, you're in
Phoenix? You didn't answer my calls!

Athena wipes back tears.

ATHENA

You were dead you idiot! Damn you.
Girls come in.

Nadonis looks at LISA who smiles.

LISA

Surprise!

NADONIS

Thank you, thank you, you're a brat.
This is good though, really good.

ATHENA

First things first, my big sis does
not run around in dirty pajamas
looking like a trifling junkie whore.
The shower is ready down the hallway
to the right. I've already laid out
some clothes for you on my bed.

NADONIS

Thank you!

ATHENA

You're welcome. Now, come, let's go.

INT. OVER THE RHINE - ATHENA'S FLAT - EVENING

Nadonis emerges from the bath as Athena serves lemonade.

ATHENA

There she is, looking so much better!

LISA

And smelling so much better!

ATHENA

Right! I have the hard stuff too. Oh,
my goodness it's so good to see you. I
really didn't think it was real. Like
I was getting punk'd.

NADONIS

Whatever weird situation that I'm in,
I did attempt calling you, you and
Horus. He practically cursed me out.
It really just seemed like yesterday
that I, that I, had that accident.
Trust me, I've been in the twilight
zone this entire month.

ATHENA

Yes, yes, I did receive two different
phone calls from you. I had thought
some really unscrupulous devil was
playing games with me. Then Lisa

called me out the blue, I hadn't heard from her in years and was so perplexed. She explained to me your predicament and those calls made sense then, and wow, wow, here you are!

NADONIS

Two calls? So, when did you move back? Where's COREY? What happened to that teaching job there? Didn't like it?

ATHENA

Those six graders were damn heathens, and Phoenix was okay. Really dry and hot, not good for my complexion. Unfortunately, so was Corey. He's still there. I had to go.

NADONIS

What, I'm sorry. I thought he was the love of your life, you two seemed so happy, I lil Ebony and Ivory love match. I remember your wedding vividly, ugh, it was just last year. Oh no, wait, it was the year before my accident so damn! My time is screwed, so that was years for you. I'm sorry.

ATHENA

Well, his Ivory ass got bronzed in the sun mixing too many drinks with this local Honduran Barista, so he skipped to the next flavor of the month!

LISA

Lil flavor for the fever!

NADONIS

You can get with this, or you can get with that!

Athena's smile goes away.

NADONIS

Oops sorry sis. God, I've missed you.

ATHENA

I've so missed you too sis. Forget him, and forget that whiny husband of yours. He makes me sick anyway prancing around with that new chick

who seems to be running him. I can't stand that bitch. I tried to have a playdate with my dang nieces and nephews and that heifer was blocking!

LISA
Kid blocking!

NADONIS
Do tell. She has such a rotten attitude. I hope my children are okay. She so reminds me of someone.

ATHENA
Same here, that is odd. Ugh, real drinks this time? We have to figure out this strange lil mystery of where o' where was Nadonis Sebastian!

EXT. OVER THE RHINE - ATHENA'S FLAT - PATIO - EVENING

They are surrounded by drinks, empty plates, cigarettes.

LISA
Ladies, no more drinks for me, lo and behold it's actually a school night and I have to turn back into a pumpkin. We do have to do this again.

ATHENA
Awww

LISA
Nadonis, I'm so glad you like arose from the dead and walked like Jesus. Hugs. You're all clean and showered now goody. Call me tomorrow. My last class is at noon okay.

NADONIS
Thanks, so much Lisa. I couldn't have got this far without you.

LISA
Oh yes, you're in debt now, I'll cash out soon. Toodles ladies.

NADONIS AND ATHENA
Good night!

Athena closes the door as Nadonis helps with dishes.

ATHENA

Still can't believe you're here.

NADONIS

I still can't believe I'm missing some of my life. It's like someone pressed fast forward and I can honestly say my life went by in a flash.

Athena pours more glasses of wine and tends to her firepit.

ATHENA

So, literally last thing you remember was being sucked under a dam. God that must be an awful memory. I'm sorry.

Nadonis takes her glass and sits down.

NADONIS

I just gotta deal with it. I faced death and somehow, I'm here now to move forward and make the best of it. I don't know. I have a nagging feeling there is more to the story about this Sam I Am character.

ATHENA

That is crazy.

Athena looks out across the neighborhood.

NADONIS

What is it?

ATHENA

I can relate, I came face to face with death really, quite recently and I'm here today to speak about it.

Nadonis leans forward, grips her hand.

NADONIS

Oh my God, Athena, what happened.

ATHENA

Ugh... I really haven't told anyone. Okay, it's what led me back home. After Corey vanished in the sunset, you were gone, Horus was running the streets. I felt very alone, awfully alone. I attempted a lesbian affair...

NADONIS

Wait, you did, what?!

ATHENA

Yeah, yeah, I know. After I talked smack about bisexual chicks, I went and dated a woman for about a year.

NADONIS

Hypocrite! That didn't go well either?

ATHENA

No, no, she wanted to be a dude so bad and treated me worse. She cheated and got mad at me cause I was upset and dumped her stuff out of my apartment and this crazy bitch spray painted my car like it was an art piece.

NADONIS

Oh my God, NO!

She shows a picture of her vandalized car.

ATHENA

Right, crazy huh? I felt so off and lonely for a long time. I let work go, the kids didn't even know who I was. I quit before they fired me. It seemed like the world was crashing.

NADONIS

We all go through breakups...

ATHENA

Sis, it was more than that. It was my life, my career and everyone were gone, I had never had children, I was lost and afraid. Never have I felt so bad in all my life. I had depression.

NADONIS

Did you seek help? Church? A therapist? I'm going tomorrow.

Athena lights a cigarette and drags on it looking away.

ATHENA

Arizona nights are so black for miles. You go north enough you see hot lightning strikes across the desert.

It's a perfect place to lose yourself.

Nadonis grips her hand.

EXT. ARIZONA ROADWAY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Athena describes the night of her attempted suicide.

ATHENA (V.O.)

On a desolate highway, barely a car in sight. I was in that Mustang, drop top-down, the desert had a slight drizzle that evaporated over your head. I could feel the dry air snaking through my hair. I turned on some depressing tunes and cried.

ATHENA (V.O.)

I shut the lights off. It was just me, and the wind under a pitch-black sky. I sat on the top of the seats, closed my eyes, I had my hands out like I had just scored a victory. I let the spirit world guide me.

A semi-truck heads directly towards her.

ATHENA (V.O.)

Yes, and the spirit world responded. I opened my eyes right as high beams from a big ass eighteen-wheeler barreled down on me. I was staring at the hand of death. He swerved right, laying on that loud truck horn.

INT. OVER THE RHINE - ATHENA'S FLAT - EVENING

She takes a drag of her cigarette. Nadonis is astruck.

NADONIS

So, did you crash, were you hurt, what had happened??

