

INNER-CITY TALES

written by

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FADE IN

INT. MUSIC AUDITORIUM - DIM LIGHT

Marcus is on stage. It's dim with little light. He is playing a Mozart Violin Concerto with extraordinary talent. The Music Auditorium is closed, Marcus is alone and there is no audience attending. Marcus keeps playing for several minutes by himself. He plays with absolute passion. He stops and looks at the empty seats, imagining a full crowd.

CUT TO:

EXT. PITTSBURGH CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Cars are driving past, pedestrians are walking up and down the sidewalk.

MARCUS (African American age 17) is standing a few feet away from a busy bus stop.

A rough, tired looking homeless man walks up to him

HOMELESS MAN

Was-sup man? Fifteen.

He extends his hand to Marcus with cash hidden in his hand. Marcus pretends to quickly greet the homeless man with a handshake but secretly exchanges a small bag of heroin for the cash. Marcus nods his head without speaking a word. The homeless man walks away.

Marcus notices a bright red vehicle pull up to the Woodstreet Station. A thin beautiful woman steps out of the passenger side. Marcus notices it is ALECIA (caucasian age 17) who is a classmate of his. Marcus looks at her with passion in his eyes as she walks through the doors of the Woodstreet Station and disappears down the steps.

Marcus's attention is interrupted by another homely looking man wanting to purchase drugs. They greet hands and exchange cash for drugs secretly. The 2nd drug addict wipes his runny nose and walks away.

Marcus looks back at the busy bus station.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S PROJECT APARTMENT-NIGHT

Marcus walks into the door. He looks over and sees his MOM (Mid 30's African American) laying on the couch drugged up, mumbling incoherently. He sees a needle, spoon, lighter and a small empty baggy laying on the table. An ashtray is on the floor with cigarette butts scattered on the dirty carpet.

MARCUS

What the fuck? Ma! Yo Ma!

His mom shoos him away flinging her hand at him

MOM

(Quietly)

Leave me alone

Marcus. You see I'm napping.

Marcus shakes his head in disgust.

MARCUS

Whatever.

Marcus walks away and into his bedroom. He grabs his headphones from his dresser and puts them on as he flops onto his twin bed.

Rap music plays in the background.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Marcus is standing at his open locker looking through it as his friend JEREMY walks up to him.

JEREMY

What's up homie? What's good?

MARCUS

Nothing man. What's good with you?

Marcus closes his locker door. (Jeremy is speaking incoherently in the background).

Marcus looks down the hall, not paying attention to what Jeremy is sayin and notices Alecia at her locker putting away some school material. He watches her intensely.

JEREMY

Yo man! What's up? You hearing me nigga? Shit!

Marcus snaps out of his dream state. Jeremy looks down the hall and notices Alecia.

JEREMY

Haha! O.K. O.k. I see. Nigga you know white broads like her don't want shit to do with street niggas like us.

Marcus looks over to Jeremy.

JEREMY

C'mon man. Let's get the fuck outa here. There's no money in this school shit. Pick yo mother fucking jaw off the ground and c'mon. Shit's dragging and shit.

They both smile at Jeremy's joke

MARCUS

(Smiling)
Shut up nigga.

They walk down the hall.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Marcus and Jeremy are walking along the sidewalk.

JEREMY

Yo, I gotta meet with BIG DUKE.

MARCUS

Oh yeah? Getting more work?

JEREMY

Yeah.

MARCUS

Good. I need money son.

JEREMY

Fo'sho'. So what's up with you and that Cinderella bitch you was looking at?

MARCUS

Cinderella bitch? Nigga please. She's just some broad from class.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

JEREMY

(laughing)

Yeah she is sexy though. Not gonna lie dog. So you gonna try to hookup?

MARCUS

(Smiling)

Nah man. She's just cute.

JEREMY

(Laughing)

Aight. Maybe you should show her your violin work.

Marcus laughs slightly embarrassed.

Jeremy looks down the block and notices 3 men standing around in front of a store. Jeremy stops suddenly and puts his hand in front of Marcus to stop him.

MARCUS

(Confused)

What's up?

JEREMY

Yo. Ain't that that nigga Rocky?

MARCUS

Who?

JEREMY

(Angry)

Nigga Rocky. That mother fucker grabbed up on my lil sis the other day.

MARCUS

Fo'real?

JEREMY

(Angry)

Yeah. Fuck this nigga. Let's get this mother fucker.

They both walk towards the 3 men.

JEREMY

(Shouting)

Yo nigga! Hey yo nigga! You wanna grab up on my lil sis nigga?

The 3 men stop what they are doing and look towards Jeremy and Marcus and see them walking towards them.

ROCKY
(In a strong stance)
Got a problem nigga?

Rocky (early 20's African American, athletic build) takes a hit of his swisher sweet as Jeremy and Marcus walk up towards him.

JEREMY
Nah nigga! You got the proble!

Jeremy strikes Rocky hard in the face. Rocky stumbles back. The other 2 men that were with Rocky jump in.

MAN#1 grabs Jeremy from the back. Marcus strikes Man#1 in the face.

MAN#2 grabs Marcus and hits him in the side of the head.

Jeremy grabs Rocky by the collar and starts striking him hard in the face.

Man#2 continues to hit Marcus.

Man#1 grabs Jeremy off of Rocky and throws him to the ground.

Marcus gets thrown on the ground by Man#2.

As Man#1 continues to hold Jeremy by the arms from the back, Rocky reaches into his waist to grab his pistol.

Man#2 continues to hit and kick Marcus.

Rocky points his gun at Jeremy's face.

JEREMY
Fuck you nigga!

ROCKY
Nah nigga fuck you!

Man#1 stops beating on Marcus. Marcus lays on the ground in pain.

Jeremy spits in Rocky's face.

ROCKY
Nigga!

Rocky aims the gun at Jeremy's chest and pulls the trigger. A loud blast fills the streets.

Passerby's start to scream.

Jeremy's body falls to the ground.

ROCKY
Fuck you nigga!

Rocky spits on Jeremy's body. All 3 men take off running.

Marcus starts recovering from his beating and looks over at Jeremy laying next to him. Marcus crawls over to Jeremy's body.

MARCUS
(out of breath and in
pain)
Jeremy! Jeremy!

Marcus tries to comfort Jeremy while he lies there dying. Jeremy's breathing slows as he coughs up blood. Marcus holds him as he slowly dies.

Police sirens are heard in the distance.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Marcus is lying on the hospital bed. A nurse is dressing his wounds.

2 detectives are standing by.

Detective ROMAN PELLASCE walks up to Marcus.

Detective KEITH HAMMEL pulls out a pen and small note pad.

DET. PELLASCE
Hello Marcus. I'm Detective Roman Pellasce and this is Detective Keith Hammel. We're here to ask you a few questions about the shooting that took place on Fifth Avenue earlier this morning.

Marcus squints in pain as the nurse daps a cotton ball over his wound.

MARCUS
I don't nothing man.

DET. PELLASCE
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

Come on Marcus. You were there. We know Jeremy was your friend. So tell us what happened.

MARCUS

I told you I don't know shit! We were just walking down the street!

DET. PELLASCE

(Angry)

Listen Marcus! Your friend was murdered! We know there were three other men involved! The police found you beaten and bloody laying on top of Jeremy! Now stop with the bullshit and tell us what happened!

MARCUS

(Frustrated)

I told you, I don't know! I don't know who they were!

Marcus takes a deep breath and starts to relax.

MARCUS

(Sighs)

Listen. Jeremy said the one dudes name was Rocky. I don't know him though. I never seen this dudes in my life.

Detective Hammel starts writing down the information Marcus is giving.

DETECTIVE PELLASCE

(Nodding his head)

Mmhmm. Go on

MARCUS

He said something about the dude, Rocky grabbing up on his sister or some shit.

DET. PELLASCE

O.K. What happened?

MARCUS

I don't know, man. Jeremy hit Rocky. The other dudes jumped in so I jumped in. We're all fighting and shit and next thing I hear is a gun shot. Everybody took off. I see Jeremy laying there, next thing I know the cops roll up.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

DET. HAMMEL

So you don't know who shot Jeremy?

Marcus sat there thinking.

MARCUS

I don't know.

(Quick pause)

It had to be that Rocky dude.

(Marcus shakes his head)

It had to be. Shit was quick. It was crazy.

DET. PELLASCE

Alright. We got enough for now. Go home. Straight home! Get cleaned up. We'll be seeing you again shortly.

Detective Pellasce pulls out his wallet and hands Marcus his business card. Marcus takes the card and gives it a quick look over.

DET. PELLASCE

Now if you remember anything else or any shit on the streets about any of this shit, you make sure you give me a call.

(Pause)

You understand me kid?

MARCUS

Yeah. I hear you man.

DET. PELLASCE

O.K. Then. See you around.

Both detectives exit out of the door.

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT (LIVINGROOM) - DAY

Marcus walks in the front door. Nobody is in the living room. The old TV is on but nothing but static is on the screen. He walks over into the hallway and hears noises in his moms bedroom. The door is closed but he can hear muffled sounds of moaning and bed squeaking. Marcus sighs and shakes his head.

Marcus enters his bedroom, approaches his mirror and examines the bandage on his forehead.

MARCUS

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

(Muttering)

Motherfucker.

Marcus grabs his headphones from his dresser. He lays down on his bed staring at the ceiling. He puts on his headphones thinking about everything that happened this morning.

Rap music plays in the background.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Marcus is standing at his locker. Students are discussing the rumors of Jeremy being shot. Marcus closes his locker and turns to walk down the hallway.

DISTANCE VOICE

Hey! Hey Marcus!

Marcus hears someone call his name and turns around. He sees Alecia approaching him. Marcus stops and let's Alecia approach.

ALECIA

Hey what's up? How are you doing? I heard about Jeremy. I know you two were friends.

MARCUS

Yeah. I'm cool.

Alecia notices the bandage on Marcus's forehead.

ALECIA

What happened?

Marcus looks embarrassed and touches the bandage.

MARCUS

Oh. Nothing. Just a cut.

ALECIA

(Smiling)

Oh O.K. Well hey. If you need to talk or anything you know, I know how you feel. I lost my brother a couple of years ago to drugs So..

(Pause)

MARCUS

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

Damn. Sorry to hear that.

ALECIA

It's O.K. Well, do you have a cellphone?

MARCUS

Uh. Yeah. Yeah. I do.

Marcus grabs cellphone out of his front pocket.

ALECIA

Put my number in.

MARCUS

Alright. What is it?

ALECIA

5551618

MARCUS

Cool.

ALECIA

(Smiling)

Well, I better get to class. Umm. I'll see you later then?

MARCUS

(Shocked)

Yeah yeah! Definitely.

ALECIA

Bye.

Alecia walks away. Marcus watches her go down the hall still shocked at her approaching him. Marcus smiles and turns away.

CUT TO:

INT. DIM LIT SMOKEY ROOM - NIGHT

Big Duke sits in big chair that resembles a throne. A table with marijuana and cash sits in front of him. He smokes a cigar dressed, wearing dark, expensive sunglasses. He is big and bulky with a completely bald scalp. He is wearing an expensive suit with gold rings on every finger, a thick gold bracelet and a golden Rolex watch.

2 bodyguards stand, one on each side of him. 3 more people are in the kitchen cutting cocaine and heroine.

Big Duke looks directly across from him and sees Marcus sitting in a normal office chair.

BIG DUKE
 (Takes a hit of his cigar)
 So.
 (Pauses)
 Jeremy's got himself killed huh?

Marcus sits there nervously and still devastated about the loss of his friend.

MARCUS
 Yeah man. These niggas smoked him.

Big Duke leans back in his chair.

BIG DUKE
 Names. I need names, young blood.

MARCUS
 Jeremy said the one nigga was some Rocky dude. I don't know the other two. I know he's the one who pulled the trigger though.

Big Duke leans forward and puts his cigar out in the ashtray.

BIG DUKE
 Rocky.
 (Smirks)
 A nigga named Rocky
 (Giggles)
 Alright young blood.

Big Duke stands up and walks over to Marcus. He pulls out a large wad of money from his inside suit jacket pocket.

Marcus looks up at Big Duke and stands up.

BIG DUKE
 Here young blood.

Big Duke counts out a couple hundred dollar bills and hands them over to Marcus.

BIG DUKE
 We'll get this nigga
 (Mockingly) Rocky.

Marcus takes the money. Big Duke then grabs a large package from one of the body guards and offers it to Marcus.

MARCUS
 (MORE)

(CONT'D)

(Looking at the package
and a quick pause)
Nah Big D.. I'm good right now. I
think I'm going to lay low for a
little while. You know?

Big Duke looks at Marcus. He nods his head.

BIG DUKE
Alright young blood. I feel you.

They touch fists and Marcus exits out the door.

Big Duke stands there breathing deeply.

BIG DUKE
(To his bodyguards)
Find this Rocky nigga. Find him and
bring him to me.

EXT. PITTSBURGH CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Marcus is walking down the sidewalk. Homeless people are standing around begging for change. Passerby's are walking to and from wherever their destinations are. A few cars are passing by.

Marcus stares off in the distance with a cold loneliness look on his face.

EXT. CITY PROJECTS - NIGHT

Marcus walks up to his door and opens it.

INT. APARTMENT (PROJECTS) - NIGHT

Marcus enters the front door and closes it. He sees his mom sitting up, leaning forward, rocking slightly back and forth. He can tell she's strung out and needing a fix.

MOM
(Strung out)
Hey son.

MARCUS
Hey ma.

MOM
So uh. I..I need some money, son.
You got rent money right? I..I need
my rent money boy.

Marcus looks at his mom with shame and disappointment in his eyes.

MARCUS

Yeah...yeah mama I got it.

Marcus reaches into his back pocket and pulls out the 2 crisp \$100 dollar bills Big Duke gave to him. He slowly extends them to his mother. She gets up and quickly grabs them from his hand. She wipes the snot from her nose and grabs her cigarettes and lighter from th coffee table.

MOM

(Anxious)

Alright baby. I gotta run some errands. I'll be back in a little while.

MARCUS

Yeah. O.K.

Mom grabs a lightweight jacket and exits the door.

Marcus watches as she leaves.

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM

Marcus enters his bedroom and plops down on his bed. He reaches underneath his bed and pulls out a lockbox. He opens it and pulls out a large wad of cash. He counts the money in his hand and lets out a deep sigh.

MARCUS

(Sighs deeply)

He puts the money back in the lockbox and puts the lockbox back under his bed. He lays back in his bed gazing at the ceiling.

Marcus grabs his cellphone from his pocket and goes through his contact list. He stops at Alecias number. He pauses and stares at it for a few seconds. He looks back at the ceiling and puts the phone down. He closes his eyes, exhales and drifts off to sleep.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Marcus is walking down the hallway when Alecia approaches him from behind.

ALECIA

(Chirpy)

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

Hey! What's up?

MARCUS

(Startled)

Oh. Hey was-sup?

ALECIA

(Acting disappointed)

You never called me.

Marcus and Alecia stop walking and look at eachother.

MARCUS

Shit. Yeah. My bad. I've been busy, you know?

ALECIA

I figured. It's cool. So how have you been?

Marcuse leans back against a school locker.

MARCUS

I've been cool. Just chillin'. What about you?

ALECIA

Eh..I've been better. Studying a lot, you know?

MARCUS

(Smiling)

Yeah I figured.

Alecia laughs and gives a very gentle, flirty push on Marcus's shoulder.

ALECIA

(Pretending to be insulted)

You figured?

(Smiling) So what's that supposed to mean?

MARCUS

(Giggling)

Nothing, Nothing

ALECIA

Anyways...I was wondering if you wanted to meet me at the library and help me study for this bio test we have coming up.

MARCUS

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

(Confused)

We?

ALECIA

(Surprised)

Umm yeah!

(Giggles)

We're in the same Biology class.
Although you haven't been there in
a few days.

MARCUS

Oh! Yeah yeah. I know. Umm sure we
can do that.

ALECIA

O.K. Awesome. So...this time you
give me your number and I'll call
you. Say..around 5? Tonight?

MARCUS

(laughs)

Ahh you got jokes!

Alecia pulls out her cellphone.

ALECIA

Number?

MARCUS

(Smiles)

5554366

Alecia puts the number in her phone and flashes Marcus a
smile.

ALECIA

I'll call you later. Bye.

Alecia walks away.

Marcus stands there watching her walk down the hall.

Alecia stops at a classroom and looks down the hallway
towards Marcus. She flashes him a smile and a quick wave then
enters the classroom.

Marcus smiles.

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL BUILDING - DAY

School day has ended. Marcus exits the school with other
students following behind him.

DISTANT VOICE
 Marcus!

Marcus looks to his left and sees Detective Pellasce standing in the school parking lot.

MARCUS
 (Quietly)
 Ahh shit.

Detective Pellasce walks up to Marcus. Both are standing about 20 yards from the school entrance. Students are walking past them minding their own business.

Alecia, standing at a distance in the student parking lot, notices the man standing there speaking to Marcus. She wonders who and what the man wants from Marcus. Her parents pull up beside her in their red vehicle. Alecia gets in and they drive off.

DET. PELLASCE
 Hey Marcus. So tell me. Did you hear any news on your buddies?

MARCUS
 (Irritated)
 They ain't my buddies sir.

Detective Pellasce pulls a pack of cigarettes from his jacket pocket and lights one up.

DET. PELLASCE
 Yeah whatever. So did you hear anything or not?

Marcus looks up at Detective Pellasce.

MARCUS
 Nope. Not a word.

Detective Pellasce gives Marcus a look over. Studying his movements. Looking for signs of deceit.

DET. PELLASCE
 Alright.
 (Nods his head)
 Well, you know the drill. If you hear a thing, and I mean anything! You call me. Got it?

MARCUS
 Yeah. I got it.

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

DET. PELLASCE
See you around.

Detective Pellasce flicks his cigarette to the ground with a discouraging look on his face. He turns around and walks away.

Marcus watches him for a second and starts walking back towards the streets.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia enters her bedroom wearing a bath robe. Her hair is wet from a fresh shower. She goes and stands in front of her mirror and brushes her hair.

Alecia sets down the brush and walks to her dresser. She grabs her cellphone from the dresser top and falls back onto her bed.

Alecia scrolls through her contacts and stops at Marcus. She hits the call button and presumes to make the call.

CUT TO

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM

Marcus's cellphone sits on his dresser and begins to ring. Marcus approaches the cellphone and picks it up. He sees Alecia's name on the caller I.D.. Marcus smiles and answers the call.

MARCUS
Hello?

CUT TO

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia laying on her bed.

ALECIA
Marcus?

CUT TO

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marcus sits on his bed.

MARCUS
Yeah. What's up?

ALECIA'S VOICE
Nothing. I'm just wondering if
you're still meeting me today?

MARCUS
Yeah of course. 5:00 right?

CUT TO

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia laying on her bed.

ALECIA
Yep. I'm going to get ready. See
you soon.

CUT TO

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marcus sitting up on his bed.

MARCUS
Alright. See you later.

ALECIA'S VOICE
Bye.

MARCUS
Bye.

CUT TO

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia laying on her bed.

ALECIA
(Smiling)
Don't get lost on me!
(Giggles)

CUT TO

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM -DAY

Marcus sitting up on his bed.

MARCUS
 (Laughing)
 O.K. I'll be sure to be there.
 (Smiles)

ALECIA'S VOICE
 Bye.

MARCUS
 Bye.

Marcus sets the phone down beside him.

CUT TO

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia sits up on her bed. As she sets her phone down it begins to ring. Alecia checks the caller I.D. And sees the name RICKY.

Alecia has a disgusted look on her face as she answers the call.

ALECIA
 (Irritated)
 What do you want Ricky?

RICKY'S VOICE
 I just want to talk.

ALECIA
 There's nothing to talk about.

RICKY'S VOICE
 Listen! I'm sorry!

ALECIA
 Sorry for being an asshole?

RICKY'S VOICE
 Yeah! Look...I made a mistake.

ALECIA
 A mistake? You fucked a burned out
 junkie!

(MORE)

CUT TO (CONT'D)

RICKY'S VOICE
I know! I...

ALECIA
(Interrupting Ricky)
Listen Ricky! We are done! Over!
Now leave me the alone!

Alecia ends her phone call. She sits on her bed looking angry and disgusted.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY - EVENING

Marcus is walking down the sidewalk towards the library.

EXT. LIBRARY BUILDING - EVENING

Marcus opens the library door and enters.

INT. LIBRARY - EVENING

Marcus pauses and looks around the library. He sees Alecia sitting at a table with a book opened in front of her and a notebook beside it.

Alecia notices Marcus and smiles. She gives him a wave with her hand.

Marcus approaches her smiling. He pulls out the chair next to her and sits down.

MARCUS
Hey.

ALECIA
(Grinning)
Hi.

Marcus glances over at the book.

MARCUS
Biology huh?

ALECIA
(Grins)
Yep. Life lessons 101
(MORE)

CUT TO (CONT'D)

(Giggles)

MARCUS

(Giggles)

Well, you know I don't know shi..
(Smiles) anything about
biology, or school for
that matter.

ALECIA

(Smiling) Well, that's why
we're here.

Alecia gives him a gentle tap on the side of his head.

ALECIA

We're going to fill that brain of
yours.

Both smile.

ALECIA

And I need a study buddy.

Marcus looks at her and admires her smile and beauty.

MARCUS

I dig it.

INT. LIBRARY WINDOW - EVENING

DOUG (slim caucasian male age 17) walks past the outside of the window. He looks inside the window. He stops and notices Alecia sitting next to Alecia and Marcus.

Doug POV sees Alecia and Marcus flirting and laughing together.

Doug (angry) leaves walking past the window.

EXT. FAST FOOD REST. - NIGHT

Big Duke exits the burger restaurant. He stops and pulls out a cigar from his inside suit jacket pocket and begins to light it.

A vehicle is heard screeching around the corner to the front of the building as 2 large MEN IN BLACK run up to Big Duke and strike him on the head with the a gun.

Big Duke takes the hit and falls to his knees. One man in black points the gun to Big Dukes head.

MAN I.B.#1
 (Shouting)
 Get up nigga!

BIG DUKE
 (Dazed)
 What the fuck?

MAN I.B.#2
 (Shouting)
 Get the fuck in the car!

They grab Big Duke by the arms and throw him in the car. A 3rd man is seen in the back of the vehicle holding a gun.

The 1st man in black enters the rear passenger side of the vehicle after Big Duke is forced inside. The 2nd man in black opens and enters the passenger side of the vehicle and they drive off.

EXT. FRONT OF CONVENIENT STORE - NIGHT

Marcus is seen exiting the store holding a bottle of soda. He continues to walk down the sidewalk.

Doug and RICKY (White athletic build age 18) are seen standing in front of a building as Marcus is approaching their way. Ricky flicks a cigarette on the ground and steps on it as Marcus walks directly in front of them.

RICKY
 What's up nigger?

Marcus immediately stops. Confused by what he just heard.

MARCUS
 Excuse me?

Ricky takes a step forward.

RICKY
 (Intimidating)
 Doug here..
 (points towards doug)
 says you were seen in the library
 with my girl.

Ricky takes a second step closer to Marcus.

RICKY
 Now what's a nigger like you doing
 in a library
 (MORE)

CUT TO (CONT'D)

(Pauses)
With my girl?

Marcus turns his head to the side laughing. He puts his hands together palm to palm.

MARCUS
Well, if you must know I was...

Marcus stops in mid sentence. He cocks his right arm back and strikes Ricky hard in the jaw.

Ricky stumbles back and catches himself on the building behind him.

Doug rushes towards Marcus. Marcus grabs Doug before he had a chance to tackle him and knees him in the stomach. Marcus uppercuts Doug in the face and throws him to the ground.

Ricky pulls brass knuckles from his back pocket and fits them over his fingers.

Ricky rushes towards Marcus and strikes him hard on side of the head.

Marcus's head begins to bleed. Marcus is stunned by the blow and buckles but does not go down.

MARCUS
(Angry)
Motherfucker!

Marcus rushes Ricky shoving him into the building wall. He strikes Ricky hard on jaw several times. Marcus beats Ricky's hand against the brick wall continuously until the brass knuckles fall off of his hand and onto the ground.

Marcus throws Ricky onto the sidewalk next to where Doug is lying still holding his stomach in pain.

Marcus walks over to Ricky and pulls a gun from his backside. He kneels down over Ricky and places the barrel of the gun to Ricky's head.

MARCUS
(Breathing heavy)
I should kill your mother fucking
ass right now!

Marcus pushes the barrel harder against Ricky's head.

Marcus looks at him for several seconds. He exhales angrily and shakes his head.

(MORE)

CUT TO (CONT'D)

MARCUS
(Angry)
Your ass ain't even worth it.

Marcus stands up and puts the gun back in the backside of his pants.

MARCUS
Peace of shit.

Marcus kicks Ricky in the ribs and calmly walks away.

Ricky holds his left side in pain and looks at Marcus in anger as he's walking away.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Class has just begun and Alecia is seen sitting at her desk. The TEACHER walks in and greets the classroom.

TEACHER
Good morning class.

Alecia looks over in the back of the class and sees Marcus's chair is empty. Alecia looks disappointed and pretends to focus on her teacher.

Teacher is heard talking in the background about today's lesson.

Alecia stares at the top of her desk wondering where Marcus is.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Bell rings.

Students are exiting their classes.

Alecia leaves class and walks down the school hallway passing other students.

Ricky and Doug are seen approaching her from behind.

Ricky quickly steps around Alecia blocking her path.

ALECIA
(MORE)

CUT TO (CONT'D)

(Rolling her eyes
Irritated)
What do you want Ricky?

Ricky looks her up and down.

RICKY
So what are you doing tonight?

Alecia see he has a blackened eye.

ALECIA
(Points at Ricky's eye)
New trend?

RICKY
(Embarrassed)
Yeah well...tell your..
(Mockingly)
homeboy to watch his back.

Ricky walks away behind her. Doug laughs quietly and follows him.

Alecia turns around confused and watches them. She turns and walks away.

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - LATER

Marcus is laying on his bed staring up at the ceiling when his phone begins to ring.

Caller I.D. Shows it is Alecia.

Marcus picks up the cellphone and hesitant on answering it but he does.

MARCUS
(Disgruntled)
Hello.

ALECIAS VOICE
Hey what's up?

MARCUS
Nothin. What's up?

ALECIAS VOICE
You weren't in school today.

(MORE)

CUT TO (CONT'D)

MARCUS
Yeah well, I was busy.

CUT TO:

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia is sitting on her bed. Her back against the headboard and knees up.

ALECIA
Is something going on with you and
Ricky?

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marcus sits up on his bed.

MARCUS
Why you say that?

ALECIAS VOICE
I seen him in school today. He had
a black eye and told me to tell you
to watch your back.

Marcus is angry and shakes his head. He runs his hand down his face.

MARCUS
Oh yeah? He said that

CUT TO:

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia sitting on her bed.

ALECIA
What's going on Marcus?

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marcus sitting up on his bed.

MARCUS
(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

Nothing. Don't worry about it.

ALECIAS VOICE
Alright. Hey!
(Chirpy)
Want to hangout tonight?

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

ALECIA
(Smiling)
It's Friday and I'm free.

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marcus smiles.

MARCUS
Yeah O.K.

ALECIAS VOICE
Great! I'll pick you up at 7?

MARCUS
Nah. I'll pick
(Emphasizes) you up at 7.

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Alecia smiles and twirls her hair.

ALECIA
(Smiling)
O.K. My address is 706 Broadway
Avenue.

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marcus grabs a pen from his dresser and writes down the address on an old envelope.

MARCUS
Alright...hold up! You're parents
are cool?

ALECIAS VOICE
They won't be here.

Marcus smiles.

(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

MARCUS
O.K. I'll see you later.

ALECIAS VOICE
Can't wait. Bye bye.

MARCUS
Bye.

Marcus ends the call and quietly laughs with happiness as he sits on his bed.

MARCUS
(To himself)
I'm crazy
(Giggles)
Yeah I'm definitely crazy.

Marcus picks up his phone and scrolls to his cousins number. He makes the call.

COUSINS VOICE
Hello?

MARCUS
What up cuz?

COUSINS VOICE
Yo! What's up homie?

MARCUS
Hey. I need a favor right quick.

COUSINS VOICE
What you need cuz?

Marcus hesitates and laughs.

MARCUS
I need to borrow your ride.

COUSINS VOICE
(Surprised)
You need what?

MARCUS
I need to borrow your ride tonight.

COUSINS VOICE
For what?

MARCUS
I gotta up this shorty. We going out.

(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

COUSINS VOICE

Shit nigga...alright. Alright. I'll
bring it over.

(Loudly)

You better get some pussy! And
don't you dare fuck my shit up
nigga!

MARCUS

(Laughs)

Alright. It'll be cool, cuz.

Marcus's cousin ends the call. Marcus sets his phone back
down.

Marcus breathes into his hand to check the smell of his
breath.

MARCUS

(Grossed out)

Oh shit!

Marcus gets up and heads to the bathroom.

EXT. ALECIA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Marcus pulls up in front of Alecias house. He turns the car
off and exits the vehicle. He walks up the steps and stops.
He looks at the house in amazement. It is a big, beautiful,
old victorian home.

MARCUS

(To himself)

Damn! This girl got money.

Marcus laughs to himself quietly and approaches the front
door. He hesitates and takes a deep breath then knocks.

Alecia opens the front door.

Marcus looks at her in amazement.

ALECIA

Hi.

Marcus stands there staring at her.

ALECIA

Are you O.K.?

Marcus snaps out of it.

(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

MARCUS
Yeah, yeah..I'm cool. You just
(Pauses) you're just
absolutely beautiful
tonight.

Alecia laughs.

ALECIA
(Smiling)
Thanks but umm you're saying I'm
not always beautiful?

Marcus embarrassed.

MARCUS
(Smiling)
No. I mean yeah you are. I just
meant tonight
(Pause)
You look beautiful.

Alecia smiles and grabs Marcus's hand and leads him into her home.

ALECIA
Come on. I gotta finish getting
ready.

INT. HALLWAY STEPS LEADING UPSTAIRS

Alecia is walking up the steps with Marcus following behind her. She is holding his hand from behind.

INT. OUTSIDE OF ALECIAS BEDROOM

Alecia stands outside her bedroom door and turns to face Marcus.

ALECIA
Right this way.

Alecia grabs both of Marcus's hands and pulls him into her bedroom.

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM

Alecia goes to her nightstand lamp and dims the lighting. She unbuttons her blouse exposing her braw.

Marcus looks at her lustfully. He licks his lips as she begins to approach him.

Alecia wraps her arms around Marcus's neck and slowly kisses him.

Marcus places his hands on her back and kisses her back.

They both begin to kiss eachother passionately.

Alecia stops kissing him and looks into his eyes. She takes a few steps back and slowly sits on her bed bringing Marcus to her.

Alecia lies her back down onto her bed and Marcus slowly hovers over her. They begin kissing deeply, grabbing and feeling eachothers bodies.

CUT TO:

INT. DIM LIT BASEMENT

Rocky sits tied to a chair with his head down bloody and beaten. A single light fixture dangles above him.

BIG DUKES VOICE

Wake up nigga! This ain't the mother fucking Marriott!

Rocky lifts his head and sees Big Duke standing in front of him. Next to Big Duke are his 3 bodyguards.

Big Duke stands there smoking a cigar. His guards stand next to him ready to take action when needed.

Big Duke walks up to Rocky. He looks down at him. He takes a big puff of his cigar and slowly puts the hot ash of the cigar out on Rocky's cheek side.

Rocky screams in pain.

ROCKY

(Screaming in pain)

What the fuck man! What the fuck is this shit?

I don't know you man! What the fuck did I do to you?

Big Duke smacks the same spot he put the cigar out with his giant hand. Rocky's head jerks to the side with the force of the strike.

Rocky spits out blood and a tooth.

(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

ROCKY
(Crying)
I don't know you man. I don't know
you.

Big Duke leans toward Rocky.

BIG DUKE
Nah. You don't know me...You don't
deserve to know me.

Big Duke straightens his stance.

BIG DUKE
Nigga

Both guards walk up to Rocky and point their pistols at him. They pull the triggers and empty both clips into Rocky. The basement room is filled with gunsmoke.

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT (LIVINGROOM) - NIGHT

Marcus enters through the front door. His mother is in the kitchen sitting at the kitchen table with a strange man doing drugs. Marcus doesn't say anything and neither his mom or the stranger even notice Marcus.

Marcus walks past the kitchen and towards his bedroom.

INT. MARCUS'S BEDROOM

Marcus closes his bedroom door and lays down on his bed. He stares up at the ceiling happily. He turns and grabs his headphones from his nightstand and puts them on. He decides not to listen to rap but instead he plays a slow R&B song.

Marcus smiles and starts to wonder if he is in love with Alecia.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Class has just begun. The teacher enters and greets the class.

TEACHER
Good morning everyone.

Students scatter to their assigned seats.

Alecia looks over and sees Marcus's seat is empty. A sad frown of disappointment covers her face as she lowers her eyes to the top of her desk.

Ricky stares at Alecia smiling as he approaches his desk.

Alecia looks up at Ricky with disgust.

MARCUS'S VOICE
Sorry I'm late teach'

Alecia hears Marcus's voice and quickly raises her head and eyes. She smiles excitedly as she sees Marcus enter the class.

Marcus looks at Alecia.

TEACHER
(Shocked)
Marcus! Why hello! I'm glad you
made it to class today!
Please...take your seat.

Marcus looks at the teacher.

MARCUS
Yeah. No problem. Thanks.

Marcus makes his way to his empty desk and chair, looking and smiling at Alecia the entire time. He stops suddenly and looks over at Ricky. Marcus's smile instantly vanishes. He looks back at Alecia, smiles again and sits.

Alecia glances over at Marcus and gives him a smile.

Ricky watches from the back corner of the class at how they are acting and flirting with each other and he hates it. He stares at Marcus with jealousy and rage.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Bell rings

Students exit their classes and walk down the hallway.

Marcus approaches Alecia at her locker.

MARCUS
(Smiling)
What's up baby?

Alecia closes her locker door.

(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

ALECIA
(Smiling)
Hey. What's up cutie?

Alecia puts one hand on Marcus's cheek and leans in to kiss him.

Marcus kisses her back. Lip to lip.

MARCUS
Mmmm..you taste good.

Alecia smiles

ALECIA
So do you.

Students walk past them gawking.

Marcus notices the students looking at them and whispering to eachother.

MARCUS
You know baby. I am bad for your
image.

Alecia gives a gawky look.

ALECIA
And what
(Mocking)
Image would that be?

Marcus leans against the lockers.

MARCUS
(Shrugs his shoulders)
You know. Pretty little white girl
like you with a street thug nigga
like me.

ALECIA
(Angry)
First off! You are not a street
thug! You are a human being!
Second! I am a woman! My own woman!
I can date, kiss and...

She turns her head to look at the students looking at them.

ALECIA
(Yells loudly)
Fuck!

(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

(Normal tone)
Whoever I want.

Alecia turns her attention back to Marcus.

Marcus and the other students are stunned by how and what she just said.

MARCUS
(Laughs)
O.K. Baby. I didn't know you had
some street in you.

Alecia smiles and looks up at Marcus.

ALECIA
Yeah. Maybe a little.
(Giggles)
See you tonight?

MARCUS
Fo'sho'

They kiss

Alecia turns away smiling and walks to class.

Marcus licks his lips watching her as she walks down the school hallway.

Marcus notices Ricky walking towards his direction.

Ricky stares at Marcus as he walks up to him.

RICKY
This ain't over.

MARCUS
Step up anytime pussy.

