

MIRROR'S EDGE

by

Jordashe Braxton

MIRRORS EDGE: EPISODE I:

FADE IN ON:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME (LEIGHTON HOME) - FOYER - MORNING

We are looking over the second floor bannister, down at the front door of an attractive two-story colonial.

A 40-something African American couple enters the foyer.

MR. HAROLD LEIGHTON is retired military who now works as a security consultant. MRS. AUNJANUE LEIGHTON is an elementary school teacher. Mrs. Leighton has a thermos full of coffee in her hand.

They move through the foyer quickly grabbing... coats, keys, bags...

MR. LEIGHTON
(calling out)
Walter, we're leaving, see
you for dinner.

He opens the front door. He and Mrs. Leighton are gone.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - BEDROOM (WALTER'S BEDROOM) - SAME TIME

We hear popular music blaring from the Ipod dock/clock on the nightstand near the twin-sized bed.

Posters of hot girls and fast cars all along the walls. Movies and video games stacked high off the floor. A few new outfits splayed out on the unmade bed.

Steam dissipates as it leaves the bathroom through the slightly opened door. Ahead there is another door, connecting the bathroom to another room.

In the fogged bathroom mirror we can barely make out a hand grabbing a toothbrush and some toothpaste before disappearing again behind a shower curtain.

EXT. LEIGHTON HOME - SAME TIME

Mr. and Mrs. Leighton step out of the house.

There is a suspicious BLACK MERCEDES BENZ SL550 with tinted windows, parked across the street from the Leighton house. It goes unnoticed.

Mr. Leighton heads down to the mailbox.

INT. BLACK MERCEDES BENZ SL550 - CONTINUOUS

We watch Mr. Leighton drop a few letters in his mailbox, lifts the flag. He heads back towards his driveway, kisses Mrs. Leighton and hops into a WHITE MERCEDES BENZ S600. Mrs. Leighton hops into her SILVER MERCEDES R320 BLUTEC. The two cars pull out of the driveway, heading in opposite directions.

EXT. LEIGHTON HOME - CONTINUOUS

Mrs. Leighton passes the SL550. Three MEN IN BLACK hop from the car, pulling masks on, before we see their faces. MIB 1 puts the mailbox flag down. As the three men head up the driveway of the Leighton house...

At the front door. MIB 2 pulls a small black case from the inside of his jacket pocket, he opens the case, to reveal-- a collection of small tools. Using a few tools MIB 2 opens the front door. MIB 1 enters first, MIB 3 enters next. MIB 2 scans the neighborhood before he enters the house, closing the door behind him.

Unseen by the three men an OLD ASIAN MAN has been watching all this from his large window, directly across from the Leighton house. The man sips his coffee.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - CONTINUOUS

The men pull their guns, swing them around, clearing the rooms on the first floor, talking with eye contact and hand signals. Hearing MUSIC the men head upstairs, slowly, putting suppressors on the tip of their Glock 22's.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - WALTER'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

A TEENAGE BOY dabs cologne on, he pulls his shirt on, dabs more cologne on his clothes.

This is WALTER LEIGHTON, 16, black. Your average teenage boy. Average height, average weight, average looking.

Walter removes his Ipod from the dock, grabs his Ipod headphones and stuffs them in his pocket. He grabs his backpack and opens his bedroom door--

The 3 men stand in the doorway, guns trained on Walter. Three red dots on his forehead.

Walter slams the door closed, dives against the wall, narrowly escaping the hail of bullets that pierce through the car poster on the back of his bedroom door.

The door swings open, almost off its hinges. Walter kicks the door closed, into the men, knocking them back... MIB 1 and MIB 2's guns fall to the floor. MIB 3's gun falls through the bannister to the first level.

Walter runs out the door. He flings his backpack at MIB 1. He dives at MIB 2 and MIB 3. The three of them roll down the stairs.

Walter is the first to pick himself up, he crawls, reaches for--

MIB 1 leaps over the second floor bannister, kicks the gun away from Walter, kicks Walter in the head. A second kick is blocked, Walter pushes MIB 1 away, rises to his feet.

MIB 2 hits him from behind. The fight spills into the living room...

Walter spins, blocks, counters... as the 3 men attack from different angles, at the same time.

MIB 1 crashes onto the coffee table, more punches, kicks, counters. Walter uses pillows, candles, and whatever household items he can use as a weapon.

MIB 3 grabs Walter from behind, choking him.

Through the living room window we have always seen, but now we notice a small group of high school kids, on the corner, waiting. A school bus enters frame, stops, picks up the kids, continues on...

Walter kicks MIB 2, knocking him back, he flips MIB 3 over his shoulder, on top of MIB 1.

Walter rolls into the foyer, picks up MIB 3's gun, spins, and aims at the 3 men as they enter the foyer.

WALTER
That's enough.

He feels blood dripping from his nose. He wipes it away with his sleeve.

WALTER (cont.)
I have to go now. It's my first day at a new school, and I don't want to be late, but it was fun playing with you.

He backs towards the staircase, picks up his backpack. He backs towards the front door. The men inch towards him, opens the door.

WALTER (cont.)
Stay.

He is gone. MIB 1 and MIB 2 quickly head upstairs.

EXT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Walter hurries out of the house, slinging his backpack over his shoulders.

Still in the window watching is the Asian man, with his coffee.

Down at the end of the street the bus has stopped, lights flashing. The last kid hops on. The bus continues on... around the corner...

Walter sees this, he goes into full sprint, free running, across lawns, over fences, up walls, through back yards... Walter is on the sidewalk again. Gun still out, low, concealed.

The school bus has just stopped. Walter slows to a walk, out of breath, but safe. He takes the gun apart, discards the pieces.

From somewhere in the neighborhood we hear a car speeding... screeching... speeding again...

The SL550 makes a hard right onto our street, takes a beeline for Walter.

Walter runs, picking up speed, into full sprint now.

The SL550 picks up speed, almost to Walter. Walter almost to the bus. Walter makes it to the bus.

The SL550 SCREECHES to a halt a few feet behind the bus.

Walter hops on the bus.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

WALTER
Good morning.

BUS DRIVER
Morning.

Walter moves towards the back of the bus. A few rows back there is TEENAGE GIRL sitting alone. Walter shoots her a look of disdain, he searches for a different seat. There are none.

WALTER
Is anybody sitting here?

TEENAGE GIRL
No.

She moves her books from the seat next to her. Walter faces the emergency exit as he takes his backpack off. He sees...

The SL550 behind the school, just on the curb, waiting.

Walter smiles, waves at the car.

EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

The front passenger side door of SL550 opens. MIB 1 hops from the car, pulls his gun and fires, emptying the clip. A sound begins to rise, growing out of the bullets.

The bullets crash through the emergency window. Screams, panic... the sound we hear still rising, until it is all Walter can hear--

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - WALTER'S BEDROOM - DAY

The sound is Walter's Ipod dock/clock. Walter jerks awake, still 3/4ths. He focuses...

On television, a Kung Fu movie. A fight scene.

Walter sits up, turns the television off.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - WALTER'S BATHROOM - LATER

Walter puts his face into the water of a steaming hot shower. Angle from outside of shower. The fog on the shower curtain turns Walter's naked body into a silhouette.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - WALTER'S BEDROOM - LATER

Walter dabs cologne on, he pulls his shirt on, dabs more cologne on his clothes. He removes his Ipod from the dock, stuffs his headphones into his pocket. Walter grabs his backpack and opens his bedroom door...

Harold Leighton stands in the doorway, about to knock.

MR. LEIGHTON

Morning son.