ATHENA

Ironically my car veered right narrowly missing him.

Athena stares at her.

NADONIS

So how??? I don't understand.

ATHENA

That's what I said. It was an intervention. Like Grandma Haddox taught there are always bigger things as the spiritual world guides us.

NADONIS

Spirits guided you away from death?

ATHENA

You know when you have wear and tear on your tires and you need to go into a shop and get them aligned?

NADONIS

An alignment...?

ATHENA

Correct. When things get worn and don't work right, you need an alignment so you can drive straight..

Nadonis eyes widen as Athena sobs, they embrace hard.

ATHENA

I'm so sorry. You've been through this horrific ordeal and here I am feeling sorry for myself with my crazy story.

NADONIS

No, it's okay. It's okay. I was thinking the same selfish thing.

ATHENA

Looks like the spirits are saying this is your alignment. See that therapist. Haddox's aren't afraid to take a leap!

They hit fists and contemplate, looking out at the night.

INT. CINCINNATI - PSYCHOLOGIST OFFICE - DAY

Nadonis is in an all beige accented office, DR. AMBER MATHERSON stands out in the corner of the room in a peach business suit, name badge, hair pulled back in a bun.

DR. MATHERSON

Feeling a bit of dissociation?

NADONIS

What?

DR. MATHERSON

Sorry Nadonis, I'm Dr. Matherson. How are you feeling?

NADONIS

Feeling like hell right about now.

DR. MATHERSON

Let's break the ice. Tell me about yourself.

Nadonis shakes her head yes.

NADONIS

Ugh, I'd rather get to the point. I know the doctors are so excited about the trauma I went through. I'm some type of anomaly, some signs of a coma. Those x-rays were hard to look at, my frontal lobe, ugh. I mean, my God, I fell off a bridge, I probably did hit my head... I don't know.

DR. MATHERSON

Okay, so let me get this straight, your accident, that you have explained to the doctors was recently, and the phenomenally healed wounds to your brain were a mere exception to the rule. That you're one of the lucky ones to survive such an ordeal.

NADONIS

I wouldn't call it that lucky doctor. I believe my um, friend, was not so lucky. I can't find him online, his phone is disconnected. I'm not sure what happened. It's like I'm in some detachment from reality.

DR. MATHERSON

I'm glad you recognize the dissociation from reality. You have suffered a severe post-traumatic stress disorder mixed in with possibly some amnesia. Now, would be the time for healing. Tell me, what is your current situation with your family?

NADONIS

Um, I'm not even sure at this moment.

DR. MATHERSON

Did you attempt to reach them?

NADONIS

A feeble attempt, it wasn't going so well. My brother doesn't even seem to believe me. My kids don't recognize me. I did connect with my sister.

DR. MATHERSON

Good. What reaction did you expect?

NADONIS

Horus sounds angry with me, I don't know, not that. I had an accident and when I wake up my family has abandoned me. Life has passed me by.

DR. MATHERSON

This dissociation, what's your current situation in your mind, how do you see yourself at this time?

NADONIS

I somehow survived. Somehow it's years later. Yes, I realize certain details revealed and time crippled my marriage and possibly question my career. I'll have a lot of explaining to do to my children. But they know, they know, that marriage was already on the rocks. We were filing papers, yes we were...

DR. MATHERSON

And, what happened after you survived, obviously, you're right here. But, in your mind, where were you?

NADONIS

Um, I don't remember much, it all happened so fast, I...

DR. MATHERSON

Take your time.

NADONIS

I remember something about a truck, a black truck, that had a weird color flag on it. I remember being airborne and scared. Strong hands were pulling

me up, I let go of my fear. Then, all of a sudden...

DR. MATHERSON

It's okay, tell me how you ended up parked on the wrong side of the Jeremiah Bridge. How did you get there from the time of the accident?

NADONIS

I'm not for certain of those details. I simply woke up there.

DR. MATHERSON

Miss Sebastian, according to the toxicology no drugs or even alcohol was found in your system disproving the patrolman's report...

NADONIS

Well, I don't do drugs and I would never drink and drive.

DR. MATHERSON

So, which leads you to believe your head trauma could initiate you to a mental disorder, this dissociation. Were you considering suicide or have you ever been suicidal?

NADONIS

No, never. After the accident, I simply must have somehow driven to this bridge, possibly heading home, a type of self pilot, or something.

DR. MATHERSON

After the accident? While that is a fascinating possibility, it would be a sleep state dissociation in which the frontal cortex, responsible for higher judgment and planning, is asleep, while at the same time, motor centers responsible for behavior are active. You may have unknowingly executed complex behaviors. The time-lapse is a conundrum but it puts things into a new perspective.

NADONIS

Time-lapse? What do you mean?

DR. MATHERSON

Let me digress, you stated how you feel you got here. So, where are you? From your perspective.

NADONIS

I had this accident, I somehow got in my vehicle, drove to the bridge...

DR. MATHERSON

We know the physical, where are you mentally?

NADONIS

Uh, things aren't adding up.

DR. MATHERSON

Leap year huh. Those dang leap years.

NADONIS

Uh, yeah, pretty unique. Is it a strange coincidence?

DR. MATHERSON

Yes, it is. However you came through that time, you took a leap for a reason. You are here, you are here for a reason. Embrace it.

The doctor studies her reactions.

INT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - MORNING - 1990

Little Nadonis and Athena clean up the broken chinaware on the hardwood dining room floor. Tears streaming down their faces. Outside the window, the river is obscured in thick fog. Grandma Haddox has her back to them cleaning dishes.

NADONIS

Grandma we're sorry about your good China, we didn't mean to.

GRANDMA HADDOX

Remember children, negative behavior brings negative consequences.

ATHENA

We know not to run in your house.

GRANDMA HADDOX

You knew better but you ran anyway.

NADONIS

Is that what mommy did? Didn't she know better?

ATHENA

When will mommy be home?

She stops washing dishes for a moment and sighs heavily.

GRANDMA HADDOX

Your mother is a strong woman, we are all strong women, don't ever forget that. Your mother is wise and generous and she did what she felt is right to protect you two and your brother. Your father unfortunately wasn't in the right mind. You will see her again when the time is right. She was very brave to make that leap.

NADONIS

A leap of faith?

GRANDMA HADDOX

Yes child, a grand leap of faith.

INT. ATHENA'S HOME - NEXT DAY - MORNING

Nadonis lays on the couch checking her phone researching news coverage. Video shows news reporter WAYNE BAKER.

The video shows emergency personnel coming to the river and setting up a perimeter where they found a body.

WAYNE

Witness accounts say it was gruesome what happened as the couple plunged 65 feet below into the freezing Mad River. Authorities combed the river for the majority of Saturday before a body was recovered at the mouth of Eastwood Lake by fishermen. Aide Mitchell Gardner was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death is awaiting an autopsy. Metroparks are working with the Greene and Montgomery County sheriff for answers.

