

FULL CIRCLE

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. TYBEE BEACH - DAY

The sun in the horizon reflects in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Two lovers take a romantic stroll along the shore.

A lighthouse looms in the distance.

INT. DEVIN'S STUDIO - SAME

A hand carefully weaves a brush onto the canvas.

The artist, with paint stains on his clothing, steps back from the painting with a smile. This is DEVIN WILKES, a thirty-something, handsome stud, built for athletics.

INSERT - PAINTING

A lighthouse and the sun in the horizon over the ocean.

BACK TO SCENE

The telephone RINGS. Devin wipes his hand on an old rag, answers it.

DEVIN

Hello ... Speaking ... Hi,
Mr. Barkley ... Yes, I finished it
last night ... I think it looks
great.

Devin checks his watch for time.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Ten sounds good ... See you then.

Devin hangs up, shifts his attention back to the painting.

EXT. US/HWY 80 - DAY

A two-lane highway cuts through marshland. Commuters travel east/west bound.

The black and white sign on the side of the road reads: "US HWY 80 WEST"

EXT. DOWNTOWN SAVANNAH - DAY

A steady flow of heavy traffic. Businesses are aligned on both sides of the street.

Pedestrians from all walks of life make their way along the sidewalks. Some carry shopping bags, push baby strollers, window shop, enter and exit stores.

Devin, wearing slacks and a polo-style shirt, crosses the intersection with other pedestrians.

EXT. PETE'S DINER - DAY

Patrons fill the window seats. "PETE'S DINER" is written in cursive letters on the large window.

INT. PETE'S DINER - SAME

Patrons and MUSIC from the jukebox generate a BUZZ.

PETE TINSLEY, 30's, bald, with an apron over his white T-shirt, stands behind the register at the end of the counter. Pete gives money to the CUSTOMER in front of him.

PETE

Two dollars and forty-eight cents
is your change. See you tomorrow.

CUSTOMER

Have a good one.

The SOUND of COWBELLS as Devin enters. He holds the door open for Customer to walk out.

Devin takes a seat on a stool at the counter.

DEVIN

Morning, Pete.

PETE

Devin! How's it going, man?

DEVIN

It's going. Let me get the usual.

PETE

Coming right up.

Pete pours coffee in a Styrofoam cup.

PETE (CONT'D)

So, how did your date turn out?

DEVIN

Great, actually. We went ballroom dancing, if you can believe that.

PETE

Oh, okay... ballroom dancing. You think she could be the one?

DEVIN

Let's not go overboard. She's cool and everything, but...

PETE

But what?

Devin adds cream and sugar to his coffee.

DEVIN

Why do we have to do this every other day?

PETE

Because I'm your friend, and I'm concerned that you keep involving yourself in dead end relationships.

DEVIN

You don't see me complaining about it.

PETE

Maybe not now, but one day, you're going to wake up and find yourself alone.

DEVIN

You mean like I was when I stood at the altar waiting for the bride who forgot to show up?

Devin gives Pete a five dollar bill, makes a break for the door.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Talk to you later.

PETE

Thanksgiving dinner. Three o'clock. Don't be late.

Devin throws up the "peace sign" on his way out. Pete shakes his head, wipes the counter clean.

EXT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

At least a dozen taxi cabs are parked along the curb. People enter and exit the terminal with carry-on bags and luggage.

INT. AIRPORT - SAME

LIZA TINSLEY, 30's, long hair, casually dressed, watches as people walk through the white zone area. A growing smile reflects her face.

CHRISTINA CARTER, 30's, pretty face, gorgeous body, smiles and waves.

LIZA
Christina!

CHRISTINA
Liza!

Christina and Liza share an exhausted embrace.

LIZA
It's so good to see you!

CHRISTINA
It's good to see you, too. How's Pete?

LIZA
Busy. You know Pete. Look at you!
You look great!

CHRISTINA
It runs in the family.

LIZA
So true. Let's get you settled.
We have a lot of catching up to do.

Christina and Liza leave the area.

CHRISTINA
I know, right? It's been like
what, yesterday since we last
spoke?

LIZA
Oh, shut up. You know what I mean.

EXT. EXECUTIVE BUILDING - DAY

A towering building with many windows. A businessman enters through the door with a briefcase.

EXT. BARKLEY & BARKLEY ASSOCIATES - SAME

The writing on the window reads: "BARKLEY & BARKLEY ASSOCIATES" Devin sits in the lobby with his head buried in a magazine.

INT. BARKLEY & BARKLEY ASSOCIATES - CONTINUOUS

The SECRETARY, 20's, blonde hair, feverishly types on the computer from behind her desk. The SOUND of a BEEP. She picks up the phone.

SECRETARY

Yes?

MR. BARKLEY (V.O.)

(filtered, over
the phone)

Send Mr. Wilkes back.

SECRETARY

Right away.

Secretary hangs up the phone.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Mr. Wilkes? You can go back now.

Devin makes his way to the back with a large portfolio.

MR. BARKLEY'S OFFICE

MR. BARKLEY, 60's, dressed in an expensive suit, holds an oil painting of himself. Mr. Barkley examines every detail of the painting.

An anxious Devin sits in a leather chair in front of Mr. Barkley's desk.

MR. BARKLEY

This is just... magnificent.
Extraordinary work, Devin. I'm
impressed.

Devin breathes a SIGH of relief.

DEVIN

Thank you, Mr. Barkley. I'm glad you like it.

Mr. Barkley places the portrait inside of a large frame.

MR. BARKLEY

Like it? I absolutely love it.
Let's see...

Mr. Barkley hangs the painting above the mantle which holds many of his accolades.

MR. BARKLEY (CONT'D)

Perfect. What do you think?

DEVIN

I... I couldn't have picked a better spot, sir.

Mr. Barkley goes back to his desk.

MR. BARKLEY

Let's get down to business, shall we?

Mr. Barkley gets his checkbook from the drawer, writes a \$5,000 dollar check, hands it to Devin.

DEVIN

Thank you.

MR. BARKLEY

A few of my colleagues may be in touch with you as well.

DEVIN

I can use the business.

MR. BARKLEY

I'm sure you can. I may have another project for you in the future. Maybe an oil portrait of the wife?

DEVIN

No problem. Give me a call when you're ready.

Mr. Barkley and Devin shake hands.

MR. BARKLEY

You know, you really should be charging two, three, even four times the amount for what you do. Your work is that good.

DEVIN

I'll keep that in mind. Take it easy, Mr. Barkley.

Devin leaves the office.

INT. PETE & LIZA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

A large room with wooden floors and a white living room suit. A glass coffee table sets in front of the sofa. Christina and Liza drink from tea cups on the sofa.

CHRISTINA

It feels great being in Savannah. I kind of miss this place.

LIZA

Why don't you move back? There's nothing keeping you in Atlanta.

CHRISTINA

True, but I can't just up and move. My entire life is there.

LIZA

Make a life for yourself here. You can stay with us until you find a place of your own.

CHRISTINA

No, I couldn't impose.

LIZA

Don't be silly, CeCe. We'd love to have you. After what that asshole Jeff put you through, you can use a fresh start.

CHRISTINA

I don't know. I have to think about it.

LIZA

What's there to think about? We can drive up to get the rest of your things.

CHRISTINA

But --

LIZA

-- But nothing. It's settled. You are coming back home.

CHRISTINA

Okay, okay. Jesus... so bossy.

LIZA

I'm not bossy. I just get my way.

CHRISTINA

I can see that. Hey, let's go out for a couple of drinks and a little dancing.

LIZA

I can't, but you go... have a good time. There's a place not too far from here. Upscale, nice crowd, no teeny-boppers... you'll love it.

CHRISTINA

Sounds great.

LIZA

Be back before three.

CHRISTINA

Excuse me? Is that... are you giving me a curfew?

LIZA

I'm kidding, I'm kidding. Get your groove on, honey.

INT. CLUB ONYX - NIGHT

The SOUND of JAZZ MUSIC. Spotlights shine on the stage and members of a LIVE BAND.

Couples pack the dance floor in front of the stage.

Patrons mingle around the dimly lit room. They sit at the bar, booths and at tables.

WAITRESS, 20's, navigates through the crowd with a tray of drinks.

DEVIN AND MIKE'S BOOTH

Devin and MIKE, 30's, buzz cut, average build, both sharply dressed, sit at a booth near the stage and dance floor.

MIKE

Man, this club is tight.

DEVIN

I know. It's the only place in town with a live band.

Waitress brings drinks to their booth.

WAITRESS

Fourteen dollars.

Mike pulls out a wad of cash, gives Waitress a twenty dollar bill.

MIKE

Keep the change.

WAITRESS

Thank you. Holler if you need anything else.

Waitress walks away. Devin and Mike look around the club.

MIKE

It's some fly honeys up in here.

DEVIN

Yeah, and I'm leaving here with one of them.

Beautiful women are everywhere. Christina enters the club in a dazzling dress. She surveys her surroundings.

MIKE

Whoa! Check out what just walked in.

Christina finds a seat at a table on the other side of the club.

DEVIN

She's hot. Nothing I haven't seen before.

MIKE

You think you can pull that?

DEVIN

I can pull any chick in here.
Don't confuse me with you.

MIKE

Instead of talking me to death,
show me what you've got.

DEVIN

Slow your roll. It's all about
timing, my brother, and the
approach.

MIKE

Is that short for "I'm scared"?

Devin scoffs, tackles his entire drink in one gulp.

DEVIN

Watch and learn.

MIKE

All eyes on you, player.

Devin goes to the backside of the stage, says something to the KEYBOARDIST, 50's, who nods, "YES" and holds up his index finger.

Devin turns to Mike with two thumbs up. Mike shrugs in a state of confusion. Waitress brings a drink to Christina's table. The Band ends the song to APPLAUSE.

KEYBOARDIST

Thank you. Please welcome to the
stage a young brother, who wants to
sing a tune for y'all. Let's show
him some love.

Some of the patrons CLAP. A skeptical Mike leans back in his chair with his arms folded.

STAGE

Devin takes the cordless microphone from the stand in front of the keyboard, steps up to the front of the stage. FEED BACK from the speakers.

DEVIN

Um... this goes out to the woman in
the red dress.

Christina looks around the club, focuses her attention to the stage. Devin winks at her once they make eye contact.

Devin signals to the Keyboardist to PLAY. The MUSIC starts. He urbanely makes his way over to Christina's table.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

(SINGS)

"I wanna know your name. Ooh you look so good. I wanna know your name. What's your name, baby? I'd love ya, if I could. 'Cause, your the kind of girl that I adore. Your the kind of girl I've been looking for."

Mike can't believe his ears.

CHRISTINA'S TABLE

Devin sits at the table with Christina. She looks both stunned and embarrassed.

DEVIN

"Hey, where do you live? Where do you live, baby? I'd like to take you home. What do I have to give, to call you on the phone? 'Cause, your the kind of girl that I adore. Your the kind of girl I've been looking for. Please tell me your name?"

APPLAUSE from patrons. The Band strikes up another tune -- likely Jazz. Couples take to the dance floor.

Devin reaches for Christina's hand.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Devin, and you are...?

Christina throws her drink in his face. A GASP from people nearby.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Jesus! What the...? What the hell's your problem?

CHRISTINA

Who do you think you are, embarrassing me in a room full of people?!

Devin wipes his face with a napkin.

DEVIN
Embarrassing you?! Listen, lady!
I was just trying --

CHRISTINA
-- I know what you're trying, and
it won't work. Go work your charm
on someone else.

DEVIN
Someone's bitter. What's the
matter, sweetheart? Did a bird
shit on top of your head on the way
in?

CHRISTINA
What?! You have some nerve! Where
do you get off --

DEVIN
-- Save it, sweetheart. I'm sorry
I wasted my time. Have a bad
night.

An angry Devin storms away from the table. Christina stops
Waitress as she comes by.

CHRISTINA
Can I get another Martini?

Waitress nods, keeps going.

DEVIN AND MIKE'S BOOTH

Devin returns to the booth with Mike.

DEVIN
I don't want to hear it.

MIKE
I hate to say I told you so, but...

DEVIN
That woman is nuts. She's probably
a man hater or something.

MIKE
Don't get mad because you were
rejected. It happens.

DEVIN
Not to me, it doesn't.

MIKE
It just did.

Devin glares a warning to Mike. TRACY, late 20's, hot, wearing a tight body dress and pumps, approaches the table.

TRACY
Hi, I'm Tracy.

Tracy reaches out to shake Devin's hand.

DEVIN
I'm Devin.

MIKE
And I'm Mike.

TRACY
(to Mike)
Um... yeah.
(to Devin)
Anyway, I just wanted you to know I thought that was really sweet.

DEVIN
Thank you. See?! At least someone gets it.

TRACY
I'll give you my phone number... if you take me home.

Mike's mouth drops to the floor. Devin checks Tracy out from head-to-toe. He puts twenty dollars on the table.

DEVIN
(to Mike)
I'll see you later.

Devin and Tracy head for the exit. He glances over to Christina with a mocking smile.

Christina rolls her eyes, takes a sip of her drink.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Devin's Mercedes pulls over to the curb, stops in front of an apartment building.

INT. TRACY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Devin and Tracy roll against the walls, come out of their clothing, as they make out. They knock several items off the dresser on their way to the bed.

Tracy lands on top of him.

DEVIN

I like a woman who takes charge.

TRACY

I like a man who doesn't mind a woman taking charge.

She kisses him all over his face and chest. Devin rolls over on top.

DEVIN

My turn.

Devin kisses Tracy's neck, works his way down to her chest. HEAVY BREATHING and MOANS.

LATER

Devin and Tracy lie in bed under the covers, exhausted.

TRACY

Woo! That was...

DEVIN

Great, right?

TRACY

Amazing is more like it.

DEVIN

Yeah? Well you're going to love round two.

TRACY

Round two?

DEVIN

I can go all-night-long.

TRACY

Oh really? You're going to have to prove that.

DEVIN

Your wish is my command.

Devin rolls over on top of her. They go at it again. Tracy GIGGLES.

INT. PETE & LIZA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Christina lies across the sofa. Liza sits in the recliner.

CHRISTINA

What a jerk.

LIZA

I know, right? I mean, really. To sing a song to you was just... actually, it's kind of sweet.

CHRISTINA

Then he left the club with another woman.

LIZA

You sound upset. Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't you blow him off?

CHRISTINA

That's beside the point. He had the nerve to call me bitter.

LIZA

Well, you did throw a drink in his face.

CHRISTINA

He also said some very mean things.

LIZA

After you threw your drink in his face.

CHRISTINA

My head is killing me.

LIZA

There's Tylenol in the bathroom cabinet.

CHRISTINA

I think I'll try to sleep it off.

LIZA

All right. Hopefully, you'll feel better by dinner time.

CHRISTINA
I'll be fine. It's just the
drinks. See you in the morning.

LIZA
Good night.

Christina walks away.

INT. DEVIN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Devin, wearing only a towel around his waist, lays his
clothes out on the bed. His cellphone RINGS. He looks at
the face of his Android.

INSERT - FACE OF ANDROID - "INCOMING CALL, PETE"

BACK TO SCENE

INTERCUT - DEVIN'S BEDROOM/PETE'S LIVING ROOM

DEVIN
What's up?

Pete sits in the living room with the TV on.

PETE
Why aren't you here?

DEVIN
I'm getting dressed now.

PETE
Good, 'cause Liza is already asking
about you.

DEVIN
Relax, man. I'm coming.

PETE
Okay. The three of us are waiting.

DEVIN
The three of you?

PETE
Yeah, Liza's sister is in town.

DEVIN
Really? Is she sexy?

PETE
She's Liza's sister.

DEVIN

Great point. Give me about...
twenty, thirty minutes.

PETE

See you when you get here.

Pete hangs up the phone.

INT. PETE & LIZA'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - DAY

Christina grooms herself in front of the bedroom mirror.
There is a KNOCK at the door.

CHRISTINA

Come in.

Liza comes in.

LIZA

Hey, it's almost time for dinner.

CHRISTINA

How do I look? Does this dress
make me look fat?

Christina twirls around like a ballerina.

LIZA

No! You look beautiful.

CHRISTINA

Thank you.

The doorbell RINGS.

LIZA

Can you get that? I have to check
on the food.

CHRISTINA

Yeah, I got the door. Do what you
have to do.

Christina and Liza leave the room.

FOYER

Christina steps into the foyer area. She opens the door, and
Devin stands on the other side.

CHRISTINA

Ah, if it's not Mr. Sing A Song To
One Person And Take Another Home.

DEVIN

Ooh... jealous, are we?

LIZA

Don't flatter yourself. What are
you doing here?

DEVIN

I'm definitely not here to see you.
By the way, that dress makes you
look... fat. Where's Pete?

Devin barges past Christina. She tries to suck in her
stomach.

DINNING ROOM

Devin walks in. Pete and Liza set food trays on the table.

DEVIN

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

PETE

There he is!

Devin and Pete share a brotherly hug.

LIZA

Happy Thanksgiving, Devin. Glad
you could make it.

Devin leans in, kisses Liza on the cheek.

DEVIN

Thanks for inviting me.

PETE

Have a seat. We're just about to
get started.

DEVIN

Great, because I'm starved.

Christina enters the room.

LIZA

Oh, Devin, this is my sister,
Christina. Christina, this is
Devin.

DEVIN
Christina is it?

Devin reaches out for Christina's hand. She rolls her eyes, leaves the room.

LIZA
Christina! I'm sorry. I don't know what's gotten into her.

Liza goes after Christina. Devin and Pete eye one another.

DEVIN
Hey, all I did was sing to her.

PETE
That was you?!

KITCHEN

Christina and Liza grab the rest of the dinner trays.

LIZA
Oh my God! Christina, you don't understand.

CHRISTINA
He called me fat.

LIZA
He was just teasing. Devin's not --

CHRISTINA
-- I don't want to hear another word about that guy.

LIZA
Okay, fine. You don't like him. I get that, but he is a guest in my home, and I expect for you to be cordial.

CHRISTINA
Fine. Just keep him far away from me.

LIZA
Here. Take this in the dining room.

Liza gives Christina the pan of macaroni and cheese.

DINNING ROOM

The SOUND of eating utensils CLANKING against the plates. Devin, Pete, Liza and Christina have dinner at the table.

LIZA

So, Devin. How's business?

DEVIN

Things are looking up. My clientele's steadily growing.

LIZA

Wow! That's great.

PETE

Yeah... congrats, man.

CHRISTINA

Clientele? What do you do? Sell drugs?

LIZA

He's an artist, CeCe. That oil painting of Pete and me hanging in the living room, Devin painted it.

CHRISTINA

How nice? I hope you didn't pay for it.

DEVIN

No, it was a gift. Is your sister always like this?

CHRISTINA

You know nothing about me!

DEVIN

I know that you like to throw drinks, which you owe me an apology for.

CHRISTINA

Don't hold your breath.

Devin flicks a spoonful of macaroni and cheese toward Christina. It sticks to the side of her face like glue.

DEVIN

There. Now we're even.

Liza and Pete are stunned.

An angry Christina throws a turkey bone at Devin. It smacks him in the forehead.

A food fight ensues. Food and drinks fly across the table.

Christina hurls a plate at Devin like a frisbee. He ducks out of the way, and it CRASHES against the wall.

Liza and Pete try to restore order, to no avail. The place is a mess.

KITCHEN

Christina washes the dishes. Devin comes in with broken dishes. He throws them in the trash.

DEVIN

All you had to do was apologize,
CeCe.

CHRISTINA

The name is Christina to you.

DEVIN

Look, let's try being friends.

CHRISTINA

I don't think so.

DEVIN

I'm trying to be nice, but you
aren't making it easy.

CHRISTINA

Unlike Pete, I choose my friends
more wisely.

DEVIN

And I'm sure Liza is thrilled to be
stuck with you as a sister.

CHRISTINA

I don't need your approval, and
this dress does not make me look
fat.

DEVIN

If you say so.

CHRISTINA

You are a jerk.

DEVIN

And you are a...

Christina gets in his face with a knife.

CHRISTINA

A what?! Say it!

DEVIN

I have too much respect for women
to say it, but here's a hint.

Devin BARKS like a dog, walks out of the room.

INT. DEVIN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A large flat screen TV, a DVD player, a cable box and a surround sound system are set in the corner of the room. The leather furniture matches the color of the carpet.

Devin reclines in his La-Z-Boy. Mike lounges on the sofa.

DEVIN

It was a disaster. You know the
woman I sung to in the club?

MIKE

Yeah, what about her?

DEVIN

She's Pete's sister-in-law.

MIKE

Get out!

DEVIN

And let me tell you, she's a real
piece of work. She has this
feistiness about her that I find
both repulsive and irresistible.

Devin goes over to the bar. He opens the bottle of vodka,
makes himself a drink.

MIKE

So you like her?

DEVIN

Maybe it's the thrill of the chase
I'm feeling. I don't know.

MIKE

Or maybe you can't get over the fact that she rejected you.

DEVIN

She did not reject me. She's playing hard to get.

MIKE

That's one way of looking at it. I think you're wasting your time.

DEVIN

I don't think I am. I have a feeling about this woman.

INT. PETE'S DINER - DAY

Indistinct CHATTER. MUSIC PLAYS the jukebox. Devin sits at the counter.

Christina walks from the kitchen with a pad in hand.

DEVIN

Can I get a refill?

Christina ignores him, takes care of another customer across the room.

Pete comes from the kitchen.

PETE

Is everything okay?

DEVIN

Yeah, I need some more coffee. Sorry about Thanksgiving dinner.

PETE

Liza is really pissed. You and Christina have to replace the dishes that were broken.

DEVIN

I'll do my part.

Devin watches Christina like a hawk. Pete refills Devin's cup with more coffee. He follows Devin's gaze.

PETE

She is one tough cookie.

DEVIN

Yeah, well she's not the only
"tough cookie" around here. I'm
time and a half for her.

PETE

You know you can get more bees with
honey, than with poop, right?

Pete sets Devin's cup in front of him, heads back to the
kitchen.

Christina makes her way behind the counter.

CHRISTINA

Two eggs scrambled, with grits and
sausage!

DEVIN

Check please?

CHRISTINA

Leaving so soon?

DEVIN

Yeah, I have things --

CHRISTINA

-- Spare me the details.
Four-sixty-five.

Devin gives her a five dollar bill. Christina goes to the
register to complete the transaction. She walks back over to
Devin.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Thirty-five cents is your change.

Devin starts to leave.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Aren't you forgetting something?

DEVIN

You talking to me?

CHRISTINA

My tip, Mr. Cheapskate.

Christina holds out her hand.

DEVIN

Okay, here's a tip for you. You should try providing service with a smile. Then maybe, you might get more than a dime. Have a nice day.

Devin drops a dime on the counter. It bounces around as he walks out.

EXT./INT. STREET/CAR - DAY

A blue sedan travels along the thoroughfare in moderate traffic.

Liza drives and Christina sits next to her.

CHRISTINA

I have to find another job A.S.A.P. I can't deal with seeing him every day.

LIZA

I don't know why you keep letting Devin get under your skin.

CHRISTINA

Seeing him drives me completely insane. I feel like I'm going to have a breakdown.

LIZA

We can't have that. Listen, the safe shelter is sponsoring a carnival. Why don't you come with me?

CHRISTINA

I don't know. I had a long day. Besides, I'm tired.

LIZA

Come on. It'll be fun, and it'll help take your mind off of things.

CHRISTINA

A carnival, huh?

The sedan changes lanes, passes a line of cars.

EXT. FORSYTH PARK - DAY

Carnival rides, games and food vendors are set up all over the park. Locals mingle around, enjoy the festivities.

Christina and Liza walk with cotton candy and soda through a maze of people.

CHRISTINA

This is nice. The children are really enjoying themselves.

Two young children chase each other around.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Speaking of children, when are you and Pete going to make an aunt out of me?

LIZA

Soon, I hope. It's not like we haven't been trying.

CHRISTINA

Have you considered adoption?

LIZA

Pete is indifferent about the idea. It's like a last resort thing with him, you know?

CHRISTINA

Oh. I hope things work out. I'm not getting any younger.

LIZA

Whatever. Come on. I have to pay the water bill.

DUNK TANK

People gather around the dunk tank. A line of Poly Jon portables are located next to the dunk tank area.

Devin, dressed as a clown, sits inside the cage on a pedestal that hovers above the water tank.

A man with thick glasses throws a baseball at the target next to the cage. He misses.

DEVIN

Come on, man. Your glasses are thick like a magnifying glass. You can't do better than that?

The man throws another ball. He misses again.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Aww... man, you suck. Hey, Ray Charles! I'm over here!

Devin waves his hand, shakes the target. Onlookers LAUGH. The man throws another ball, misses again.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Oh well! Better luck next time.

The man flips Devin off as he walks away.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Yeah, yeah. See you around, loser! High and dry!

Christina and Liza approach the dunk tank.

CHRISTINA

Wait a minute. I know that voice. Is that...?

LIZA

Yes, it's him. Let's go this way before he sees us.

Devin notices Christina and Liza as they walk behind the crowd.

DEVIN

Ah, if it ain't the pretty lady and her pet whale. Hey, fat girl! Yeah, I'm talking to you. Care to put down that cotton candy and soda long enough to try your luck?

Christina makes eye contact with Devin.

LIZA

Come on, girl. Don't pay him any attention.

DEVIN

(sings)
Fat Girl... Bdddd stick'em! Ha-ha-ha stick'em!

Devin beat boxes over the microphone.

CHRISTINA
No, you go on. I can handle him.

LIZA
Are you sure?

CHRISTINA
Yeah, I've got this.

Liza heads for the Poly Jon.

Christina's eyes narrow with resolve. She approaches the DUNK TANK ATTENDANT, a twenty-something male with long hair and sideburns.

DEVIN
That's what I'm talking about. If you manage to knock me in, I might take you to an all you can eat buffet.

CHRISTINA
How much?

DUNK TANK ATTENDANT
It's two dollars for five balls, ma'am.

CHRISTINA
Let me get ten balls.

Christina hands the Attendant five dollars, and he gives her back a dollar. She steps into position.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
This is going to be fun.

DEVIN
All right. Here we go, folks. Fatty Watty here is going to try to dunk me in the water.

LAUGHTER from some in the crowd. Christina throws the first ball and misses badly.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
Strike one. You know, you look like the type of girl that picks food off her date's plate.

She throws the ball. It ricochets off the cage.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Whoa! Hey, you're suppose to hit the target, not the cage. I bet you'd hit the target if it was a hamburger.

Anger reflects Christina's face.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Uh-oh. She's a mad cow... I mean, mad now. I'm in trouble...

She hurls another ball, another ball and another. Miss, after miss, after miss. Christina grows angrier.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Got to give you credit. You throw hard. When the last time you got laid? Prom night?

Christina throws another ball, hits the target, but nothing happens.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Oh! Almost. It almost snowed last night, but it was too hot, so it rained.

Christina is down to her last ball. She winds up, heaves the ball as hard as she can.

Another miss.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Aww! You know, if we were a couple we'd be a perfect ten. I'm slim like a one, and you're fat and round like a zero.

Devin LAUGHS.

CHRISTINA

That's it!

A crazed Christina jumps over the barricade, runs toward the dunk tank.

DEVIN

Oh! Here we go, folks. A lunatic on the loose. All right. Look at her go.

She climbs over the barrier in front of the dunk tank, pushes the target with both hands.

Devin falls into the tank of water.

CHRISTINA
Take that, you jerk! Who's
laughing now?

The Attendant escorts Christina away from the tank, as she points and LAUGHS at Devin.

Devin is stunned with silence. Onlookers both CHEER and JEER. Devin cracks a small smile.

INT. PETE & LIZA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Christina, Liza and Pete are at the table.

CHRISTINA
(laughing)
You should have seen the look on
his face. It was priceless.

LIZA
Sounds like you enjoyed yourself.

CHRISTINA
I did. Hey Pete, I will be a
little late this week. I need to
fill out applications.

PETE
Sure, no problem.

CHRISTINA
I really appreciate what you and
Liza are doing for me.

PETE
Think nothing of it. You're
family, and that's what families
do.

CHRISTINA
Well, I think I'm gonna hit the
sack. I have a long day ahead of
me.

LIZA
Have a good rest, hon.

PETE
Good night, Christina.

CHRISTINA

Good night.

Christina leaves the kitchen.

PETE

That girl is a mess.

LIZA

I know. I can't believe she's letting Devin get to her like this.

PETE

I think she likes him, and it's scaring the you know what out of her.

LIZA

I don't see it. I mean, all they do is argue.

PETE

That is called foreplay. Remember how we were when we first met?

LIZA

But we weren't that bad.

PETE

True, but it did take a while for us to warm up to one another.

LIZA

Speaking of warming up, what do you say we turn in early and um...?

She gives Pete the eye.

PETE

Last one in the room has to do all the work.

Pete and Liza bolt out of the room.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

A heavy flow of traffic. Passengers load a transit bus at the bus stop.

Shopping plazas, car lots and restaurants are aligned on both sides of the street.

EXT. NURSING HOME - DAY

Vehicles are parked on both sides of the long, wide building. A woman, dressed in a nurse's scrub, sits at the picnic table with an elderly woman in a wheelchair.

Shrubbery girds the walkway, leading to the glass doors.

INT. NURSING HOME - OFFICE - SAME

HALEY FLETCHER, 30's, professionally dressed, scans over documents. The name plate on top of her desk bares the name: "HALEY FLETCHER, RN, DIRECTOR"

Christina is seated in a chair across from Haley's desk.

HALEY

Impressive... very impressive. I see you have extensive experience, Ms. Carter, and...

Haley checks the plastic device on her desk.

HALEY (CONT'D)

... your drug test came back negative. Which means the job is yours. Welcome aboard.

Haley and Christina shake hands.

CHRISTINA

Thank you... thank you so much. I promise I won't let you down.

HALEY

I have a feeling you won't. Now, come with me.

Christina and Haley leave the office.

HALLWAY

Residents move about in wheelchairs and walkers. A few stand in the doorway of their rooms.

HALEY

There are four halls. You will be responsible for one while you're on duty. Of course if there's an emergency, all of that goes out the window.

Haley and Christina pass the nurses' station. A C.N.A. jots something in a patient's chart.

HALEY (CONT'D)

This is one of two stations.
You'll find patients' charts on the shelves. Any questions so far?

Christina shakes her head, "NO."

HALEY (CONT'D)

Good.

ACTIVITY ROOM

Haley and Christina enter the room.

An elderly woman plays "12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS" on the piano. Residents sit at long and round tables playing checkers, chess and cards.

HALEY

This is where the residents come to socialize, play games, watch movies and for other activities.

An employee and two residents decorate the Christmas tree at the back of the room.

HALEY (CONT'D)

Can you start tomorrow?

CHRISTINA

Sure. What shift will I be working?

HALEY

The only shift available right now, is the morning shift. Is that okay with you?

CHRISTINA

Yes, that will be great.

HALEY

Any questions?

CHRISTINA

I think we covered everything.

HALEY

Okay, I guess I'll see you tomorrow at seven.

Christina and Haley shake on it.

EXT. PETE'S CAFE` - DAY

Christina and Pete are behind the counter.

PETE

That's wonderful! I hope things work out.

CHRISTINA

Thanks. I am a little nervous, though. I'm used to working at hospitals. Working at a nursing home can be very challenging.

PETE

I'm sure you can handle it. Can I ask you something?

CHRISTINA

Yeah, shoot.

PETE

What's up with you and Devin?

CHRISTINA

Nothing... absolutely nothing.

PETE

Seems like a little more than nothing to me. He's really a nice guy, you know?

CHRISTINA

Come on, Pete. Not you, too.

PETE

Okay... sorry. I just think the two of you are perfect for each other.

CHRISTINA

You know, I'm so sick of everyone telling me what a great guy he is, like he's the frickin' Pope. Am I the only one who can see through his shit?

PETE

Possibly, but maybe, just maybe,
your issues with Devin have a lot
more to do with your past than with
him.

CHRISTINA

What is that supposed to mean?

PETE

It means, you can't move on until
you let go.

Pete walks away. Christina wipes down the counter.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - NIGHT

A bowling ball travels down the lane, CRASHES into the pins.
Strike.

Pete and Devin celebrate with high fives.

DEVIN

That a boy, Pete. Show no mercy.

CHRISTINA

You guys are just lucky.

DEVIN

Luck is a loser's excuse for a
winner's position.

Devin makes the "L" sign with his hand. Christina rolls her
eyes.

Liza steps up for her turn. She approaches the line,
releases the ball.

The ball travels down the lane, KNOCKS all of the pins down.

LIZA

Right back at you.

Christina and Liza both leap into the air for a chest bump.

DEVIN

Good job, Liza. Too bad you're
handicapped with a sorry partner.

LIZA

That's not nice.

CHRISTINA

Whatever! Let's see what you can do.

Devin grabs his ball, steps into position. He makes his approach, releases the ball. He turns, walks back to his seat.

DEVIN

Are you convinced now?

The ball travels along the edge of the lane, curves toward the middle pin, KNOCKS them all down.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Let's see what you do, big mouth.

Christina takes her turn, rolls a gutter ball. She takes a seat in shame.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Don't feel bad. You lived up to expectations.

CHRISTINA

Screw you.

DEVIN

What'aya say we catch a movie later?

CHRISTINA

Not even if you were the last person in the entire galaxy.

Devin notices SARAH, 30's, nice looking, as she smiles and checks him out from the bar.

DEVIN

That's okay.

Christina watches as Devin goes over to the bar, takes a seat next to Sarah.

LIZA

He is wrong for that. We came here together.

CHRISTINA

And you say he's a nice guy.

Devin and Sarah make their way over to his friends.

PETE

What are you doing, man?

DEVIN

Sarah and I are going to grab a bite to eat, maybe catch a late night movie. Dates are hard to come by around here.

Devin and Sarah walk away together. Christina watches until they disappear from sight.

INT. NURSING HOME - HALLWAY - DAY

The place is BUZZING. Residents make their way up and down the hallway.

Christina works from her medicine cart. She dumps pills into of a small plastic cup, jots something down in a patient's file.

MR. JENKINS' ROOM

MR. JENKINS, 60-ish, wearing purple pants, a hospital gown and a purple pimp-style hat, lies across the bed playing Blues on a guitar.

MR. JENKINS

(SING)

"I was born a pimp, and that's how I'm gonna die. You haters can't see me, no matter hard how you try. 'Cause I'm a pimp, baby. The greatest pimp in the world..."

The KNOCK at the door interrupts Mr. Jenkins. The door OPENS, and Christina enters the room.

CHRISTINA

Hi, Mr. Jenkins.

MR. JENKINS

Well, well, well. Fresh meat.

CHRISTINA

Excuse me?

MR. JENKINS

You're new.

CHRISTINA

Yes, I am. My name is Christina,
and I'm your nurse for today.

Mr. Jenkins sets the guitar down by the side of the bed.

MR. JENKINS

That's a pretty name. You wanna
come over here and teach an old dog
a new trick?

CHRISTINA

Okay... it's time for your
medication.

Christina walks over to check Mr. Jenkins' water container.

The container is empty. She takes it to the bathroom.

Mr. Jenkins lies on his back, stares at the ceiling. The
SOUND of water SPLASHING against the sink.

MR. JENKINS

I bet you taste as good as Tilapia
fish, too.

LAUGHTER from the bathroom. The water stops. Christina
brings the water container back to Mr. Jenkins.

CHRISTINA

You are a dirty old man, you know
that?

MR. JENKINS

Come on over here, and I'll show
you how dirty I can get.

Mr. Jenkins strikes a pose in bed, bats his eyelids.

CHRISTINA

What am I going to do with you?

MR. JENKINS

Anything you want, baby girl...
anything you want, but be gentle.
I ain't young like I used to be. I
used to go all-night-long, but now,
you better get yours before I get
mine.

CHRISTINA

Here. Take these.

She gives Mr. Jenkins the small plastic cup.

Mr. Jenkins dumps the pills into his mouth, drinks them down with water from the container.

MR. JENKINS
See? All gone.

Mr. Jenkins opens his mouth. Nothing is in his mouth, except for the few teeth he has left.

CHRISTINA
Good. I'll come back to check on you a little later.

MR. JENKINS
I'll be waiting.

Christina leaves the room.

MR. JENKINS (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Mmm-mmm! If I was a few years younger, I'd tap that ass.

Mr. Jenkins picks up his guitar, PLAYS more of the Blues.

MR. JENKINS (CONT'D)
"Cause I'm pimp, baby..."

COMMUNITY ROOM

Lights on the Christmas tree flicker. Residents paint at several tables. Devin walks around to see their work. He stops to check out MRS. KELLY'S, 60's, with silver hair, painting.

DEVIN
Not bad, Mrs. Kelly. I'm seeing some improvements.

Mrs. Kelly steadily paints away.

MRS. KELLY
Thank you.

Christina walks into the room with a small plastic cup and a cup of water. She frowns at the sight of Devin.

DEVIN
No, thank you for participating. Spending time with you guys is the highlight of my week.

MRS. KELLY

Baby, if it wasn't for you and this class, I'd be wasting away in bed.

Christina looks surprised.

DEVIN

Don't your sons come to visit you?

MRS. KELLY

Not anymore... not since Clarence died.

Devin's face reflects empathy. He notices Christina by the door. She comes over to the table.

Devin moves on to another table.

CHRISTINA

It's time for your medication, Mrs. Kelly.

Christina looks at Devin out of the corner of her eyes.

BREAK ROOM

Devin eats a homemade lunch at the table.

Christina enters the room with a small container of food. She rolls her eyes, takes the container to the microwave to warm it up. Devin clears his throat.

CHRISTINA

Everywhere I turn, I see you.

DEVIN

Excuse me?

CHRISTINA

Are you stalking me?

DEVIN

Yeah, I am. You see, I can't get enough of your glowing personality.

CHRISTINA

You're so funny.

DEVIN

So, you're a nurse. Interesting. Do you mistreat your patients?

CHRISTINA

No, I love my patients. You, I can't stand.

DING! The microwave shuts off. Christina retrieves her container, sits down at the other table.

DEVIN

How's your first day going?

CHRISTINA

Will you leave me alone?

DEVIN

I'm only trying to make small talk.

CHRISTINA

Look, I don't have the energy, so please? Go away!

DEVIN

Okay... fine! I won't bother you any more.

CHRISTINA

Thank you.

Devin wraps his sandwich, grabs his soda can and leaves.

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

The cue ball CRASHES into the freshly racked pool balls. The balls scatter everywhere. One of the solid balls drops in the side pocket.

Devin holds the cue stick. Mike stands off to the side with a cue stick in one hand and a bottle of beer in the other.

DEVIN

I'm done. I tried being nice. Nothing seems to work.

Devin sets up behind the cue ball for his next shot.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

I have a lot going for myself. I'm successful, I'm not bad looking, and I'm a good guy, right? I don't have to take her abuse.

MIKE

What happened this time?

DEVIN

I don't want to talk about it.

Devin sinks another solid ball into the pocket.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

It's hard believe that a woman so pretty can be so ugly.

MIKE

Come on, man. She can't be that bad.

DEVIN

I said, I didn't want to talk about.

MIKE

Then stop bringing it up.

Devin misses the next shot. Mike surveys the table. He sets up behind the white ball for a shot.

DEVIN

I should just stick to my guns. No relationships, lots of meaningless sex. It's less complicated.

MIKE

You know what your problem is?

DEVIN

Enlighten me, ole' wise one.

MIKE

You've never gotten over Lacy. You, my friend, might need therapy.

DEVIN

What?! Get the hell outta here!
I'm not crazy!

MIKE

I didn't say you were, but I'm telling you, if you want to have a full and happy life, you might need to talk to someone.

Devin stares in deep thought.

INT. DR. PACE'S OFFICE - DAY

Books fill the shelves along the walls of a small room.
Devin lies on a couch.

DR. PACE, 40's, leisurely dressed, with his glasses on the tip of his nose, sits in a chair with his legs crossed with a pad and pen in hand.

DR. PACE
So, Mr. Wilkes.

DEVIN
Devin... you can call me Devin.

DR. PACE
Okay, Devin. What brings you here?

DEVIN
My friend seems to think I have issues I need to talk out.

DR. PACE
What kind of issues?

DEVIN
That's the problem. I don't have any.

DR. PACE
Okay... then why are you here?

DEVIN
Great question. I'll just leave now.

Devin heads for the door, stops short.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
Here's the thing. Eight years ago, I was left at the altar by a woman who I thought loved me. Since then, I don't do relationships and I have meaningless sex with women.

Dr. Pace takes notes.

DR. PACE
Why have you chosen this path?

DEVIN
Because it's safe, and I don't have to worry about being disappointed.

DR. PACE
Does this make you happy?

DEVIN
Sex with no strings attached? Who
wouldn't be?

Dr. Pace takes more notes.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
So, Dr. Pace, what's the verdict?
Am I crazy?

DR. PACE
Other than the question of
morality, there's nothing wrong
with sleeping around. People do it
all the time.

DEVIN
Thank you. That's what I've be
telling my friend.

DR. PACE
However, the motivation behind your
sleeping around is where the
problem lies, and you are motivated
by fear... an unhealthy fear.

Devin's cellphone RINGS. He pulls out of his pants pocket,
looks at the face.

DEVIN
Give me a second.
(into phone)
Hello?

INT. PETE & LIZA'S BEDROOM - DAY

A WAILING Pete clutches his back in bed. A concerned Liza,
Christina and Devin stand over him.

DEVIN
Are you all right, man?

PETE
No, I'm not all right! Will
someone get the heating pad?! Oh
God!

CHRISTINA
Where is it?

LIZA

Over there in the top drawer of the dresser. I'm calling the paramedics.

Christina scrambles to the dresser. Liza picks up the cordless phone from the night stand.

LIZA (CONT'D)

Hello, nine, one, one? We need the paramedics.

Christina comes back with the heating pad. Liza continues an inaudible conversation on the phone.

DEVIN

Give it here. I'll do it.

CHRISTINA

No, I'll do it. I'm the professional here.

PETE

Guys! Please! I'm in pain here!

DEVIN

By all means.

Devin motions for Christina to proceed.

Christina plugs the cord of the heating pad into the socket behind the night stand. She places the pad behind Pete. Liza hangs up the phone.

LIZA

The paramedics are on the way.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF PETE & LIZA'S HOUSE - LATER

The siren BLARES as the ambulance drives away.

EXT. PETE & LIZA'S FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS

Christina, Devin and Liza stand in the front yard.

LIZA

I'm going to the hospital to be with Pete.

DEVIN

Is there anything you need me to do?

LIZA

Yes, I need you to take my sister to Atlanta to get the rest of her belongings.

DEVIN

I don't know if that's a good idea.

CHRISTINA

For once, we agree. I'll just wait for Pete to get better.

LIZA

CeCe, it'll be a while before Pete can do any heavy lifting.

CHRISTINA

I'd rather pay a moving company.

LIZA

Don't let your pride get in the way. Devin's here, and he'll do it.

DEVIN

How are you going to volunteer me like that?

LIZA

Come on, Devin. Please?

DEVIN

All right, I'll do it, but only if she asks nicely.

Christina shakes her head, "NO." Liza gives her the eye.

CHRISTINA

Okay! Will you drive me to Atlanta and help me get the rest of my things?

DEVIN

You didn't say please.

CHRISTINA

Please?!

DEVIN

Okay, let me check to see if I have anything better to do.

Christina angrily folds her arms.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
I'm kidding. Geez, can't you take
a joke? Go ahead, Liza. She's in
good hands.

LIZA
Try not to kill each other.

EXT./INT. HIGHWAY/UHAUL TRUCK - NIGHT

A UHaul Mack truck travels along the lonely, four-lane
highway.

Old school R&B MUSIC PLAYS on the radio. Devin drives, and
Christina sits next to him with her arms folded and lips
tight.

Christina changes the station to modern R&B MUSIC.

Devin looks at Christina like she is crazy.

DEVIN
What are you doing? I was
listening to that.

He quickly changes it back.

Christina glares at him.

CHRISTINA
Well, I don't like this song.

She changes the station again.

DEVIN
That's too bad. When in Egypt, be
an Egyptian.

Devin changes back to the old school station.

CHRISTINA
Turn it back!

Christina changes the station.

They change the station back and forth. Devin turns the
radio off, pulls the knobs and tosses them out the window.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
You idiot! Now what are we going
to listen to?

DEVIN

The tires against the pavement.

Devin focuses on the road. He SINGS an old school R&B slow song.

CHRISTINA

I don't believe this.

Devin SINGS LOUDER to aggravate Christina. She curls up in the seat, stares out of the window.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Asshole.

The green signs above the highway reads: "I-75 SOUTH VALDOSTA, I-75 NORTH ATLANTA." The UHaul truck veers toward Atlanta.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Two-story, four-unit apartment buildings are on both sides of a narrow, winding road. Vehicles are parked on the side of the apartment buildings.

EXT. CHRISTINA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - SAME

The UHaul truck backs into the driveway of the apartment building at the end of the road.

Devin and Christina get out of the truck. Devin carries a duffel bag over his shoulder.

CHRISTINA

Where are you're going?

DEVIN

I thought we were going inside.

CHRISTINA

Did I say that you could come inside?

DEVIN

You expect me to stay out here?

CHRISTINA

I don't care where you stay, but it won't be in my apartment.

Devin watches as Christina heads up the stairs and goes inside of her apartment. Her apartment door SHUTS.

DEVIN
You have got to be kidding me.

Devin gets back inside the truck.

INT. UHAUL TRUCK - LATER

Devin tries to find a comfortable position. He mumbles to himself, peers out the window.

A figure moves around from behind the curtains in the upstairs window of Christina's apartment.

DEVIN
Oh, hell no. I am not going out like this.

Devin jumps out of the truck with his duffel bag, SLAMS the door.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
Enough of this shit.

INT. CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM - SAME

Christina takes her outfits from out the closet, lays them down across the bed. There are repeated KNOCKS at the door.

She ignores them, puts all of her shoes inside of a large trash bag. The doorbell RINGS CONTINUOUSLY. She leaves the room.

CHRISTINA'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The bell RINGS with no end in sight. Christina opens the door, and Devin stands on the other side.

CHRISTINA
What do you want?

Devin brushes her aside as he makes his way inside.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
Who do you think you are?

DEVIN
A person who's had it up to here with your... funky attitude. I'm doing you a favor.

Devin sits down on the couch.

CHRISTINA
Get out. I said get out!

DEVIN
I'm not going anywhere. You go
sleep in the truck.

Christina SHUTS the door.

CHRISTINA
Fine. Just stay out of my way.

DEVIN
My pleasure. Where's your
bathroom? I need a shower.

Christina leaves out of the room.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
I need a blanket and a pillow, too.

A door SLAMS.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
(sotto)
What a kook.

CHRISTINA'S BATHROOM

Devin stands under the shower hose. The water rinses the
suds from his body.

CHRISTINA'S BEDROOM

Christina empties out the drawers of her dresser. She pulls
two suitcases from the shelf inside the closet, drops them on
the bed. The doorbell RINGS.

CHRISTINA
What now?!

CHRISTINA'S LIVING ROOM

Christina opens the door. Her eyes stretch wide.

CHRISTINA
Jeff! What are you doing here?

JEFF, 40's, handsome, black and gray hair, stands in the
doorway with menacing eyes.

JEFF
Hello, Christina. May I come in?
Good.

Jeff barges in, looks around the room.

CHRISTINA
What do you want?

JEFF
What's up with the UHaul? Going
somewhere?

CHRISTINA
Yes, I'm moving back home. Why?

JEFF
I can't let you do that.

CHRISTINA
You don't have a say.

Jeff grabs Christina by the arms, jacks her up against the wall.

JEFF
I don't think you understand. You
belong here with me. You're not
going nowhere.

CHRISTINA
Let me go! You're hurting me!

CHRISTINA'S BATHROOM

Devin dries his hair in front of mirror. He hears the
COMMOTION going on in the other room.

DEVIN
What the...?

CHRISTINA'S LIVING ROOM

Jeff has Christina up against the wall with her feet
dangling.

JEFF
You think this is a game?! You
take me for a joke?! I'm not
playing with you, woman!

CHRISTINA
Leave me alone!

Devin slips in unnoticed, charges toward Jeff and Christina.

Jeff raises his hand to slap Christina. Devin grabs Jeff's hand just in time.

DEVIN
Get off her!

He shoves Jeff into the door.

JEFF
Who the hell is this?!

DEVIN
I suggest you get out of here.

JEFF
Are you going to make me, Tough
Guy?!

Devin throws a punch. Jeff ducks, counters with a right hook to the jaw that drops Devin to the floor.

CHRISTINA
Why did you do that?!

JEFF
Lover Boy here swung first.

CHRISTINA
Get out!

JEFF
You will never get rid of me...
never! No matter where you go,
I'll find you.

CHRISTINA
I said leave, or I'll call the
police.

JEFF
Remember what I said.

Jeff throws both hands in the air and leaves. Christina SLAMS the door behind him.

Devin lies on the ground, massaging his jaw. Christina looks down at him with contempt.

CHRISTINA

You should've minded your own
business. Get up. You're in the
way.

Christina steps over Devin, leaves the room. She goes to her room.

DEVIN

I was only trying to help!

Devin groggily sits up on the floor.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

(sotto)

I can't win for losing.

Devin attempts to get up. He lies down on his back.

EXT. BACK OF THE UHAUL - DAY

Christina's bedroom furniture, living room furniture and her other belongings are neatly packed on the back of the UHaul truck.

Devin loads the mattress onto the truck, leans it against the box spring and bed posts along the side wall. He ties them together to the wall with a rope.

Devin stands at the edge of the back of the truck, wipes the sweat from his brow.

Christina approaches the truck with a glass of water.

CHRISTINA

Here. You look thirsty.

Devin stands in shock. He takes the glass of water.

DEVIN

Thank you. You're being nice to
me.

CHRISTINA

No, it's hot, and I can't have you
passing out. I can't drive this
thing.

Christina walks away. Devin watches as she makes her way up the stairs. She glances at him as she enters her apartment.

Devin drinks it all in one gulp.

EXT. RESTAURANT PARKING LOT - DAY

Cars scatter over the lot. The UHaul truck is parked in front of the building.

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME

Devin eats alone at a table. He uses a knife to cut through the T-bone steak in front of him.

Christina sits at the adjacent table with a salad. They trade glances when the other is not looking.

CHRISTINA

Thank you.

DEVIN

Excuse me? Did you say something?

CHRISTINA

I said, thank you.

DEVIN

For what?

CHRISTINA

For helping me get my things and for sticking up for me.

DEVIN

Don't mention it.

Devin slices another piece of steak.

CHRISTINA

I'm sorry about that night at the club, and for everything else.

DEVIN

It's okay. If I'd gone through what you've been through, I'd probably be hostile, too.

CHRISTINA

I am not hostile.

Devin stares at Christina in disbelief.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Okay, so I'm a little hostile.

DEVIN

No, you're a lot hostile.

CHRISTINA

Fair enough.

DEVIN

Sorry about the Thanksgiving dinner debacle. Not one of my proudest moments.

CHRISTINA

Same here. It was kind of fun, though.

DEVIN

Replacing all of the dishes we broke won't be fun.

CHRISTINA

I know, and Liza wants new dishes sooner rather than later.

DEVIN

I got my half.

CHRISTINA

Well, I don't receive my first check until next week.

DEVIN

I'm sure your sister can wait.

CHRISTINA

Do you mind if we start over?

DEVIN

I'd like that. I'm Devin, and you are...?

CHRISTINA

Christina, but my friends call me CeCe.

Devin smiles.

LATER

Christina and Devin chat over lunch. He says something to make her laugh.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Vehicles turn off the busy street and onto the hospital campus.

INT. PETE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME

Pete sits in a wheelchair with a hospital bag in his lap.
Liza stands behind him.

LIZA
You heard what the doctor said.

PETE
What about the diner?

LIZA
That's why you have a wife, moron.
(looks towards
the doorway)
Oh, hey guys! You're back... in
one piece!

DEVIN
Shocking, isn't it? Pete! You're
okay now, my brother?

PETE
It was nothing serious. All the
test came back negative.

CHRISTINA
That's great news.

DEVIN
Yeah, good to here. Take it easy
on him next time, Liza.

LIZA
You've got jokes. Oh my God,
Devin! What happened to your face?

CHRISTINA
Devin had the pleasure of meeting
Jeff.

PETE
You let Jeff beat you up?

DEVIN
I... he caught me off guard.

LIZA
We were just about to leave.
Pete's been discharged.

Pete checks his watch.

PETE
 Oh, it's five-thirty.
 (to Devin)
 What'aya say we chug a few beers
 and watch the fight? I've got
 pills.

Pete waves the prescription paper in the air. Liza snatches it from him.

DEVIN
 Cool, but I have to go by and check
 on the house first.
 (to Christina)
 Are you riding with me or with
 them?

CHRISTINA
 With you.

Liza and Pete eye one another in shock.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)
 That is unless Liza or Pete needs
 me for anything.

LIZA
 No, no... you two go on. We can
 manage.

DEVIN
 Ready?

Christina nods, "YES." They leave.

PETE
 I told you. Foreplay.

LIZA
 Well, he better not break my
 sister's heart. Let's get out of
 here.

Liza rolls Pete out of the room.

INT. DEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Devin tosses his keys on the bar. Christina checks out the living room.

CHRISTINA
 This is nice.

DEVIN

Thanks. The remote is over there on the coffee table. It controls everything... make yourself at home.

Devin leaves the room. Christina focuses on an oil portrait of a beautiful woman that hangs on the wall. She goes over for a closer look.

CHRISTINA

She's pretty.

Christina inspect Devin's collection of CDs -- variety of jazz and old school R&B artist.

She pulls Donna Summers' CD from the collection and looks it over with a smile. She puts it back in its place, shifts her attention to...

The collection of DVDs -- a compilation of action, comedy and horror films.

Devin slips in unnoticed.

DEVIN

Nice collection, huh?

CHRISTINA

(startled)

Oh! Yeah, didn't hear you come in. I see you have a great selection of music too.

DEVIN

You know me. I love my old school and jazz.

CHRISTINA

I see.

Christina goes over to the window, pulls back the curtains.

CHRITSINA

Wow! You can see the beach.

DEVIN

Wanna go for a walk?

CHRITSINA

What about Pete and the fight?

DEVIN
(checks his
watch)
The main event is at least two
hours away. We've got time.

EXT. TYBEE BEACH - NIGHT

The moonlight cascades over the waters. Lights flicker from
ships out to sea.

PIER

Christina and Devin take a stroll along the pier.

CHRISTINA
I almost forgot how beautiful it is
out here at night.

DEVIN
Yeah, it's definitely something to
see. When was the last time were
you out here at night?

CHRISTINA
Prom night.

DEVIN
That long, huh?

They both chuckle.

CHRISTINA
Who's the woman in the portrait?

DEVIN
That would be Lacy, my first and
only love.

CHRISTINA
May I ask what happened? I hope
I'm not prying.

DEVIN
No, it's okay. Let's see. Well...

They come to the end of the pier. Christina and Devin stare
out across the ocean.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
And that about sums it up.

CHRISTINA

Sorry to hear that. How long has it been?

DEVIN

Eight years.

CHRISTINA

And you still have her portrait on your wall?

DEVIN

Never thought to take it down, I guess.

CHRISTINA

Don't you think it's time that you do?

DEVIN

Maybe. Come on. Don't want to keep Pete waiting.

Devin walks away. Christina follows him with a look of admiration.

CHRISTINA

So, who are you rooting for?

EXT. PETE & LIZA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Christmas lights and decorations along the structure and front yard of the house. A lit Christmas tree stands in front of the window. Devin's Mercedes is parked in the driveway.

INT. PETE & LIZA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Christina, Devin, Liza and Pete gather around the flat screen TV with beer bottles in their hands.

PETE

Man, Mayweather is a beast. Probably the best champion of all times.

DEVIN

Please. Not when he's ducking Pacquiao.

PETE

He is not ducking Pacquiao. They just can't agree on the terms of the fight.

DEVIN

That's a load of crap. Everybody knows Mayweather is scared of Pacquiao.

PETE

You're crazy.

Something on the TV catches Pete's attention.

PETE (CONT'D)

See what I'm talking about?!

TV SCREEN

A woozy boxer lies on the canvas. Floyd Mayweather bounces around in his corner as the referee counts.

Pete jumps to his feet.

PETE

Eight, nine, ten! Ding! Ding! Ding! It's over, baby! Mayweather does it again!

Liza looks concerned.

LIZA

Pete, if you don't sit your butt down.

DEVIN

Yeah, before you break something.

Pete sits down.

PETE

Another victory for Mayweather.

DEVIN

Like I said, tell him to stop running from Pacquiao.

Christina and Liza gather up the beer bottles, take them out of the room.

PETE

Whatever. Hey, what's going on between you and CeCe?

DEVIN

Nothing's going on.

PETE

Yeah right! First you're at each other's throat, and now, you're all lovey-dovey.

DEVIN

We're not "lovey-dovey." We're cool, that's all.

PETE

Yeah? Well, I'm not buying it.

PETE & LIZA'S KITCHEN

Christina and Liza stand in front of the counter.

CHRISTINA

So, he's not the bad guy I thought he was.

LIZA

What was that? Is CeCe actually admitting that she was wrong?

CHRISTINA

Shut up! I can admit when I'm wrong. Even though it's rare.

LIZA

Let you tell it. You like him, don't you?

CHRISTINA

I am done with this conversation.

Christina turns to leave.

LIZA

Christina! I'm your sister.

CHRISTINA (O.S.)

I know, and I love you.

Liza watches as Christina walks out.

INT. NURSING HOME - COMMUNITY ROOM - NIGHT

Residents, their families and employees fill the room. They all SING, "JOY TO THE WORLD."

Christina stands with the other nurses. She spots Devin on the other side of the room, mingling.

The song ends to a round of APPLAUSE.

LATER

A female resident PLAYS Christmas music on the piano. Residents and guest mingle and enjoy the food.

Christina serves refreshments from behind the table. Something catches her eye. Her mouth drops to the floor.

Mr. Jenkins and MS. SALLY, 60's, silver hair, who still looks great for her age, sit at the round table. Mr. Jenkins has his arms around Ms. Sally, whispering in her ear.

Christina marches over to Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Sally.

CHRISTINA

Excuse me? What are you two doing?

MR. JENKINS

What do you think?

CHRISTINA

Shame on you, Mr. Jenkins, and I am surprised at you, Ms. Sally.

MS. SALLY

I don't know why. I might be old, but I'm still a woman.

CHRISTINA

I can't believe you two.

MS. SALLY

You better believe it, honey. Come on, Jenkins. You ready to dust my cobwebs?

MR. JENKINS

Call me the Cobweb Duster.

MS. SALLY

Well come on, then. I ain't got all night.

Mr. Jenkins and Ms. Sally head out the room. Christina shakes her head.

LATER

Christina and Devin supervise things from underneath the large doorway.

DEVIN

It's Christmas. Let them have fun.

CHRISTINA

Is that even allowed?

DEVIN

Can you stop them? They are adults. I would hate to be the fly on the wall in that room, though.

Christina shivers at the thought. Mrs. Kelly rolls up in her wheelchair.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Hi, Mrs. Kelly? How are you tonight?

MRS. KELLY

I'm fine. What are y'all waiting for?

CHRISTINA

What do you mean?

Mrs. Kelly points up. Christina and Devin look up.

A mistletoe hangs above them.

MRS. KELLY

Hey, Everybody! Devin and the new nurse are under the mistletoe!

Everyone stops what they are doing, focuses on Christina and Devin.

MRS. KELLY (CONT'D)

Kiss the girl, Devin.

DEVIN

I... I don't know.

Everyone in the room CHANTS, "KISS HER, KISS HER." A nervous Christina and Devin eye one another.

MRS. KELLY
Come on. It's just a kiss.

DEVIN
You know they won't stop until we
do, right?

CHRISTINA
Okay, let's just get it over with.

DEVIN
Are you ready?

CHRISTINA
Just do it.

Devin leans in and they bump foreheads. Christina and Devin
both "APOLOGIZE."

A careful Christina and Devin kiss each other on the lips.
It grows into a relaxed, more passionate kiss. They take a
step back from one another, unable to look away or breathe.

Christina bolts out the room. Devin goes after her.

HALLWAY

Christina race walks down the hallway. Devin strides right
behind her.

DEVIN
Christina! Wait up! Will you wait
a minute?!

INT. BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Christina rushes in, takes a seat. She covers her face with
both hands. Devin enters, sits across from her.

DEVIN
Are you all right?

She doesn't respond.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
Christina?

CHRISTINA
I need time to think.

DEVIN

Think about what? It was just a
kiss, right?

CHRISTINA

See, that's the problem. It didn't
feel like, "just a kiss."

DEVIN

I know what you mean.

An awkward silence. Devin taps his fingers on the table.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Do you think that maybe we should
go out?

CHRISTINA

You mean like a date?

Devin nods, "YES." Christina stares long and hard.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Okay. I'll go on a date with you.

Devin breathes a SIGH of relief. A growing smile reflect
their faces.

MONTAGE - CHRISTINA AND DEVIN DATE/HANGOUT

-- Christina and Devin eat dinner at a fine restaurant.

-- Christina and Devin at the movies with a bucket of
popcorn.

-- Christina and Devin have a picnic in the park.

-- Christina and Devin take a romantic stroll along the
beach. She kicks water on him, takes off running. Devin
gives chase, catches up to her, embraces her with a kiss.

-- Devin snaps several photos of Christina.

-- Devin takes the painting of Lacy down. He puts the
painting in the trash receptacle on the side of the house.

-- Devin strokes the canvas with a brush. A blown up photo
of Christina sets on the easel next to the canvas.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. CHRISTMAS TREE LOT - DAY

Dozens of Christmas trees are set up in several rows. People browse the lot.

Christina and a disinterested Devin navigate their way through the maze of trees.

DEVIN

I really don't want a Christmas tree.

CHRISTINA

Don't be such a Scrooge. Take a deep breath. Do you smell that?

DEVIN

Yeah, it smells really... pine-y.

Christina spots a tree she likes.

CHRISTINA

There it is. Come on.

Christina drags Devin to the tree. A look of skepticism reflects his face.

DEVIN

Don't you think it's a little... I don't know, big?

CHRISTINA

No, it's perfect.

DEVIN

Looks kind of big to me.

CHRISTINA

It's full, like a Christmas tree is supposed to be.

DEVIN

How are we going to get it in my car?

Christina examines the tree, gives Devin the eye.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Traffic moves at a snail's pace. The Christmas tree is tied to the roof of Devin's Mercedes.

EXT./INT. DEVIN'S FRONT PORCH/FOYER - DAY

Christina stands on the front porch with the Christmas tree stuck in the door.

Devin has his hands on his hip in the foyer.

DEVIN

What now, genius? We'll never get this tree inside. Let's take it back.

CHRISTINA

We can make this work. All it needs is a little... extra... push.

Christina forces the tree inside with a strong push.

Caught off guard, Devin loses his balance and falls. The tree lands on top of him.

Christina rushes in.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

Devin! Are you okay?

Devin makes muffled SOUNDS. Christina pulls the tree off of him. A small piece of a broken branch is stuck up his nose.

DEVIN

I think I've stabbed my brain.

Devin pulls the branch from his nose, and blood trickles down to his lips.

INT. DEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Old school, Christmas music PLAYS over the sound system. Devin, with tissue up his nose, places an ornament on the tree.

Christina gives him a star. He places the star on top of the tree, steps off the ladder to admire his handy work.

DEVIN

You think it's too much?

CHRISTINA

Turn on the lights, let's see what we're working with.

DEVIN

Hit the switch.

Devin plugs the cord into the wall socket, as Christina turns off the room light. The lights from the tree cast a glow around the room. The star on top of the tree shines bright.

Christina and Devin marvel at the tree.

CHRISTINA

It's... it's beautiful.

DEVIN

Yeah, it is. Wait right here.

Devin leaves the room. Christina takes a seat on the sofa.

Devin comes back with two glass, filled with a creamy substance. He gives one of the glasses to Christina, sits down next to her.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Eggnog... without the alcohol.

CHRISTINA

I love eggnog. Want to hear something weird?

Christina has Devin's undivided attention.

CHRISTINA (CONT'D)

I drink eggnog all year round.

DEVIN

That is weird. If it makes you feel better, I eat cereal for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

CHRISTINA

God, you're weirder than me.

DEVIN

I don't know. I think more people eat cereal at different times of the day, than drink eggnog all year long.

Christina and Devin enjoy the lights and their drinks.

CHRISTINA

You know, if someone would've told me three weeks ago that you and I would be right here, right now, I would've laughed in their face.

DEVIN

Yeah, funny how a week can change everything.

CHRISTINA

What happened with that woman from the club and the other woman from the bowling alley? Did you sleep with them? I don't mean to put you on the spot or anything.

DEVIN

Well you did. What do you think?

CHRISTINA

I think you were just trying to make me jealous.

DEVIN

You've got me. Guilty as charged.

Christina responds with a smile. Devin gazes into her eyes, takes her drink, sets it on top of the coffee table along with his drink.

Devin strokes the side of her face. Christina swallows the lump in her throat as he leans in for a soft kiss. They make out.

Devin raises his arms. Christina pulls his shirt over his head.

Devin unbuttons Christina's blouse, massages her breast as they kiss. They fall off the sofa and onto the floor. THUMP! Christina GIGGLES.

INT. PETE'S DINER - DAY

The SOUND of COWBELLS as Devin enters. He makes his way to his favorite stool with a beaming smile. Pete pours coffee in a large Styrofoam cup.

PETE

I see you have an extra bounce to your step this morning.

DEVIN

That's because for the first time in years, I woke up feeling it.

PETE

It? What exactly is it?

DEVIN

You know... that feeling in the pit
of your stomach.

Pete gives the Styrofoam cup of coffee to Devin. Devin pours
cream, adds sugar to his coffee.

PETE

Word of advice. You better not
hurt my sister-in-law.

DEVIN

My intentions are pure. Don't
worry.

PETE

It better be. Or you'll have to
deal with Liza... and me.

DEVIN

Ooh, and we wouldn't want that now,
would we?

PETE

No, you wouldn't. Liza is unstable
and has a propensity for violence.

DEVIN

I'll keep that in mind, and it's
propensity... a propensity for
violence.

PETE

Whatever. What are you? The wrong
choice of words police?

DEVIN

I have to get going.

Devin heads for the door.

PETE

Wait a minute. You forgot to pay.

DEVIN

Put it on my tab.

Devin turns for the door.

PETE

I'm running a business here, not a
soup kitchen.

Devin waves on the way out. Liza enters as he leaves.

DEVIN
Hey, Liza. Bye, Liza.

Liza looks confused. She goes over to Pete with a handful of brochures.

PETE
Hey, honey. What do you have there?

LIZA
Pete, I think we should adopt.

PETE
I thought we've already discussed this.

LIZA
We have, but I'm tired of trying and waiting. I want to be a mother. See, there's a lot of information...

An excited Liza shows him the brochures.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

People from all walks of life fill the room, with their iPads and lap tops.

Devin and Mike sit at a table with their lattes`.

DEVIN
Mission accomplished.

MIKE
You are one bad dude. I had my doubts, but you pulled it off.

DEVIN
I told you, no one rejects me.

Devin and Mike exchange high fives.

MIKE
Okay, you've managed to get the girl. Now what?

DEVIN
I don't know. I think she may be the one.

MIKE

Am I hearing you right? Is Devin, the greatest player of all times, finally going to turn in his player's card and settle down?

DEVIN

I don't know. But what I do know is, she's a keeper.

MIKE

Can I have your black book? You know, since you won't be needing it anymore?

DEVIN

I don't have a black book. Just my Android.

MIKE

Well, can I have that?

DEVIN

I'm not giving you my Android.

MIKE

You're so selfish.

DEVIN

Yeah, yeah... get your own.

INT. NURSING HOME - NURSES STATION - DAY

Christina stands at the station along with ROSE, late-20's, great hair, and a body like a model. Christina writes something in a patient's file, looks at Rose.

CHRISTINA

I think it looks great.

ROSE

Thanks. I hope Terrell likes it.

CHRISTINA

Hard to say. Men can be assholes at times. Especially when it comes to spending money.

ROSE

You ain't never lied. By the way, the new lady in one-twenty-one A is something else.

CHRISTINA

Oh no. What's her name?

ROSE

Mrs. Dillon. Never did go to sleep, and stayed on the bell all night.

CHRISTINA

I hope she's better during the day.

ROSE

And her granddaughter is a real bitch. All she did was complain. I don't know who was worse.

CHRISTINA

I guess I better go check on her to make sure she's okay.

Christina leaves the station.

INT. MRS. DILLON'S ROOM - SAME

MRS. DILLON, 70's, hair covered with a stocking cap, tosses and turns in the bed. Tracy sits in the chair next to the bed with her head in a book.

MRS. DILLON

I can't seem to get... comfortable.

TRACY

You want me to call for the nurse to see if she can help you?

MRS. DILLON

I don't want to be burden.

TRACY

It's their job, Grammy.

There is a KNOCK at the DOOR.

TRACY (CONT'D)

That's probably the nurse right there. Come in.

Christina comes through the door, gives Tracy a strange look.

CHRISTINA

Hello. My name is Christina, and I'll be your nurse for today.

TRACY

Hey, I was just about to ring for you. Grammy's having trouble getting comfortable.

CHRISTINA

Mrs. Dillon, is there a particular way you'd like to be positioned?

MRS. DILLON

It don't matter which position I'm in. I can't seem to get settled.

CHRISTINA

It's probably anxiety... fairly common the first couple of days as she adjusts to her new environment.

TRACY

Well, can you can give her a pill or something?

CHRISTINA

I'll see what I can do.

TRACY

Is there a snack machine around?

CHRISTINA

In the break room located on the back hall.

TRACY

I'll be back, Grammy. I'm gonna get some chips and a soda.

Tracy walks out of the room.

BREAK ROOM

Devin eats a TV dinner, plays with his Android.

DEVIN

(sotto)

Don't need this number anymore... or this one... gonna miss this one... I'll keep this one just in case.

Tracy comes into the room, heads straight for the snack machine. Devin sets his Android on the table, focuses on the food in front of him.

She buys potato chips, goes to the soda machine for a cola. She heads for the door when she sees Devin.

TRACY
Devin? Is that you?

DEVIN
Tracy! What are you doing here?

TRACY
Visiting my great grandmother.

HALLWAY

Christina digs inside of her scrub pocket, pulls out a dollar. She stops by the break room door, eavesdrop on Devin and Tracy's conversation.

TRACY (O.S.)
I haven't heard from you since that night. Why haven't you called?

CHRISTINA
(sotto)
I knew she looked familiar.

BREAK ROOM

Tracy stands in front of Devin.

DEVIN
Oh... um... well... it slipped my mind, I guess.

TRACY
Really? We had sex all-night-long, and you can't even call me?

DEVIN
It's not like that.

TRACY
Then how is it?

CHRISTINA
Yes, please explain yourself, Devin? I'm all ears.

Christina enters the room, stops next to Tracy with her arms folded and eyes squint.

DEVIN
Christina.

CHRISTINA
You lied to me.

DEVIN
No, I didn't lie to you. I never
said I didn't sleep with her.

CHRISTINA
No, you just allowed me to believe
that you didn't. Same difference.

DEVIN
It happened after you rejected me,
so what's the big deal?

CHRISTINA
The big deal is that you lied about
it. You're probably lying about
the woman in the bowling alley,
too.

DEVIN
No, no... I really didn't sleep
with her.

TRACY
I can't believe you.

DEVIN
Look, I'm sorry. I made a mistake.

CHRISTINA
You sure did. I was right about
you all along. You are a liar and
a cheat!

DEVIN
I've never cheated on you, and I
only lied once.

CHRISTINA
Everything that's ever come out of
you mouth has probably been a lie.

DEVIN
Come on, Christina, you know that's
not true.

CHRISTINA
It doesn't matter anymore, because
we're done. You can have him.

Christina storms out.

DEVIN
Wait a minute. Christina!

TRACY
Don't look at me. I don't want
your tired ass either.

Tracy leaves the room.

DEVIN
This is just great. Damn! So
stupid!

Devin thumps himself in the head with the palm of his hand.
He stares into the distance.

INT. DEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Devin makes a stiff drink at the bar -- no ice, no chaser.
Mike sits on the sofa.

DEVIN
It's over, man. I absolutely blew
it.

MIKE
Why did you lie to her?

DEVIN
I don't know. I didn't think she
would find out, and I definitely
didn't think I would ever see Tracy
again. This is the worst.

Devin paces back-and-forth.

MIKE
It really sucks to be you, right
now.

DEVIN
What am I going to do?

MIKE
Give it some time. Let things blow
over.

DEVIN
I'm suppose to go over there
tomorrow for Christmas dinner. How
can I face them?

MIKE

Like a man. So you made a mistake.
You're human. What's important now
is how you handle it.

EXT. PETE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Devin waits at the door with presents. The door opens, and Liza stands in the doorway.

DEVIN

Merry Christmas.

She rolls her eyes, walks away.

LIZA

Pete! Your friend is here.

INT. PETE'S LIVING ROOM CONTINUOUS

An awkward silence fills the room. Christina, Liza and Pete all give Devin the evil eye.

DEVIN

I don't know what to say. I
screwed up. I screwed up bad. I
never meant to hurt you, Christina.

Devin meanders around the room.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

I know should've told you the
truth, but I didn't, and now I have
to live with that.

Devin reaches for the bag filled with presents.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Anyway, here's your present, Liza.

He gives Liza her present.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Here's yours, Pete.

He gives Pete a square box.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

This is for you.

He offers Christina a large item -- the size of a frame. She looks the other way. Devin leans it against the side of the sofa.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
Okay, that's my cue. Merry Christmas.

Devin makes his exit. Christina, Liza and Pete eye one another. A door SHUTS in the another room.

CHRISTINA
You can throw that in the garbage.
I don't want it.

Christina leaves the room.

INT. DEVIN'S KITCHEN - DAY

Devin goes over to check the refrigerator.

Left over Chinese food, milk, eggs and a few other items are inside. Devin reaches for the milk.

Devin pulls a box of Rice Crispy from the cabinet and a bowl from the cupboard.

Devin eats cereal at the table.

INT. PETE & LIZA'S LIVING ROOM - SAME

Pete opens his present. Inside the box, a white chef's hat with the name, "PETE" embroidered on it.

PETE
Would you look at this? A chef's hat... with my name on it.

Pete tries it on.

PETE (CONT'D)
What do you think?

LIZA
It looks great.

Liza takes the wrapping off her present.

PETE
What did he get you?

Liza eyes widen when sees the platinum gold silverware set.

LIZA
Silverware... and it looks
expensive.

PETE
Is that platinum gold?

LIZA
I think it is.

INT. DEVIN'S STUDIO - DAY

A desponded Devin paints on the canvas in front of him. He uses the sleeve of his shirt to wipe the sweat from his brow, takes sip of bottled water, stares out the window.

MONTAGE - DEVIN & CHRISTINA APART

-- A gloomy Christina gives medicine to a patient.

-- Devin goes fishing on his boat in the middle of the ocean with a cooler of beer.

-- Devin has the phone to his ear.

-- Christina brushes her hair in front of the mirror. She looks down at the face of her phone. It reads: "INCOMING CALL, DEVIN" She ignores it.

-- Devin walks in to the break room at the nursing home. Christina rolls her eyes and leaves.

-- Devin mopes along the shore. He glances at a couple making out on a blanket as he passes by.

-- A sad Christina walks down the street with her arms folded.

-- Christina leans her present against the wall next to her bed, leaves the room.

-- Devin tells Dr. Pace all about it.

-- Devin and Mike sit in a sports bar. Devin sulks as Mike tries to cheer him up.

-- Liza tries to cheer Christina up with ice cream.

-- Devin lies in bed with the lights out, focused on the ceiling.

-- Christina lies in the dark, staring at her gift.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. DEVIN'S FOYER - DAY

Devin peeps through the peephole and opens the door. WALTER SCOTT, a sixty-something, African-American male, stands in the doorway.

DEVIN
Come in, Mr. Scott.

LIVING ROOM

Walter sits on the sofa as he examines a framed oil painting. Devin leans against the bar with a drink in his hand.

INSERT - PAINTING

An oil painting of the group, The Whispers.

BACK TO SCENE

WALTER
Man, this is awesome. I can't thank you enough.

Walter shakes Devin's hand.

DEVIN
You don't have to thank me. You guys are my favorite group of all time.

WALTER
That's nice to hear. Wallace and the guys are going to love this. How much do we owe you?

DEVIN
Nothing. I was honored that you guys chose me to do this. Consider it a gift from me to you.

WALTER
Come on. It has to be something that we can do for you. You have our number. If there is ever anything, and I mean anything, that we can do for you, let us know.

DEVIN
I'll do that.

Devin stares into the distance.

INT. NURSING HOME - MR. JENKINS' ROOM - DAY

Mr. Jenkins listens to the PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER of a baseball game on the radio.

MR. JENKINS
Come on! Don't fail me now!

PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER
The stretch, and the pitch. It's a high fly ball, deep right field, back to the wall goes Taylor, and this ball is... gone! A grand slam!

MR. JENKINS
Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!

Mr. Jenkins dances a jig next to his bed. There's a KNOCK at the door. Christina comes in.

Mr. Jenkins calms down. He turns off the radio, takes a seat on the side of his bed.

CHRISTINA
It's time for your meds.

MR. JENKINS
Y'all trying to kill old people off with these pills.

CHRISTINA
What makes you think that?

MR. JENKINS
When I came here, I was only taking heart medication. Now I take heart medication, kidney medication, liver medication... before you know it, all of my major organs will be shot to shit. It's them damn pills, I tell ya.

CHRISTINA
You can always refuse care.

MR. JENKINS
I'll take'em.

She gives Mr. Jenkins the small plastic cup. He dumps the pills into his mouth, drinks it down with water from the water container.

MR. JENKINS (CONT'D)
Done. Wanna see?

Mr. Jenkins opens his mouth.

CHRISTINA
No, I'll take your word for it.

MR. JENKINS
What's wrong? You look like you just lost your best friend.

CHRISTINA
It's a long story.

MR. JENKINS
It's got something to do with that art teacher.

Christina's silence speaks volumes.

MR. JENKINS (CONT'D)
Yeah, that's it. He's been moping around, too. What did he do? Cheat?

CHRISTINA
He lied to me.

MR. JENKINS
Oh, the nasty "L" word. You know, I was in love once. Her name was Betty, ole' Betty Jones, the most beautiful woman I ever laid eyes on.

CHRISTINA
What happened?

MR. JENKINS
One day, I asked her a question, and you know what she did? She told me the truth.

CHRISTINA
That's a good thing, right?

MR. JENKINS

Not all the time, because the truth caused me to look at her in a different way. If she would've told me it was none of my business or even lied, we'd still be together.

CHRISTINA

But you can't build a relationship on a lie.

MR. JENKINS

Yep, that's true, but some questions should never be asked and, some things are better left unsaid.

INT. DEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Devin reclines in his La-Z-Boy with a bottle of liquor in hand. Pete stands with a large plastic bag.

PETE

I came to bring the Christmas gifts you left behind.

DEVIN

Thank you. Just put them over there.

Devin indicates the sofa. Pete sets them there, sits down on the sofa.

PETE

Thanks for the chef's hat, and the silverware. Platinum Gold?

DEVIN

Only the best for my friends.

Devin holds up his bottle of Vodka in toast, takes huge swig.

PETE

I also came to ask for a favor... a huge favor. Liza wants... Liza and I want to adopt a child, and we were wondering if we use you as a reference.

DEVIN

Of course you can! And not because you are my best friends, but because I know that the two of you would make great parents.

PETE

Thanks, man. I gotta be honest. I'm nervous as shit about the thought of having a baby around.

DEVIN

You'll do fine. The both of you will.

Devin takes another swig.

PETE

We understand why you didn't tell Christina the truth.

DEVIN

Yeah? How do I get Christina to understand?

PETE

That's the sixty-million dollar question, my friend. I'm sure you'll figure it out.

DEVIN

She won't answer my calls.

PETE

We're going to Club Onyx to bring in the new year. You're welcome to join us.

DEVIN

No, I'm just going to stay home.

PETE

You were right about Mayweather being afraid to fight Pacquiao.

DEVIN

So you finally see the light. Good for you.

PETE

Yeah, I "see the light," and you know what? You're acting just like Mayweather... afraid.

Pete walks out.

INT. CHRISTINA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Christina, wearing a tight dress, checks herself in the mirror. She sees the reflection of her present.

Christina rushes over, rips the wrapping off of her present.

It's an oil portrait of herself. A small smile crosses her face. A horn HONKS from outside.

INT. CLUB ONYX - NIGHT

Old School music BLASTS over the speakers. New Year decorations are everywhere.

Wall-to-wall patrons, decked out in costumes and fine apparel, dance, mingle and drink merrily -- mostly champagne.

CHRISTINA, LIZA & PETE'S BOOTH

Christina, Liza and Pete sit at a booth with several bottles of champagne on the table.

PETE

Here's to a new year of excitement,
great things and to most of all,
leaving behind the pains of the
past.

CHRISTINA

I'll drink to that.

They CLINK their glasses together before they drink. Christina chugs her glass of champagne down like a sailor.

INT. DEVIN'S FOYER - NIGHT

Devin opens the door. Dr. Pace stands on the other side.

DEVIN

Thanks for stopping by, Doc.
Please, come in.

Dr. Pace walks through the doorway.

LIVING ROOM

Devin enters the room after Dr. Pace.

DR. PACE

You sounded like you were in distress over the phone. Is everything okay?

DEVIN

The total opposite of okay.

DR. PACE

What's the problem?

INT. CLUB ONYX - NIGHT

Christina, Liza and Pete drinks more champaign. Christina finishes off another glass.

CHRISTINA

Woo! Is it me, or is it getting a little warm in here?

LIZA

A little of both.

CHRISTINA

Oh. Fill me up.

LIZA

Why don't you come with me? I have to pay the water bill.

CHRISTINA

You always say that. Can't you say I have to pee, piss or urinate like everyone else?

LIZA

You're drunk.

CHRISTINA

I am? I had no idea.

Christina staggers from her seat. Liza ushers her away by the arm.

LIZA

This way.

INT. DEVIN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Devin paces the floor. Dr. Pace sits on the sofa.

DEVIN

I don't know what to do. What if she rejects me?

DR. PACE

What if she doesn't?

DEVIN

What if I get hurt?

DR. PACE

You probably will. Only the people in our lives that we care about the most have the ability to hurt us, Devin.

DEVIN

Is that it? Is that all you have to say? What kind of quack are you?

DR. PACE

Are you a gambling man, Devin?

DEVIN

It depends on the odds and risk, but what does that have to do with my situation?

DR. PACE

Is this woman worth the risk? When you've answered that question, things will become clear.

Devin stares into the distance.

QUICK FLASHES - DEVIN'S MOMENTS WITH CHRISTINA

-- Devin reaches out for Christina's hand. She throws her drink in his face.

-- Christina in Devin's face with a knife as they argue.

-- Christina pushes the target to the dunk tank. Devin falls into the water. Christina points and laugh as the Dunk Attendant drags her away.

-- Christina and Devin share smiles in the restaurant.

-- Christina and Devin's kiss at the Christmas party.

-- Christina with a beautiful smile.

END OF QUICK FLASHES

DEVIN

I gotta go. Thanks, Doc.

DR. PACE

No problem. Consider this a friendly visit.

INT. CLUB ONYX - NIGHT

Christina and Liza navigate their way through the crowd of revelers.

CHRISTINA, LIZA & PETE'S BOOTH

Christina and Liza return to their seats at the table with Pete.

PETE

You guys took long enough.

LIZA

We had a little problem.

Liza indicates Christina.

CHRISTINA

I'm all better now.

PETE

Good. Ten minutes away, ladies. More champagne?

CHRISTINA

No... no more for me.

LIZA

I'll take some.

EXT./INT. CITY STREETS/DEVIN'S MERCEDES - NIGHT

Moderate traffic along the thoroughfare. Devin Mercedes changes lanes to pass cars.

MERCEDES

A sense of urgency reflects in Devin's eyes. He looks at the clock.

INSERT - CLOCK - "11:53"

BACK TO SCENE

Devin whips the wheel right and left.

DEVIN
Come on! Move it!

Devin's Mercedes passes the last car, pulls away from the rest of the vehicles.

INT. CLUB ONYX - NIGHT

Patrons pack the dance floor. Waitress moves through the crowd with a tray of drinks.

CHRISTINA, LIZA & PETE'S BOOTH

Liza and Pete embrace and kiss. Christina stares with a blank face.

ENTRANCE OF CLUB ONYX

Devin enters the club, spots Christina, Liza and Pete's booth. He shifts his focus to the stage, sees the Keyboardist. A smile reflects Devin's face.

CHRISTINA, LIZA & PETE'S BOOTH

Christina grabs her purse. Liza and Pete rub noses.

CHRISTINA
Guys, I think I'm going to go home.

LIZA
You can't leave now.

CHRISTINA
Why not?

LIZA

Because the new year hasn't come in yet, and it's bad luck to leave a New Year's Eve party before the new year begins.

CHRISTINA

That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard. I'll see you guys at home.

Christina leaves the table, turns to walk away. The MUSIC STOPS. FEEDBACK from the speakers.

DEVIN (O.S)

Christina, wait!

Christina stops, turns around.

Devin stands on the stage with the microphone. Some of the PATRONS BOO and HOWL.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Sorry guys, but this will only take a minute.

One PATRON yells out.

PATRON #1

You suck!

Another PATRON chimes in.

PATRON #2

Yeah, kill yourself, asshole!

DEVIN

Yes, you're right. I am an asshole. You see, I hurt someone that I really care about.

Christina and Devin's eyes are locked.

Devin steps off the stage. The crowd parts like the Red Sea. Devin makes his way to Christina.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Christina, I'm sorry that I lied to you. I don't expect for you to forgive me. I'm only hoping that you will.

Christina and Devin stand face-to-face.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

I used to think that meaningless relationship and sleeping with random women every other night were all I wanted and needed out of life.

Pete nods in agreement with a smile.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

Then I met you. For along time, I've been living my life in fear. In fear that if I allowed anyone to get close to me that I'd end up hurt.

Devin takes Christina by the hand.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm tired living in fear. I know I'm not the perfect guy, and you're not the perfect woman, but I'm okay with that, because... you're perfect for me.

Christina's eyes tear up.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm not going to lie and say that I can't live without you. I can, but I don't want to, because I think I've fallen in love with you.

Christina stands in shock.

DEVIN (CONT'D)

So, what do you say? Wanna give this a chance to see where it leads?

A tear streaks down Christina cheek. Devin wipes it away with his thumb.

Liza and Pete embrace one another.

Christina gazes into Devin's eyes, gets close to his face.

CHRISTINA

On one condition.

DEVIN

Anything... anything at all... just name it.

CHRISTINA

Take me home.

Devin leans in, passionately kisses Christina on the lips. Patrons in the bar CHEER and APPLAUD. The music CRANKS up.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

SUPER - "ONE YEAR LATER"

Spectators fill the pews in the sanctuary.

Devin and Christina, wearing wedding attire, stand before the PREACHER, 50's, chubby with balding hair.

PREACHER

Dearly Beloved, we are gathered here today to celebrate the union of Devin Wilkes and Christina Carter. What God has put together, let no man put asunder. If there is anyone here who doesn't think these two should be joined together in marriage, speak now or forever hold your peace.

Jeff bursts through the doors of the church. A GASP from spectators.

JEFF

Stop!

CHRISTINA

Jeff?! What are you doing here?

JEFF

You can't do this to me... to us!
I won't allow it.

Jeff makes his way to the front of the church. Devin, Mike and Pete all eye one another.

EXT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Devin, Mike and Pete drag Jeff out of the church, toss him down the steps.

Jeff tumbles all the way down to the sidewalk, where he lies unconscious.

DEVIN
Come on. My wife is waiting for
me.

They go inside.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Christina and Devin stand before the Preacher.

DEVIN
Sorry about that. Where were we?

PREACHER
Do you, Devin Wilkes, take
Christina...

INT. RECEPTION HALL - NIGHT

Colorful balloons and other decorations are on every table.
Caters work behind the line of food.

Devin stands in front of his chair at head table, where
Christina, Pete, Liza, Mike and Tracy are all seated.

DEVIN
I also want to thank my best
friends, Pete, and his lovely wife,
Liza. If it weren't for them, I
would never met my wife. We are
officially family. How awesome is
that?

Spectators CLAP, including Dr. Pace.

Christina glows with a smile from ear-to-ear. Pete raises
his glass. Liza smiles as she feeds the baby a bottle of
milk.

DEVIN (CONT'D)
Right now, I would like to welcome
some very special guests. They're
here to perform a song for my first
dance with my wife. Please join me
in welcoming, The Whispers.

Everyone in the room is stunned. Walter and THE WHISPERS
enter from the back door to APPLAUSE.

Christina covers her mouth in disbelief. Devin takes her
hand, leads her to the floor.

The music PLAYS... The Whispers PERFORM.

Christina and Devin dance.

CHRISTINA

You are full of surprises. How you were able to pull this off?

DEVIN

All I had to do was ask. They are really nice guys.

CHRISTINA

Devin?

DEVIN

And they owed me a favor.

A CHORUS of glasses CLINK.

CHRISTINA

This is the happiest day of my life. I love you, Mr. Wilkes.

DEVIN

I love you, too, Mrs. Wilkes.

CHRISTINA

Mrs. Carter-Wilkes. Just kidding.

DEVIN

You better be.

They kiss. Mike and Tracy join them on the floor. Pete dances with Liza and the baby.

THE END

FADE OUT.