

24 SECOND DREAMS

Written By

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FADE IN:

INT. CAR OUTSIDE THE STAPLES CENTER LOS ANGELES - DAY

TRINA STROKES, 27, Los Angeles Sparks point guard and reigning WNBA MVP, earnestly listening to her blasting stereo.

She pulls her wild afro into her headband, eyes wide.

TRINA  
You're basketball royalty. One step  
closer to the NBA. You're evolution,  
baby.

Her cell phone rings interrupting her mantra.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
You know better!

Her agent ALEC LARODA is on the other end.

ALEC  
(on phone)  
I know you're in mode.

TRINA  
Then speak.

ALEC  
(on phone)  
Denver's ready to deal. All you  
need to do is bring this home. What's  
your name?

TRINA  
(screaming)  
Trina...Muthafuckin'...Strokes.

ALEC  
(on phone)  
Where are you going?

Trina climbs out of her car pounding her leg.

TRINA  
To get this Chip and an NBA contract.  
Now get off the damn phone I got  
work to do.

INT. STAPLES CENTER COURT - NIGHT

WNBA finals, eighteen seconds left on the clock as Trina speeds up the court with two WASHINGTON MYSTICS defenders in her path.

In the stands behind her basket, Trina spots a tall Black man gesturing widely amongst the other fans. Recognizing it's her father JACKSON STROKES, distracts her.

Mystics point guard CHAMIKA SHAW swoops in stealing the ball. As she's falling out of bounds she calls time out.

The scoreboard reads MYSTICS 72 SPARKS 71.

Trina passes Chamika they stop eyeing each other as she heads to the sidelines.

CHAMIKA  
You can cry now.

Trina grabs Chamika's jersey.

REFEREES rush in to separate them. Trina pulls away looking up to the clock. 15 seconds left.

TRINA  
Hold that thought.

Trina and Chamika stay locked on each other from their huddles.

COURT

The Mystics take the ball out of bounds.

Chamika gets a pass from a TEAMMATE. Trina moves in to cut her off only to have Chamika get by her.

Trina smiles as she reaches out, flicking the ball away into the hands of her teammate BLAKE WHITE.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
BREAK.

Blake sends a pass upcourt to a streaking Trina.

Chamika closes tight on Trina. Just as she sees Blake running behind the defenders.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
(to herself)  
Helpless, babygirl.

She executes a perfect cross over, leaving Chamika in a heap on the court. Instead of shooting she sends a pass hitting Blake in stride for the game winning layup.

Trina steps defiantly over Chamika's prone body. Pointing to the number 3 on her jersey then to the scoreboard.

SCOREBOARD

Sparks 73 Mystic 72

TRINA (CONT'D)  
 (looking down at  
 Chamika)  
 Point, game. Kleenex at the scorers  
 table.

The arena erupts in celebration as every member of the Sparks rush Trina and Blake swallowing them both up.

As Trina anxiously searches the stands for Jackson, her twin brother, TREY STROKES rushes onto the court swooping her into his arms.

They are mirror images of each other, long, slim with megawatt smiles.

TREY  
 You did it!

TRINA  
 (tearfully)  
 Jackson is here.

INT. STAPLES CENTER PLAYERS TUNNEL - LATER

Trina comes out of the locker room, spots Alec, mid 40's, Latino, with the studied manner of someone who knows the art of working angles.

MARIA SANTIAGO, 30-something Latina bombshell stands next to them along with her 12-year-old son, KESHAWN.

Trey comes quickly to Trina's side. They look towards Alec who strides over to them both.

ALEC  
 Before you start---

TRINA  
 (frowning)  
 Not cool.

Alec looks back at Jackson.

ALEC

You need to trust me on this. It's  
time---

TRINA

To cut his crack ass loose.

Trey points out the news cameras shooting everything.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Who's the kid.

ALEC

Your biggest fan. Will you at least  
sign an autograph for him?

TRINA

Why is he with Jackson?

ALEC

Can I bring him over or what?

Trina looks hesitantly at Trey.

TREY

Just the kid.

KeShawn sporting Trina's throwback jersey is all legs and  
arms nervous as Alec walks him over.

TRINA

Hi. What's your name?

KESHAWN

KeShawn Santiago.

Trina smiles as she looks back over her shoulder at Trey.

TRINA

You want an autograph?

KESHAWN

Ye...yes, Ma'am.

TRINA

Mine or my little brother here.

TREY

Hey!

KeShawn points to his jersey.

KESHAWN

I'm reppin' you.

They all laugh.

TRINA  
So, I'm your favorite?

KESHAWN  
Yes, Ma'am.

Trina takes a close look at KeShawn.

TRINA  
I like you so much right now. What  
am I signing?

KeShawn points to his jersey.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
I think we can do better than that.

She reaches into her bag. KeShawn's face lights up when Trina pulls out her game jersey.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
You ain't gonna' sell this are you?

Unable to answer he shakes his head enthusiastically. Trina and Trey both breakout laughing.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
You hoop?

KESHAWN  
Fo' sure.

Trina signs the jersey.

TRINA  
To my favorite future NBA superstar.

She hands it to KeShawn who almost rips it from her hands.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
When you get to the NBA, you make  
sure you---

Pointing at Trey.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
---light him up.

KESHAWN  
No doubt.

Trey playfully pushes KeShawn. Trina opens her arms allowing KeShawn in for a hug.

KeShawn hands Trina a CD from his backpack.

TRINA

For me?

She looks at the CD.

KESHAWN

My best games. Maybe you could give me some pointers?

TRINA

Will you autograph it.

KeShawn smiles as he signs the CD.

KESHAWN

To my favorite player from Key the dream.

He hands the CD back to Trina.

TRINA

Ok, get out of here before I cry.

ALEC

Let's get you back to your Mom.  
Thanks guys.

They watch Alec and KeShawn walk away.

As Trina is waving to KeShawn she notices a smiling Chamika approaching Alec.

She turns to Trey holding the CD in her hand.

TRINA

Why do they give me shit like this?

She starts to toss it but Trey takes it and stuffs it back in her bag.

TREY

You really have no damn maternal instinct.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE ARENA - LATER

Trina is signing autographs for fans. She spots Jackson standing in the crowd to her right.

Jackson eyes Trina closely waiting for acknowledgment. Trina turns to Alec.

TRINA  
He needs to go.

ALEC  
Not good.

TRINA  
Not asking.

Seeing Alec approaching him, Jackson begins to walk away without looking back. Trina watches him leave.

EXT. ARENA ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

An EMT CREW bursts through the doors pushing a gurney towards a waiting ambulance.

Trina looks up just as Maria exits the doors frantically trying to keep pace.

BEGIN MONTAGE

INT. NIGHT CLUB - LATER

VIP bottle service, men and women all around her, Blake and the rest of the team.

INT. TRINA'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Trina sits half dressed on the sofa a burning joint in her hand. She stares across to an open door where a long legged WOMAN lays naked on the bed.

INT. TRINA'S LOFT L.A. - DAY

Trina carefully places her Finals MVP award on her trophy wall.

She removes her necklace, placing it in an open box next to a picture of her deceased mother LOIS.

TRINA  
This one's for all our dreams.

END MONTAGE

INT. ESPN STUDIO FOUR DAYS LATER - DAY

Trina is being interviewed by sport show host KEVIN EWING, mid 40's with an interviewers assured presence.

Trina runs her hand through her afro smiling broadly.



STUDIO MONITOR

The clip of Trina's game winning pass.

BACK TO SCENE

EWING

What were you thinking about in that moment?

TRINA

That she had better make that gimme' after my perfect dime.

They exchange pounds.

EWING

You and your brother are part of a pretty special family. The only brother and sister team to ever be MVP's and league champions in professional basketball.

TRINA

(smiling)

Yeah, but I got him three Chips to his one.

EWING

And of course your Father, one of the greatest to play in the NBA. How is Jackson these days?

Trina shifts uncomfortably.

TRINA

Next question.

EWING

There's talk about you getting a tryout with an NBA team.

Trina looks towards Alec standing just off set. She slowly fingers the charm with her Mothers name hanging from her chain.

EWING (CONT'D)

Why risk everything for this shot?

TRINA

(tense)

Because I have the bloodlines to succeed.

Alec is motioning for Trina to stay calm.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Look, this is huge shot for me...for all Women in sports. How many have come before me that could be here? This goes back to Luisa Harris, first Woman drafted, Ann Donovan got the first contract...and Candace, Tamika...so many Women set the stage for me. That's lineage I can't ignore.

EWING

Those are all Women to be respected, but I once interviewed your dad about women playing in the NBA.

MONITOR

JACKSON

I've got two kids who are amazing ballers. Boy and girl. Born to win. But no matter how good my daughter is, NBA's a man's lane.

BACK TO SCENE

EWING

Do you think there's something about staying in lanes---

TRINA

Would you ask my brother that question? I'm out.

Trina storms off the set striding past Alec.

ALEC

(sarcastically)

Exactly the way I've always told you to handle things.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Maria sits nervously taping a fingernail against her leg.

KeShawn climbs off the bed and changes into his street clothes.

DR. NATHAN, a middle aged man with a grandfather's presence, enters the room. He smiles weakly at the two of them.

DR. NATHAN

There's no way to say this that's going to feel good. We need to find you a kidney, kid.

KeShawn goes to stand by Maria wrapping his arm around her shoulders.

DR. NATHAN (CONT'D)  
We'll make this happen. Are there  
any family members we can test?

Maria motions KeShawn from the room.

MARIA  
I'll be out in a second, hijto.

She waits until he leaves.

DR. NATHAN  
Maria, his best option is a family  
donor. Any ideas?

MARIA  
His biological mother.

DR. NATHAN  
If you can reach her she could be  
his last chance.

Maria turns to leave. As she enters the hallway KeShawn runs over to hug her.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maria sits at the desk in the corner of her living room.

She stares at the computer monitor taking a deep breath before hitting send.

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Alec opens an email attachment. A picture of KeShawn hooked up to a dialysis machine.

ALEC  
Fuck!

Almost simultaneously his cell rings. He recognizes Maria's number.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION ALEC/MARIA

ALEC (CONT'D)  
Talk.

MARIA  
You need to call her.

ALEC  
I've got this handled.

MARIA  
You could have handled it at the game.

ALEC  
This isn't a good time to do this to her.

MARIA  
I told you months ago it could come down to needing Trina.

For a moment they are both silent.

ALEC  
And I told you I would work things out.

MARIA  
I could blast this on my show.

ALEC  
Is that a threat?

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

MARIA  
I'm on a plane tomorrow. It's up to you if I show up alone or with my camera crew.

As she drops to the sofa she tosses the phone to the side.

INT. ALEC'S LOFT - EVENING

Alec paces the room on the phone keeping a cautious eye on his balcony.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION - ALEC/TRINA

TRINA  
We have to handle this Jackson thing.

ALEC  
You sure about the amount for the check?

TRINA  
Yeah.

ALEC

Ok, when we're ready I'll set up a meet at his house.

TRINA

In Compton? Why can't we do this at a restaurant or somethin'.

ALEC

Because you handing him a check in public is bad optics.

TRINA

He's an optical illusion in my life.

Alec smirks at the remark.

ALEC

On to more serious stuff.

TRINA

What's that?

ALEC

The kid you met after the game.

TRINA

Cute kid. I saw him getting wheeled out of the arena. Is he ok?

ALEC

That's why I'm calling.

TRINA

(cautiously)

For?

ALEC

He needs a kidney transplant.

TRINA

And that's got what to do with me?

ALEC

He has a rare blood type and she read somewhere you have the same one.

TRINA

Where the fuck would she read that?

ALEC

Probably from that article when you were in that wreck in college.

Trina pauses for beat of recognition.

TRINA  
Something isn't tracking Alec. What  
are you not telling me.

ALEC  
She's a talk show host. It probably  
came up from when she tried to get  
you on her show. Just talk to her.

TRINA  
Fuck that! This ain't some Make-A-  
Wish, take me to a game bullshit.

ALEC  
Placate her. It'll take a minute.

Trina pauses before speaking again.

TRINA  
Alec...

ALEC  
Just meet her tomorrow and listen.

TRINA  
Fuck. Ok.

ALEC  
And Trina, I need you to stay cool.