FISHERMAN

I thought I had hooked a walleye and instead, I caught a man. Not every day

you can attest to that, but I got him.

WAYNE

The complete body of the woman, Nadonis Sebastian was never found, only her shredded yellow jacket, but enough evidence points to she perished the same fate as Gardner. Authorities were seen concentrating on a drain tunnel under Harshman road that connects the city's aquifer.

She is perplexed following news articles, 'Family of murdered man speaks out.', 'Christian Phillips questioned in the murder of the assistant D.A.', 'No arrests in the Dam murder investigation.' Nadonis freezes on her own Obituary.

INT. ATHENA'S HOME - NEXT DAY - EVENING

Athena comes in from work banging around. Nadonis barely stirs on the couch. Athena shakes her until she opens an eye.

ATHENA

Girl, you're seriously still asleep? Get your ass up. The shrink hypnotize you? Damn, it's time to get crunk.

NADONIS

No, just coming to grips with this. Uh, not. What in hell are you wearing?

ATHENA

Some of us gotta work damn it. I told you that I'm a geologist now!

NADONIS

So, you're just studying rocks?

ATHENA

Uh, well, I'm a park ranger at Hocking Hills okay? Not as glamorous but like I told you. I'm finally happy.

Nadonis gives her a double take, laughs as Athena throws a pillow at her. She gets up and starts getting ready.

ATHENA

Get your up jerk! Lisa and KEISHA will be meeting us at the club. I have an outfit lined up here for you. Whoot who! This is going to be the shit!

MONTAGE. - CINCINNATI - NIGHT

The girls meet up with their friends and hit the town dressed sharp. They hit the casinos on the Riverfront, the boat clubs and ride the Ferris Wheel. They block approaching men and drink, dance and converse, having a great time.

INT. THE SCHWARTZ JAZZ CLUB - CINCINNATI - NIGHT

The girls check out the funky jazz band. Nadonis nods her head, dances. She catches the eye of the saxophonist DWIGHT JUKEBOX JR. They move towards the front. Keisha elbows her.

KEISHA

Heifer, don't ever pull a 2PAC on me again! Girl, you gave me hope! He's out there, he's out there!

NADONIS

Oh, my goodness, shut up drunkenness'!

KEISHA

Yes beeyotch! Nadonis is alive that means Pac is alive! He's alive!

NADONIS

Oh, my goodness, the Schwartz Jazz Club has survived all these years! I love this place!

LISA

You acting like you were just here.

NADONIS

Feels like it! This band is funky.

ATHENA

Ugh, I guess since you've been the cast away.

NADONIS

This is that good stuff. I couldn't even understand half of the crap that was at the club.

ATHENA

All that fake ass auto-tune. Feels like a time warp.

NADONIS

How do you think I feel!!

ATHENA

Whoops right!

They get lost in the funky grooves as the band amps the crowd up becoming the center of attention. Jukebox catches Nadonis eye as he plays right for her as she loses it dancing.

KEISHA

Who! Got the attention of that fine
ass saxophonist, check you out heifer!

NADONIS

Shut it. I've been gone so long! This
feels wonderful.

LISA

You do have his attention, and I think
some others...

They notice several MEN IN BLACK moving through the crowd towards them. Jukebox notices also as he continues playing.

NADONIS

I'm having fun! Why do I feel like all
eyes on me?

ATHENA

I think you're right...

Men in Black I lurches out of the crowd with a concealed knife towards Nadonis.

ATHENA

NADONIS Look out!!!

Quick thinking Athena swings her purse at the assailant knocking the knife out of his hand.

NADONIS

What the hell?

Men in Black II is knocked over the head with Jukebox's sax. The man falls flat in front of Nadonis. The music stops. She looks up. Two more men lurch towards them as she screams.

ATHENA

Nadonis!!!

Athena pushes one of the men as suddenly Nadonis is lifted up into the air by Jukebox. Another CLUBGOER punches the assailant who turns and knifes him.

LISA (SCREAMS)
Run Mother RUN!

Lisa and Keisha run with panicked clubgoers scattering in every direction. Athena looks as Jukebox lifts her also.

JUKEBOX
Let's go!

The band kicks their instruments into the direction of the oncoming assailants before they turn and run. Jukebox rushes the sisters out of the backdoor as several assailants trip.

EXT. CINCINNATI - OTR - NIGHT

Athena starts towards her car.

ATHENA
I'm parked over there!

Soon as she speaks, assailants step in front with guns drawn.

ATHENA
Never mind!

JUKEBOX
Here! I gotchu!

Gunshots go off as Jukebox slings his sax around his back narrowly missing getting shot. He rushes the girls over to his rusty little Ford Focus EXT.

JUKEBOX
Get in!

NADONIS
Oh my God! We're going to die!

JUKEBOX
It's this or deal with them!

Chaos erupts as Athena jumps into the back seat, Nadonis in the front as Jukebox climbs over the car to get in. Gunshots whiz around as more assailants emerge towards them.

ATHENA
Go! Go! Go!

The car doesn't start when he twists the key. They look at him worriedly as he fiddles with it as the men come closer.

JUKEBOX
Come-on Gertrude, come-on Gertrude!

NADONIS
Gertrude???

He looks at them, rubs the dash.

JUKEBOX
My baby Gertrude.

The car sputters on as he punches it towards assailants as they jump clear. They scream as the back window crashes in.

ATHENA
This can't be happening?!

JUKEBOX
Well it is! Who the hell are you?

Nadonis looks at him understanding she has put them in harms way. They hang on for dear life as he pushes the car through the narrow alleys as Several men pursue on motorcycles.

NADONIS
I dunno.

BAR HOPPERS dart out of the way as Jukebox crisscrosses across Vine St. thwarting them as some pursuers breaks off. Jukebox looks at her for answers as she concedes.

NADONIS
I died and came back.

JUKEBOX
So *you can survive* in Gertrude! IF you can manage dying and returning?!

ATHENA
Pay attention to these lil ass alleys!

JUKEBOX
That's some serious superpower shit.
Or Jesus. Let's apply that gift now!

Jukebox shifts the manual gear shift, jolts the car into a skid, turns the car into the opposite direction as assailants swerve in avoidance. Jukebox aims towards an alley as shots ricochet around them. People on the street run in fear.

NADONIS

You're a regular Fast and Furious!

JUKEBOX

Done a lil drag racing time or two.

The alley is so narrow the car scrapes dumpsters and walls. They knock off a sign before turning a hard corner into another alley. Several motorcycles miss the turn.

ATHENA

We are elated you know your way around

NADONIS

The man has whip skills.

JUKEBOX

I can whip my Gertrude.

The women look at him cautiously as they miss a hopper car.

JUKEBOX

Uh, you know what I mean.

The breakoff group of assailants appear heading straight for them guns drawn.