WALTER

Morning sir. You scared me. I thought you were already gone.

MR. LEIGHTON

We're suppose to be, we're running late. You know how your mother is. She'll make everybody late, then blame everybody else for making her late. I just wanted to catch you and wish you--

On cue, Aunjanue Leighton whisks through the upstairs hallway from the master bedroom. She kisses Walter on the cheek.

MRS. LEIGHTON

Morning sweetie, good luck at school today...

(to Harold)

Let's go hun.

And she is down the stairs. Into the kitchen...

WALTER

Thanks mom.

MR. LEIGHTON

--Good luck. Are you ready?

WALTER

I've been in high school before. It's just a different school.

MR. LEIGHTON

It's a better school.

WALTER

Most of the same people, except my friends of course. I don't understand why I couldn't just stay at Dunbar.

MR. LEIGHTON

I'm sure some of your friends will have switched schools too.

WALTER

Just Kam and Dylan.

MR. LEIGHTON

That's all you need, you will get into trouble that way. Look, they added a new school to the district, and when you do that you have redraw the district lines to make it fair for the majority. You'll see your friends again. After school, in the summer, at some football games. This is a good change.

MR. LEIGHTON (cont'd)
A needed change.

WALTER
Yes sir.

Mrs. Leighton exits the kitchen, with her thermos full of coffee.

MRS. LEIGHTON
(calling out)
Let's go, we're running
late hun.

MR. LEIGHTON
It's your fault we're run-
ning late, sweetie.

MRS. LEIGHTON
I'm ready.

Harold smiles 'See, I told you so.'

MR. LEIGHTON
What you do for the next
three years in high school
will determine the type of
college you get into,
which will determine the
type of future you have.
I want you to get into the
mindset of owning a for-
tune 500 hundred company
rather than working for
one.

He heads down the stairs.

MR. LEIGHTON (cont.)
Have a good day at school.

WALTER
Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. Leighton move through the foyer quickly grabbing...
coats, keys, bags...

MR. LEIGHTON
I thought you were ready.

MRS. LEIGHTON
Don't start.
(to Walter)
Walter, I left some money
on the kitchen table.
We're having spaghetti and
salad for dinner tonight.
When you get home I need
you to run back out to the
store and pick up a few
things. I wrote a list.
And don't forget to pick
up your sister from the
Sinclair's, and no she
can't stay over another
night. She's not allowed
to go outside until all of
her homework is finished,
and only one hour of tele-
vision until one of us
gets home.

WALTER
Yes m'am.

MRS. LEIGHTON
Love you, bye.

She exits.

MR. LEIGHTON
See you at dinner.

He exits behind his wife, closing the door behind him.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - WALTER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Walter enters his room, locks his door from the inside, exits again.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - SECOND LEVEL - CONTINUOUS

Walter heads downstairs...

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He enters the LIVING ROOM, searching for his keys.

Through the living room window we can see the same group of high school students waiting for the bus.

The school bus enters frame, picks up the kids, continues on... Walter sees this now, he turns and darts out the front door... Walter returns, grabs his keys from the bowl on the coffee table in the living room. He exits again.

EXT. LEIGHTON HOME - CONTINUOUS

Walter hurries out of the house, slinging his backpack over his shoulders.

The OLD ASIAN MAN we saw in Walter's dream is staring out of his window, drinking his coffee. This time for real.

Down the street the bus has stopped at the corner. The last kid hops on. The bus continues on... around the corner.

Walter goes into full sprint, after the bus. He cuts in between houses, over fences, not nearly as fluid in his running as we saw earlier.

Walter is on the sidewalk again, on another street. He sees the bus stopping in front of another group of kids. The kids pile onto the bus. Walter slows to a walk, hops in line, and hops on the bus.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL BUS - CONTINUOUS

WALTER

Good morning.

BUS DRIVER

Morning.

The doors close. Walter moves down the aisle, searching. There are no seats open. Except one. A few rows back, next to the same TEEN-AGE GIRL we saw earlier.

He name is JESSICA SONG, 16, asian american, beautiful, and honest.

BUS DRIVER (O.C.)
(continued)
Find a seat.

Walter has a look of disdain on his face for Jessica.

WALTER
Is anybody sitting here?

JESSICA
No.

Jessica removes her books from the seat next to her.

Walter removes his backpack and takes a seat. In deep thought now, he's done this before, a sense of deja vu. He turns, looks out the emergency door window, nothing. He turns back.

Through the emergency door window a familiar BLACK SL550 with tinted windows enters frame, turns on to our street and continue on...

The bus turns the corner.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL BUS (MOVING) - LATER

Throughout the bus ride the bus will stop to pick up a few more kids.

Walter pulls his Ipod from his pocket, puts his headphones in his ears, scrolls through his song catalog--

JESSICA
Where are you from?

WALTER
What?

He removes one earpiece from his ear.

JESSICA
Did you transfer from some-
where or are you a Banneker
native?

WALTER

I went to Dunbar last year.

JESSICA

I went to Dunbar last year.
I don't remember you.

WALTER

That sounds about right.

JESSICA

Did we have any classes together?

Walter ignores her.

JESSICA (cont.)

My name is Jessica.

She extends her hand... Walter doesn't take it.

WALTER

Walter.

JESSICA

You excited Walter? I'm pretty excited, glad, about to start a new chapter. I want to leave my last year at Dunbar, at Dunbar.

WALTER

Bad grades?

JESSICA

Good grades, bad judgement. I need a fresh start, meet new people, better people, people like you.

WALTER

If your judgment is bad how do you know I'm a better person.

JESSICA

You're right I don't, but
I have a feeling about you.
I might have bad judgement
when it comes to situa-
tions, but not people.

WALTER

Good judge of people, bad
judge of situations, got
it.

WALTER (cont'd)

Bad memory when it comes
to people you've had at
least one class with
every year sense the
fifth grade. I know who
you are.

He puts his headphones, back in his ear.

Jessica regards Walter, trying to figure out who he is. She taps
him on the shoulder. Walter removes an earpiece again.

JESSICA

Was I horrible to you? I
was a... not a bad person,
just a follower. I
didn't even question. I
just did what everybody
else did. Did my friends
do anything...

WALTER

To me. No.

The bus stops. The kids rise, hop off the bus...

JESSICA

I'm sorry anyway, whatever
that's worth.

WALTER

Yeah, well. New school,
new start. Good luck
with that.

He puts his earpiece in his ear again, rises. Jessica is in the aisle now, two people back. She regards Walter.

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - CAMPUS - CONTINUOUS

The school for the first time in three months is teeming with life.

Benneker students are everywhere... here, there. A cacophony of music coming from the student parking lot.

Students and faculty head inside as first period approaches. Walter steps off the bus, bag slung over his shoulder, music in his ears. He heads in one direction. Jessica steps off the bus. She heads in the opposite direction.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - CAMPUS HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Walter moves through the crowded hallway, class schedule in hand, searching for his locker...

Walter opens his locker, tosses his backpack inside... holding on to a five subject notebook and a few pens.

We have been hearing a voice calling out through the crowd, but we haven't noticed it until now.

VOICE

Walter. Walter.

Walter turns, he sees...

A SKINNY LATIN KID approaching. This is ARTHUR ACOSTA, 15, latin american, homosexual, unsuccessfully trying to hide it.

WALTER

What's up, Artie? How--

ARTHUR

It's Arthur.

WALTER

Oh, okay, Arthur, how have you been? How was your summer? Dumb question.

ARTHUR

It was long.

WALTER

I hear you.

ARTHUR

What do you think? The
new me.