INT. ALEC'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Maria stands on the balcony looking out at the city lights.  
She turns as Alec walks through the sliding doors carrying  
two glasses.

ALEC  
Don't jump.

MARIA  
A long way from the streets, huh?  
Big leap from being Jackson's drug  
dealer.

ALEC  
For both of us, right. The first  
time I saw them playing I knew my  
slinging days were done.

He hands Maria one of the glasses.

MARIA  
You need to tell her everything.

ALEC  
In time, trust me.

MARIA  
Trusting you isn't my feel right  
now.

Alec picks up his cell and texts Maria.

ALEC  
That's her address.

MARIA  
Are you going to be there?

ALEC  
I think you two need to do this on  
your own. But do not tell her  
everything. Now's not the time.

INT. TRINA'S LOFT - DAY

Trina is in the kitchen making breakfast.

The intercom rings. The DOORMAN announces Maria's arrival.

TRINA  
Thanks, send her up.

Closing the lid on her iPad she goes back to making her  
breakfast.

ENTRANCE ELEVATOR

Maria steps from the elevator directly into the loft. Trina  
doesn't turn around. Maria takes a brief second checking  
her out.

MARIA  
I could be a serial killer.

TRINA  
You were announced.

Turning around, she goes to Maria extending her hand. Maria  
smiles as they shake.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Have you eaten breakfast?

Maria follows behind Trina, looks suspiciously at the pan  
and blender.

MARIA  
As a matter of fact yes. Yes I have.

TRINA  
I like your show.

MARIA  
You watch?

TRINA  
The road gets boring some times.  
But you cover good stuff. Girl power  
and shit.

MARIA  
Just giving a voice.

Trina begins to make her plate. Maria gets up moving to the trophy wall.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
He idolizes you.

Trina watches as Maria explores the awards and trophies.

TRINA  
He idolizes my game. He doesn't  
know enough to idolize me. But hey,  
thanks.

Maria stands admiring one particular award before turning to Trina.

MARIA  
You could change that.

Trina finishes her breakfast and tosses her plate in the sink.

TRINA  
I'm sorry about him being sick and  
all, but I can't...

MARIA  
Without a transplant he could die.

Maria still at the trophy case.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
He needs you to be that donor.

Keeping her eyes directly on Trina.

TRINA  
You're kidding right?

They stare at each other. Maria takes a beat.



MARIA

Trina, KeShawn needs you.

TRINA

I don't see how I can help you.

They stare at each other for a beat.

MARIA

I understand I'm the last person you  
need in your life right now.

TRINA

You aren't in my life. You want  
something from my life.

MARIA

You're his last hope.

TRINA

Why me? Anyone can be a donor.

MARIA

KeShawn has a rare blood type and  
needs an exact match to make it work.

Trina stares straight ahead.

MARIA (CONT'D)

His doctor says the best donor is a  
blood relative.

TRINA

Blood...

MARIA

I wish Alec had told you before I  
came here.

TRINA

Told me what?

MARIA

KeShawn is the child you gave birth  
to.

Trina stiffens as she strides slowly to stand face to face  
with Maria. Looking down at Maria, Trina braces.

TRINA

You need to miss me with that shit.

Trina inches closer to Maria.

MARIA

And you need to step back and realize  
I ain't the one, Mami.

Maria softens a bit as she looks at a bewildered Trina.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I knew your mother. I was there  
that night.

TRINA (concerend)

You knew my mother?

MARIA

Yes.

Trina goes to the sofa standing with her back to Maria.  
Maria takes a step towards Trina only see her turn anger in  
her eyes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Your mother loved you very much.  
She did what she had to do. What  
she thought---

Trina drops onto the sofa.

TRINA

If you were there you know my baby  
was stillborn.

MARIA (sighs)

They told you what you needed to  
know.

TRINA

Needed...my Mother wouldn't lie about  
that.

Maria walks over from the case carrying one of the trophies.  
She plants it on the coffee table. It reads; ASSIST LEADER.

MARIA

He admires you more for this than  
the two scoring titles you won.  
Your child, could use one of these.

TREY

You need to fuckin' leave.

Maria goes to her bag pulling an envelope out dropping it on  
the bar counter.

Just as Maria turns to leave Trina bolts from the sofa running  
over grabbing Maria's arm.

TRINA  
The other night, Jackson?

MARIA  
(nodding)  
He knows.

TRINA  
And Alec, what's he to you?

MARIA  
You can ask him that.

Trina lets Maria's arm go and watches her to the elevator.

Trina stares at the envelope then to the elevator door as it closes.

INT. GYM - NIGHT

Alec is on a treadmill when his cell rings.

ALEC  
Hey, hold on.

Alec gets off the treadmill heading for an exit.

EXT. ALLY BEHIND GYM - CONTINUOUS

TRINA  
(on phone)  
You motherfucker. What did you know about this?

ALEC  
About what?

TRINA  
She says that kid is mine.

ALEC  
She wasn't supposed...

TRINA  
(on phone)  
Alec, don't bullshit me on this. This could end everything. And when were you going to me about your niece...Tio Alec?

ALEC  
Discussion for another time. Have I ever let anything hurt you?

TRINA  
(on phone)  
Fix this and do not let this fuck up  
Denver.

ALEC  
I got this.

As soon as he hangs up he calls Maria.

ALEC (CONT'D)  
I told you not to say a fucking word.

INT. TREY'S LOFT - LATER

Trey is lounging on his living room floor playing NBA2K.  
His cell rings next to him.

TREY  
Hey, Big sis. What's up?

INT. TRINA'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION TREY/TRINA

TRINA  
I have no idea where to start.

TREY  
Talk.

Turning the game off he waits but no response.

TREY (CONT'D)  
I know that silence.

TRINA  
The kid from the game and his Mom  
weren't there out of the blue.

TREY  
What do you mean?

TRINA  
She says the kid is mine.

Trey takes a beat before speaking.

TREY  
What the shit?

Trina paces the loft taking pulls on a joint.

TRINA  
Oh it gets fuckin' better.

She takes a long drag.

TRINA (CONT'D)

(exhaling)

He needs a kidney transplant and she wants me to be the donor.

TREY

But your baby...

TRINA

Did you hear what I said?

Trey takes a deep breath letting out a sigh before recovering.

TREY

Look, we both know that can't be true.

TRINA

Jackson knows the truth. I'm going by his place, like now.

TREY

You can't just shoot by his place. Especially high.

TRINA

Shooting is on my mind if he's hooked in this shit. And I'm not high.

TREY

I'm going with you.

TRINA

No. I need to do this by myself. I promise the glock stays home.

TREY

Not funny. You need a clear head for Denver tomorrow. This will wait.

Trina slumps onto the sofa.

TRINA

You're still taking me to the airport, right?

TREY

I got you.

(yelling)

And put that blunt the fuck out.

Trina drops the phone as she stuffs out the joint.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Maria enters. KeShawn and ANITA, Maria's younger sister, sit on the sofa watching television.

Anita, is smaller with a more studious look to Maria's sophistication.

KeShawn runs over to greet Maria.

MARIA

Hey, Key!

KESHAWN

I missed you.

She holds his face in her hands smiling.

MARIA

Missed you too, baby boy. We need to talk about a few things.

KESHAWN

I'm taking all the pills and my shots.

Maria turns to Anita for support before continuing.

MARIA

Key, I wasn't on an assignment. I went back to L.A. to see someone.

KESHAWN

(confused)

Who?

MARIA

(softly)

Maybe the only person who can help you.

Maria takes KeShawn over to the sofa sitting him between Anita and herself. She stares deep in his eyes.

MARIA (CONT'D)

How much, Key?

KESHAWN

More than a heart can hold.

MARIA

(holding back tears)

Cuánto puede aguantar un corazón.

KESHAWN

El mundo

MARIA

Since the day I adopted you as a baby, you became more than my world.

KESHAWN

Who did you see?

ANITA

She saw your mother, mijo.

Maria stands up wiping her face.

KESHAWN

You said you didn't know where she was.

Maria kneels in front of Keshawn taking his hands in her own, looking at him, tears in her eyes.

MARIA

Key.

He pulls his hands from her and runs to his room leaving Maria and Anita standing there holding each other.

KESHAWN'S ROOM

Anita walks into the room. She goes to KeShawn who is stretched out on the bed.

ANITA

Can I sit with you?

She doesn't wait for him to answer.

ANITA (CONT'D)

I know this isn't cool, right?

KESHAWN

Hell no.

Anita pinches his leg.

KESHAWN (CONT'D)

Ow.

ANITA

Your mother has done everything she can to take care of you.

KESHAWN

She lied to me. She says no secrets.

Anita smiles at him.

ANITA

It isn't always that simple. And right now she needs to do what a mother does.

KeShawn sits up.

KESHAWN

Why can't it be you or Mom?

ANITA

We were tested hijto. Just do me a favor. Let your Mom keep loving you the best she can.

KeShawn shrugs. Anita hugs him.

ANITA (CONT'D)

We'll be good.

INT. ESPN STUDIO - DAY

Ewing is on the phone with Alec. A video of Keshawn playing basketball is on his computer screen.

EWING

Alec, I have to run this. The bosses saw it before I got it.

ALEC

(on phone)

Where'd you get it from?

EWING

Came in anonymously.

ALEC

(on phone)

A couple of days. Give me that.

EWING

I need a statement from Trina.

INT. ALEC'S LOFT - DAY

ALEC

You know what this could do to her, right? Buy me some time.

EWING

(on phone)

I've been trying to reach her for a comment for a week, but she hasn't gotten back. You've got until the bosses tell me to run with it.



INT. TREY'S CAR - DAY

Trey watches the door to Trina's building. He smiles as she bounds out, a small travel duffel hanging from her shoulder.

She jumps in surprising him with a kiss on his cheek. Trey moves to wipe his face.

TRINA

Drive.

TRINA (CONT'D)

When I talk to the team, how much do you think is right?

Trey stares at her incredulously.

TREY

That's what you're worried about, now?

TRINA

Not like this can be solved by an abortion is it? Men just wipe shit away.

Trey grips the wheel tighter. Trina reaches over and grabs his hand.

TRINA (CONT'D)

I know that was wrong.

Trey pulls back into traffic.

TREY

Alec shouldn't ask for anything less than 10 mil a year.

NUGGETS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Alec, Trina, Nuggets team owner ROBERT JOHNSON, coach HARLEN RAMSEY and general manager SAM STUART, all men in their 50's, are seated around the conference table. Trina leans over to Alec.

TRINA

You got this, right?

ALEC

We're good.

Johnson looks over to Alec and Trina.

JOHNSON

Thanks for flying in Trina. So I guess you're looking for family bragging rights?

They all laugh. Johnson keeps his gaze on Trina.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

This is a big step, for all of us?

ALEC

She's up for it.

Johnson and Stuart exchange glances. Trina leans forward.

STUART

That's why she's here.

Trina begins to speak but Alec stops her.

STUART (CONT'D)

This is a huge risk. We're willing to take it. But we can't go more than one year.

JOHNSON

We have a plan.

ALEC

A short term plan.

TRINA

I get it. You're not sure. Totally understand.

STUART

Thank you.

TRINA

Eight years ago you passed on picking my brother in the draft.

Stuart and Johnson exchange glances.

TRINA (CONT'D)

You said it was because you thought he needed another year for his body to catch up.

STUART

We believed that.

Trina pushes back from the table smiling.

TRINA

How'd that mistake work out for you?

All of the men in the room freeze at the statement.

ALEC

We understand how big a move this is for the team. If you don't treat this like any other free agent signing it's a mistake.

JOHNSON

What land mines besides the drug suspension are out there for us?

TRINA

No more than any man you'd bring in here.

JOHNSON

Three years, 6 mil, two guaranteed with team option for a 3rd.

Alec looks at Trina who shows no emotion.

TRINA

I can get the same overseas. All guaranteed.

Alec puts his hand on Trina's arm.

ALEC

Good place to start.

Johnson smiles at Trina which she returns.

JOHNSON

What do you want from all of this, Trina? At the end of the day?

Trina looks out the large window that faces the arena where banners and retired jerseys hang. She points at them as she turns back to Johnson.

TRINA

To be out there in those rafters.

Alec stands extending his hand to Johnson. Trina sits still not taking her eyes from Johnson.

JOHNSON

What did we give Mason last year?