NADONIS

Look out!!

Jukebox pivots onto a sidewalk on Republic St. bashing a huge flower pot. It's a small park with a gazebo full of surprised people that he drifts around as the assailants pursue.

ATHENA

Oh, I'm going to be sick!

He moves onto Race street narrowly missing a Metro rail car. They part concert goers at Findley Market. Bright billboards illuminate a motorcycle leaping off a Metro rail ramp, they scream as the assailant pulls out a Uzi. An airborne empty ATV machine suddenly crashes into the surprised assailant.

ATHENA (SURPRISED)

Where did that come from?!

They turn to see a group of ATV RIDERS swarming the assailants taking them out with bats and clubs. A leader emerges on a modified Slingshot, it's HORUS, tall, dark, dressed in all black leather, steel toed boots.

JUKEBOX (NERVOUS)
Who the hell are these people?!

NADONIS & ATHENA
HORUS!!!

They see their brother wrap a chain around an assailants neck dragging him off his motorcycle. Outnumbered assailants retreat as POLICE swarm in. Horus motions to leave.

JUKEBOX
Don't have to tell me twice!

Jukebox shifts gears flipping the Focus sideways before escaping behind Horus and crew. Pedestrian SUPPORTERS swarm the streets around the downed assailants blocking police.

NADONIS
Where are we going?

JUKEBOX
Far away from there!

They follow through alleys and tunnels heading up the hill on Vine St. towards UC. They dart behind a row of townhomes into a huge warehouse single file. ATV members shut the doors quickly and move a dumpster in front of it.

INT. CINCINNATI - OTR STRONGHOLD - NIGHT

Parking in the warehouse the ATV riders shut off lights.

ATV RIDER
Lights out now!

Jukebox quickly shuts down and ducks. A police helicopter shines a huge spotlight on the building. Nadonis searches for Horus. The helicopter eventually leaves.

JUKEBOX
I think we're good.

There is a slow sigh of relief as the group relaxes. Horus appears by the car, he looks in at Nadonis, smacks the roof. Walks away his hands on his head.

HORUS
Got Damn it! What the fuck!

Nadonis and Athena get out of the car.

NADONIS

Horus I...

HORUS

No, shut it down. You're not my sister! My sister is dead damnit! We had the service! We got the damn gravestone! This is bullshit damnit!

ATHENA

Horus, bro...

HORUS

Shut it down means you too Athena!

ATHENA

Well shit...

Jukebox opens the door.

JUKEBOX

Hey man chill...

HORUS

Did anyone say you could fucking speak man?! I need this whole mutha quiet!

Riders move in to Jukebox as he accesses it. He gets back in.

JUKEBOX

Hey, I'm a horn player. Wh'd I know?

NADONIS

Horus, remember when you were nine playing peewee ball. How you hated sweating under that t-ball plastic hat, you were so angry they made you wear that...

Horus slows down his pacing, listens.

NADONIS

You were deep left field, it must have been close to 100 degrees. You were dripping sweat, you peeled that hat off and was using your little red number 33 shirt to wipe off with.

HORUS

We were the Woodpeckers of all things.

NADONIS

Right. And that boy, what's his name?

ATHENA

CLIFFORD...how could you forget that with all the red?

NADONIS

Anyhow, Clifford hit a hard grounder that both baseman missed and it bounced right to you.

HORUS

And my damn nugget. Oh my God.

NADONIS

Uh huh, you didn't know what hit you. We all gasped watching you go down like a brick.

HORUS

My head looked like a deformed tomato. I swear I saw birds chirping around my dome. I can still feel it.

NADONIS

And what did you wake up to?

Horus finally looks at her.

NADONIS (SINGING)

A hungry fox one day did spy, Tweedle-deedle-dumpty, Tweedle deedle dee, Some ripe red grapes that hung so high, Tweedle-deedle-dumpty, Tweedle deedle dee. And as he watched, they seemed to say, To him, who underneath did stay, "If you can fetch us down you may."

HORUS

And the fox realized the grapes were still beyond his power. "Who cares?", he said, "I'll bet they're sour."

NADONIS

"Tweedle-deedle-dumpty, Tweedle deedle dee."

HORUS

My favorite Aesop's Fable tune mom

used to sing.

Horus openly sobs as he gives in and comes to hug Nadonis, Athena joins in as they openly weep. The crowd cheers.

EXT. CINCINNATI - OTR STRONGHOLD ROOF - NIGHT

Nadonis and Horus stand on the rooftop drinking looking out.

HORUS

Four years Nadonis, four years. You were dead, gone, never coming back. This is some deep shit right here. What the fuck is going on?

NADONIS

I wish I knew little bro. I've been trying to figure that out. I have a few leads, they keep coming up dry.

HORUS

So where the hell were you? Are you just making up some shit that you don't remember? Freaking me out, I was receiving calls from my dead sister then here you are! And you say you're all foggy. I don't buy that sis. You know I keeps it real! This shit is fucking with my buzz!

NADONIS

Ugh, Horus, are you still doing that stuff? I feel like I was on something. The doctors claim it was something similar to a Coma but there aren't any medical records supporting where I was. I literally just remember being out bike riding, then waking up in my SUV. That's it. I just have flashbacks of the accident. That messes with me! So you did get my calls?

HORUS (SIGHS)

I've been clean these four years sis. I haven't even looked at a needle. A little drank, a lil smoke. No gateway shit, I'm good. Thena tell you I spent a few years in Lebanon Correctional?

NADONIS

In so many ways. I'm glad you're off

that stuff. That's real good. What did you get charged for?

HORUS

Possession, intent to distribute. Got me for two years. I'm never going back to that hell hole.

NADONIS

Life isn't perfect but it's way better out here than in there.

HORUS

You did help put a few of my homies in there.

NADONIS

They shouldn't have been messing with their freedom. You know I'm down to help out my brother and sisters but you and I know, some of us still go down the wrong rabbit hole. It don't matter what background you have. Point blank humans fuck up. We gotta do better, we are better.

HORUS

I feel you sis. Your spirit encouraged me to get right, believe or not I'm working with the re-entry program, helping G's coming out getting they shit back together, jobs, housing, counseling, we're doing it. Heck, half the crew down there are ex-offenders.

NADONIS

So that ATV squad isn't doing any bull out on the streets? You handled those thugs trying to kill me last night.

HORUS

Nah, we ride for the kicks, tricks, hoes. We rule the OTR even with the muthafucking gentrifiers trying to take over. We'll scare those dread head white boys to run off on their tandem bicycles! Now, try us, we ride or die, we defend our own. The call came, my zombie sister was in need, I came. We concurred.

NADONIS

Zombie, oh my God. Well thank you my dark knight, you're so kind. We did have it under control mind you.

HORUS

Oh with Saxophone Slim? Oh yeah, right. I hear you.

Nadonis giggles before trailing off.

NADONIS

When I came too I wasn't sure if I was in dreamland or reality. I had some type of recurring nightmare before I was hospitalized. I felt like I was being taught some type of lesson or something I don't know. It was just so real, happened over and over.

HORUS

Like the groundhog day effect?

NADONIS

Oh Lord, that's Sci-Fi, but damn it did kind of feel like that. Like it happened but it didn't happen. Then to come to grips everyone saying I've been gone, the missing time gap, my kids have grown, problems at my old job, Mitchell is definitely dead. Horus, I'm messed up man.

HORUS

Yeah, I tell you what, that crazy ass wife of Cecil's better stop coming by harassing me at my job. If that bitch ass ex-husband, or widowed husband or shit whatever he is can't show up himself to face you and ask questions then he needs to step off!

NADONIS

Wait a minute, Jocelyn? Crazy lady came to your work asking about who, me? What was she asking? Why was she there? I didn't know about this. I need to know.

HORUS

Well you know Cecil's dumbass got your

old position right? Everyone can tell it was some type of showoff placement to fill the gap and show the city they could retain a good suck up black man.

NADONIS

Okay, okay, that he is. But what did Jocelyn have to do with it?

HORUS

Man, ask her. She sure isn't you. She acts like if the jobs is hers or something, calling shots, talking for him, saying I better give up where my sister is so she can be prosecuted or she will shut down my status at the re-entry and have me back in prison, shit that lady is crazy and I don't snitch but trust, I'm cautious as hell being it would be my third strike. Sis, they would have hell to pay they try to take me out, I'm taking fools with me! Fuck that!

NADONIS

Horus, calm down. I gotchu, when it's someone against you and your family, then that's not snitching. She has no authority to come at you like that or say anything like that. Christian Phillips visited me when I got arrested. Showed me some messed up pictures, basically threatened me. Something is not right with that office, I can't put it together.

He puts his arm around her.

HORUS

You'll figure it out sis, you a regular Nancy Drew. If I knew any better Grandma was coming back from the dead messing with your head.

She looks at him.

NADONIS

I've had visions of her.

HORUS

So have I.

ATHENA

Me too. She lives through us.

They turn to see Athena joining them.

ATHENA

Wondered where you two were.

Horus puts his arms around his sisters.

HORUS

Never thought we'd be back together like this. Family. It feels good.

NADONIS

Yes! I feel Grandma Haddox made this all possible. Maybe that was the reason for those weird premonitions.

ATHENA

Mine too.

HORUS

I keep seeing Lotus Flowers everywhere. Takes me back.

NADONIS

Oh God. Exactly. We need to go there, I think I can put all the pieces together at her house.

ATHENA

I thought it was auctioned off or something. I haven't been up there in ages, I feel badly. It was all so weird because of COVID. I'm not even sure when she passed.

NADONIS

COVID, I can't believe I missed a damn pandemic. That must have been awful, all that confusion, death everywhere. I do see how things have changed.

ATHENA

Be glad you missed that mess. Death becomes us all. It's inevitable.

HORUS

So, wait, let me get this straight, the mystery group of assassins,

meddling from your ex-hubby, your shady ex-boss threatening you, all here, but to solve all this, to grandma's house we go.

NADONIS & ATHENA

Yes!

HORUS

Then it's settled. We need to rest up first. It's been a long ass day.

NADONIS

Definitely.

They turn to the stairs.

ATHENA

Wait, did you show her?

He looks at her, shakes his head.

HORUS

No, I thought it would be too much.

NADONIS

What, what is it?

Athena smiles and turns towards Vine St., points at another warehouse wall with a lighted up huge mural.

ATHENA

Should be able to see it sis. Right over there. You live on.

Nadonis squints, see's the mural clearly, it's her likeness as an angel with Lotus Flowers and a dedication that reads 'Queen City Angel, gone too soon, was awarded her wings. We miss you.' She starts to cry. They embrace her.

NADONIS

You did this?

They shake their head yes.

NADONIS

Staring down into the eyes of your own immortality is a sobering experience.

EXT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - MORNING

In the heavy mist young Nadonis runs through the grassy yard towards the river. She grips her dress, bites her lip before moving through a swampy area filled with Lotus Flowers.

Grown Nadonis places a waterproof cage into the swampy area, hiding it with Lotus Flowers.

INT. CINCINNATI - OTR STRONGHOLD - DAY

Nadonis awakens with sun in her eyes on a futon cuddled up with Jukebox. He awakens as they share an awkward moment looking into each other's eyes. She pushes off.

NADONIS

Ugh, sorry.

JUKEBOX

My apologies. Good morning.

Athena is sprawled on the other end. She looks up.

ATHENA

Oh Lawd, what the hell. Oh, and yes
I'm still in a damn warehouse and with
stink breath.

A television blaring news is heard in another room, Horus storms in with coffee.

HORUS

Drink up, we gotta move. I checked the news this morning and the big story is Cecil Sebastian has been found dead, belly up in the Little Miami. They're not calling it but it looks like foul play. Nadonis, you're named as a person of interest.

NADONIS

The hell? As if! What did they say about the children?

HORUS

No mention! If Christian Phillips is behind this or will be pursuing you then you better figure out something and I mean fast!

They drown the cups of coffee as Athena answers her cell.

ATHENA

It's Lisa, cops were swarming her work, she called off. She's scared. She is out looking for us.

ATV RIDER

Heru! Po-Po is sniffing around the perimeter! We're compromised!

HORUS

She better not be getting tailed. That's your way out. I've got to go handle this!

ATHENA

Wait, how? How will we get to her?

Horus points to shelving that ATV Riders move out of the way revealing an escape tunnel. He loads a gun.

NADONIS

You're not shooting a cop are you.

HORUS

It's just in case. GO. I love you sis. Glad you're back.

NADONIS

Be so careful. Heru, the leader.

HORUS

You remember.

They hand Athena and Nadonis a flashlight as they scramble into the tunnel. She looks back at Jukebox.

JUKEBOX

Call me.

She nods yes before the ATV Riders close it behind them.

ATHENA

And now is not the time to be claustrophobic!

NADONIS

Oh, Athena...

EXT. CINCINNATI - MITCHELL AVE - DAY

A manhole cover pops up off of Mitchell Ave. as the women

scramble out. PEDESTRIANS look puzzled. Lisa is driving around nearby, she turns around seeing them.

ATHENA

Oh my God, yuck, spiders, filth!

NADONIS

Where are we? Is Lisa here?

ATHENA

Get off me, get off me!

Lisa's car approaches startles them.

LISA

There you are! What the hell! What happened last night?

Nadonis avoids pedestrians' glare as they get into the car.

NADONIS

We gotta move! We'll talk. Let's go!

ATHENA

I feel completely icky!

Lisa takes off hurriedly.

INT. CINCINNATI - LISA'S CAR - DAY

On I-71 North Nadonis watches Cincinnati's skyline fade behind. She freezes in terror driving over the Edward Morrow.

INT. CINCINNATI - POLICE STATION - DAY

Shiloh pours over evidence linking Nadonis with Christian, Cecil, Sam. She places a picture of Jocelyn in the middle.

SHILOH

Which one was hatching this mess?

Fendi and Danny rush up to her cubicle.

FENDI

Word came Mrs. Sebastian has a childhood home still owned by her Grandmother up in Greene County.

SHILOH

I know that area. Let's go.

EXT. WARREN - GREENE CTY - DAY

They depart I-71 to US 42 North through the country passing cornfields and Caesar Creek lake. They travel north on US 68 passing bicyclists and walkers. Athena watches a CINCINNATI NEWSREPORTER interview SHILOH on her cell.

LISA

I got your SUV back, you're right, they did toss it. Damn thing is dirty inside and out, where were you with a bunch of Magnolia trees?

NADONIS

Thank you! Uh, Magnolia trees?

SHILOH

We believe we have a viable suspect. We will update the public as soon as they are in custody. I have no more information at this time.

NADONIS

I feel like I'm traveling back in time. Everything is so off.

ATHENA

Route 68. We're on the underground railroad coming from the South.

LISA

I guess I'm the abolitionist.

NADONIS

Right, right. Lisa, you know you're down. I am very glad you're my friend. I couldn't have done a lot of this without you, or you sis. My goodness, this has been trying.

LISA

Anything for you girl, you knows we go way back sheesh, have to clear your name. I don't know why that cop has such a jones for you. Or that prosecutor, what type of conflict of interest is that?

ATHENA

Of course sis, we going back to our turf. What exactly do you think we'll

solve out there?

NADONIS

You'll see. I want to visit mom first.

Athena gives her a long look as they approach Yellow Springs.

EXT. YELLOW SPRINGS - GLEN FOREST CEMETERY - DAY - MIST

The sun peeks through mist as Nadonis and Athena stare at their mothers grave.

ATHENA

It's been awhile coming up here, it's got moss growing on it.

Nadonis bends down, places a single picked flower on it.

NADONIS

She was so full of demons, I do hope she has found peace now.

ATHENA

If we didn't have Grandma Haddox who knows where we would be now. They don't make them like that no more.

NADONIS

Wrong, we will be like that.

ATHENA

No doubt.

They smile and fist bump each other.

NADONIS

All that crap dad put her through. It's a wonder her mental health wasn't worse. I hope he hasn't found peace.

ATHENA

I still have PTSD from the toxicity to this day. My psychiatrist is highly valued! This stuff isn't no joke!

NADONIS

I may need that number after all this.

ATHENA

I gotchu sis. All we got is us.

Lisa is watching news at the car, she leans out.

LISA

Guys, oh my God, Horus was arrested!
They shot one of his crew!

ATHENA

Damn it! At least he's alive!

NADONIS

Right! Let's go figure this out! We'll
need all the evidence to help him!

INT. YELLOW SPRINGS - LISA'S CAR - DAY

They drive through the heart of the town as VILLAGERS and VISITORS mingle and shop.

LISA

This town is always so jumping, I love
this place!

ATHENA

Yah, you're an outsider. You're like
those damn gentrifiers running poor
folk out of their homes and raising
prices. This place is nothing like it
used to be.

LISA

What? Isn't that what capitalists do,
sell their wares to make money? This
is local capitalism at it's best!
What's the problem?

NADONIS

It's the core community spirit that's
what's lost. The culture that made
this little village is hidden in all
the muck that really plagues our whole
nation.

ATHENA

The education of activists and
creatives that got motivated to go out
and change the world. Why mom knew we
would blossom here. We need more of
these core values out there.

Nadonis concurs as they drive south of town to Jacoby Road.

EXT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

They take a winding road to a smaller lane past few sporadic homes and fields. They enter a forest and encounter a gate.

ATHENA

I don't remember this ever being closed. It's been so long.

Nadonis remembers the mysterious key on her neck. She pulls it out and walks to the gate. It works.

LISA

The woman is full of surprises.

They drive further down the paved lane before a break in the forest reveals a magnificent old mansion.

LISA

Well damn! Look at this! What did your Grandma do?

NADONIS

She was the first black professor of sociology at Antioch College after she taught at Wilberforce University. This used to be Antioch's president's house before she obtained it. It may still be owned by the college. It's old!

ATHENA

The place always freaked me out! It doesn't look cleaned in years.

They park by the garage and get out looking around. The garage door is ajar. Nadonis spots something, she opens the door fully. It's full of items including bicycles.

LISA

Look, the Magnolia. Hey, What is it?

Nadonis inspects a mangled bicycle by the door.

NADONIS

I don't understand, this is the bike I was riding when I was pushed off the..

ATHENA

How could that be? Are you for certain?

Nadonis shows the cement scuff marks and a piece of her own coat still attached. Lisa looks at a flowering tree nearby.

LISA

Look, those Magnolia leaves that were all over your SUV when I pulled it out. They were everywhere.

ATHENA

There are recent tire tracks. They're not Grandma's old Mustang!

They look at the house.

NADONIS

Was I here?

INT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY - MIST

The key opens up the front door as they cautiously enter.

LISA

This home is magnificent! Looks amazing, smells aren't so good...

ATHENA

Smell like dusty med's and turkey legs

NADONIS

That's Grandmas. Split up and look around. Let me know what you see!

They wander around searching. Athena is in the kitchen.

ATHENA (YELLING)

Yes, definitely someone was here, dirty dishes, some type of leftover concoction she was wiping up in vials on the counter, ew, spoiled fruit!

Lisa is poking around bedrooms, she calls down the stairs.

LISA (YELLING)

No signs of anyone up here, beds are made, nothing looks to be out of place! It's very lovely!

Nadonis is notably silent, they move towards the study room where she was last seen.

LISA
Where's Nadonis?

ATHENA
I don't know. NADONIS!

They move into the study hall, books and instruments are scattered about. There is a small door off to the side.

ATHENA
This door was always closed when we were little.

She opens it cautiously.

ATHENA
Nadonis?

Nadonis is sitting on a small cot sobbing.

LISA
Sweetie, what is it?

They go to her side as she holds an odd contraption, a head band full of acupuncture needles.

ATHENA
Nadonis! What in Sam hell...?

NADONIS
I...I was definitely here. I was here.
Feel the back of my head.

The women feels her scalp and looks at the contraption in shock. Lisa starts inspecting vials and medicines.

LISA
Goodness, Barbiturates, Propofol,
Thiopental... Your Grandmother was
administering meds.

Athena sniffs a vial.

ATHENA
Yuck, along with her own potions. Oh
my goodness, Nadonis I'm so sorry. I
would have never thought you were up
here in some type of induced state. We
believed what they told us...

LISA

We were suckered punch. Damn fake news. I don't even want to know what that strange helmet is...

NADONIS

It had to be to control the swelling. Last I remember I was being rushed headfirst under that dry damn. I had to hit my head hard! Why they couldn't find any records, why I fell off the face of the earth!

ATHENA

Why you were delusional for so long! So, if you were knocked out, that man was crushed, how the hell did you get here? You couldn't have set this up!

NADONIS

Mitchell, his name was Mitchell. God, like how I drove to the Edward Morrow bridge, possibly I acted on pure instinct and went to the closest place I remembered for help? This is about twenty minutes from the dam!

ATHENA

Sleep-driving?

LISA

Uh, it is possible. I've seen studies of it. Hell, I missed Cleveland once, drove right through it, and woke up somewhere near Mansfield!

NADONIS

Think about what guided you, Athena.

Athena huffs and gets up, shivers.

ATHENA

This is all so damn weird. So, Grandma took you in, cared for you for damn, four years, leap year to leap year, sounds like something she would do. So, what the hell happened to her.

They get up, look at each other, Nadonis tosses the acupuncture helmet down as they leave the room.

ATHENA
We looked everywhere.

LISA
Doesn't look like anyone has been here

NADONIS (YELLING)
Grandma!

ATHENA
I seriously thought she was dead. I
feel like crap.

LISA
Oh goodness someone is outside!

They stop, peer out the back door to the porch, gray rattled
dreadlocks hang over the back of a rocking chair.

NADONIS
Grandma! Oh goodness! Grandma!

EXT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

They rush out and face the skeleton remains of grandma in the
chair, blue dress, shawl, boots, mask, a rifle, and knitting
on her lap. The women gasp and cover their faces.

ATHENA
Oh, I'm going to be sick!

Athena yaks over the shrubs.

LISA
Uh, it must have been the Covid. She
still has a top-of-the-line N5 mask
on. It must have been what woke you
up, not receiving treatments anymore.
She's been dead a while. I'm sorry.

Nadonis kneels down in front of her, not afraid.

NADONIS
I'm so sorry Grandma, I'm so sorry.
For all of your worries and strengths.
You took care of us when we were
little. You took care of me again when
I needed you and I failed you. With
all of your medicines and potions,
some damn virus took you out.

Nadonis grips the shawl and remembers the book.

NADONIS

It's time to stop the madness.

Nadonis gets up angered, she walks briskly towards the garage with Lisa trying to rush behind her. Athena is still yakking

ATHENA

Don't mind me! I'll catch up!

LISA

Where are you heading!

NADONIS

I'm using my God-given instincts.

She grabs a spade from the garage and walks briskly out into the expansive yard. The Little Miami River flows nearby as she makes it towards a grove of trees and a small swamp. She takes off her shoes and wades in.

LISA

Uh, I'll let you handle that. Let me know if you need anything.

NADONIS

Oh, Lisa.

Nadonis fishes around within patches of Lotus flowers banging the spade around. She finally finds it. A small mound cloaked in rusty chains and flowers on top. She moves the chains and digs, finding a steel box.

LISA

Girl is definitely full of surprises.

Athena catches up as Nadonis wades out of the swamp.

ATHENA

Wasn't that the old-time capsule box?

Nadonis crawls onto the tall grass and uses a key to open it. She removes childhood memories, photographs of their parents, grandmother, report cards. She finds the Bible.

ATHENA

Oh, these are awesome. I remember these skates.

LISA

What is that?

Nadonis opens up the Bible, it's hollowed out with items inside. She has money, passports, papers.

ATHENA

What the hell?

NADONIS

This is what will clear my name. When Christian Phillips had me sign items I was skeptical about I made copies. He got the copies, these are the originals. I feared for my job. Not my life, I would have never imagined.

LISA

A lot of this was mentioned on the news when they were investigating him. Talk of corruption and fraud. They would appoint a fake minority firm to demolish abandoned homes and instead pocket the money and do it themselves. The prosecutor let it all happen! Apparently, they didn't have the dirt on him but others went to prison!

ATHENA

Black men took the rap. Shame, another example of how the complexion beats the conviction!

NADONIS

This is what led me here. My gut instincts were going haywire!

Something catches Athena's eyes as she roots through papers.

LISA

Maybe it was that weird antenna cap you were sporting. I'm just saying.

NADONIS

Shut it, Lisa.

LISA

Athena, what is it?

ATHENA

Sis, who was that really ugly girl we

used to tease all the time in high school? God, we were awful. Called her names, tripped her, stole her books. She had that horrible gap and heavy braces, bottle glasses, always sported pig tails.

NADONIS

Uh, Rat Girl? Oh Lord, what made you think of her? We're in the middle of something.

They start walking back to the house.

ATHENA

Right, right Rat Girl! That was so bad. Her real name was something really ignorant, Ratafia or something. What was her last name? It was unique

LISA

Oh, yah, I wouldn't use that myself.

NADONIS

Ratafia um, Gurgly. Yah, that was a setup. That poor girl didn't have a chance with that. I haven't seen her in ages. What about her?

ATHENA

Look at that notary on your papers.

Nadonis takes a look, and sees a Jocelyn Gurgly sign-off.

NADONIS

The notary is Jocelyn Gurgly. On all of the papers. That is an *odd* coincidence.

ATHENA

How many Gurglies are there in this world? I mean really?

LISA

Do you think they're related?

NADONIS

Didn't Rat Girl... I mean Ratafia attempt to use another name? An alias?

ATHENA

She kept crying about using her middle name when we made fun of her.

They look at each other.

NADONIS

Yearbook.

They race into the study and pull out books. Lisa finds one.

LISA

Oh, lawd, class of 2000? You guys look so small and puny.

NADONIS

Give me that.

They start flipping through pages. They find a blank picture of R. Jocelyn Gurgly.

NADONIS & ATHENA

JOCELYN!

Lisa pulls out her phone.

LISA

Wait, isn't that...? Let me look at the marriage records.

They nod yes as they flip through, finally a picture at an event with Nadonis foot on Ratafia in a wrestling pose.

ATHENA

Yikes!

NADONIS

I don't even remember...

LISA

Ugh, guys...

She shows the marriage records of Cecil with Ratafia Jocelyn Gurgly, their mouths drop. Samuel Kingston was Cecil's best man! A red beam shows up on Nadonis.

NADONIS (DISBELIEF)

...Shit.

LISA (SCREAMS)

Noooooo!

Lisa leaps in front of her as the window crashes in as a bullet pierces through her shoulder. They hit the floor.

NADONIS

Oh my goodness, Lisa are you okay?

ATHENA

Oh my ears! What the hell was that!

NADONIS

Lisa, Lisa!

Lisa groans as Nadonis props her up and grabs a tablecloth to stop the flow of blood and apply pressure.

LISA

It burns, it burns. Shit.

Athena starts to crawl towards them, more shots erupt through the room as the women scream.

NADONIS

The bookshelf!

She grabs her Grandma's potions, throws a vial at the floor. Black smoke fills the window. The shooting subsides, she takes a peek outside and sees an assailant across the river.

ATHENA

Is it those men again? What the hell!

NADONIS

One lone person, across the river.
Lisa, don't you have a piece?

LISA

Yes, a Glock in the glove department.
Get that piece of shit!

Athena is calling 911.

ATHENA

Hello 911? Hello...

Nadonis darts out of the room towards the front.

ATHENA

Be careful sis!

The shooter resumes shooting as she runs across the windows spraying glass everywhere. She slides into the kitchen, her

heart racing. She peeks out the kitchen window towards the car, the kitchen has a side door.

EXT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

She makes a bolt out of the door for the car, shots spray bricks and glass as she covers her head. She rounds the corner and looks as shots go into the propane tank.

NADONIS

OH shit!

The propane gas blows out fumes when fire arrows are launched. She sprints hard towards the car.

NADONIS

No, no, no!

The propane tank explodes sending her in the air past the garage landing on the hood of the car setting off the alarm.

INT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

Athena scrambles through the house towards the front, peeks out the window seeing her sister on the car holding her head.

ATHENA

Nadonis no!

She races towards the back and peeks out the back window, she sees the shooter moving forward.

ATHENA

I don't think so, she's not dying again! Lisa are you okay? I gotta go save my sister!

LISA

Ugh, I'm just draining blood everywhere, I'm good.

Athena bolts out the back door.

EXT. GRANDMA HADDOX HOME - YELLOW SPRINGS - DAY

Athena hesitates before sliding the rifle out of Grandma's grip. She shakes her hand, trembling.

ATHENA

Sorry Grandma.

She checks the guns, cocks it, crouches down, and aims at the assailant. Shoots hitting the tree above. The assailant ducks behind the brush. She keeps firing.

ATHENA

Where did you go ya piece of shit!

A dirt bike starts up as the assailant is making a getaway. Athena runs around the corner, Nadonis is gone.

Nadonis comes out of the garage on a dirt bike, she races across the yard parallel with the assailant. The mud splashes her through the water-soaked yard.

NADONIS

This some bullshit!

She follows a small trail through trees following the curve of the river. Over a small bridge and down a hill she comes towards the watering hole. She drops the bike and runs over the downed tree. She grabs the tire swing.

The assailant comes into view, she waits, slings the tire across the river. They look up, sees her standing on the tree. It's Jocelyn. She raises her gun.

JOCELYN

You missed bitch!

The tire swing comes back and knocks the surprised Jocelyn off the bike into a tree.

Nadonis hesitates before jumping into the watering hole.

MYRRHA (V.O.)

Haddox aren't afraid to take a leap!

NADONIS

I know mother.

She leaps in, swims to the opposite shore, comes out, and raises the gun. She approaches cautiously, Jocelyn is gone. She sees her climbing a hill in the forest. She shoots as Jocelyn looks back, smiles before ascending the hill.

NADONIS

STOP!! This bitch.

Nadonis pursues Jocelyn up the hill, following the disturbed thick brush. She makes it to an area named the Pine Forest. It's full of tall Pine trees with soft needles covering the

ground with sparse vegetation making it very quiet.

She walks quietly looking for Jocelyn before Birds startle her. Shots ring out as she ducks and hides.

JOCELYN (TAUNTING)

You probably don't even remember
playing in these woods as kids! Bougie
ass bitch shit didn't stink!

NADONIS

Jocelyn! Listen! Whatever happened in
the past we can't change but we can
change the future! Can we talk?

JOCELYN SCREAMING)

You put a live RAT IN MY HAIR! You
NEVER outlive that!

NADONIS (SIGHS)

I know. Ugh I'm sorry! I... felt I
needed payback for you calling me
darkie in the water. I couldn't even
swim after that. IT was wrong, we all
were AWFUL kids, I get it.

Nadonis waits for a response, creeps to another tree to aim.

NADONIS

Ratafia I...

JOCELYN (YELLING)

SILENCE! Doesn't even compare BITCH!

Jocelyn lets out a round of shots, Nadonis crouches, waits to see movement, returns fire. Jocelyn screams out as ricochet sprays needles at her, drops her gun, and runs.

The chase resumes through the eerily quiet bare blossoming forest, the only sound their grunts and feet as Nadonis gains on Jocelyn. They arrive at a gorge with 900 ft drop into the Little Miami raging underneath. Jocelyn attempts to leap over it. Nadonis catches the back of her shirt, swings her around.

Jocelyn screeches, punches Adonis repetitively who stumbles backward. Nadonis manages to head butt back disorienting her.

NADONIS

I was trying to apologize!

JOCELYN
 FUCK Yo' Feelings!

They punch at each other on top of the cliff.

NADONIS
 Doesn't give you the right to try to
 kill me crazy bitch!

Jocelyn spits in her eye, then backhands Nadonis before
 dragging her to the edge.

JOCELYN (YELLING)
 This is for all the mean bitches,
 bullies, cheating whores, think you're
 so damn hot! Why didn't YOU DIE!?

Nadonis sees the edge of the cliff looming, she kicks Jocelyn
 in her face knocking her head backwards. Then she shoves her
 with her foot as Jocelyn tumbles over the cliff.

Nadonis gasps, bloody, exhausted, bewildered, starts to crawl
 away from the edge. Jocelyn hangs on the side of the cliff
 and sees her hair dangle, she grabs and yanks her over.

NADONIS
 Damn! Why didn't you die!?

JOCELYN (GROWLING)
 After you slut! Drown like your men!

NADONIS (DISBELIEF)
 You killed Cecil also!

Jocelyn grins evilly with blood in her teeth, she flings dirt
 at Nadonis face as they slap at each other while desperately
 hanging onto the side of the cliff.

JOCELYN (YELLING)
 That bitch ass man was still in love
 with you! Always have more than me!

Nadonis has a foot on a rock pushing up, her left hand
 gripping the top.

NADONIS
 You are sick Jocelyn!

She sees her escaping, pulls a knife out of her waistband.

JOCELYN (GROWLING)

I gutted him like a fish! Like I'll
GUT YOU!

Jocelyn swings the knife at her, a single gunshot pierces through the forest and embeds a bloody bullet into the cliff outside of Jocelyn's chest. She drops the knife and manages to look to the other side as Shiloh keeps aim. Another shot, she falls to her death in the raging currents.

Nadonis, exhausted, tries to pull herself up, a hand grabs her, she looks up, it's Fendi.

FENDI

We got you girl.

The cops swarm the forest as Fendi pulls her up. She holds onto him tightly managing to look over to Shiloh. They nod at each other before she exhales relief.

END