He takes a step back, models. He looks a bit awkward in the slightly over the top hip hop fashion that he dons.

WALTER

What happened to the old
you?

ARTHUR

It was time for a change.

WALTER

You look good, lose the
excess. You'll get laugh-
ed at or robbed, and you
don't want either.

ARTHUR

You're right.

Arthur obviously respects Walter, he quickly removes his excess jewelry, puts it in his pocket, models again. Walter gives him the thumbs up.

The warning bell rings. Everyone knows the first bell is a five minute warning, only a few students hurry off.

WALTER (cont.)

It's good to see you.
Tell your family I said
hello.

ARTHUR

I will, and my mom said
not to be a stranger. You
are welcome by the house
anytime.

WALTER

Thank you.

ARTHUR

I got to get to class before I'm late. I'll probably see you around.

WALTER

Definitely.

Arthur heads down the hall, towards the ninth grade hall, past...

EDWARD STARK, 17, white, a student of sports karate, and a letterman in baseball and basketball. He has been told his entire life that he is the best at everything. And he believes it.

Edward is with two other guys, catching up on their summer.

Walter and Edward make eye contact, it's brief, unimportant.

Behind Walter, in the background two KIDS approach, one white, one black. The white kid SNATCHES a piece of paper from the black kid.

Walter closes his locker. Someone SNATCHES Walter's schedule. It is the white kid, DYLAN PAULUS, 16, chubby.

KAMDEN BARNES, 16, black. The good looking one. He throws his arms around Walter.

KAMDEN

Look who cleaned up. You must be trying to land a girlfriend this year.

DYLAN

I never thought you would cut your hair.

KAMDEN

Not just the hair. Clothes, braces, earrings-- your mom let you get earrings...

DYLAN

Two.

KAMDEN

And is that dirt on your chin.

WALTER

Yes, it is, don't you wish you could grow some.

KAMDEN

Don't need to when you're this sexy.

DYLAN

Walt, we have second lunch together.

KAMDEN

Lunch would be the first thing you noticed.

(takes the schedules)

And you don't have second lunch with Walt. We...

(me and Walt)

Have second lunch together. I've got third period with you.

DYLAN

What is that?

KAMDEN

Gym.

DYLAN

I hate gym.

WALTER

Who hates gym?

DYLAN

I do.

WALTER

Why is that?

DYLAN

Because I'm fat.

KAMDEN

Well, you need gym to graduate so you better work on that unless you want to be the only eleventh grader in tenth grade gym next year.

WALTER

Or have to make it up in summer school. Can you take gym in summer school?

KAMDEN

I don't think so.

He hands Dylan and Walter their schedule back.

Dylan and Walter go their separate ways.

KAMDEN

Walt, I'll see you at lunch.

The final bell rings.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Walter enters the classroom, the seats almost all occupied.

The GEOMETRY TEACHER is in the middle role call. She calls out names, the students answer, "here," or "present."

GEOMETRY TEACHER

Welcome to Geometry. I'm glad you decided to join us.

WALTER
I'm sorry, I had trouble
finding the classroom.

GEOMETRY TEACHER
Now you've found it.

Walter's classmates chuckle.

GEOMETRY TEACHER (cont.)
What is your name?

WALTER
Walter Leighton.

GEOMETRY TEACHER
Have a seat Walter Leigh-
ton.

Walter pushes his schedule in his notebook, searches for a seat.
The only seat available is of course the one near...

...Jessica. She looks up from her book, smiles. Walter takes a
seat.

WALTER
You again.

JESSICA
What is your problem with
me? What did I do to you?

The two converse, in low voices, so not to be heard.

WALTER
What happened to you?

JESSICA
What?

WALTER
What made you want to
change?

WALTER (cont'd)
 What life altering event
 led you to want to be a
 better person and want
 to be around better
 people?

The Geometry Teacher has been hearing whispers this entire time.

GEOMETRY TEACHER
 (turning back)
 You are off to an excel-
 lent start Walter Leigh-
 ton, and I see you have
 a friend. The two of you,
 out of my classroom, go
 stand in the hall...

Jessica and Walter stand and exit the classroom...

GEOMETRY TEACHER (cont.)
 And no talking.
 (to Walter)
 Strike two Mr. Leighton.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

The classroom door is open. Inside we can see the Geometry Teacher going over is lesson with the class.

Walter and Jessica stand on either side of the door, staring out.

JESSICA
 This summer a group of us
 went to a college party
 with my boyfriend's bro-
 ther. We got wasted, none
 of us were okay to drive,
 but we thought we were, so
 we hopped in the car and
 headed home.

WALTER
 Who was driving?

JESSICA

(a bit hesitant)

I was. I had the green light, but I didn't see the two guys on their bikes, crossing the street. I missed the first guy, but I hit the second one. I was told he died on the way to the hospital.

WALTER

He did, and you're lying. You weren't driving.

JESSICA

Yes, I was.

WALTER

Rumor has it that your boyfriend's brother, the golden armed QB with the full ride to wherever he wanted to go was the one driving, and so he wouldn't lose his scholarship they needed a fall guy, or girl. You were probably the only other one with a license or learners, so you took the fall.

JESSICA

Those are just rumors.

WALTER

I started them.

JESSICA

Why would you do--

WALTER

The guy you hit, his name was Nathan Acosta, he was a good friend of mine.

A best friend. The guy
you missed his name is
Walter Leighton.

Jessica immediately knows who he is.

WALTER (cont.)

So everybody thinks they
are rumors, but we know the
truth. The murderer walks,
now he's at Florida play-
ing football, probably not
giving this a second
thought. You got what, be-
cause you're a minor, pro-
bation, community ser-
vice hours. I got a bro-
ken leg, and the one that
deserved better than all
of us. He dies. Wow!

We see the teacher approaching the hallway now.

JESSICA

I'm so--

The Geometry Teacher pokes her head into the hallway. Walter and Jessica straighten up, eyes front. As if they were never talking. The Geometry Teacher regards them.

GEOMETRY TEACHER

You can come in now.

Jessica enters the classroom, Walter walks in--

GEOMETRY TEACHER (cont'd)

Not you. When the bell
rings. You can come in
and get your bags. We'll
try this again tomorrow.

The Geometry Teacher turns back, enters the classroom. Walter stands alone. He slides down the wall, takes a seat on the floor.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - BATHROOM - LATER

Edward is at the SINK washing his hands.

He is with one of the friends that we saw him with earlier. We will call him MACKENZIE. Mackenzie is at the corner urinal.

EDWARD

I have Mrs. Maurer for history.

MACKENZIE

Mrs. Maurer? She's still teaching. I thought she was dead.

EDWARD

She looks like she has one foot in the grave.

MACKENZIE

I had her for History last year.

He flushes, heads to the sink, washes his hands.

EDWARD

I think she teaches ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade history.

MACKENZIE

She was probably around when all that history occurred that's why she is so good at it.

They grab paper towels on the way out. Walter enters the bathroom, running into Edward, stepping on his shoes.

WALTER

I'm sorry, sorry.

Edward inadvertently flexes, smiles.

EDWARD

Don't worry about it they're just...

Walter grabs a paper towel, kneels, wipes Edwards shoes.

EDWARD (cont.)

Shoes.

Walter pops back up...

WALTER

Sorry.

He rushes into the handicap stall, locks the door behind him.

EDWARD

Did he just?

MACKENZIE

I think he did.

He and Edward exit, sharing a laugh.

IN HANDICAP BATHROOM STALL - Walter cowering alone in the stall, this is not how he pictured his first day in a new school.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - LATER

Walter sits in the back of the class, taking notes.