STUART  
4 years, 30 mil, 3rd year team option.  
4th year player option.

Johnson smiles at Trina once more, palms up.

JOHNSON  
I know you have to make your decision  
about China in two weeks. We believe  
in you Trina or we wouldn't be sitting  
in this room.

Trina stands extending her hand to Johnson who accepts her  
gesture.

TRINA  
Second chances don't come around  
often do they.

Trina turns on her heels heading for the door with Alec close  
behind.

STREET

Alec grabs Trina's arm turning her to him.

ALEC  
Are you trying not to get this?

TRINA  
Do the same job you'd do for my  
brother. Did you get that shit fixed?

ALEC  
Working it. Give me...

Trina jerks her arm back as she turns away leaving Alec  
shaking his head.

INT. ESPN STUDIO EWING'S SHOW - DAY

To his co-host D.J. ANTHONY, a former football star.

EWING  
We have some breaking news. Check  
this out.

INT. TRINA'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

She's half watching television. Suddenly she bolts up.

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TV SCREEN

A video of KeShawn playing in a youth basketball game.

INT. DENVER NUGGETS CONFERENCE ROOM

Johnson and Ramsey are watching the screen on the conference room wall.

EWING (O.S.)

That young man you see playing there  
is KeShawn Santiago.

D.J. (O.S.)

He has skills.

EWING (O.S.)

Turns out he may come by them  
naturally. He's reportedly the son  
of Trina Strokes.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM

Maria grabs her cell.

D.J. (O.S.)

She has a kid? Did anyone know about  
this?

EWING (O.S.)

We're following up to get more  
details.

DENVER NUGGETS OFFICES

Johnson prowls the hallways cell phone plastered to his ear.

END MONTAGE

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec slams his palms together. He ignores his buzzing cell phone.

INT. TRINA'S LOFT - DAY

Trina is dialing her cell furiously.

TRINA

Did you see it?

TREY (O.S.)  
Yeah, where did that come from?  
Have you talked to Alec?

TRINA  
I can't reach his ass. This is so  
fucked up! Oh shit! The Nuggets.

TREY (O.S.)  
Get with Alec now! Call me when you  
do and Trina---

TRINA  
What?

TREY (O.S.)  
Don't do anything stupid.

TRINA  
I need to get the fuck in front of  
this.

Trina hangs up

INT. JOHNSON'S OFFICE - DAY

JOHNSON  
You guaranteed there wasn't anything---

ALEC (O.S.)  
I had no idea.

JOHNSON  
No idea? If you want this you better  
find one.

EXT. TRINA'S CAR OUTSIDE ESPN STUDIOS - LATER

Trina on her cell.

TRINA  
I'll give you your comment. But it  
has to be now.

INT. EWING'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

EWING  
How far away are you?

TRINA (O.S.)  
Downstairs.

INT. ESPN STUDIO EWING'S SHOW - LATER

Ewing nods to Trina as she climbs into a seat across from him. The stage director points to Ewing.

EWING  
Thanks for coming in Trina. I know  
this is difficult.

TRINA  
Thanks for giving me the time.

EWING  
The kid is some player. Is the story  
true?

TRINA  
To be honest, I don't know.

EWING  
You'll forgive me if I believe you  
do.

TRINA  
(sighing)  
A woman---

EWING  
Not just any woman. National talk  
show host Maria Santiago.

TRINA  
---comes out of nowhere and says she  
adopted a kid who's my son.

EWING  
So you did have a child?

Trina nods slowly.

EWING (CONT'D)  
Then it could be true.

TRINA  
I got pregnant at 14. My mother and  
I agreed we would put the baby up  
for adoption. But there was a  
complication seven months into the  
pregnancy. I was rushed to the  
hospital and had an emergency  
Caesarean.

Ewing leans in as she continues.

TRINA (CONT'D)

I rememberer the blood, so much blood.  
They thought I was going to die.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Maria sits alone watching the show.

TRINA (O.S.)

The last thing I remember was seeing  
the doctor lifting the baby up and  
taking it away.

INT. ESPN STUDIO EWING'S SHOW - CONTINUOUS

Trina lowers her eyes as she continues.

Noticing Trina's discomfort Ewing holds up his hand.

EWING

We can stop here.

Trina waves him off as her eyes come up to the camera.

TRINA

I looked over and I could see the  
nurses shaking their heads. Aren't  
babies supposed to cry...it was so  
quiet---

Trina's head drops into her hands.

TRINA (CONT'D)

The next thing I remember is waking  
up from a coma two months later.

Trina takes a deep breath giving herself time to regroup her  
composure.

TRINA (CONT'D)

My Mother told me the baby was  
stillborn. So I never knew anything.

EWING

And that was the end? No more mention  
of it?

TRINA

What else was there to do? My mother  
never lied to me.

EWING

True or not, do you think this will  
affect your deal with the Nuggets?



Trina shakes her head solemnly.

TRINA

A piece you didn't have in your story  
is this kid may be dying. He needs  
a kidney transplant.

Ewing leans over placing a hand on her shoulder.

INT. MARIA'S HOME - SAME

Maria and Anita are transfixed on the TV screen.

TRINA (O.S.)

With a child fighting for his life  
I'm thinking that basketball is a  
distant second thought right now.

Maria startles as KeShawn bursts through the door landing in  
her lap.

EWING (O.S.)

So, if it turns out---

TRINA (O.S.)

Honestly, I'm letting my agent and  
his team look into it. Until then I  
have to keep my eyes on the prize.

Maria draws KeShawn close.

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec is working the phones.

ALEC

I'm as blindsided as you.

(beat)

Maria, damnit. Let me handle this!

He slams the phone down. He dials another number immediately.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Trina I need you here tomorrow.

TRINA (O.S.)

I'll be at my camp.

ALEC

(tersely)

What do you expect me to do about  
Denver after this?

TRINA (O.S.)  
Your damn job. If you're not going  
to control the narrative on this  
shit, I will.

EXT. TRINA'S BASKETBALL CAMP - DAY

Trina is working with ANNA, a cute girl in baggy basketball gear. Trina spots Alec coming across the courts. She waves Blake over.

TRINA  
Is it ok, if Blake finishes up with  
you.

Anna smiles at Blake nodding.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Ok, remember what I showed you or  
it's laps after practice.

Trina moves to head Alec off pointing him to the bleachers.

ALEC  
What the hell were you doing?

TRINA  
Protecting myself and my future.

ALEC  
You said do my job. Damnit let me.  
Denver, the Sparks, China...they  
could all drop you over this.

TRINA  
If you can't keep this together,  
I'll get someone who can.

ALEC  
You're loosing this all on your own.  
Stop and think.

Trina takes a moment turning to look at Anna and Blake.

TRINA  
See that little girl out there?

THE COURT

She walks through drills smiling as she picks something new up.

TRINA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Her father brings her here every  
year. All he wants for her is to  
learn about how to be around other  
kids.

Anna jumps up and down excitedly as she sinks a basket.

TRINA (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
He couldn't give a shit about the  
basketball. She has Asperger syndrome  
and this is the only way she can  
interact with other kids.

BACK TO SCENE

TRINA (CONT'D)  
(sighing)  
That's love I don't know about giving  
or accepting.

Fighting back emotion.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
And you're here asking me why I did  
it. You need to figure out who sent  
that CD.

Trina runs back to the court. She picks a giggling Anna up  
hugging her tight.

EXT. JACKSON'S HOME - NIGHT

Trina stands outside staring at the door.

TRINA (quietly)  
Just get this done.

JACKSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Trina sits in her car staring over to a rundown house. The  
curtains are open and she sees Jackson pacing in front of  
the window.

She climbs out of the car and tucks an envelope into the  
pocket of her hoodie and strides towards the front door.

Once at the doors she rings the doorbell. As the door opens  
wide she lowers her head turning away.

JACKSON  
It all starts with you coming in,  
babygirl.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Trina walks in pushing past Jackson. He smiles to himself as he closes the door.

Trina looks around the ramshackle room.

Jackson walks across the room balancing on anything he can reach.

TRINA

Smells like crack in here.

Jackson ignores her statement as he drops into his easy chair.

TRINA (CONT'D)

When I saw you at the game I wanted  
to be happy you were there.

JACKSON

Same way I use to feel seeing you  
guys in the stands.

TRINA

I said, I wanted to.

Jackson leans back in his chair pointing to the love seat next to him.

JACKSON

Wanting is something.

TRINA

Do you need money, Jackson?

Jackson spreads his arms wide.

JACKSON

Does it look like money is a problem?

TRINA

It looks like why you use to beat my  
ass.

Jackson leans toward Trina, taking her hand.

JACKSON

I'm proud of you. Always have been.

She pulls her hand away.

TRINA

As long as I stay in my lane, right.

Jackson looks at her taking the measure of her and the words he wants to speak.

JACKSON  
Why are you here?

TRINA  
You saw the news?

Jackson nods slowly.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
You know something.

Jackson reaches for her but she pulls further away.

JACKSON  
Sit down.

TRINA  
Fuck you.

Jackson gets to his feet, his face and movements suddenly forceful.

JACKSON  
In my house you show me some respect.  
Sit your ass down.

Trina backs away but does not sit.

TRINA  
(softly)  
You know don't you? All this time  
that my baby didn't die. You knew  
she was the one who adopted my baby.  
You and Mom.

Jackson moves to her taking her in his arms. She lays her head on his shoulder. For a moment needing to be close to him.

JACKSON  
You should have talked to me before  
going on that show.

Gaining her bearings again. She whispers in his ear.

TRINA  
Don't ever reach out to me again.

Trina reaches into her pocket, pulls out the envelope, tossing it in his face. She watches as it falls to the floor.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Don't ever reach out to me again.

Trina spins quickly storming out of the house.

Jackson stares out the door then back to where the envelope lays on the floor. He picks it up ripping it to shreds.

EXT. TRINA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Trina stands at her car looking back into the open curtains where she can still see Jackson. She begins to cry as she gets in her car.

Looking at her phone before pulling off, she notices a series of texts.

DR. NATHAN

(text)

Call me tomorrow. Need to talk.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Alec is sitting on a bench nervously watching the trail. Across from him sit three large LATINO MEN. He spots Jackson walking towards him.

Jackson eyes the three as he sits.

ALEC

You're looking better.

JACKSON

What do you want?

ALEC

Money holding up?

JACKSON

I'm good.

Alec takes out his phone and begins playing the video of KeShawn. He holds it out to Jackson.

Jackson watches the video clip from Ewing's show.

ALEC

Remember the night you begged me to make shit happen for Trey? He looked a lot like Key.

Jackson reaches for the phone but noticing one of the Men rise, pulls his hand back.

ALEC (CONT'D)  
You were heading to Italy to hoop.  
Man you were tight. You could have  
been the GOAT.

JACKSON  
I was the GOAT.

ALEC  
Yeah. This video. Any thoughts?

Jackson doesn't answer.

ALEC (CONT'D)  
Of course not. You and me we're  
straight, right? Cause shit like  
this...could fuck it up for all---

JACKSON  
By all, you mean you.

ALEC  
Well if it fucks it up for me what  
do you think happens for Trina?

Alec stands. He stuffs a small packet in Jackson's shirt  
pocket.

ALEC (CONT'D)  
No problems. I know you wouldn't  
fuck me. It'd kill you to hurt either  
of your kids.

Jackson pulls the packet from his pocket. Notices the crack  
rocks.

ALEC (CONT'D)  
For old times sake.

Jackson watches as Alec and the Men walk away. Once they  
are out of sight Jackson reaches for his phone and dials.

JACKSON  
Trey if you're serious I'm ready to  
go in.

EXT. MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY - DAY

Trina stands outside when her phone rings.

INTERCUT: PHONE CONVERSATION TRINA/TREY

TRINA  
Baby bro'.

INT. TREY'S LOFT - SAME

Trey taps the phone to his head.

TREY

Can we meet?

TRINA

(on phone)

Where?

TREY

Got a run Saturday afternoon. You  
wanna' get one in?

TRINA

(on phone)

Sure, I need a reason to put my foot  
on your neck. Late

INT. BASKETBALL GYM - DAY

As Trina enters the gym she sees Trey with a group of NBA  
PLAYERS.

For a moment she stands in the doorway as all eyes turn to  
her. She smirks at the stares, pointing as she trots over  
to them.