Ricky smiles and stares at Marcus as he walks past.

Marcus shakes his head and walks in the opposite direction.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Marcus is walking down the sidewalk and enters a corner stores.

INT. CORNER STORE - NIGHT

Marcus goes to the back of the store towards the cooler filled with beverages. He opens it and grabs a soda. Marcus shuts the door and walks over to the cashier standing behind the register. He pays for his soda and exits the store.

EXT. FRONT OF CORNER STORE - NIGHT

Marcus exits the store.

A black Cadillac pulls up next to him before he has a chance to start walking.

Marcus looks at the Cadillac and notices it belongs to Big Duke.

The back passenger side window begins to roll down and you see the face of Big Duke.

Marcus approaches the vehicle.

BIG DUKE

What's up young blood?

MARCUS

Yo was-sup Big Duke?

BIG DUKE

I took care of that problem we had with that nigga.

Marcus nods his head.

MARCUS

Cool.

Big Duke looks ahead then turns his head back to Marcus.

BIG DUKE

I got a job for you.

Marcus pauses for a second.

MARCUS

Good look Big Duke..

(Hesitates)

But I think I'm gonna go straight, you know? Focus on school and shit.

Big duke turns to look straight ahead again. He takes out a cigar and taps one end on his hand. He then turns and looks at Marcus.

BIG DUKE
(Laughs)
School huh?
(Laughs again)
Alright young blood. I can dig it.

Marcus nods his head in relief.

MARCUS
I don't mean any disrespect Big
Duke. I'm just trying to...

BIG DUKE
(Interrupt Marcus)
It's cool young blood. When this
school shit gets old and you need
some work, you come see me.

Big Duke looks at Marcus intimidatingly.

BIG DUKE
(Serious)
Do you understand me?

Marcus nods his head.

MARCUS
Yeah. Yeah I understand.

BIG DUKE
I'll be seeing you around young
blood.

MARCUS
Alright Big Duke. See you around.

Big Dukes window rolls up.

Marcus continues to stand there and watches the Cadillac
drive off.

Marcus turns and slowly walks down the sidewalk thinking if
he is making the right decision for himself.

EXT. FRONT OF MARCUS'S APT. - NIGHT

Marcus walks up to his front door and enters his apartment.

INT. MARCUS'S APT. (LIVING ROOM)

Marcus shuts the front door behind him. He looks around but doesn't see his mom anywhere.

Marcus walks over to the coffee table and picks up the remote to the T.V.. He sits down on the couch and kicks his feet up on the coffee table and turns on the television.

Marcus flicks through the channels trying to find something that interests him.

Cellphone rings

Marcus take his cellphone out of his pocket.

The caller I.D. shows that it is Alecia.

Marcus smiles at Alecias name and answers the call.

MARCUS
What's up baby?

ALECIAS VOICE
Hey baby how are you?

MARCUS
Nothing. Just chillin. What's up with you?

INT. ALECIA'S BEDROOM

Alecia is sitting in front of her vanity mirror applying makeup.

ALECIA
Nothing. Just getting ready for you
(Giggles)

Alecia stands up and walks over to her dresser and grabs a brush.

ALECIA
So do you just want to meet me at the club tonight?

INT. MARCUS'S APARTMENT (LIVING ROOM)-NIGHT

Marcus leans back on his couch.

MARCUS
Yeah I can do that.
(MORE)

CUT TO: (CONT'D)

ALECIAS VOICE

O.K. Baby. I'll see you later.
(Kissing noises)

MARCUS

(Smiling)

Alright baby. See you tonight.

Marcus ends the call. He gets up and walks into the kitchen. He approaches the refrigerator and opens it. Marcus looks inside to see if there's any food.

INT. KITCHEN

MARCUS

(Irritated)

Man there ain't shit in this mother
fucker.

Marcus closes the fridge door and walks back into the living room.

A loud screeching is heard.

Marcus stops in his tracks and looks toward the front window of his living room wall.

Loud gunshots ring out.

Marcus drops immediately to the floor.

Window glass shatters as bullets rip through the windows and walls.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

A brown car is shown with a masked man hanging outside of the rear passenger side window and a masked man hanging outside the passenger window. Both men are shooting fully automatic rifles at Marcus's apartment.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marcus scurries on the floor looking for cover. He flips his coffee table on its side and uses it for protection.

Marcus reaches for his pistol and aimlessly starts shooting.

Gunshots are still being heard from outside of the apartment.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Car and men are in view continuing to shoot.

The men stop shooting.

MAN#1
(Shouting loudly)
Fuck you mother fucker!

MAN#2
(Hollering and howling)

Man #1 smacks the side of the car in excitement.

MAN#1
(Shouting)
Let's go man! Get out of here!

Both men scream and howl in excitement as the car drives off.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The gunshots stop.

Marcus continues to lay low, making sure everything is over and they're gone before he decides to get up.

Voices are heard in the distance outside.

Marcus gets up and rushes to the shattered window and peaks out cautiously.

Marcus sees his neighbors looking out their doors and window. He hears them mumbling to each other.

Marcus takes a deep breath. He has sweat on his forehead and is breathing heavily. He can't believe what just happened.

The camera focuses on Marcus as he stands there stunned and angry.

FADE OUT.

END CREDITS