The HISTORY TEACHER goes through his lesson in a comical way.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - LATER

Students hanging out, eating, conversing in this overcrowded cafeteria. Walter and Kamden sit across from each other. Kamden is looking around the cafeteria.

WALTER

What are you looking for?

KAMDEN

I have this girl in my second period. Oh... my... goodness... I was hoping we had lunch with her...

Walter casually glances up, sees...

Edward, Mackenzie, and another FRIEND (PACEY), pick with Arthur in the lunch line, not physically touching him, but standing over him, intimidating him with words.

KAMDEN (cont.)

I found out she is a quarter black, a quarter American Indian, a quarter French, and a quarter Spanish...

Walter continues to monitor the situation in the lunch line.

KAMDEN (cont.)

I don't think you understand bro, this chick is a quarter of everything sexy-- and you're not paying any attention to me...

He turns back, sees, Edward, Mackenzie, and Pacey, exit the line.

KAMDEN (cont.)

Because you're too busy watching homo boy flirt.

WALTER

Watch your mouth. That's Nate's brother.

KAMDEN

That doesn't make him any less gay.

WALTER

Show some respect.

KAMDEN

Nate didn't even acknowledge him, so why should I. I'm not trying to spend my high school career honoring Nate's memory by cozying up to his gay little brother.

KAMDEN (cont'd)
 I will honor him another
 way.

Edward, Mackenzie, and Pacey walk past. Walter diverts his eyes to his plate.

MACKENZIE
 What's up shoe shine?

They continue on... take a seat at a table where a FEMALE FRIEND is waiting. Her name is MELISSA, Mackenzie's fraternal twin sister.

KAMDEN
 What was that about?

WALTER
 Nothing.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - LATER

Tenth grade gym. A group of about twenty students dressed in the school colors, orange tops and blue shorts.

The GYM TEACHER leads the group in a few stretching exercises.

Walter is not so limber.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - MOMENTS LATER

The same group, running laps around the football field. Walter is near the back of the pack, lacking stamina.

We hear the school bell rings. Bringing us to...

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - QUAD AREA - DAY

Students exit the building, head towards the buses. The upperclassmen with cars, head towards the student parking lot.

In the quad there is a large group of kids surrounding two fighters.

Walter exits the school, heading towards the buses. He hears the commotion, glances over...

...Through the crowd Edward stands tall, in his karate stance. He swings, connects to the face of...

...Arthur. Arthur hits the ground, bleeding...

...Walter sees this, he dashes towards the fight, past Jessica...

...Walter sheds his backpack and jacket. As if he were Clark Kent becoming Superman. Walter throws his jacket over Edward's face and tackles him, swinging wildly, connecting...

Mackenzie and Pacey pull Walter off of Edward, to the ground. Edward stands. Walter stands.

EDWARD

You...

(smiles)

I remember you, you're my shoe shine boy. You here to save your boyfriend.

Walter rushes towards Edward. Edward puts a roundhouse kick into Walter's chest.

EDWARD (cont.)

I'm not going to be nice this time.

Walter breathes, absorbs the painful blow, gathers himself, attacks again. Edward counters, attacks. Walter staggers. He throws more punches, landing none of them. Edward counters after each attack, then he attacks...

In the midst of the fighting a necklace that Walter has always been wearing seen him wearing, flies through the air and in front of a STUDENT. The student puts his foot over the necklace.

Jessica who has arrived in the crowd, sees this. She keeps one eye on the student, and one eye on the fight...

Jessica watches intently, dissecting Edwards fighting style.

Some ADMINISTRATORS make their way through the crowd.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR

Break it up! Break it up!

Walter, already in motion... swings... connects a punch to Edward's face. Edward is stunned, briefly. He is back on the attack, but the lead administrator steps in quickly.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR (cont.)

Walk away.

(to another administrator)

Take him to my office.

EDWARD

You're gonna pay for that.

(spits blood)

Watch your back, and your boyfriend's too.

He grabs his things from the ground and is led away.

The other administrators help Arthur off the ground, lead him to the nurses office.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR

(to crowd)

Get to your buses unless every last one of you want to be suspended.

The crowd disperses. The lead Administrator walks Walter towards the office.

The Student we saw earlier, discretely picks up the necklace about to put it in his pick, when Jessica grabs his arm.

JESSICA

Excuse me, that's not yours.

STUDENT

What's it to you little girl? It doesn't belong to you either.

In two moves, Jessica puts the student's arm behind his back, he is in obvious pain. And no one notices.

STUDENT (cont.)
 Okay, okay. Take it.

He hands her the necklace. Jessica releases her hold on his hand.

JESSICA
 Thank you.

She walks away, heads towards her bus.

Once all students are on their buses. The buses pull off. There is a traffic jam of buses and cars in the parking lot.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - OFFICE - LATER

Walter sits in a chair facing the larger counter in the secretary area, battered and beaten. He searches for his necklace.

Behind the counter is a GIRL. This is the "quarter of everything sexy," girl Kamden was talking about, and he wasn't exaggerating. She could be Halle Berry's much younger and better looking sister.

Her name is TEGAN GABNER, 17. She is an office aide.

Edward and his PARENTS exit the Principal's office, along with the Lead Administrator we now know as PRINCIPAL KEITH MCDANIELS. The four of them now stand over Walter.

EDWARD
 (sincere)
 I just wanted to apologize
 to you for picking a fight.
 I know better, and maybe
 we can put this behind us
 and move on.

He extends his hand. Walter reluctant... he takes it. Edwards squeezes his hand slightly, gives him a smirk. Walter knows now the apology wasn't sincere now.

Edward and his parents exit. As Mr. Leighton enters the office.

PRINCIPAL MCDANIELS
 Mr. Leighton?

MR. LEIGHTON

Yes.

PRINCIPAL MCDANIELS

Pleasure to meet you.

MR. LEIGHTON

You also.

PRINCIPAL MCDANIELS

My office is just in back.

He leads Mr. Leighton towards his office...

MR. LEIGHTON

(to Walter)

Let's go.

Walter hops up, follows Principal McDaniels. Mr. Leighton follows him. Walter glances over at Tegan, doing paperwork. She smiles. He smiles back.

INT. WHITE MERCEDES BENZ S600 SEDAN - DAY

Walter sits in the passenger seat, head against the window. Mr. Leighton is behind the wheel, he glances over at Walter.

MR. LEIGHTON

You know we have to tell
you mom.

WALTER

Yes sir.

MR. LEIGHTON

And you know she is going
to be mad.

WALTER

Yes sir.

MR. LEIGHTON

I just want you to know
that I'm not mad at you.
I'm proud of you for stick-
ing up for you friend.

WALTER

But I got my as... butt
kicked.

MR. LEIGHTON

We'll worry about that la-
ter. The first step is
being brave enough to
stand up for yourself.
The second step is winning.
As long as you're fighting
to defend yourself, or a
friend. You will never be
in trouble with me.

WALTER

Thank you sir.

MR. LEIGHTON

Now, your mother on the
other hand, completely
different story.

Walter puts his head against the window again, staring out.

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Leightons eat dinner at a cherry oak table, under the dim light-
ing of the Imperial Palais Chandelier above them.

Mr. and Mrs. Leighton sit at the opposite heads of the table.

Walter sits in between them, opposite, SOPHIA LEIGHTON, 7, wise be-
yond her years.

MRS. LEIGHTON

How was everybody's day?

Walter and Mr. Leighton share a glance.

MR. LEIGHTON

Good.

SOPHIA

I didn't learn anything in
school today.