Trina drops her bag as Trey tosses her a basketball.

TREY

You know how to handle a man sized  
ball?

TRINA

I'm pretty sure I got the biggest  
balls in this joint.

MONTE SHAW, point guard from the Denver Nuggets comes over  
to Trina.

They size each other up as Trey stands by smiling. Monte  
has a slight build, only a couple of inches taller than Trina.

MONTE

You ain't ready for this smoke.

TRINA

Don't worry I won't take away all  
your run.

Trey gets in between them. Nudging Trina away. He turns to  
everyone.



TREY

Me and my sis' need three.

TRINA

No, you and shorty here need three.  
I need four.

Just as the teams are lining up. Jackson walks in carrying a gym bag.

They all watch as he sits in the bleachers changing into a pair of basketball shoes

Trina looks at Trey who is the only one who doesn't look surprised at Jackson's presence.

TRINA (CONT'D)

What's his ass doing here?

Jackson joins the group who seem in awe of him.

JACKSON

Mind if I get some run?

TRINA

You don't have the lungs for this  
sit on the bench and watch.

TREY

She needs one.

JACKSON

Come on babygirl.

Trina starts to disagree but Jackson waves her off pointing her towards Monte.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

D'up, fam'.

Trina shakes her head.

The game begins with Trey setting a hard pick on Trina sending her to the floor allowing Monte to get an easy layup.

Trey smirks at her. Jackson looks down dismissively.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

This ain't girls tea time.

As the game goes on Trina struggles to keep up. Monte is working her and she is getting no sympathy from Trey or Jackson.

Trey sidles up to Trina and whispers in her ear.

TREY

You need to remember who the fuck  
you are and game up.

Trina bends over pulling on the legs of her shorts.  
Straightening up she runs to get chest to chest with Monte  
who is taken by surprise.

TRINA

You like the feel of tits on your  
chest or back?

Trey passes the ball to a distracted Monte but Trina steals  
it. She pulls up and drains a shot from the top of the key.

JACKSON

Welcome to the run, girl.

The rest of the game Trina gets more physical showing the  
tools that made her the best player in women's basketball.

The game ends with Trina blowing past Monte for the game  
winning shot. Monte aggressively gets in Trina's face.  
Trey and Jackson run over.

TREY

That wouldn't be the move to make.

Trey presses his hand in Monte's chest.

Trina back peddles away, arms wide.

TRINA

Don't worry, son. I don't show up  
teammates like that.

Jackson and Trey go to the benches exchanging high fives.  
Trina watches frowning. She goes to her bag, snatching it  
up as she heads for the doors.

Trey runs to her blocking her path.

TRINA (CONT'D)

You're an asshole?

She looks back towards Jackson who is now on the court giving  
a few lessons to the group of players.

TRINA (CONT'D)

You invited him here, for what?

TREY

Because you...we all need to squash  
this shit.

TRINA  
Did that years ago.

Trey looks back at Jackson.

TREY  
He needs us.

TRINA  
We needed him once, oh wait, you've  
always had him.

TREY  
That check, bullshit move.

Trina stares at him anger building.

TRINA  
(seething)  
Fuck you.

Jackson breaks from the group and walks slowly over to them.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
(to Jackson)  
A lot of wheezing going on out there.  
Guess crack ain't like gatoraide.

JACKSON  
Trey, we talkin'?

Trey points to the bleachers.

Trey and Jackson sit, Trina walks over and stands defiantly  
clutching her bag still over her shoulder.

JACKSON (CONT'D)  
Hear me out and what happens after  
that is good.

Trina drops her bag.

TRINA  
I ask the questions, you answer.

Jackson leans back waiting.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Why'd you leave?

JACKSON  
Your mother and I both agreed we  
were done.

TRINA  
Nothing to do with drugs?

JACKSON  
Would that make it easier to accept?

TRINA  
My questions.

JACKSON  
Yes. I couldn't keep it together  
after losing the finals, and then  
the injury.

TRINA  
So you took the easy path?

Jackson eyes Trina closely.

JACKSON  
Seems like you found that path.

Trina turns away for a beat.

TRINA  
You don't know. You just don't know.

Trina and Trey exchange looks.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
And the baby?

TREY  
Trina---

Trina holds her hand up to Trey stopping his interruption.

JACKSON  
Lois and I felt it was best...

TRINA  
Mom wouldn't have---

JACKSON  
It was her idea. She did it out of  
love for you.

Trina balls her fists pressing them to her head.

TRINA  
The stillborn shit, the adoption?

JACKSON  
I didn't know who adopted him until  
Alec called me.

TRINA

Alec?

She turns slowly towards Trey. He can't look at her.

Trina takes a deep breath her shoulders softening her defiant stance.

JACKSON

It was a hard choice but we knew  
you'd survive it. You were so strong.  
Look where you're at.

TRINA

Of course I couldn't get here dragging  
a kid around.

TREY

That's not the point.

TRINA

You're right. I didn't need the  
baggage. It was enough living in  
all of your shadows.

Jackson lifts a brow at the statement.

TRINA (CONT'D)

How dare I have the same dream as  
you two.

JACKSON

But you did. Now, what are you going  
to do for your son.

Trina leans towards Jackson.

TRINA

Exactly what I learned from you.

Trina looks to Trey who moves quickly to her side.

TREY

I'm putting him in a treatment  
facility tomorrow. He's serious  
about kicking this.

TRINA

Consider the check my contribution.

TREY

He tore it up.

TRINA

Then tell him to tape it the hell  
back together.

She looks over Trey's shoulder at Jackson who sits slumped  
forward.

TRINA (CONT'D)

I have one more question. Where  
were you when I was in a coma?

TREY

Trina!

TRINA

Fuckin' answer me.

Jackson looks up his eyes snapping.

JACKSON

In your hospital room sleeping in  
the chair by your bed every night.

TRINA

But not when I woke up.

Trina jerks up her bag as she fixes Jackson with a hardened  
stare.

TRINA (CONT'D)

(to Trey)

You do what you want for him. He's  
dead to me.

She turns away running out of the gym.

INT. JACKSON'S HOME - DAY

Jackson peels off his sweat shirt, as he picks up a shirt  
from the bed a the packet of crack from Alec falls from the  
shirt pocket.

He stares at it a moment before picking it up.

EXT. BALCONY OF TRINA'S LOFT - MORNING

Trina, phone pressed to her ear.

TRINA

Now?

As she hangs up she reaches over to the ashtray on the coffee  
table picking up an unlit joint then dropping it.

INT. TREY'S LOFT - MORNING

Trey is slumped on the couch his face in his hands. His AUNT BETTY sits across from Trey.

The doorbell rings. Trey can't move. Betty goes to the door. She is tall with the manner of a maternal force in her movements.

From the door she turns to Trey softly smiling.

As Trina enters the loft she is surprised to see Betty. She hungrily wraps Betty in a hug.

TRINA

Aunt Betty! Oh my God.

Trina takes a look around the room noticing Trey, head still down unable to make eye contact.

She looks back to Betty.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Trey?

BETTY

I'm sorry, baby. It's your Daddy.

Trina looks anxiously at Trey.

BETTY (CONT'D)

It was only a matter of time, baby.

TRINA

Trey was going to---

BETTY

I know, he called me last night.

TRINA

(angrily)

Fuckin' selfish.

Trey finally looks over to Trina. She rushes to him falling to her knees burying her face into his chest.

Betty goes to them.

BETTY

Take some time and just find the family moments that you remember.

TRINA

Family moments?

She turns violently to Betty.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
There were no family moments. There  
was only leaving.

TREY  
Trina, he's dead!

TRINA  
He was dead to me years ago.

She swipes at the tears on her cheeks.

Betty goes to a box by the door. She brings the box over to  
Trey and Trina setting it at their feet.

BETTY  
He would have wanted you to have  
this.

Trey reaches into the box, hands shaking. He looks at Trina  
as she pulls out a deflated basketball.

TRINA  
This. This is all we had to know we  
were family.

TREY  
Now's not the time.

TRINA  
When is the time, Trey? Do you  
remember when we gave this to him?

EXT. AIRPORT DROP OFF - DAY (FLASHBACK)

10 year-old Trina and Trey are passing a basketball back and  
forth as Jackson and LOIS pull suitcases from the trunk of  
Lois's red sports car.

Trina turns to her mother. Lois is elegantly tall with  
porcelain dark skin underneath a short red afro. Trina runs  
to Lois.

TRINA  
Mommy, can I have the sharpie now?

Lois reaches into her purse and hands the sharpie over.  
Trina runs to Trey, they begin to write on the ball.

LOIS  
This has to be the last time.



JACKSON

Promise, baby. I ball out in Europe  
this time and I'm back home and back  
in the league.

Trina and Trey run back to them. Trina holds the ball out  
to a laughing Jackson. He kisses them both on the cheek.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Ya'll be here to pick me up when the  
season is done.

FLASHBACK ENDS

BACK TO SCENE PRESENT TIME

TRINA

Guess the season never ended.

She slams the ball back into the box.

TREY

No matter what he did. That  
ball...that's connective tissue.

Trina picks the ball back up. She holds it out.

TRINA

Mom always said it takes more than  
one piece to make a family. This  
alone was never enough.

She rests the ball against her lap.

TREY

He gave us the dream.

TRINA

Apparently the dream couldn't save  
his life.

Trey sits on the floor next to Trina.

TREY

(evenly)

The night of your game he'd been  
drug free for a year.

Trina's stare is void of reaction.

TREY (CONT'D)

He picked up the pipe again that  
night after we both---

Trina looks into Trey's eyes. All at once she's overcome and collapses into his arms.

Betty comes over to them.

BETTY  
Neither of you is the cause. His own  
guilt killed him.

She stands resting her hands on their shoulders.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
Pray for God to find him now that  
he's given him peace.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

The only people there are Trina, Trey, Alec, Aunt Betty, and Blake.

The PREACHER finishes his final words. They all watch as the casket is lowered into the grave.

Amongst the flowers is the basketball.

Trina watches as Alec, Betty and Blake drop a single rose into the grave.

Trina picks up the basketball as she and Trey move to the grave. Standing over it for a moment, she spins the ball on her finger before letting it drop into the grave.

CASKET

The ball falls rustling the rose petals. The inscription on the ball visible. Most Valuable Dad.

TRINA  
Thanks for giving us the dream.

Everyone comes over to offer comfort. Betty pulls Trina aside.

BETTY  
That thing that killed him. You  
followed him into that---

Trina starts to speak but Betty gives her a look that lets her know this isn't a dialogue moment.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
---let it go before it ruins you.  
You've got things to do...big things.

She holds Trina's chin in her palm.

BETTY (CONT'D)  
On and off that court.

She kisses Trina's cheek before walking to her waiting limo.  
Trina and Trey look to the grave next to Jackson.

HEADSTONE

LOIS JACKSON BELOVED MOTHER OF TREY AND TRINA JACKSON

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK - MORNING

Trina and Blake are standing on a trail overlooking the Griffith Park Observatory. They are soaked from the run.

Blake notices the strain on Trina. She watches as Trina grabs her side doubling over.

BLAKE  
How'd you get out of shape so quick?

TRINA  
Love you too.

Blake smacks Trina on the butt making her laugh.

BLAKE  
You holding up?

TRINA  
Yeah.

BLAKE  
I know it's not my place, but don't let anything get in the way of right.

Trina stares out over the park.

TRINA  
Don't worry about me.

BLAKE  
Screw you!

Trina spins towards her.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
That's what we do. And I know the reason you're doing this because of Alec.

Trina paces the edge of the bluff.

BLAKE (CONT'D)  
What if it's true, can you stand  
losing your kid twice?

TRINA  
I was raised to be a baller.  
(beat)  
Not a mother. Denver, the NBA is  
all I'm focused on.

Trina's phone begins to ring. She presses her earbud to  
answer.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Hello?

MARIA (O.S.)  
Trina, it's Maria.

TRINA  
(surprised)  
Hey.

MARIA (O.S.)  
I heard about your dad. I'm sorry  
for your loss.

TRINA  
(nervously)  
Thanks.

There is a long pause.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

INTERCUT: PHONE CALL MARIA/TRINA

Maria looks over at KeShawn who is stretched out on the floor  
involved in NBA2K.

TRINA  
What if I came there?

MARIA  
Are you sure?

TRINA  
No, but I think I owe it to you both.

MARIA  
What about Alec?

TRINA

He doesn't make every decision for me. Listen, I actually have business in Sacramento next week. Would that be ok?

MARIA

I guess. Trina...he saw the interview.

TRINA

Is he ok?

MARIA

This might help.

TRINA

Next week.

Maria hangs up the phone. She goes to lay next to KeShawn picking up the free controller and joins in the game.

INT. TRINA'S LOFT - DAY

Trey sits on Trina's bed watching her pack.

TREY

Are you sure about this?

TRINA

No.

He looks over at the nightstand noticing the rolling papers and bag of weed. Trina waves him off.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Don't say a word. It's not what you think.

TREY

So it's like what, security?

TRINA

One subject at a time.

TREY

I think it's bad timing to go up there now.

TRINA

And the right time would be when?

Trina tosses a pair of basketball shoes into the bag. She stops as she spots the envelope in the side pocket.

She pulls it out and tosses it to Trey.

TREY

You sure.

Trina nods. Trey pulls out the paper. After reading it he looks over to Trina.

Trina tosses a lighter from her nightstand to Trey. Trey lights the paper and drops it into a nearby trash can.

TRINA

Ok, gotta' bolt.

TREY

Be safe, big sis. Remember, this isn't about suddenly becoming a mother.

Trina rolls her eyes.

TRINA

Best game talk ever.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maria and Anita are in a heated argument.

ANITA

You have to be joking.

MARIA

It's my last chance to make this happen.

ANITA

You really believe she's...you're blind.

Anita walks slowly to KeShawn's basketball in the basket at the door. She stares down shaking her head and pointing.

ANITA (CONT'D)

That means more to her than him. Are you going to ignore that interview? She called you a liar.

MARIA

If she can just spend time with him, get to know him.

Anita goes to Maria.

ANITA

The only thing that is going to happen  
is Key is going to get hurt.

Anita goes to the door. She stops, turning back to Maria.

ANITA (CONT'D)

Falsa esperanza no es una linea de  
vida.

MARIA

Hope is all I have, miya.

EXT. SFO AIRPORT LYFT PICKUP AREA - DAY

Trina hops in the car.

INT. DR.WALSH'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec is speaking with Dr. Walsh. Alec slams his palm onto  
the desk.

ALEC

Does she know?

DR. WALSH

I've been trying to get her in here  
since the season ended. That's why  
I called you.

ALEC

Who else knows?

DR. WALSH

Nobody. I'll hold off, but you have  
to get her in here. Her condition  
could shift anytime.

EXT. OUTSIDE DR.WALSH'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Alec dials his cell. No answer. He dials again.

ALEC

Trey!

TREY

(on phone)  
What's up.

ALEC

Trina needs to call me.

TREY

(on phone)

If you left a message she'll hit you back.

ALEC

(angrily)

I fuckin' need her to---

TREY

(on phone)

Yo, muthafucka'. She'll be in touch when she's ready.

Alec hangs up. He makes one more call.

ALEC

Hey. What would you think of considering two players? Yeah, I have somebody in mind.

EXT. LOIS'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Trina stands at the garage door. She stands for a second before going in.

She walks immediately to a car draped in a drop cloth. Pulling it off she reveals Lois' sports car.

Closing her eyes she runs her hand the length of it's sleek exterior.

INT. GARAGE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

16 year old Trina sits on the floor a tool box next to her. A pair of grease stained sneakers peek out from the upraised car.

Lois slides out wiping her face with a dirty rag.

TRINA

I don't know why you keep fixing this thing up.

Lois sits up on the trolley.

LOIS

To teach you a lesson.

TRINA

On what? How to get fitly every weekend?

Lois snaps the rag in her direction as she stands. She goes to the driver side window reaching in to turn the key.



The engine purrs.

LOIS  
That no matter what you don't discard  
the things you love.

Lois carefully brings the hood down before turning to look down at Trina.

LOIS (CONT'D)  
Everyone wanted me to sell this when  
your dad didn't come back. And when  
it started breaking down they said  
get a man to fix it.

She reaches down to bring Trina to her feet.

LOIS (CONT'D)  
The other lesson, whatever a man's  
two hands can do...

She plants a messy kiss on Trina's face leaving behind a greasy smudge.

LOIS (CONT'D)  
...a woman's hands can do just as  
well.

She laughs as she pushes Trina to get in on the drivers side.

LOIS (CONT'D)  
Let's take her out.

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. LOIS'S CAR - PRESENT TIME

Trina is driving the convertible smiling.

EXT. MARIA'S HOME - DAY

Trina pulls into the driveway. It's a modest home with a basketball goal hanging above the garage door.

Maria walks out the door waving Trina over. Trina can see a head of hair just behind Maria.

As Trina gets closer she realizes that it is KeShawn, dressed in Washington Mystic gear head to toe.

MARIA  
Hi.

TRINA  
Thanks for letting me do this.

She nods as she moves to the side to let KeShawn step out of the doorway. Trina shakes her head as she looks over KeShawn's gear.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Hello again, KeShawn. Wrong gear.

KeShawn frowns. Maria slaps the back of his head.

TRINA (CONT'D)

(laughs)

Head slappin'101. Learn to duck.

They all go into the house. Trina takes it all in noticing the small trophy case discreetly tucked away on a corner wall.

MARIA

Give Trina a tour while I---

KeShawn heads for the door instead.

Angrily grabbing his ball from the basket by the door he's gone before she can answer.

Maria starts after him but Trina stops her.

TRINA

You didn't tell him I was coming.

MARIA

Make yourself comfortable.

Trina sits on the sofa while Maria sits on the love seat. Both wait for the other to speak.

TRINA

I'm not sure what to do here.

MARIA

Makes two of us.

TRINA

Jackson dying kind of made me anxious about doing this.

MARIA

How long was it since you'd seen him.

TRINA

Sixteen years.

MARIA

When I told Key you were his mother,  
he didn't speak to me for a week.

TRINA

I can't lie, being a mother isn't in  
my lifestyle.

MARIA

Let's be clear, he has a mother.

Maria notices Trina's shoulders slump.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You'll be whatever is in you.

Trina looks at the door.

TRINA

He seems like a tough kid.

MARIA

The last couple of years have been  
hard but he's dealt with it better  
than me at times. Kids who feel  
like dying is inevitable---

Suddenly shaken Trina waves her off.

TRINA

Not the conversation I need to have.

MARIA

(pushing)

Oh, no we're having this conversation.

TRINA

You're not quilting me into this.

MARIA

Guilt put you on that plane.

Maria takes a calming breath.

MARIA (CONT'D)

That wasn't fair.

Trina begins playing with her ever present charm. Maria  
eyes her.

TRINA

Let's just keep this cool between us  
and concentrate on KeShawn.

Maria nods.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
I better get going. Tell KeShawn  
I'll see him tomorrow.

INT. TRINA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Trina spots activity on the basketball courts in the park across from Maria's house. She gets out and walks over.

Seeing that KeShawn is one of the kids she watches from the fence. He looks up spotting her.

KeShawn turns back to the game just as a teammate throws him a pass.

He catches the ball spinning to run up the court. He has two KIDS on either side of him and another BOY streaking to the basket.

TRINA  
(too herself)  
Take them.

KeShawn executes a euro-step move but instead of shooting he bounces a pass hitting the Boy in stride.

KeShawn stares defiantly at Trina as the ball drops through the net.

She gives him a thumbs up.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Sweet.

Trina is smiling as she heads back to the car, then suddenly stops as she realizes what KeShawn just did.

She looks back over her shoulder shaking her head.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS RESTAURANT - DAY

Alec is seated at a table checking his watch.

Looking down the street he notices Chamika walking towards him. He stands waving her over.

ALEC  
Thanks for coming.

CHAMIKA  
You said you had a money play in  
mind. Got my attention.

ALEC  
The agency wants you on my roster.

CHAMIKA  
And why would they want that?

ALEC  
To get you in the NBA.

CHAMIKA  
Get outta' here.

ALEC  
Straight offer.

CHAMIKA  
Who?

ALEC  
Nuggets.

Chamika leans back.

CHAMIKA  
I'm feeling like lobster today.

Alec smiles as he waves a waitress over.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Trina and Maria are sitting on the sofa together. Trina is in track sweats and running jacket.

Maria is in her usual must be ready slacks and blouse outfit.

TRINA  
Are you always so put together?

MARIA  
Appearance is everything for my family.

KeShawn strides into the room in wrinkled Pj's, plopping down on an easy chair, flipping a leg over one of the arms.

Maria and Trina look at each other.

Trina smiles at KeShawn.

TRINA  
So, that thing at the courts.

KESHAWN  
(smirking)  
I did it better.

Trina smiles.

TRINA  
Still my move.

Maria gets up to leave them alone.

MARIA  
Play nice.

KESHAWN  
My Mom says you're from here.

TRINA  
You're my biggest fan, you shoulda'  
known that. But, yeah, I went to  
Jefferson. You thinking about going  
there?

KESHAWN  
Nah, I like winning.

Trina looks over at the trophy case.

TRINA  
Mind if I look?

KeShawn shrugs, but follows Trina as she goes over.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
This is all about school stuff?

KESHAWN  
Yeah.

TRINA  
No baller stuff?

KeShawn moves closer to Trina.

KESHAWN  
Mom says hoops ain't the most  
important thing I'm doing with my  
life.

Trina turns to KeShawn.

TRINA  
Is that what you think?

KESHAWN  
I think my Mom is a smart woman.  
And it's her house.

Trina notices Maria's diploma next to KeShawn's Deans List  
certificate.

TRINA

So how did I get to be your favorite player?

KESHAWN

My Mom showed me an interview of your dad sayin' people should watch Trey for flash and you for basics if they want to be really good.

TRINA

Me...for basics?

KESHAWN

I started watching you play and you had a little riz both ways.

Trina eyes KeShawn warily.

TREY

A little?

KESHAWN

Well, Trey's left is better.

Trina lifts a brow and points to the door.

TRINA

Grab your ball.

OUTSIDE

Followed by KeShawn, Trina rips off her jacket tossing it on the grass.

KESHAWN

(amused)

You playing in those?

Trina looks down at the sneakers she's wearing.

TRINA

I could play you barefoot, little boy.

She waits for KeShawn to toss her the ball. KeShawn moves close to her. His closeness in height takes Trina back a second.

KESHAWN

When you was my age could you beat your pops?

TRINA

Don't know. But I'm 'bout to see  
what you can do.

KeShawn pushes the ball into Trina's chest. Takes a step  
back.

KESHAWN

Not worried. You ain't got no left.

TRINA

School teaching you to talk like  
that?

KESHAWN

We ain't in school now.

Trina takes a quick jump shot, the ball swishes through the  
rim.

TRINA

Sure we are.

KeShawn retrieves the ball. He starts to hand it back but  
Trina knocks it from his hand and launches another shot.

KESHAWN

(yelling)  
I wasn't ready!

TRINA

Game don't wait for ready.

KeShawn goes to get the ball. As soon as he turns, Trina  
rushes him.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Go left.

KESHAWN

Get your hand off me! You're fouling!

TRINA

Go left. Figure it out. What else  
did you bite from my game?

KeShawn tries to push away but Trina has a firm grip on his  
left hip. KeShawn struggles but can't move.

TRINA (CONT'D)

(whispers)  
Ball in both hands away from me,  
elbow down on my wrist. Twist into  
me, dip your shoulder into my chest---



KeShawn begins to do as he is being instructed.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
---sweep through and step back---

KeShawn finishes off the move going behind his back right to left seeing he's got a clear path to the basket.

They both look proud.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Now you know how to do a sweep  
through.

KESHAWN  
Like Harden.

TRINA  
Like who?

Laughing, KeShawn retrieves the ball and sits on it.

KESHAWN  
Can I ask you a question?

TRINA  
Go for it.

KeShawn looks down the street, head lowered.

KESHAWN  
Are you really my biological mother?

TRINA  
Yes.

KESHAWN  
(hurt)  
You gave me away?

TRINA  
It wasn't like that.

KESHAWN  
Are you here just cause of my kidney?

Trina stands, holding out her hand to help KeShawn up.

TRINA  
I don't know. I'm figuring that  
out. Is that ok?

KeShawn nods as Maria appears at the door waving them over.  
Trina reaches down helping him up.

## LIVING ROOM

MARIA

We need to head over to Dr. Nathan's.

KESHAWN

Now?

MARIA

Yes. Go shower.

KESHAWN

(shocked)

A shower?

MARIA

You're not putting that smelly body  
in my new car. I can ask again if  
you want.

KeShawn gets the message and exits quickly.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Do you want to come?

TRINA

Do I have to take a shower first?

MARIA

You have your own car.

INT. LOIS'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Trina's cell rings. She looks down, sees it's Alec.  
Reluctantly she answers it.

TRINA

Yo'.

INT. ALEC'S LOFT - DAY

ALEC

I've been trying to reach you.

INTERCUT: PHONE CALL - TRINA/ALEC

TRINA

Got me.

ALEC

I'm getting things lined up.

TRINA

Cool.

ALEC

Where are you? They want to see us  
in Denver.

TRINA

When are they thinking?

ALEC

They wanted us in today. I've been  
stalling them.

Alec's tone is starting to show concern.

ALEC (CONT'D)

I'm still not hearing where you're  
at?

TRINA

Push it back?

ALEC

You're going to blow this. They  
could move on.

TRINA

It's your job to keep that from  
happening.

ALEC

Trina, where the fuck are you?

He hangs up and begins to send a text.

HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

Trina enters finding Maria and KeShawn speaking with Dr.  
Nathan who looks up, recognizing Trina immediately.

DR. NATHAN

Hello Trina. I'm Dr.Nathan.

TRINA

Hello.

DR. NATHAN

I was just about to take KeShawn for  
a few tests. Trina, would you be  
available to talk after?

TRINA

Sure.

Dr. Nathan and KeShawn walk away. Trina and Maria find a  
couple of chairs to sit.

MARIA

If Jackson hadn't died. Would you  
be here?

TRINA

If Keshawn hadn't gotten sick would  
I be here?

MARIA

That isn't an answer.

TRINA

Ask another question.

MARIA

You want to keep playing?

TRINA

It's all I have. I'm too close to  
just walk away.

MARIA

No matter what?

Trina starts to speak but Maria cuts her short.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Never mind, I saw your interview.

TRINA

You think this is easy for me?

MARIA

Easy? Everyday I wait for some child  
to die so mine can live. Easy?

TRINA

Maria---

MARIA

So, I'm asking, why are you here?

Trina gets up and walks to a nearby water fountain. She  
stares down at the running stream of water without drinking.

She turns to Maria, confused and unsteady.

MARIA (CONT'D)

There's something you should know  
about the adoption.

TRINA

What?

MARIA

Alec is my uncle. He worked the whole adoption out with Lois.

Maria waits for Trina's reaction.

TRINA

As in play uncle?

MARIA

Actual.

Trina takes a beat.

TRINA

So...how...why did this get done.  
Why you?

MARIA

I was violently raped when I was pregnant. It was so bad I lost the baby.

Trina looks shocked.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Lois was my rape consoler.

TREY

Why are you telling me this now?

MARIA

My mother use to say...  
"A lo hecho pecho." Own up to ones mistakes.

TRINA

All this time. Alec never said a word.

They both look up and see KeShawn and Dr. Nathan come back into the waiting room. Despite the tests KeShawn smiles at them. Maria scoops him into her arms.

MARIA

All good?

DR. NATHAN

About what we expected.

Dr. Nathan looks to Trina.

TRINA  
(to KeShawn)  
Mind if I catch up with you at the  
house tomorrow?

Trina and KeShawn exchange a pound. She watches as they  
walk out.

EXAMINING ROOM - LATER

Trina sits and listens to Dr. Nathan MOS.

EXT. MARIA'S HOUSE - LATER

Maria sits on the porch watching Trina and KeShawn shooting  
baskets.

They stop for a minute when a few of KeShawn's friends come  
up the street. Maria smiles as Trina engages the kids.

Anita walks out the front door. Anita starts to speak but  
stops as Trina begins to walk over to them.

MARIA  
Trina, this is my sister Anita.

TRINA  
Nice to meet you.

Maria nods towards KeShawn

MARIA  
He likes you.

TRINA  
He's a good kid.

ANITA  
The best.

TRINA  
(to Maria)  
I decided to take the test. Have  
Key's records sent to my doc.

MARIA  
Really? What about the Nuggets?

TRINA  
(smiling)  
They'll wait for me.

Anita can't hold back and begins in on Trina.

ANITA

Why are you deciding this now?

Maria tries to get between the two.

MARIA

Calm down, Anita.

ANITA

She's setting this up.

TRINA

Maria, I have to get going. Plane  
leaves in a few.

Maria hugs Trina tightly.

MARIA

(whispers)

Thank you.

TRINA

Thank me when we know.

As they separate, Trina looks at Anita before quickly turning to go back to the group of kids. They all clamor to get selfies and autographs.

Trina and KeShawn walk to her car.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Work on that left.

KESHAWN

You too.

Trina tries to smack the back of his head. KeShawn ducks it easily.

KESHAWN (CONT'D)

You ain't got Mom speed.

Trina hugs him before jumping in her car.

ANITA

I don't trust it.

MARIA

(dismissively)

You don't trust me?

ANITA

I'm just saying, be careful about  
getting excited.

(MORE)

ANITA (CONT'D)

If she signs that contract first,  
KeShawn won't be on her radar.

INT. LOIS'S HOUSE GARAGE - MORNING

Trina pulls into the garage. She sits for a moment lovingly  
fingering her charm before climbing out of the car.

She finds the tarp and begins dragging it over the car.

INT. NUGGETS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Preparations are being made for a press conference. Alec  
stands off to the side with Johnson, Ramsey and Stuart.

A coterie of REPORTERS including Ewing wait for them to take  
their seats.

JOHNSON

Before we go through with this, you're  
certain Trina is on board?

ALEC

Yes. Completely.

RAMSEY

What did she say about Chamika?

ALEC

We're good.

Ringsby motions for them to take their seats. Johnson and  
Alec sit down leaving the others to stand behind them.

INT. AIRPORT LOUNGE - SAME

INTERCUT: BETWEEN NEWS CONFERENCE/LOUNGE

Trina is nursing a drink as she watches ESPN on the bar TV.

JOHNSON

We're proud to have a big  
announcement. The Denver Nuggets  
will be bringing in two of the best  
Female basketball players in the  
world for a tryout to join our team  
for the upcoming season.

The crowd buzzes. Trina drops her drink spilling it out  
over the bar as her image comes up side by side with  
Chamika's.



JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Trina Strokes and Chamika Shaw are recognized as the best the WNBA has ever produced and we are excited at the prospect of making this historic move.

AIRPORT LOUNGE

Trina sits stunned. Several people recognize her right away and rush over to her clamoring for autographs and selfies.

LOUNGE T.V. SCREEN

EWING

This move has been rumored for months, but it always centered around Trina. Why the addition of Chamika?

Alec leans into the mic in front of him.

ALEC

I represent both players and it was decided that they both deserved the opportunity.

EWING

And what about your current point guard?

JOHNSON

We don't discuss personnel matters with players.

EWING

You'd agree Monte is a little more than just a player, wouldn't you?

JOHNSON

He is not an owner of this team.

AIRPORT LOUNGE

Feeling overwhelmed by the crowd Trina bolts the bar ducking into a nearby bathroom entering the first open stall she sees.

NUGGETS CONFERENCE ROOM

EWING

Is there a reason that only Chamika is here for this announcement? Where is Trina.

ALEC

Trina is currently out of town.

EWING

Chamika, are you worried that if you don't win this tryout, it could have a negative impact on your legacy?

CHAMIKA

(smirking)

Do you think I would go into this worried about who would win in this situation, really?

Johnson jumps in quickly.

JOHNSON

Thanks everyone for coming out.  
We'll have more on this in the days to come as we get closer to the tryout.

INT. ALEC'S OFFICE - DAY

Alec looks up as Trina storms in.

TRINA

You muthafucka'!

Alec stands up moving to the front of his desk.

ALEC

Calm down.

TRINA

I told you to hold the fuck up.

ALEC

My job isn't holding shit up.

TRINA

Call them!

She waits for Alec to pick up his phone.

ALEC

It's done, Trina.

TRINA

This was supposed to be my break,  
Alec.

Trina takes a moment, staring straight through Alec.

TRINA (CONT'D)

When were you going to tell me?

ALEC

I've been doing what I needed to make sure we didn't lose ground.

TRINA

Liar.

Trina rushes him grabbing the front of his shirt.

TRINA (CONT'D)

You've done some fucked up shit but this...Maria.

ALEC

Maria?

TRINA

She told me everything, Uncle Alec. You knew about KeShawn all this time. And not one fuckin' word.

Trina starts towards the door but stops short spinning back to Alec.

TRINA (CONT'D)

What if he died? Was that what you were hoping?

ALEC

Yeah, I kept that secret. I kept a lot of secrets about your family. Your crack head dad and everything else. But I did it for you.

TRINA

Fuck that lie. Set that workout up this week.

ALEC

That's too soon.

TRINA

Make it happen or you can worry about your new client and I'll make this shit happen on my own.

Trina pushes Alec away storming out leaving him straightening his shirt.

INT. TRINA'S LOFT - LATER

Trina stands at the picture window staring into space. Trey is behind her.

TREY  
How'd the visit go?  
(frowning)  
What's going on?

She turns to him.

TRINA  
Alec is Maria's uncle.

TREY  
(shocked)  
Get the hell outta' here.

TRINA  
He's known the whole time. He was  
in on the adoption thing with Mom.

TREY  
What are you going to do?

TRINA  
I'm flying to Denver for that tryout  
against Chamika.

TREY  
You think that's a good idea?

TRINA  
This is my time. Nothing is taking  
this away from me.

Trey tries to hug her but she pushes him away wincing in pain.

TREY  
Trina---

Trina drops to her knees in agony.

TRINA  
(weakly)  
Call Walsh...now

INT. DR. WALSH'S EXAMINATION ROOM - LATER

Trina sits on an examination table, Trey holds her hand. DR. WALSH enters. He runs his hand over his balding head as he looks directly at Trina.

DR. WALSH

I told you to come see me right away  
for your exit physical so we could  
talk about what's been going on with  
you.

TRINA

Been a little busy, Doc. And the  
weed has been helping.

Trey looks at the both of them confused.

DR. WALSH

He needs to know, Trina?

Trina pulls Trey closer.

DR. WALSH (CONT'D)

Trina has Focal Segmental  
Glomeruloclerosis.

Trey steps backwards.

TRINA

Yeah, I couldn't pronounce that in a  
million years.

DR. WALSH

It's a chronic kidney disorder.  
She's been ignoring my suggestion  
for treatment. And now it's at an  
acute stage.

TREY

(to Trina)

What the hell is wrong with you?

TRINA

People survive this. Other players  
have.

TREY

Could she die?

Trey looks to Walsh clearly emotional

DR. WALSH

We can get it under control, but  
she's going to need a transplant.

TRINA

I have a question. Could I have  
passed this to KeShawn?

Walsh doesn't answer.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Like son, like mother.

TREY  
This isn't funny.  
(angrily)  
You played a whole fucking season,  
knowing this? And you didn't tell  
me?

Leaning back on his desk Dr. Walsh begins speaking in a  
measured tone to Trina.

DR. WALSH  
I know you have a lot going on. We  
have a good news, bad news situation.  
Which first?

TRINA  
Bad news for \$400, Alex.

DR. WALSH  
Basketball is off the table. And  
you aren't a blood type match to be  
a suitable donor.

Trina looks to Trey who is visibly shaken.

TRINA  
What's the good news?

DR. WALSH  
If you listen to me, you live.

TRINA  
And KeShawn?

DR. WALSH  
I'm working with Dr. Nathan to figure  
that out.

TRINA  
You really need to work on the whole  
good news, bad news thing.

TREY  
So what are we doing?

DR. WALSH  
Trina I would advise admitting you  
today.

TRINA  
Not happening.

DR. WALSH  
I can see you're down what, 15 pounds?  
And your skin is starting to look  
sallow.

Dr. Walsh looks at Trey.

DR. WALSH (CONT'D)  
You can't see this? Trina I need  
you to check in.

TRINA  
I'm going to that tryout.

DR. WALSH  
That isn't a wise move. And I told  
Alec---

TRINA  
He knows? When did you tell him?  
Fuck it. Doesn't matter.

Trina brushes past Dr. Walsh on her way to the door.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
I promise I'll be back here as soon  
as I'm done.

Dr. Walsh writes a note on a prescription pad and hands it  
to Trina.

DR. WALSH  
When you land get some real medical  
stuff and stop smoking that street  
crap.

TRINA  
Promise.

Trey grabs Trina's arm.

TREY  
You can't do this.

Trina pulls away.

TRINA  
This isn't a vote you get.

TREY  
It's just you and me. You think I'm  
going to watch you die? You're more  
selfish than Jackson ever was. I'm  
not gonna let you kill yourself?

TRINA

I'm going Trey. I have to have this.

TREY

Then I'm going to Denver with you.  
But when this is done, your ass is  
in the hospital.

INT. DENVER NUGGETS PRACTICE FACILITY - DAY

Several news crews scramble to get set.

Trina sits in the bleachers with Trey. She frantically  
punches a number on her cell.

TRINA

Pick the fuck up.

Just as she slams the cell into her workout bag Alec walks  
into the gym. She starts to get up then freezes.

Chamika is following closely behind Alec engaged with Johnson,  
Stuart, Ramsey and the Nuggets COACHING STAFF.

TRINA (CONT'D)

(to Trey)

Fucker.

Alec comes over by himself. He looks closely at Trina.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Hedging bets?

ALEC

Company decision on this. I tried  
to talk them out of it.

TRINA

Did they tell you not to accept my  
texts?

Chamika strolls by without a glance towards Trina.

TRINA (CONT'D)

You know she doesn't have a chance  
here, right?

TREY

All kinds of wrong on this, Alec.

ALEC

I went along with this because I  
knew it would push her. You're my  
priority on this.



Trina pulls off her hoodie.

TRINA  
I guess that's why she's the one you  
walked through the door with.

Alec checks Trina out closely.

ALEC  
You look like shit.

Trina pats him on the butt as she heads towards the court.

TRINA  
Don't worry, I'm gonna' make your  
next choice an easy one.

Trina hugs Trey and walks to meet Chamika on the court.

The court is set up with several stations. Weights, obstacle course, racks of basketballs.

Trina stands next to Johnson, leaning into him and whispering.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
Third chance.

Trina and Chamika run through the drills. They are evenly matched.

During the shooting drills Trina begins to show some fatigue as she misses the last rack of balls while Chamika drains them all.

Ramsey calls them both over. He is joined by two PLAYERS.

RAMSEY  
Last drill. You're up Chamika.

Trina stands on the sidelines watching. Chamika drains her first two shots before Ramsey nods to Player 1.

He instantly plays more physically. He pushes Chamika further away from what she wants to do until Ramsey calls it.

Trina gives a nod to Alec before she runs to the court. She passes Chamika giving her a smug smile.

Trina and Player 2 size each other up. Trina extends her fist for a pound.

TRINA  
They shoulda' put you on her.

Trina begins by blowing past Player 2 for a layup as she does the next three times she has the ball.

Alec now standing with Johnson and Stuart keeps a close eye.

Trina is having her way with Player 2, finally pulling off a perfect euro-step move that swishes cleanly through the basket.

Ramsey waves Trina over. Player 2 is left on the court shaking his head.

Johnson and Stuart joined by Chamika and Alec meet Trina and Ramsey on the sideline.

JOHNSON

That was impressive, ladies.

Chamika and Trina eye each other waiting for some sign on who has the edge.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

We'll have an answer in a couple of days. But no matter what, you both proved you belong here.

STUART

Go ahead and hit the showers. Alec, we'll be in touch.

Trina sprints off the court without a word to Alec or Chamika.

LOCKER ROOM

Trina sits head down with a towel pressed to her mouth as she coughs into it.

Chamika watches from the end of the row of lockers, concern on her face.

CHAMIKA

You good?

TRINA

Yeah.

CHAMIKA

That was fire out there.

Chamika takes another close look at her before exiting.

Trina pulls the towel away from her face. Her head drops as she sees the blood.

Trey walks in just as Trina picks up her cell and dials.

TRINA

I'll be in your office tomorrow.

INT. TREY'S LOFT - DAY

Trey is watching ESPN and their coverage of Trina and Chamika's workout.

EWING (O.S.)

This was a truly historic event in  
NBA history.

D.J. (O.S.)

When you look at this you realize  
how far the women's game has come.

INT. MARIA'S HOUSE - SAME

Maria and KeShawn sit side by side watching. KeShawn  
exhorting Trina's every move.

ESPN STUDIOS

EWING

When I heard about this, I didn't  
see this coming.

D.J.

I have to say, they both showed game.  
No disrespect to Chamika, but Trina---

EWING

The family genes were on point, right?

INT. DR. WALSH'S EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Trina lays on the examining table an I.V. drip in her arm.

Dr. Walsh enters.

DR. WALSH

It's turning on you.

TRINA

I have to get through this Doc. I'm  
close.

DR. WALSH

I wish I had more to say. I'm only  
concerned with you living.

INT. DENVER NUGGETS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Johnson and Stuart are meeting with the coaching staff as  
they watch video from the workout.

RAMSEY

I've never seen a woman with a vertical like Trina's.

JOHNSON

They both looked good. I like Chamika's size. That would be a big help for her.

STUART

Over a long season it's a plus.

RAMSEY

But you can't deny Trina's game is more NBA ready.

JOHNSON

I don't know if Trina gets all those moves off against NBA level talent.

STUART

We have to be right on this. What do you think about the kid situation?

JOHNSON

It's a factor.

RAMSEY

Do we need the distraction?

They watch more footage.

JOHNSON

Call Alec.

INT. WALSH'S EXAMINING ROOM - DAY

Trey enters the room. Trina sits up smiling. He walks slowly to her, arms out.

They hug as Dr. Walsh looks on. Trey looks over Trina's shoulder getting a head nod from Dr. Walsh.

TREY

I took the test.

Trina pulls back.

TRINA

No.

TREY

It's the only choice.

Trina rips the I.V. from her arm jumping off the table. Her cell buzzes, a text from Alec.

TRINA  
He's heard already.

TREY  
He can wait.

Visibly wincing Trina dresses quickly.

She starts for the door. Dr. Walsh and Trey stare at each other before Trey follows her.

INT. TREY'S CAR - DAY

They ride in tense silence each stealing looks at the other. Trina puts her hand lightly on Trey's.

INT. ALEC'S LOFT - LATER

Alec is leaning against the bar. Trey and Trina stand across the room from him.

ALEC  
Just got off the phone with the team.  
How do you think it went?

TRINA  
How does Chamika think it went?

ALEC  
She was the teams call for the tryout.

TRINA  
Before or after you offered her up?

Trina leans against Trey's shoulder. Alec watches closely.

ALEC  
You ok?

TRINA  
I'm going to be.

ALEC  
Trina---

TRINA  
What?

ALEC  
I was doing my job.

TRINA

You keep saying that. The question  
is, for who?

Alec begins to show anger in his movements as he paces the  
loft.

ALEC

You were blowing it. Everything I  
worked my ass off for.

Alec starts to move towards Trina a bit too aggressively.  
Trey cuts him off.

TRINA

Why didn't you tell me about Maria?

Alec stares away. She waits.

ALEC

Why didn't you tell me you were sick?  
What do you think the team would  
have done if they knew?

Trina starts to step towards Alec. Trey holds onto her.

TRINA

Did you tell them? That's why Chamika  
was there. You were hedging your  
bet in case I got sicker.

Alec ignores her.

ALEC

I busted my ass for both of you. I  
got you here.

TRINA

You helped take my baby away from me  
and now you put my dream in jeopardy.

ALEC

I was protecting you.

TRINA

You were protecting your money. You  
don't care about either of us.

Alec tries to get past Trey.

ALEC

After your mother died I was there  
when your old man wasn't.

He looks directly at Trey.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Where the fuck were you when she was crying her eyes out because your family made her feel like she wasn't as good as you? Did you expect a dying kid I barely know and her being sick was going to get in my way?

Trey punches Alec in the face knocking him to the ground. He stands over Alec.

Alec looks up wiping blood from his mouth.

TREY

Everything you are is because of my family. We took you from drug hustler to legit. That ends now.

Trina pulls Trey away.

TRINA

I don't care what they had to say. You're fired.

Alec watches as they both head towards the door. Trina steadies herself on Trey's shoulder.

ALEC

They chose you.

Trina turns to him.

ALEC (CONT'D)

Still fired?

TRINA/TREY

Fuck yeah.

INT.TREY'S CAR - LATER

Trey helps her into the car. They look at each other.

TREY

You did it.

TRINA

Yeah.

Closing her eyes she sinks back against the seat.

TREY

I got you.

INT. TREY'S LOFT - DAY

Trina is laying on the sofa when her cell rings. She smiles as she answers.

TRINA

Hey, Maria.

INT. MARIA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Maria is sitting on the floor in front of her sofa.

MARIA

Key is bouncing off the walls. He wants to know what happened.

INTERCUT: PHONE CALL TRINA/MARIA

TRINA

Is he there? Can I talk to him?

Trina sits up.

KESHAWN

Your left hand is still weak.

TRINA

And yet they gonna' give me them stacks.

They both laugh.

TRINA (CONT'D)

What are you doing today?

KESHAWN

Getting ready to school Mom. She thinks she's got---OWWW.

TRINA

I felt that head slap all the way down here. Hey, I'm going to get some rest. Don't hurt your Mom.

KESHAWN

I'm proud of you.

TRINA

Yeah, right. I'm not sharing a nickel with you no matter how you kiss up.

KESHAWN

I'm getting my own 'Chips and stacks.



TRINA  
Run along little boy. Let me talk  
to your Mom.

KeShawn hands the phone to Maria.

MARIA  
Yes?

Trina hesitates before speaking.

TRINA  
I got the results.

MARIA  
I know. Dr. Nathan told me.

TRINA  
(softly)  
I'm sorry.

MARIA  
It's ok. You took a huge step.

TRINA  
There's something else I need to  
tell you.

MARIA  
Sure.

Trina takes an audibly deep breath.

MARIA (CONT'D)  
Are you ok.

TRINA  
I'm sick. I've been battling  
something serious. It's the reason  
I can't...I'm...this can't be real.

MARIA  
Why didn't you say something?

TRINA  
Memories of lessons learned.

MARIA  
(softly)  
We'll all figure this out.

They both hang up.

INT. TREY'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Trey walks in just as Trina begins to cough.

TREY  
You have to let me do this for you.

TRINA  
And what happens to you?

TREY  
I get to be the hero of the family  
as usual.

Trina looks away as she begins to tear up.

TRINA  
KeShawn.

Trey watches as she lets go.

TREY  
I promise you I'll make sure he's  
alright, but this has to happen.  
I'm not losing you.

Trina lays back down.

EXT. MARIA'S HOME - DAY

Maria and KeShawn are shooting baskets. After Maria sinks one from halfway down the driveway she lifts her arms skyward.

KESHAWN  
Lucky shot.

Maria goes to him and playfully pulls on his afro.

MARIA  
We're going to get through this,  
baby.

She kisses him on the cheek before heading for the front door. She turns to look back to see KeShawn in a heap on the ground, the ball rolling away.

INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - LATER

Maria and Anita following behind KeShawn being wheeled in on a gurney.

They rush KeShawn into the first exam room. The DOCTOR on call comes in behind them. He ushers Maria and Anita out of the room.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Maria slumps against the wall.

ANITA  
You need to call her.

MARIA  
I can't. There's nothing she can do.

ANITA  
Do you think it's right after letting them get so close to not call?

Maria drops her purse as her hands shake. Anita picks it up.

ANITA (CONT'D)  
Even I know this isn't the time for pride.

MARIA  
(angrily)  
Why do you care about Trina. You've questioned everything about her.

Anita Looks away.

ANITA  
I have to tell you something.

MARIA  
What?

ANITA  
The video...about Key...I sent it.

Maria tries to hide her anger as she swipes tears away.

MARIA  
What were you thinking?

ANITA  
I thought if I forced her hand---

Maria looks straight through Anita.

ANITA (CONT'D)  
I was wrong. I know, but I did it out of---

MARIA  
Spite.

INT. KESHAWN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Maria holds KeShawn's hand. He is groggy, eyes half open. Anita stands by the door, she watches for a minute before stepping outside carrying Maria's purse.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Anita riffles through Maria's purse and finds her phone.

INT. TRINA'S LOFT - NIGHT

Trina's phone rings from the coffee table. She goes to pick it up.

TRINA  
Hello...what? Wait, slow down.

ANITA  
(on phone)  
Key is in the hospital. It's serious.

TRINA  
Tell her I'm on my way.

Trina hangs up, flustered, trying to catch her emotions.

TREY  
What's wrong.

TRINA  
KeShawn is in the hospital. I need  
to get to Sacramento.

Trey Pulls out his cell.

TREY  
Andrea, get a charter ready for Trina  
to Sacramento. Go to my spot and  
put a bag together. We're on our  
way now.

Trina starts to speak but Trey waves her off.

TREY (CONT'D)  
Get ready.

Trina quickly makes a call.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A black SUV pulls up to the emergency door. Trina, Trey and Dr. Walsh jump out.

INT. WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Anita spots them rushing in.

TRINA

Is he---

ANITA

He's sleep. I sent Maria home.  
Give her a call in the morning.

Trina hugs Anita.

TRINA

Thanks for calling.

Anita steps back unable to look at Trina.

ANITA

I was wrong about you. And you need  
to know that it was me that sent the  
tape to ESPN.

TRINA

Why would you do that?

Trina looks to Trey. He motions her to Anita. Trina walks  
slowly over taking her hands.

TRINA (CONT'D)

None of that matters right now.  
Let's just focus on Key. I'll kick  
your ass later.

She pulls Anita in for a hug before turning and walking away  
with Trey.

INT. TRINA'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Trina walks out of the bathroom in a robe. Trey sits on the  
sofa mindlessly watching television. She checks her cell  
for messages before making a call.

TRINA

Hi, Maria. I came as soon as I heard.  
Can I go see him?

MARIA

(on phone)

They want him to have a day or two  
to rest. Come by the hospital  
tomorrow.

After hanging up Trina goes to Trey and yanks him to his  
feet.

TRINA  
Let's take a ride.

EXT. LOIS'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Trina and Trey pull into the driveway.

TRINA  
Get out.

Standing in the driveway Trey hugs Trina tight.

TREY  
I haven't been here since Mom died.

TRINA  
Yeah.

LIVING ROOM

Trey checks out the room before going to sit on the sofa.  
Trina stands by the door.

TREY  
Why haven't you sold it?

TRINA  
All I have left of her...we have  
left of her, is here.

She runs her hand the width of the door.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
There were days after she died I  
would just sit and stare at this  
door. Praying she'd come through.  
But---

TREY  
She'd be proud of you.

Trina smiles.

TRINA  
You know what I hated about being up  
here?

TREY  
What's that?

TRINA  
You weren't here.

She walks over and sits with Trey.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Do you think I belong in the NBA.

TREY

Yeah. I mean, you have the heart for it.

TRINA

But the game?

TREY

Dad use to say you had more heat. More aggression.

She looks away.

TREY (CONT'D)

Seriously. And he was right. My game is fluid and tricky, but damn, you got his game. I just play around the edges of it. You breath it.

She leans back pulling her knees to her chest.

TRINA

(softly)

Thank you.

TREY

When Mom died. I thought we would fall apart.

GTRINA

When the cancer hit she just wanted to make it to see me sign my letter of intent for college.

TREY

She used to text me before her chemo sessions.

TRINA

(laughing)

I know, like what we were going through was more important.

She takes a huge gulp of air to fight the tears.

TRINA (CONT'D)

The night she passed she told me something I guess I forgot with Jackson.

TREY

What was that?

TRINA

She said never let the past get in  
the way of your love for family.

For a moment they just stare straight ahead.

TRINA (CONT'D)

I never hated you for being more  
connected to Jackson. I knew what  
it meant to you.

TREY

You know, I wanted to be more like  
you. You're fearless.

TRINA

(smiling)

What are big sisters for?

TREY

By three minutes!

She reaches for Trey's hand.

TREY (CONT'D)

I can't lose you.

TRINA

Never.

TREY

It's funny how you ended up with Mom  
and I basically ended up with Dad.

TRINA

You really are more like her,  
grounded...soft.

She smothers him with a pillow laughing before pulling him  
to his feet.

TRINA (CONT'D)

We should go. But I need to get  
something first.

GARAGE

Trina finds a small bag on the workbench. She smiles as she  
looks inside. She stops to look at the car.

TREY

No.

TRINA

Fine.



INT. KESHAWN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Trina and Trey enter the room. Maria is asleep in the chair next to KeShawn's bed. KeShawn is awake and smiles seeing them enter.

Trina is holding a Nerf Hoop and ball behind her back. KeShawn tries to look behind her. Trina holds her finger to her lips, signaling for KeShawn to keep his voice down.

KESHAWN

What you got?

TRINA

What you got?

TREY

You guys sound just alike.

Trina goes to the bathroom door holding the hoop and ball out for KeShawn to see. She attaches the hoop.

KESHAWN

Right! I can't get out of this bed.

Trina turns to him and smirks.

TRINA

Just as well, my left is getting better.

She tosses the ball behind her back towards KeShawn but it smacks Maria in the face. She startles. They all point at each other. She notices the hoop as she picks up the ball.

MARIA

Oh it's on!

She jumps up from her chair and they begin to play a game. Every once in awhile they pass the ball to KeShawn who takes all the shots.

Dr. Nathan walks in. He does not look amused, Dr. Nathan shakes his head holds his right hand out.

DR. NATHAN

My hospital, I should get a shot.

They all laugh. Trina tosses him the ball and he sinks a shot from the doorway.

DR. NATHAN (CONT'D)

All American, honorable mention 1975.  
Maria can I talk to you outside?

She exits with him. Trina goes to sit on the side of KeShawn's bed.

TRINA  
You nervous?

KeShawn shakes his head.

KESHAWN  
Mom says you can't donate your kidney.

TRINA  
(surprised)  
Does that upset you?

Keshawn shrugs.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
You're not worried?

KESHAWN  
Yeah, but not scared. My Mom told me you're sick, like me.

Trina leans in close to KeShawn.

TRINA  
Yeah, but we're going to get through it. Together.

They look at each other for a beat.

KESHAWN  
But when we do and my Mom---

TRINA  
Maria is still your Mom. Listen to me. Families aren't about who gave you birth.

She looks away for a minute.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
You have a Mother who cares for you, dries your eyes, fights for you.

She takes his hands.

TRINA (CONT'D)  
I gave birth to you.

She points towards the door.

TRINA (CONT'D)

She gave you everything else that makes you the special kid you are. She's your Mother because you're lucky enough she chose to be your family.

KESHAWN

But, I could have two.

TRINA

Greedy much?

KeShawn shrugs.

KESHAWN

Hey, you know what I say to myself when I'm pressed on the court?

TRINA

What?

KESHAWN

Euro-step. And then I make my move and it's all good.

TRINA

What happens when it's not?

KESHAWN

(quietly)  
It usually is.

KeShawn sighs deeply as Trina brushes a tear from his cheek.

TRINA

You tired?

KeShawn nods. Trina leans over and kisses him on the head.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Love you.

KESHAWN

Euro-step.

As Trina stands her eyes go blank as she crumples to the floor.

Trey rushes to Trina.

TREY

Help! Somebody help!

Dr. Nathan and Maria rush in. Dr. Nathan looks out the door yelling to the nurses.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - LATER

Trey leans slumped against the wall hands covering his face. Maria stands next to him her arms around his shoulders.

Dr. Walsh comes running down the corridor to them. He stops to look at Trey before he enters Trina's room.

TRINA'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Dr. Walsh and Dr. Nathan confer MOS as Trina lays motionless on the bed tubes pumping fluids into her body.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY

Maria hands Trey a cup of coffee. She steadies his shaking hands as he struggles to accept it.

MARIA

She's a fighter. Like Key.

TREY

I should have never let her come.

He looks up at Maria, realizing what he just said out loud.

MARIA

I know.

Maria looks up as Dr. Nathan and Dr. Walsh approach.

TREY

(anxiously)

Can I see her?

DR. WALSH

Yes. But before you do, you both need to understand we need decisions made. Quickly.

INT. HOSPITAL EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Dr. Nathan and Maria are having a heated argument.

MARIA

I don't care. You are not to lobby for KeShawn.

DR. NATHAN

Maria, Trey is a match for KeShawn.

Maria takes a deep breath before continuing.

MARIA

Do they know?

Dr.Nathan nods as he puts his arm around Maria's shoulder.

TRINA'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Trey sits by her bedside. Neither looking at each other.

TREY

What you're asking isn't happening.

TRINA

It's my choice.

TREY

Actually, it's my choice.

TRINA

He's a kid. Your nephew.

TREY

A few weeks ago I never knew he existed. He's a stranger.

Trina reaches for Trey.

TRINA

Not any---

Dr. Walsh enters the room.

DR. WALSH

You have today to make a choice.  
Trey, we'll need to get you prepped.

TREY

We do this and she lives, right?

DR. WALSH

Yes.

Trey turns to Trina before leaving the room.

TREY

I'm serious. He's a great kid, but  
I'm only doing this for you.

Dr. Walsh glances at Trina.

DR. WALSH

I know it isn't easy. But this is  
Trey's choice.

Trina closes her eyes.

INT. OPERATING ROOM ONE - DAY

Dr. Walsh is prepping Trey to remove his kidney.

Tears begin to run down Trey's cheek.

WAITING ROOM - LATER

Maria and Anita are waiting when Dr. Walsh and Dr. Nathan come through the emergency room doors.

DR. WALSH  
KeShawn is going to be fine. The surgery went well.

MARIA  
Key?

DR. NATHAN  
Trina wanted Key to be the one.

MARIA  
But---

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Trey enters the room in a wheelchair. He notices how weak she looks laying in the bed.

Trina looks over, a smirk on her face.

TRINA  
That's a little dramatic.

TREY  
What the fuck was that? I told you I was only going through this to save you.

TRINA  
It was the right thing.

TREY  
So I lose the last important person in my life?

Trina speaks but her words are labored.

TRINA  
You would have hated yourself. And that little boy down the hall is your family.

Trina waves him over. Trey takes her hand.

TRINA (CONT'D)

It's right that it all ended up this way.

Maria enters the room and runs to Trey hugging him tight as she reaches for Trina's hand.

Trey holds Trina's hand tighter as he clings to Maria. Trina squeezes Trey's hand as she closes her eyes.

TRINA (CONT'D)

(weakly)

He's going to light you up when he gets to the league.

Suddenly her hand goes limp falling from Trey's grasp.

Trey looks to Maria, both break down.

INT. PEPSI CENTER COURT - NIGHT

The sold out crowd is buzzing just before a game is about to start. Johnson stands with Trey and KeShawn. He is holding onto a length of rope that extends to the rafters.

Maria is watching from the sidelines.

JOHNSON

Tonight we honor a true superstar as a person and player. Trina Strokes, her brother Trey and their father Jackson are basketball royalty. Trina may have passed away but she will forever live in the hearts of everyone who ever watched her play.

A YOUNG WOMAN walks over carrying a package. She holds it out to KeShawn.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

(to KeShawn)

We didn't get a chance to give Trina this contract making her the first woman to hold an NBA contract. We want you to have it.

Trey hugs KeShawn.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Just one more thing to do.

He hands KeShawn the rope.

JOHNSON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

KeShawn, Would you do the honors.

KeShawn gives the rope a tug.

INT. PEPSI CENTER 8 YEARS LATER - NIGHT

Trey is squaring up on defense. He smirks at the Denver Nuggets PLAYER in front of him.

COURTSIDE SEATS

Maria jumps to her feet. She's wearing a Nuggets Jersey.

MARIA  
EURO-STEP!

COURT

20 year-old KeShawn blows past Trey executing a perfect Euro-step move. The ball drops cleanly through the net.

KeShawn points skyward as the crowd goes wild.

PEPSI CENTER RAFTERS

Trina's Denver Nuggets Jersey.

FADE OUT:

THE END