MRS. LEIGHTON
Don't talk with your mouth
with your full.

Sophia swallows the remnants of her food.

SOPHIA
I didn't learn anything in
school today. The teach-
ers didn't teach me any-
thing.

WALTER
You're in the first grade.

SOPHIA
So.

WALTER
What are you really sup-
pose to learn?

MRS. LEIGHTON
Well, sweetie, you're not
really suppose to learn
much on your first day.
It's more for introduct-
ions.

SOPHIA
If you say so.

MRS. LEIGHTON
I do.
(to Walter)
How was your day sweetie?

WALTER
I got suspended.

MRS. LEIGHTON
You got suspended? On the
first day of school, you
got suspended? For what?

WALTER
Fighting.

MRS. LEIGHTON
For fighting...

MR. LEIGHTON
Calm down Aunjanue, it's
not so bad.

MRS. LEIGHTON
I will not calm down, Ha-
rold, our son just got
suspended on the first
day of school for fight-
ing. It is so bad.

SOPHIA
You're in trouble.

WALTER
Shut up.

MRS. LEIGHTON
Don't tell your sister to
shut up.
(to Harold)
And why are you so calm,
we taught our children
better than fighting.
Did you know about this?

MR. LEIGHTON
The principal called me.
Just let the boy explain
himself.

Mrs. Leighton takes a seat, fuming, watching Walter.

MRS. LEIGHTON
Explain.

WALTER
Some guy, he was beating
on Arti... Arthur.

MRS. LEIGHTON
And who is Arthur?

MR. LEIGHTON
The Acosta kid.

WALTER
Nate's little brother.

Her fuming dies, turning into compassion.

WALTER (cont.)
I have his back. I will
have his back. May I be
excused?

MR. LEIGHTON
Yes.

MRS. LEIGHTON
Take your food with you.

Walter grabs his plate, he grabs one of the dinner trays lined up
against the wall on his way out.

SOPHIA
Can I be excused too?

MRS. LEIGHTON
No, you can't finish eat-
ing.

Mr. Leighton watches Mrs. Leighton.

MRS. LEIGHTON (cont.)
Don't look at me like that.
I didn't know he had a
little brother.

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - WALTER'S BEDROOM - LATER

Remnants of Walter's dinner sit on the dinner tray at the foot of
his bed.

Walter is in the bathroom doorway doing push ups, pull ups, crunch-
es, etc. With the, "all in one, as see on Tv," bar.

Walter is training getting ready for a fight that he knows is coming when he gets back to school

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - WALTER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

On television, a random television show.

Walter shadow boxes, not paying attention to television, focus, intense. We can hear the doorbell coming from downstairs.

MR. LEIGHTON (O.C.)

Walter you have a visitor.

Walter grabs a shirt from his bed, pulls it on.

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Walter head down the steps to the front door, passing Mr. Leighton on his way to the door.

MR. LEIGHTON

(barely audible)

She's cute.

Walter opens the front door, Jessica stands on the stoop. Walter steps outside.

EXT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Walter closes the door behind him.

WALTER

What are you doing here?
How did you know where I
lived.

JESSICA

I live right across the
street. Just want to re-
turn this to you.

She opens her hand. It's Walter's necklace, he takes it from her, almost as if she wasn't allowed to touch it.

WALTER

Thank you.

Jessica turns back, walks away. Walter turns back, heading inside.

JESSICA

I noticed that the guy
you were fighting is in-
to martial arts.

WALTER

I noticed that too.

JESSICA

He's a sports karate fight-
er...

WALTER

So what.

JESSICA

That means that his fight-
ing style is bound to the
rules and regulations of
a karate match and not the
anything goes, free for
all of a street fight.
Can I show you something?

WALTER

I'd rather not.

JESSICA

It will only take a minute.
Please.

Walter steps down in the grass with Jessica.

JESSICA (cont.)

Try to hit me.

WALTER

What? I'm not going to
hit you, I might not like
you, but you are a girl
and I won't hit you.

JESSICA

Just try.

Walter stands there, thinking, he pulls back and swings, pulling the punch. Jessica pivots around Walter's punch... behind him now, she flings him over her shoulder, ending on one knee with a fist in his face.

WALTER

What was that?

Jessica stands up, helps Walter up.

JESSICA

Let me show you. What you want to do is step forward with you right foot and put your weight on it leaving your left foot to pivot. The most important thing to remember is to make sure that you leave your upper body in place until the last minute, then pivot, avoiding an attack.

WALTER

Right foot forward... put my...

JESSICA

Weight on it...

WALTER

And pivot with my left foot, leaving my upper body in place.

He clearly doesn't have it.

JESSICA

Try it again. Again. Again...

WALTER

Don't tell me what to do. How is this suppose to help me?

JESSICA

Like I said sports karate is limited by rules. Sparring in sports karate is designed to contribute to your mind set that there are controlled or pulled attacks, timed rounds, rest rules, or mercy. Sparring in sports karate is like playing tag, where you face your opponent, he attacks, you counter, you attack, he counters. A street fight does not work like that. Attacks will happen from every angle with not intention of waiting for a counter or an attack. Your goal is to make sure your opponent can't move anymore. If you can throw the first punch do it, do not even think about what comes next just use the stepping method and throw the first punch.

Throughout this Walter is still working on stepping forward and pivoting. He seems to be getting the hang of it.

WALTER

I got it.

JESSICA

You sure.

WALTER

Yes.

JESSICA

I'm going to attack you.

WALTER

Go for it.

JESSICA
I'm not holding back,
like you did.

WALTER
Okay.

JESSICA
You ready.

WALTER
Yeah.

Walter steps in as Jessica attacks, he does everything right, steps forward, pivots keeping his upper body in place until the last minute, except... Jessica hits him in the face. He's bleeding.

WALTER (cont.)
Aaahhh!

He wipes his nose on his shirt sleeve.

WALTER (cont.)
I don't get it. What did
I do wrong?

JESSICA
Nothing. You just need to
keep practicing so you can
better judge the speed of
your opponents attacks.

WALTER
Thank you for making me
bleed.

JESSICA
You're welcome. I'll see
you at school tomorrow.

WALTER
I'm suspended until friday.

JESSICA
I'll see you on friday.

She turns away, walks towards her house.

WALTER
I don't get it.

Jessica turns back.

WALTER (cont.)
I don't like you.

JESSICA
I know.

WALTER
Then why are you helping me?

JESSICA
Goodnight.

She turns back, heads across the street.

JESSICA (cont.)
Keep practicing.

Walter enters his home. Lucy crosses the street...

INT. SANG HOUSE - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Jessica enters the house, closes the door, turns to see...

The same OLD ASIAN MAN, mid 60's, in great shape. He looks like a modernized version of a kung fu master that you would see in a Kung Fu movie.

His name is LI-JUNE-SANG a martial arts master of four different martial arts styles (9th Dan Taekwondo, Zui quan, 9th Dan Wushu, and Guangzhou Wingchun). He's from Guangzhou.

The american version of his name is Hal Li. His english is pretty good, but in his home he speaks Cantonese. So this entire conversation is in Cantonese.

HAL
What are you doing?

JESSICA

Nothing I just needed some fresh air. I went for a walk.

HAL

Don't lie to me.

JESSICA

I'm sorry grandfather. There is this guy that I go to school with and he had some trouble in sch...

HAL

I saw you helping him.

JESSICA

You were spying on me.

HAL

Yes, if that is what you want to call it. It is very unwise to try and teach someone martial arts as a quick way out of a situation it only leads to more trouble for them, if they are unwilling to train.

JESSICA

I had to help him. I owe him that.

She hangs her jacket up on the coat stand, heads upstairs.

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - WALTER'S BEDROOM - LATER

Walter, lying across his bed. On television. Walter as always, watching a Kung Fu movie. He sees something, pauses it, rewinds to watch it again. It's the 'stepping method' the method Jessica taught him the other day.

Walter hops out of bed, he begins practicing the stepping method, not quite getting, getting frustrated, but not giving up.

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - WALTER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Walter is fast asleep, he wakes up, hops out of bed. The Ipod deck reads 4AM. Walter heads to the bathroom closes the door behind him.

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - WALTER/SOPHIA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Walter uses the bathroom, flushes, walks over to the sink, washes his hands. Walter heads to the shower, sees...

The bathroom door is now wide open. He closes the door, turns the water to the shower on, adjusts the shower head, tests the water.

Walter removes his clothes, wraps himself in a towel, heads back to the sink, brushes his teeth, looking into the mirror. He bends to spit the toothpaste out, washing his face. When he looks into the mirror again. He sees...

MIB 3 is looking back at him. Walter throws an elbow that is blocked. MIB 3 puts Walter in a choke hold, Walter fights it, putting his feet on the sink. He pushes off, slamming himself and MIB 3 into the wall. The hold is broken. Walter is breathing heavily, holding his neck, but he is up first. He goes to kick MIB 3 in the face, but it is blocked by...

MIB 2 with his foot. MIB 2 and Walter trade punches, kicks, counters, etc. MIB 1 who is also now in the bathroom, gets in the fight, trading counters and attacks.

Now MIB 3 is up and into the fight. Walter and all 3 MIB trade attacks and counters, etc. Walter gets the better of them, but taking his share of shots. Again Walter uses everything he can as a weapon.

In the midst of fighting Walter pulls MIB 3's mask off. It is Edward. Walter hesitates and that leaves an opening. MIB 2 kicks him in the chest. MIB 1 and MIB 3 (Edward) are on the attack. A kick in the face by MIB 1 and Walter is down on his knees, Edward grabs his head, smacks it against the toilet, Edward dumps his head into the toilet, drowning him.

INSIDE THE TOILET -

Walter fighting to free himself, trying to hold his breath.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - WALTER/SOPHIA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Walter reaches for the handle but his hand is smacked away.

INSIDE THE TOILET -

Walter is still drowning, struggling, breathing now, water filling his lungs.

INT. LEIGHTON HOME - WALTER/SOPHIA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Walter reaches for the toilet to flush, his hand is smacked away, he fakes reaching, smacks MIB 1's hand away, then flushes the toilet.

INSIDE THE TOILET -

The water goes down. Walter takes a few deep breaths. When--

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - WALTER'S BEDROOM -

Walter snaps awake, gasping for air, wiping his face. He hops out of bed, looks into the bathroom, turns the light on, enters, closes the door behind him.

The Ipod dock by his bedside reads 4AM.

We watch the bathroom door slowly creek open, because of a slight breeze.

EXT. LEIGHTON HOOUSE - DAY

Walter exits the house, he sees Hal, as always staring out his window, coffee in hand. Mr. and Mrs. Leighton exit the house, Sophia a few steps behind them. She hops in the car with Mrs. Leighton.

SOPHIA

Bye Walter. Try not to
get into any fights.

Walter waves her off. Mr. and Mrs. Leighton's cars pull off. Mr. Leighton blows his horn. Walter waves...

He arrives at the bus stop as does Jessica who we glimpsed coming out of the Sang home, when Walter was crossing the street. They stand side by side now.

WALTER

Of course you live right
across the street from me.

JESSICA

Of course I do. I moved
in with my grandparents,
so I could go to Banneker--

WALTER

Thank you for finding my
necklace.

JESSICA

You're welcome.

The two stare ahead. The bus arrives. Jessica steps on. Walter
steps on the bus last. The doors close behind him.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Walter, Dylan, and Kamden are standing around Walter's locker.

KAMDEN

I wish I was there. Do
you know that in all the
years I've known you. I
have never seen you in a
fight.

DYLAN

Not true, fifth grade.

KAMDEN

Yes.

DYLAN

What was her name?

WALTER

You're funny.

KAMDEN

I don't know...
(to Walter)
But I know she whipped
your ass.

WALTER

She didn't whip my ass.
I didn't fight her back.
Unlike your dad, my dad
told me never to hit a
girl even if she de-
serves it. If I did I
would have to answer to
him.

KAMDEN

And unlike your dad, my
dad is a real man and
he taught me not to hit
women, unless they act
like a man.

WALTER

Your dad sounds like a
real man.

KAMDEN

Who's ass got whipped?

DYLAN

You know there's a thing
going on around school a-
bout you.

WALTER

A thing like what?

DYLAN

Because you stuck up for
Nate's brother, and
everybody knows about him.
People think you're gay.

KAMDEN

Not to mention that Ed-
ward keeps calling him
your boyfriend.

DYLAN

Speak of the devil.

Edward approaches.

KAMDEN

Heads up, let's go Walt.

Walter peeks out from behind his locker, sees...

Kamden and Dylan walk away.

Walter closes his locker... But it doesn't close, a notebook, sticking out from the locker prevents it from closing.

Walter tries... again... panicked now...

Now Edward is at his side. He pushes the notebook inside and closes the locker.

EDWARD

There you go.

WALTER

Thank you.

EDWARD

Glad I could help. Welcome back to school. I saw your boyfriend a earlier, with his little cast. Had a nice little talk with him.

Walter turns to walk away. Edward steps in front of him.

EDWARD (cont.)

Leaving so soon. I just want to talk to you. How long did you get suspended for? What's today? Friday. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and today is Friday. You were suspended for three days? I only got two.

EDWARD (cont'd)
Wonder why that is, must
be because of that hit you
got on me when I wasn't
looking. It was a good
hit, stung a little.

He rubs his face where he took the shot from Walter. Walter
flinches a bit.

EDWARD (cont.)
You seem a little jumpy,
that usually happens when
you don't get enough
sleep. Get some rest. It
is going to be a long year.

He puts his hand on Walter's shoulder as he walks away... past Dylan
and Kamden.

WALTER
Thank you for having my
back.

KAMDEN
What are you talking a-
about? I had your back
if it got physical.

WALTER
You look like you had my
back. Standing way over
there.

DYLAN
I had your back too.

WALTER
And you looked like he
looked having my back.

The three of them head down the hall...

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - HOME ECONOMICS CLASSROOM - LATER

Walter sits in one of the tall chairs in his home Ec class, next to his Economics partner. The class is learning to bake a cake.

Tegan is at the opposite side of the classroom, she casually glances up, sees...

Walter watching her, eye contact, he smiles. Tegan smiles.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - HOME ECONOMICS CLASSROOM - LATER

The bell rings. The students pack up, and exit.

Tegan exits and Walter exit at the same time, almost preventing each other from leaving the classroom.

WALTER

Excuse me.

TEGAN

You're the one people
are talking about right.

WALTER

I'm not gay.

TEGAN

I haven't heard that rumor.
I heard the one about you
fighting with the basket-
ball team.

WALTER

The basketball team? The
whole team?

TEGAN

I don't know.

WALTER

I wish it was the whole
team, it would have made
getting my butt kicked a
little more manly. It
was just one guy.

TEGAN
Maybe you should stick
to the story of the whole
team.

WALTER
Maybe.

The bell rings.

TEGAN
My name is Tegan.

WALTER
Tegan what?

TEGAN
Tegan Gabner.

Walter extends his hand.

WALTER
Walter Leighton. It was
nice to meet you Tegan
Gabner.

TEGAN
You too Walter Leighton.
See you tomorrow.

INT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - MAIN HALL - CONTINUOUS

Tegan heads down the hall. Walter heads up the spiral staircase of
the main hall.

At the top of the stairs, Edward stands with a group of people.

Walter turns back around and heads back down stairs...

At the bottom of the stairs, Arthur is heading upstairs.

Walter turns Arthur around and leads him downstairs. Arthur has a
cast over his right wrist.

ARTHUR

What are you doing, my
locker is upstairs.

WALTER

Mine too. How is your
arm doing?

ARTHUR

It hurts like hell. My
mom told me you called
the house to make sure
I was alright.

WALTER

I was meaning to stop by,
just never got the chance.

ARTHUR

I appreciate the phone
call. Don't have a lot
of friends. And thank
you for helping me.

WALTER

I wish I could've actually
been of some help.

ARTHUR

If it weren't for you I
would have had more than
a broken wrist.

WALTER

Just watch your back from
now on. I'm not trying
to get my butt kicked a-
gain.

ARTHUR

I will, and you do the same.

The two go their separate ways...

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

The bell rings. Students and teachers spill out of the building...

Walter exits the building, quickly, scanning again for Edward or his friends. He makes a beeline for the buses. Passing...

...Kamden, who is heading for his own bus.

WALTER

What are you doing this weekend?

KAMDEN

We're going to the game tonight, right?

WALTER

No. I don't know... Yes, I'm going to the game.

KAMDEN

Come pick me up.

WALTER

I'll see if I can get one of my parent's cars.

KAMDEN

Yes, good idea, because we can't have any of these ladies seeing us riding around in, "the mini van." What sixteen year old rides around in a mini van?

WALTER

One that got it for free from his parents, and thinks that free is good enough not to complain. I have an idea, how about we take your car instead. Oh, wait, you don't have one.

KAMDEN

Whatever. I'll tell Dylan to meet me at my house so you only have to make one stop. The game starts at like eight.

He hops on the bus. Walter hops on his bus.

INT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Walter moves through the foyer, putting on his jacket, grabs a seat of keys, not his own. He walks towards the stairs.

WALTER

(calling out)

Sophia, let's go.

(towards kitchen)

Mom, I'm taking your car.

MRS. LEIGHTON (O.C.)

No, you're not.

Walter puts the keys back in the bowl, grabs another set, again not his own.

WALTER

(towards upstairs)

Dad, can I take your car.

MR. LEIGHTON (O.C.)

No, you may not. We gave you the van so you would have your own car.

WALTER

But it's a mini van. What sixteen year old drives around in a mini van.

MR. LEIGHTON (O.C.)

Would you rather walk?

WALTER

No sir.

He puts the keys back and grabs a third set, this time his own.

WALTER (cont.)
(calling out)
Sophia let's go.

He grabs a girls jacket. Sophia comes out of her room, heading downstairs.

SOPHIA
I'm coming. I'm coming.

WALTER
You're making me late.

SOPHIA
Sorreee.

Walter tosses her jacket to her. Sophia puts it on.

SOPHIA (cont.)
Bye mom and dad.

MR./MRS. LEIGHTON
(from different rooms)
By sweetie, have fun at
the game.

SOPHIA
We will.

WALTER
I will.

MRS. LEIGHTON
Walter, if you're running
late call us and let us
know.

Walter opens the front door...

WALTER
Yes ma'm.
(to Sophia)
Let's go.

Sophia zips her jacket up. As she and Walter exit the house...

EXT. LEIGHTON HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Walter and Sophia head down on the street to a 2005 HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L that we have always seen parked near the mailbox, but have never notice until now.

SOPHIA

I don't understand how-
come I can't go to the
game with you.

WALTER

Because you want to go
to Carly's house.

SOPHIA

No, I don't.

Walter hops in behind the wheel, Sophia hops in on the passenger side.

WALTER

Yes, you do.

SOPHIA

No, I don't. I want to
go to the game with you.

WALTER

Well you're not going to
the game with me you're
going to Carly's house.

INT. HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L - CONTINUOUS

Walter turns his car around in the middle of the street and heads down the street.

WALTER (cont.)

Any other time you want to
go to Carly's house. I'm
going to the store. You
want to go to Carly's
house. I want to go to
the mall. Drop you off at
Carly's house first.

WALTER (cont'd)
Now I'm taking you to Carly's house, now you don't want to go.

SOPHIA
I want to go to the game.

WALTER
Well, I'm not taking you to the game. Maybe I'll take to one this year. Maybe, but not this one.

Looking down the street, Walter sees. As do we...

...Someone walking down the street, cold... It is Jessica. Walter continues on down the street, signal on, stops at the stop sign on the corner, doesn't turn, just sits there.

SOPHIA
What are you doing? Why aren't we moving? Are you thinking about taking me to the game.

WALTER
No.

Sophia looks back at Jessica, walking.

SOPHIA
Is that your girlfriend?

WALTER
Yes, that's my girlfriend so I'm making her walk.

SOPHIA
You don't have to get smart. I'm only seven.

WALTER
Now, you're only seven.

SOPHIA
Do you know her?

WALTER
We go to school together.

SOPHIA
Are you giving her a ride?

WALTER
No.

SOPHIA
Then why did we stop?

She takes another look back at Jessica, getting closer.

SOPHIA (cont.)
She's pretty.

WALTER
Is she?

SOPHIA
You know she is.

Sophia unbuckles her seatbelt, hops out of the car.

WALTER
Sophia, what are you doing?
Get back in the car.

SOPHIA
(calling out)
Hey, you. Do you need a
ride?

JESSICA
No, I'm okay, thank you.

SOPHIA
No, you're not, it's kind
of cold out here get in
the car. We'll give you
a ride...

WALTER

Sophia, get in the car or
I'm leaving you.

SOPHIA

If you leave me. I will
tell dad.

(to Jessica)

Are you going to the foot-
ball game?

JESSICA

Do I know you?

SOPHIA

My name is Sophia. You
don't know me, but you go
to school with my brother.

(to Walter)

Get out of the car, you
are being rude.

Walter unbuckles his seatbelt.

WALTER

Now you're never going to
a game.

He hops out of the car.

INT. HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L - MOVING - LATER

Jessica sits in the backseat, behind Sophia. Walter watches her in
the rearview mirror throughout the conversation.

SOPHIA

...I wanted to go to the
game too, but he says no
and doesn't have a reason.
What's your name?

JESSICA

(amused)

It's Jessica.

SOPHIA
Jessica, do you have any
brothers or sisters?

JESSICA
No.

SOPHIA
If you did have any bro-
thers or sisters, say,
that were seven years old.
Would you take them to the
football game with you?
The first game of the year.

WALTER
You're not going to the
game.

SOPHIA
How old are you Jessica?

JESSICA
I'm sixteen.

SOPHIA
That's funny, Walter is
sixteen too.

WALTER
Sophia, stop it.

SOPHIA
What? I'm just saying you
are sixteen too.

WALTER
No, that's not what you're
just saying.

Walter stops the minivan, in front of a two story red bricked Victo-
rian, in a different suburban neighborhood.

WALTER (cont.)
Get out of my car. I will
pick you up after the game.

WALTER (cont'd)
Say hi to Mr. and Mrs.
Sinclair for me and every-
body else.

SOPHIA
Everybody else.

WALTER
Keep talking.

SOPHIA
By Jessica, it was nice
meeting you.

JESSICA
(still amused)
It was nice meeting you
too.

WALTER
I'll call you when I'm on
my way, be ready.

SOPHIA
I will.

Sophia heads towards the house. She leaves the passenger side door wide open.

WALTER
(sarcastic)
Thank you for closing my
door.

SOPHIA
(sarcastic back)
You're welcome.

Sophia knocks on the door, the door opens. Sophia enters. The LADY waves, Walter waves back. Then the Lady is gone...

WALTER

Would you mind, sitting in
the front, so it doesn't
make me feel like your
chauffeur.

JESSICA

Yes, of course.

She hops out of the backseat and sits in the front passenger seat,
she closes the door.

WALTER

Are you going to the game
or is there somewhere else
I can drop you off?

JESSICA

No, I'm meeting some
friends at the game.

WALTER

I have to pick up a couple
of my friends on the way.
Is that okay with you?

JESSICA

Yes.

He pulls off.

INT. HONDA ODYSSEY EX-L - MOVING - LATER

Walter is behind the wheel. Jessica is in the front passenger seat.

Kamden and Dylan are in the backseat. Everyone is quiet... except
Kamden and Dylan are miming (she's hot, I would do things to her,
etc.) Walter watches them in the rearview mirror, trying to get
them to stop.

Unbeknownst to any of them Jessica is aware of what is going on.

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - BACK PARKING LOT - LATER

The parking lot is full.

More people arriving, everyone heading down to the football field.

Walter's minivan pulls into a one of the last parking spaces. Everyone hops out.

JESSICA

Thank you for the ride.

WALTER

(reluctantly)

Um, if you need a ride
back home after the game,
meet me back here.

(searching)

Row M, space 13.

JESSICA

I'll catch a ride with my
friends. Thank you for
the ride.

Jessica goes her own way, disappearing in the crowd. Walter, Kamden, and Dylan go their way.

KAMDEN

Why does she look so familiar?

DYLAN

I was thinking the same
thing.

KAMDEN

Is that your girl bro?
You holding out n us?

WALTER

No.

DYLAN

I know I've seen her before,
but I don't know
where.

KAMDEN

She probably went to Dunbar with us.

DYLAN

How do you know her Walt?

WALTER

She's my next door neighbor.

KAMDEN

Remind me to come visit you more often, and visit your mom. I dig older women. Tell your mom I said hi, when you get home.

WALTER

I will if you tell your mom that I enjoyed last night, and I can't wait to do it again. She will know what I'm talking about. When your dad went on that business trip.

They also disappear in crowd of people.

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - LATER

The game has already begun. The kickoff. The award winning band plays, the perky cheerleaders cheer. People pay... enter the gates. The lone concession stand has a line.

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - LATER

The referee blows the whistle. The crowd is quickly filling up the home team stands and the ground level around them.

Walter, Dylan, and Kamden deep in the crowd in the stands.

Walter is uneasy, searching, jumping at every loud fan.

FEMALE FAN

Come on ref, call that!!!

DYLAN

You alright?

WALTER

I'm fine.

DYLAN

We can leave.

WALTER

No.

KAMDEN

Exactly, no, we can't leave. I paid seven bucks to get in here, seven bucks that I borrowed from my dad that I have to pay back by doing extra choirs around the house.

DYLAN

Says the guy without the a car.

WALTER

I'm fine, we're not going anywhere. I'm not going to let anybody scare me out of having fun.

Another fan voices his displeasure with the refs. Walter again, jumps. Kamden and Dylan regard him.

WALTER (cont.)

I'm going to the bathroom.

DYLAN

You need me to go with you?

WALTER

I think I can pee by myself.

DYLAN
I'm serious.

WALTER
So am I. I'm fine.

He heads down the aisle of the stands, down on ground level. He heads towards the bathroom/concession stand. Through the crowd who is responding to the play on the field. Walter cautiously scans the crowd. He sees...

The bathroom/concession stand up ahead. He also sees...

Edward, Mackenzie, Melissa, and Pacey.

Walter throws his hood over his head, turns to watch the game, looking over his shoulder. As Edward and his friends walk past.

Walter claps, walks away, hastily towards the restrooms.

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - RESTROOM -

Walter enters the bathroom.... enters the handicap stall.

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - STALL -

Walter closes and locks the stall door behind him.

WALTER
Come on. Get it together,
this is not last year.
You are not last year.
You are not scared, you
will not be scared of any-
body, you hear me. Aahhh!!!

He unlocks the stall, opens it, with force, steps out. A man using the corner urinal stares at Walter.

Walter, startled, embarrassed, walks out of the bathroom.

EXT. BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD/TRACK - LATER

Walter steps out of the concession stand line, with a drink. He heads back towards the stands, still scanning for Edward and friends, but trying to hide his fear.

He arrives at the stands. The crowd has since gotten much larger.

WALTER

Excuse me. Excuse me.
Excuse me.

His screams are swallowed up by the crowd noise. Walter takes a step back, he searches, sees...

The only way through to the opposite side is under the bleachers. Walter scans the crowd one last time for Edward and his friends. He does not see them, he ducks underneath the bleachers.

In the stands. There is an older lady in her Trojan shirt and cap, cheering on the Banneker Trojans. Behind her Edward peeks out at Walter, who has just disappeared underneath the bleachers.

UNDERNEATHH THE BLEACHERS. Walter walks through the darkness, slowly, cautiously as his eyes adjust. He falls over one of the floor bars, to his hands and knees. He stands, wipes himself down.

In the background, we see four figures approaching, quickly, quietly. We see them in silhouette, but we know who they are. Walter grabs his drink from the ground, continues walking.

He stops, feels a presence, turns. He is hit in the face, falls hard to the ground. Walter crawls. Melissa pushes Walter to the ground with her foot.

EDWARD

Pick him up.

Mackenzie and Pacey lift him to his feet.

EDWARD (cont.)

You should have stayed out
of my fight.

EDWARD (cont'd)

Now you and your boyfriend
can have matching wrist
jewelry.

Edward kicks Walter in the stomach, punches him in the face. Walter falls back into Mackenzie, who smacks him in the back of the head...

...Walter turns towards Mackenzie, swings, but misses. Pacey punches Walter with a five hit combination, then Edward kicks him in the back of the leg, Walter buckles to his knees...

Walter attempts to pick himself up off the ground. Edwards stops on his wrist.

EDWARD (cont.)

Stay down.

Walter gets up from the ground, he stands tall, but damaged.

WALTER

Why don't you fight me
yourself?

EDWARD

I think I will.

Walter throws the first punch, Edward counters. He counters each attack by Walter. Again Walter falls... he grasps grass and dirt to help himself up...

FLASHBACK - VOICE OVERS -

JESSICA

He's a sports karate
fighter.

WALTER

So what.

JESSICA

That means that his fighting style is bound to the rules and regulations of of a karate match and not the anything goes, free for all of a street fight. Can I show you something?

Edward and his friends turn, begin to walk away. Walter with all his might stands, gets into a fighting stance.

WALTER

Aaaahhh!!!

Edward turns back, smiles. Edward charges, jump kicks... Walter uses the 'stepping method' to move around Edward. He grabs his arm and trips him. Edward falls on his face. Walter kicks him in the head, he turns Edward over, punches him...

Mackenzie, Percy, and Melissa return, pull Walter off of Edward, attack him. Walter hits the ground, taking brutal attacks to the body and face.

Walter fades in and out of consciousness.

FEMALE SILHOUETTE

Leave him alone.

EDWARD

What are you gonna do about it little girl?

The female silhouette appears. She fights the four, and is winning.

Walter goes in and out of consciousness... now he's out for good.

FADE TO BLACK: