

Thou Shalt Be Saved

By

Regina "Gina Marie" Garrett

1850 Cotillion Dr, Ste 3402  
Atlanta, GA 30338  
770-353-2677

FADE IN:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - LOFT - DAY

JORDAN (19) is adjusting the webcam mounted on top of the flat-panel monitor. Her MySpace page layout includes pictures of her with friends rotating on the screen: a virtual photo album. Her long naturally curly hair is tied into a fluffy ball on the crown of her head with ornate hairpins on the sides.

PAN TO:

WEBCAM P.O.V.

There's NIECY (18) reclined on the sofa loveseat texting. Her hair is straight; cut in layers of loose curls pulled in to a ponytail on one side.

Except for accessories, they're dressed alike: black tank top with a red X:IX-X decal, black cargo carpi pants, and red-and-black sneakers.

Jordan walks backward, and as she approaches the loveseat, Niecy closes her Sidekick, sits up, and crosses her legs to face the webcam. Jordan sits next to her, crossing her legs too.

JORDAN

What it do cyber space? Ish'ya  
girls comin' to you live once again  
from the private suite. And  
err'umm, we back to show y'all how  
we do; edutainment, ya dig.

She turns to look at Niecy then back at the webcam to introduce herself.

JORDAN

For you first timers, just call me  
Nice.

Niecy's amused.

NIECY

You goofy.

Niecy reopens her Sidekick and starts texting again. Jordan hugs her.

JORDAN  
Nah, fah'real tho. I'm  
Jordan. This my girl Niecy right  
here. Can I just tell you she got  
skillz.

Niecy stops texting to acknowledge their viewers then  
continues texting.

NIECY  
Yes Sir.

JORDAN  
But now, lets get to why we  
here. Like my Pops say, the main  
thang is to keep the main thang the  
main thang. And thats what we gon  
do.

Niecy stops texting and turns to look at Jordan before  
looking seriously at the camera.

JORDAN  
Before we start this week's ep, we  
need to prepare y'all for what'chu  
'bout to witness.

Jordan looks at Niecy briefly then continues.

JORDAN  
Hhmm, how should we start this?

She removes her arm from Niecy's shoulder.

NIECY  
How 'bout the summer of '03?

JORDAN  
Yeah, I'll never forget that.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MITCHELL HOME - MORNING

A 2002 SUV is parked along side a 2000 sports car in the  
driveway.

CUT TO:

INT. MITCHELL HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

UNIQUE (36) is lying in the king-size bed of a plush master bedroom. She's awakened by sounds of showering, and gets up to make her way to the private toilet.

She's wearing a satin gown. Her naturally curly hair is a messy pile on top of her head.

PAN TO:

MASTER BEDROOM

BOSSY (35), wrapped in a towel from his waist down, is at the mirror shaving. He notices her suspiciously look at him as she passes.

UNIQUE

What happened to you after the game.

BOSSY

I told you I had to run by the shop.

UNIQUE

Victor please; you didn't get home 'till four this morning. I know it don't take eight hours to run by the shop.

BOSSY

Nikki don't start that.

She finishes using the toilet, flushes it, makes her way to the sink to wash her hands.

UNIQUE

What do you mean don't start. You runnin' the same game you was runnin' in high school. I just wanna know when you gon stop?

BOSSY

I told you I had to run by the shop.

UNIQUE

Yeah right. Whatever.

She dries her hands and rolls her eyes at him before walking out. He stops shaving, takes a hold of her arms, gently pulls her close then caresses her hair brushing it behind her ears.

BOSSY

Baby listen. I just need to get through this year, and get the shop right.

UNIQUE

That's what you said when you opened it two years ago. Why can't you be satisfied? Why not take some of the money from my savings? I told you I'll put eight on it.

BOSSY

C'mon Nikki, you know I can't do that. I'm tryna make the best for my girls and be a man about mine. Just give me a 'till the end of this year to stack a few more racks, and I'm done. I just need you to stay wit'me mah.

He caresses her face then gently kisses her cheek. She holds him tightly. They release each other and she leaves. He watches her through the mirror.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MITCHELL HOME - KITCHEN - MORNING

Jordan is seated at the kitchen bar wearing a one-piece footed pajama. Her plate is half-empty and she's taking the last gulp of orange juice. Her hair is wrapped in a satin scarf: she wore a short taper style then.

Unique is busy at the stove preparing her and Bossy's plates. Her hair is pulled into a ponytail and she has on the matching robe to her gown.

Jordan gets up, walks over to the kitchen table, and picks up the half-empty pitcher of orange juice. Unique turns to see her.

UNIQUE

What're you doing?

JORDAN

Gettin' some orange juice.

UNIQUE

No you're not. You just had two glass fulls.

JORDAN  
Right, and I want another one.

UNIQUE  
Come again?

JORDAN  
May I please have another glass of  
orange juice?

UNIQUE  
No. Get some water.

Unique turns back to the stove. Jordan puts the pitcher back on the table, smacks and huffs under her breath making a you-get-on-my-nerve face at Unique's back as she walks pass to the refrigerator to fill her glass with water from the door dispenser before sitting back at the bar to finish her plate.

Bossy enters the kitchen wearing his signature Sean Jean velour set - dark blue today. He half-hugs Jordan shoulder and kisses her forehead then takes his seat at the table filling his glass with orange juice and quickly downing it.

BOSSY  
Nice game baby gurl. I see you  
been puttin' them drills I taught  
you to work; thinking before you  
act. That's how you ball under  
pressure.

Unique sets his plate in front of him. He digs right in before she sets her plate down to join him bowing her head briefly to bless her food before eating any.

JORDAN  
Thanks dad.

BOSSY  
Why you drinking water? Here get  
some orange juice.

JORDAN  
I already had my portion.

BOSSY  
(to UNIQUE)  
You told her she can't have no  
more.

UNIQUE

Yes. There's only enough for us.

Bossy holds the picture up gesturing to Jordan.

BOSSY

Here you go baby gurl. You want  
some more juice?

Unique pierces her eyes at Jordan.

JORDAN

Nah, I'm cool.

BOSSY

You sure?

JORDAN

I'm sure. I'm finished now anyway.

He refills his glass.

UNIQUE

When you gon stop spoiling her?

BOSSY

When you give me a son, then I'mma  
spoil him. How 'bout that?

Jordan smiles and chuckles picking up her plate to rinse it  
before placing it in the dishwasher.

JORDAN

I was looking for you after the  
game last night.

BOSSY

I had to take care of a few things.

JORDAN

You know the banquet tonight right?

BOSSY

Where's gon be, what time it start?

JORDAN

Seven thirty, at the gym.

Taking a couple more mouth fulls he raises from the table,  
reaches into his pant pocket, pulls out a wad of cash, peels  
off a thousand dollars, and drops it on the table in front  
of Unique.

BOSSY  
 Fah'sho, I'll be there.  
 (to UNIQUE)  
 Here, go buy sumin' nice to wear.

He polishes off his juice before kissing Unique on the check, and pecks Jordan on the forehead on his way out. Unique sits at the table with her hand cupped under her lip disappointedly watching as he leaves.

BOSSY  
 I'll see y'all later baby girl.

JORDAN  
 Thank you daddy!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MITCHELL HOME - GYM - DAY

Unique is programming the treadmill.

PAN TO:

UPSTAIRS

Up the stairs and down the hall on is Jordan's bedroom. A purple faux-fur trimmed "DIVA" sign written in silver glitter hangs on the door.

CUT TO:

INT. MITCHELL HOME - JORDAN BEDROOM - DAY

MUSIC something like ERYKAH BADU - DANGER

A basketball memorial complete with trophies, ribbons, and team pictures occupy a corner curio cabinet at the far right side of the bedroom. A near life-sized framed and signed Michael Jordan poster covers the wall. The other walls are covered with Nike paraphernalia, posters of Hip-hop and R&B artists, and CD inserts.

A Michael Jordan signature Bulls jersey hangs high above the bed headboard defiantly facing anyone entering the bedroom. The closet is stuffed with clothes. A shoe rack filled with a variety of Nike Air-Force Ones hangs on the inside of the closet door, and a full-length mirror hangs on the outside.

Against the left wall is vanity set. The table is filled with designer perfumes and Monet figurines. Department store shopping bags cover the floor and bed.

Jordan is at the full-length mirror grooving to music on her iPod 10G holding one of her new outfits against herself. The other outfits are neatly coordinated on the bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUPER K-MART PARKING LOT - DAY

A 1972 CHERRY RED CONVERTIBLE OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT with peanut butter interior on 20" wheels pulls into the Super K-Mart parking lot. The music continues on the car stereo.

CUT TO:

INT. 1972 OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT CONVERTIBLE - DAY

LIEU (37), the driver, is wearing an Enyce short-sleeved cotton shirt and cargo jean shorts with color-coordinated Nikes richly accented by his Bulgari Diagono watch. Bossy is in the passenger seat breaking down weed on top of the Easy Rider magazine in his lap.

Lieu lowers the stereo volume checking his side burns in the rear-view mirror.

LIEU

Man, Shuan keep jackin' up my fade.

BOSSY

Awe man, you know Precision Cuts  
the only shop in the town gon  
get'chu the fresh tapper with the  
ice-sickles all the way to the  
flow.

LIEU

Ownin' a shop don't make yo barbers  
tight. They need to learn how to  
cut a brutha right.

BOSSY

Man. Nikki gon flip if she fin'out  
I'm riddin' wit'chu.

LIEU  
 You still weak. You ain't get no  
 game from pops. Sayin', you my  
 baby brotha, but I'm gon have to  
 disown you over that gurl man...  
 fah'real.

Lieu spots a 2005 BLACK GMC YUKON DENALI parked in the back  
 far end of the parking lot.

LIEU  
 Dere'go dem fools.

CUT TO:

EXT. 1972 OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT CONVERTIBLE - DAY

The Oldsmobile grill floats down the isle pulling in to a  
 stall a few isles away, facing DRE (32) and TWIN (34) in the  
 Denali.

CUT TO:

INT. 1972 OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Bossy finishes rolling the blunt, carefully licking the  
 edges to seal it closed.

BOSSY  
 I know that ain't Twin. When'e get  
 in the world?

LIEU  
 A few months ago. That mark he got  
 ready for weight.

Bossy pulls a lighter out of his pant pocket.

BOSSY  
 Why you still deal wit'dat fool?

He flicks the lighter a few times to dry the blunt. Unable  
 to get a flame, he shakes it and tries again.

BOSSY  
 A, le'me get a light.

Lieu parks the car, leaves the engine running, digs in his  
 shirt pocket, pulls out a lighter and tosses it to Bossy  
 before existing the car. Then he walks to the rear of the  
 car, opens the trunk, and pulls out a Super K-Mart shopping  
 bag, closes the trunk and walks over to the Denali.

CUT TO:

INT. 2005 BLACK GMC YUKON DENALI - DAY

TWIN P.O.V.

Lieu reaches the Denali and leans on the passenger window frame.

LIEU  
(to TWIN)  
Sup fool, didn't you just wake up?

CUT TO:

LIEU P.O.V.

MAN-MAN (20) pulls in to the K-Mart parking lot in a 1977 CHEVY NOVA: PRIMER PAINTED, parks next to Lieu's car on the driver side, and gets out.

DRE  
You ain't knowin'? The streets own dat fool.

TWIN  
I aint' got time for this. Cop dat work. I got places to be.

LIEU  
Twin, you crazy main.

Lieu and Dre laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. 1972 OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Bossy rolls down the window to empty the ashtray and magazine of blunt and weed debris then lights the blunt.

Man-Man walks up on him while he's zoomed in on the blunt as he hits it, twirling it to get it lit.

MAN-MAN  
What'up hog?

Bossy looks up exhaling, blowing smoke in his face.

BOSSY  
Fool do I know you?

CUT TO:

LIEU P.O.V.

LIEU  
What that knucklehead doin' at my  
car?

TWIN  
Prolly tryna cop a sack.

CUT TO:

EXT. 1972 OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT CONVERTIBLE - DAY

BOSSY P.O.V.

Man-Man steps back lifting his Tee shirt to quickly remove a  
84FS Cheetah Beretta from the front of his waistband.

MAN-MAN  
Hell no.

He shoots Bossy twice.

END MUSIC.

Then again before turning to walk away.

CUT TO:

INT. 2005 BLACK GMC YUKON DENALI - DAY

Twin switches gears to Drive, and speeds off.

CUT TO:

EXT. 2005 BLACK GMC YUKON DENALI - DAY

Lieu stumbles to the side almost falling stepping back to  
avoid being run over then runs toward his car.

Man-Man shoots at Lieu, grazing Lieu's left leg, before  
getting back in to his car and speeding off. Lieu is  
stunned for a moment then limps to his car, gets in, and  
speeds off.

CUT TO:

INT. 1972 OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Lieu pulls Bossy toward him horrified by the blood pouring from his neck.

LIEU  
Awe cuz. Say sumin' man.

Bossy tries to speak, but his words are muffled by the blood spilling out his mouth.

SOUND FX: BEATING HEART

CUT TO:

INT. 1972 OLDSMOBILE 442 SPORT CONVERTIBLE - DAY

Lieu fumbles with his cell phone to make a call while switching lanes maneuvering between vehicles on the highway.

SOUND FX: SLOWER BEATING HEART

His call goes to voicemail.

UNIQUE (V.O.)  
Hi. You've reached the Mitchell residence. Leave a message and we'll be sure to return your call. Thanks. Bye.

Bossy looks into the distance mumbling as his head slowly drops back on to the headrest before falling to one side.

Lieu hears the answering machine beep before ending the call.

SOUND FX: FLAT LINE

Lieu palms his face from forehead to chin to wipe away the sweat before tearing.

CUT TO:

EXT. MITCHELL HOME - EVENING

Lieu skids to the curb and stumbles out of the car limping toward the front door. Bossy is slouched over.

LIEU  
Nikki! Open the doh!

From her bedroom window, Jordan watches Lieu. She sees Bossy in the passenger seat bloody wet then releases the shear, her silhouette turns and walks away from the window.

Lieu bangs on the front door, rings the doorbell a few times then bangs on the door again.

LIEU  
Unique! C'mon man, open the doh!

CUT TO:

INT. MITCHELL HOME - FOYER

OVER THE SHOULDER:

Unique is noticeably disturbed by the pounding at the door, almost stomping as she walks toward it, fiercely whipping sweat off her face and neck with her small gym towel. She peers through the peephole then swings the door open.

CUT TO:

EXT. MITCHELL HOME - EVENING

LIEU P.O.V.

UNIQUE  
What is wrong with you? Why is you making all that noise? You really need to calm down?

LIEU  
We got rolled on doin' bi'ness.

UNIQUE  
What! Where's Victor?

Unique leans to the side to look past Lieu, but he blocks her view. She raises to her tiptoes to look over his shoulder, and catches a glimpse of Bossy in the car.

LIEU  
Some fool shot'im.

Jordan walks up behind Unique just as she tries to bolt pass Lieu, but he grabs her and they fall. He holds her tightly while she beats him, crying hysterically.

UNIQUE  
 Victor! Noooo! Why you didn't do  
 nothin'!

PAN TO:

EXT. MITCHELL HOME - EVENING

Jordan steps over them, her emotions build as she gets closer to Bossy. She opens the door, kneels down to lay her head on her father's lap, and begins sobbing.

PAN TO:

EXTREME WIDE SHOT:

A police officer pulls Jordan to her feet, her clothes are mottled with her father's blood. Another officer tapes off the scene. Two patrol vehicles are on the scene. Unique is escorted in to the house by an officer while yet another officer handcuffs Lieu placing him in the back of a patrol car; dope and money are on the hood.

FADE TO WHITE:

TITLE: THREE YEARS LATER

INT. AIRPLANE - MORNING

Jordan and Unique are seated together. Unique is asleep; her hair is in a ponytail and she's sweating.

Jordan looks like she just stepped off the cover of Vibe in a soft pink Nike set with clean white leather Air Force Ones, pink sapphire stud earrings, and pink rhinestone studded sunglasses - her hair is much longer now.

Unique suddenly awakens.

JORDAN  
 Mah, you ah'ight?

UNIQUE  
 Yeah.

JORDAN  
 You sure? Look like you leakin'  
 ovah'dere.

UNIQUE  
What I say. Where are we?

JORDAN  
Ummm, on the airplane.

UNIQUE  
Excuse you?

JORDAN  
I'm just sayin'. We should be almost there. I can't wait to see Niecy. Man, I ain't seent'er since when they came to visit back in '03. Remember? Dang, iss been a minute.

PILOT (V.O.)  
This is your captain speaking. The flight crew and I want to thank you for choosing Delta as you destination carrier. Please be sure to set your timepiece for Eastern Daylight Time which is 6:35am. We're slightly ahead of schedule and will be making our descent in approximately twenty minutes. The current temperature in Atlanta is 47 degrees with expected highs in the low-to-mid 80s.

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT approaches Unique and Jordan holding a plastic trash bag. Unique stops him/her to empty her trash.

UNIQUE  
Excuse me.

The flight attendant takes Jordan's trash too.

PILOT (V.O.)  
It's been our pleasure serving you, and we hope to see you again on future travel. Have a great day and enjoy your stay. Flight crew, please prepare the cabin for landing.

JORDAN  
I be back.

UNIQUE  
Where you think you goin'?

JORDAN

I gotta pee.

UNIQUE

Why you wait 'till he said we 'bout  
to land?

Jordan ignores Unique, lifts her passenger tray table, gets up, and walks away.

CUT TO:

AIRPLANE - RESTROOM

Jordan adjusts the vacuum sealed quarter ounce of weed tucked inside the sanitary napkin affixed to her panties.

After redressing, she damps a paper towel to clean microscopic smudges on her sneakers.

CUT TO:

INT. MARTA TRAM CAR - MORNING

The tram is fairly full with morning commuters. Unique and Jordan occupy separate seats across from each other. Jordan with her medium size suit case and carry-on bags take up a double seat facing the front of the tram, and Unique with her single carry-on faces the door. Both stare blankly out the window at the Southwest Atlanta landscape.

CUT TO:

INT. EAST POINT MARTA STATION - MORNING

Unique and Jordan exit the train station elevator and make their way to exit gate. Unique walks through first releasing the gate on Jordan causing her luggage to get trapped.

JORDAN

Mah. How you gon' walk off?

Unique turns to see Jordan struggling to get through the gate.

UNIQUE

Come again?

JORDAN  
I'm sayin'. How you just gon leave  
me like that?

Seeing Jordan make it through the gate, Unique raises her hand, turns her back on Jordan, and continues walking away.

UNIQUE  
Observe.

PAN TO:

EXT. EAST POINT MARTA STATION - CURBSIDE - MORNING

MUSIC something like CHERISH F/SEAN PAUL VERSE - DO IT TO IT

Music pounds as Jordan steps onto the sidewalk reaching into her jacket pocket to pull out her pink Razr. The station entrance is busy with morning commuters coming and going.

JORDAN (V.O.)  
Where is that music comin' from?

Looking to her right she sees Unique sitting on the bench talking on her cell phone.

Off to the left, a few feet away, she realizes the music is coming from the 2004 PLATINUM H2 HUMMER curbside on 24" wheels. A YOUNG LADY (26) exits the vehicle and walks toward the station entrance.

JORDAN (V.O.)  
Oh boy! This fool paint lookin'  
kinna wet.

The YOUNG MAN (28) driving smiles and winks at Jordan as he passes by merging into traffic. The music fades as he drivers away.

INSERT CELL PHONE

Jordan speed dials QUAME.

JORDAN  
Jeah, wus the bi'ness? Ya gurl  
juss touched down in the A.  
(pause)  
Breezy, like greasy chicken to a  
fat brward, it's nothing.  
(pause)  
I 'on know. She talkin' bout we  
gon be here uh couple weeks.

(pause)  
 Hol'on. You need to calm down. I  
 just got'ere!

PAN TO:

A 2006 BLACK CADILLAC ESV ESCALADE PLATINUM EDITION with  
 CHROME-TRIM and limo tint on 22" wheels pulls to the curb  
 and parks, then the tailgate pops open.

The Praise 97.5FM program plays faintly on the  
 stereo. Jordan abruptly ends the call, and walks toward the  
 back of the SUV. Unique gets up and walks toward the SUV.

JORDAN  
 Look I gotta go. My folk just  
 pulled up sick in the Lac. I call  
 you next week uh'sumin. Latah  
 baby, down.

Niecy gets out. She's wearing fitted capri pants with a  
 baby-doll top, espadrilles, big shades, large hoop earrings,  
 and bangles. She and Unique greet each other with a warm  
 hug and kiss on the cheek then continue to the rear of the  
 SUV.

Unique parks her luggage next to Jordan who looks at her  
 confused. Unique responds with an "I wish you would"  
 expression then walks away to get in the truck.

JORDAN  
 Look at'chu cuzzin. Tryna get'cho  
 grown n'sexy on.

NIECY  
 Whatever J; you still silly.

CUT TO:

INT. 2006 BLACK CADILLAC ESCALADE - MORNING

LASHAY  
 Nikkie, y'all made it!

Unique begins crying the moment she closes the door.

LASHAY  
 Hey, what is this? I know  
 you miss me, but...

UNIQUE  
 I know Shay, I just...  
 I'on know what to do no  
 more. It's been three  
 years since Vick passed,  
 and Jordan dun got so outta  
 control.

They hug, and release each other.

LASHAY  
 Relax Nikki, we got'chu now. Just  
 let that go. Now come on, you  
 can't be gettin' all emotional on  
 me, you just got here.

Jordan and Niecy open the doors.

UNIQUE  
 I know... I just.

Niecy sits behind Unique and Jordan behind LaShay; giggling  
 and excited to see each other as they buckle-up.

LASHAY  
 Jordan Nichelle Mitchell, I know  
 you did not get in my car without  
 giving me a hug.

JORDAN  
 I told you, that gurl need help.

Jordan and Niecy turn to give each other an "ouch" face.

LASHAY  
 I'mma need you to exist the vehicle  
 and gimme some love.

CUT TO:

EXT. 2006 BLACK CADILLAC ESCALADE - MORNING

Jordan and LaShay exist the truck to give each other a  
 hug. LaShay squeezes Jordan and kisses her on the cheek.

JORDAN  
 My bad Auntie. I went dumb when  
 you pulled up stunin' in the Big  
 Gurl Lac.

LaShay smirks then reaches out to pop her upside the head.

LASHAY  
Chil, if you don't get'cho lil'tail  
back in the cahh.

Jordan ducks to avoid getting smacked then they both get  
back in the truck.

CUT TO:

INT. 2006 BLACK CADILLAC ESCALADE - MORNING

Unique is looking in the visor mirror whipping her nose as  
LaShay pulls into traffic.

LASHAY  
So how was the flight?

UNIQUE  
It was nice.

JORDAN  
Yeah, but I can't believe we got  
here the next day though. I mean,  
we left about 10 sumin' last night  
and the flight whan't but fo  
ah'five hours an'is already day  
time here.

NIECY  
Cuz we three hours in yo future.

JORDAN  
Oh~kaaay.

They laugh.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUBDIVISION ENTRANCE GATE - DAY

LaShay turns into Harbor Manor Estates waving at the guards  
as she passes entering their community.

BOBBY JOHNSON (45), the senior security officer, and his  
assistant TOMMY WALSH (22) a full-time UGA student wave  
back.

CUT TO:

INT. 2006 BLACK CADILLAC ESCALADE - DAY

Niecy's texting and Jordan is grooving to music on her iPod 80G.

UNIQUE

Daa~um Shay! This where y'all live?

LASHAY

Yes ma'am. And do me a favor, watch'cha mouth.

UNIQUE

My bad. I forgot you'z a Holy Heifer.

LASHAY

Nikki please! Kill the noise. You my big sister n'whatnot, but you not 'bout to be talking like a shipwreck pirate up in my house. Understand.

UNIQUE

Ah'ight. Calm down. Any way, this is nice. I see why you didn't move back to the Bay after graduating.

LASHAY

And what I been tryna tell you all these years. I'm so glad y'all finally made the move. Trust me Nikki, you not gon wanna go back to Oakland. Besides, there's nothing there for you.

Jordan pulls her earphones off, looks over at Niecy, and taps her arm.

JORDAN

Cuz, y'all live in'ere?

NIECY

Yeeup.

JORDAN

How is y'all livin'?

NIECY

Uhh, that would be large.

JORDAN  
 (under her breath)  
 Hhhmmm... super size me.  
 (to NIECY)  
 What'cho daddy do?

NIECY  
 Marketing Director at In-Flight  
 Records.

Jordan turns and looks out the window in awe at the mini-mansions.

JORDAN (V.O.)  
 Unc ballin' fah'real. This  
 what'chu call lavish right'ere.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAMISON HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

LaShay opens the garage door with the remote in the visor, pulls in, and pops the tailgate.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - GARAGE - DAY

They exit the SUV.

LaShay notices the step stool in the corner by the utility shelves on her way in the house.

CHARLES (42) enters the garage from inside the house and walks toward the passenger side of the SUV. He's wearing khaki cargo shorts, a white Tee shirt, and ankle socks with flip-flops.

Charles greets Unique with a big hug.

CHARLES  
 Hey Nikki. How you been?

UNIQUE  
 Wus'up Cee! I'm good. How you doin'?

Niecy passes them to enter the house behind LaShay.

CHARLES

Good, good. Good to see y'all made it.

UNIQUE

Its good to be here bruh.

Looking past Unique, Charles notices Jordan.

Unique follows Niecy in to the house. Jordan walks around the back of the truck timidly approaching Charles.

CHARLES

This can't be my lil'hoopster all grown up? Look at'chu. I didn't tell you you could grow up. Come on over here and give yah uncle a hug.

JORDAN

Hey Unc.

He gives her a tight hug and kiss on the forehead.

CHARLES

I miss you baby gurl.

Jordan looks at him reminiscently.

JORDAN

I miss you too.

CHARLES

Go'on inside. Le'me get this luggage out the truck.

JORDAN

Ah'ight.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - FOYER - DAY

Niecy and Jordan walk down the stairs in to the foyer.

JORDAN

Dang cuzzin, this place is ridiculous. I can't believe how big y'all crib is. How long y'all been livin' here?

NIECY

'Bout three years now.

JORDAN

Y'all gotz'tah be the only black people up around here.

NIECY

Nope. Matter fact, we got at least eight other black families in our subdivision.

JORDAN

Fah'real? That's crazy. They must be famous.

NIECY

Nope. Regulahs, just like us.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAMISON HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

Jordan spots the In-Law Cottage.

JORDAN

Whoa. I know tha's not where me n'my momma stayin'? Cuz, tha's a whole nutha spot!

NIECY

Relax cuzzin'. Act natural. This how we do in the A.

JORDAN

This what I'm talkin' bout.

They laugh as they approach the In-law Cottage.

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Jordan notices the luggage in the front room when they enter the cottage.

JORDAN

Koo. Unc put my luggage in'ere.

NIECY

Ok, so here's the deal. This place only has one bedroom, and mom's tol'me you get the loft upstairs. I's way bigger then the bedroom, it just don't have a regular bed, so you gon have'tah sleep on the sofa bed. And y'all gotta share the bathroom downstairs.

JORDAN

A sofa bed? You can't be serious?

NIECY

C'mon, le'me show you. You'll be cool wit'it.

JORDAN

Hol'up. I might as well grab my luggage.

She picks up the larger of her two bags.

JORDAN

Cuzzin'. Don't just stan'air. Help a sista out.

NIECY

Awe J, you good. Han'le it.  
(laughing)  
Naw, I'm kiddin'. I got'chu cuzzin' come on.

Niecy picks up the other bag and leads Jordan upstairs.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

LaShay is rambling through pots and pans in the lower cabinets. Unique is sitting on a stool at the counter facing the kitchen.

UNIQUE

Do Niecy know we stayin'?

LASHAY

Not yet. I didn't say anything to'er so she wouldn't tell JoJo.

UNIQUE

Good.

LaShay opens the door of one of the upper cabinets and spots the steel bowls.

LASHAY

(to CHARLES)

Honey! Can you help me get this bowl. I can't reach it.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Charles doesn't respond. He's sitting on the sofa in front of the 50" Plasma HDTV playing NBA LIVE 2006.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Unique turns around to see Charles intensely playing the video game.

UNIQUE

I'on think he heard you.

LASHAY

You know he heard me. He just ain't answerin'.

LaShay walks to the threshold leading into the family room.

LASHAY

Honey, I need you to help me get this bowl? I can't reach it.

WIDE SHOT:

INT. JAMISON HOME - FAMILY ROOM - DAY

Charles continues playing the video game.

CHARLES

What'cha need babe?

LASHAY

This bowl. It's in one of the top cabinets and I can't reach it.

CHARLES

You can't reach it? Whu, where's  
the step stool I got you?

LASHAY

I think I saw it in the garage on  
my way in. Can you bring it to me  
please.

Charles' face twists. He pauses the game, gets up, walks up  
to LaShay, and grabs hold of her waist.

CHARLES

Alright woman. You got me. Which  
bowl you talkin' bout?

PAN TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

LaShay leads him to the cabinet then points to the stack of  
steel bowls.

LASHAY

There. I need one of those bowls.

He grabs the stack.

CHARLES

These?

LASHAY

Yes please.

CHARLES

Here you go.

She takes the medium bowl from the stack, and he places the  
rest back on the top shelf.

LASHAY

Thank you baby.

He walks away.

LASHAY

(to UNIQUE)

Yeah gurl, she gon flip when you  
tell'er y'all ain't goin' back.

UNIQUE  
I know right. She'll get over it.

LASHAY  
So when you plan on tell'er?

UNIQUE  
I'on know. To be honest wit'chu, I really ain't tryna deal wit'er.

LASHAY  
Still. You need to tell her.

UNIQUE  
I just can't talk to'er. You know she was closer to Vick. Daddy's baby gurl.

LASHAY  
Right, who didn't know that. But, still, y'all need to talk.

Charles enters the kitchen with the step stool, sets it down next to LaShay, pats her behind, and turns to walk out.

UNIQUE  
Awwee, ain't that sweet.

She and LaShay laugh.

Charles ignores the comment.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - DINNING ROOM - EVENING

Jordan, Unique, Niecy, and LaShay are seated at the dinner table. Charles is just taking his seat to join them.

JORDAN  
Ooo this food look gooud! Pass me dem green beans.

UNIQUE  
Okay. Can I get a corn muffin over here?

LaShay and Niecy look at Charles in anticipation.

CHARLES  
Wait, hol'up. Ain't nobody eatin' nuthin' 'till somebody bless this  
(MORE)

CHARLES  
 food. Now c'mon, let's give  
 thanks. Niecy, g'on say grace.

Jordan and Unique are surprised by Charles' tone. Still,  
 they join hands and bow their heads.

NIECY  
 Heavenly Father we thank you for  
 this meal and every meal you set  
 before us. For your provisions  
 that meet our every need, we thank  
 you.

CHARLES  
 Yes Father.

NIECY  
 And for delivering Auntie  
 and Jordan safely to us we  
 say thanks. We ask that  
 you strengthen them and  
 bless them.

LASHAY  
 Thank you Jesus.

NIECY  
 In Jesus Name, Amen.

UNIQUE  
 Yes Amen.

LASHAY  
 Amen.

CHARLES  
 Amen.

JORDAN  
 Amen?

Charles passes the green beans to Jordan, and LaShay tilts  
 the basket of corn muffins toward Unique.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

EXTREME WIDE SHOT:

JORDAN (V.O.)  
 Okay. It's been four months and  
 some change and I'm still here.  
 Mom's talkin' bout get used to it  
 'cuz we ain't goin' back. If I  
 knew we was gon be here this long,  
 I wouldn't came wit'er. Whatever  
 man. I'm 'bout to be up  
 out. Stack a few more racks,

(MORE)

JORDAN (V.O.)  
 bounce back to the Bay, and be wit  
 my dude.

INT. UPS TRUCK - DAY

MUSIC something like CANTON JONES - WISHAWAY

JAY (29) drives along bobbing his head to the music playing  
 on the small boom box CD player buckled in the passenger  
 seat.

JORDAN (V.O.)  
 And look at this here character, my  
 adopted uncle. My folks talkin'  
 bout he special. Supposedly, he  
 been like a lil'brother to Uncle  
 Cee since his brother Uncle Anthony  
 passed away year before last. The  
 best this trick can do for me is  
 deliver my mail.

PAN TO:

EXT. GUARDHOUSE - HARBOR MANOR ESTATES - DAY

Jay lowers the stereo volume as he approaches the guard  
 house then parks. Bobby exits the guardhouse.

JAY  
 What'up folk?

Jay sifts through the pile of packages between the seats.

JAY  
 How you doin' Mr.  
 Johnson? What'chu know Tommy?

BOBBY  
 What'cha got for me man?

TOMMY  
 Aye, whus'up Jay. New day,  
 same trap?

JAY  
 Righ, righ. Gotta package for my  
 fam The Jamisons.

Jay passes the package to Bobby who passes it to Tommy, then  
 he passes Bobby the electronic signature to sign for the  
 package.

BOBBY  
Who'dat you listenin' to?

JAY  
Tha's CaJo. What'chu know 'bout  
that Pops?

BOBBY  
More than I did two minutes ago.  
(pumping his fist)  
I got'cho Pops right here.

They laugh, and Bobby passes the electronic signature pad  
back to Jay.

JAY  
I can dig it. Ah'ight fam. Stay  
in the word. Shalom.

BOBBY TOMMY  
Later man. Shalom.

Jay gestures peace then pulls off. The music fades as he  
drives away.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAMISON HOME - FRONT DOOR -DAY

Tommy rings the doorbell a couple times before Jordan  
answers.

TOMMY  
(smiling big)  
Hey Miss Lady. How you doin'?

Handing her the package.

TOMMY  
Got another delivery for ya.

JORDAN  
I'm cool. Thank you.

TOMMY  
Pleasure's mine.

She steps back into the foyer to close the door.

TOMMY

Aye, so when you gon let me take you out?

JORDAN

You just won't stop hunh. I told'ju I already gotta dude. Besides, I ain't fellin' you like that.

TOMMY

Yeah, that's what you sayin' now. Where yo dude at anyway? I ain't seen nobody come up 'round here checkin' for you. Where'e at, Oakland?

JORDAN

That ain't none'ah yo business.

TOMMY

How you gon have a dude all the way in Oakland, when you can have a man right here in the A?

JORDAN

Look, I gotta go.

TOMMY

Ah'ight. Think about it though. I just wanna take you to the movies ah'sumin. You got my number. Use it.

JORDAN

Bye Tommy.

She closes the door.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - FOYER -DAY

OVER THE SHOULDER:

INSERT PACKAGE

The package is addressed from The Clique.

JORDAN

Yesss.

She quickly walks through the foyer out to the In-law Cottage.

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - LOFT - DAY

Jordan opens the package, pulls out a tin caramel-corn container, a folded sheet of paper, a jewelry box, and a black baseball cap with "The Town" stitched in white on the back of it. She puts the cap on, opens the jewelry box, and pulls out a nice size diamond studded silver cross pendant on a silver chain. She puts the necklace on then begins reading the letter.

CUT TO:

INSERT LETTER

QUAME (V.O.)

Wuz'up baby gurl. You know I miss you. I ah'ready know you put the cap on. I can see it on you sideways to the left.

She giggles.

QUAME (V.O.)

You know what to do. Hope you like the Jesus piece too. Check me when you get this. Latah baby. Yo Man.

She carefully opens the tin can from the false bottom, and pulls out a plastic freezer bag with a vacuumed-sealed bag inside wrapped in used meat packing paper with coffee grounds stuck to it. She removes the wrapping to open the vacuum sealed plastic bag containing an ounce of weed. A faint cloud flouts out of the bag filling the room. Putting her face into the opening of the bag, she inhales deeply then lifts her head slowly dropping it back with her eyes closed.

JORDAN

Aaahh, yurple grapes fresh out the yard.

SOUND FX: something like LIL BOOSIE - WIPE ME DOWN

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

Jordan packaging weed in small baggies

Jordan pulling CAU Campus in her 1996 BLACK NISSAN MAXIMA SE with limo tint on 17" wheels: a CAMPUS PARKING PASS hangs from the rear view mirror

Jordan at a trap near campus with a few OTHER TEENS. She's a few feet away stuffing a handful of sacks in her jacket pocket then stashing a crumbly brown paper bag underneath a rock

STEPHAN (19) approaches to buy a couple sacks from her

RASHAD (20) and a couple TEENS approach her. Rashad appears to know the other teens, introduces himself to Jordan, gives her a flyer then he and the teens he's with walks away

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - LOFT - EVENING

Jordan scrambles around on the floor. The room is a mess; clothes thrown here-and-there. The outfit she had on earlier is in a pile at the foot of the bed.

Someone enters the In-law Cottage.

NIECY (V.O.)

J, where you at? C'mon, we gon be late.

Jordan finds the crumbly brown paper bag and stuffs it under the covers just as Niecy reaches the top of the stairs. She looks down and there's the sneaker she was searching for. She picks it up, sits on the bed to put it on.

NIECY

Ewww, what is that smell?

JORDAN

Nothin'.

NIECY

Mmm...hmm. Anyway, let's go.

Niecy turns to walk back down the stairs.

JORDAN

Ah'ight le'me grab a jacket.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAMISON HOME - DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Jordan and Niecy approach the 2005 BLACK VOLKSWAGEN JETTA in the driveway.

JORDAN

Where you taking me anyway?

NIECY

Where I been tryna take you since you got here. Somewhere other than the AUC. I'm surprised you ain't gotta class schedule much is you be on campus.

JORDAN

I'm just tryna see where we goin' next fall.

NIECY

Where we goin'? I already tol'ju I'm goin' to A-i. You need to figure out what'chu gon do.

JORDAN

I'm thinkin' CAU where the foine bruthas be at. Ha!

NIECY

See that's what I'm talkin' 'bout J, you need therapy.

Niecy unlocks the car doors and they get in.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH CAMPUS - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Niecy pulls in to a packed parking lot. TEENS, ADULT VOLUNTEERS, and PARENTS with teens are exiting vehicles and walking toward a building.

CUT TO:

INT. 2005 BLACK VOLKSWAGEN JETTA - NIGHT

Co-Co Brotha's Praise 97.5FM program plays faintly on the stereo.

JORDAN

Hol'up! I know you not tryna take me to no bible study? I already told you I'm cool wit' all dat.

NIECY

This ISM.

JORDAN

What? Wussa ISM?

NIECY

According to the Webster Collegiate, it's a school of thought. For tonight it's Inline Student Ministry.

JORDAN

Do what?

Niecy parks. They get out and begin walking toward the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH CAMPUS - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

NIECY

I been tellin' you about it since you got here, you just don't wanna listen to nobody.

JORDAN

What iz you talkin' 'bout?

NIECY

We 'bout tah get our praise on.  
(singing)  
up in here, up in here.

You gon see what'chu been missin' all this time runnin' all up n'thru the AUC like you got business on campus.

PAN TO:

INT/EXT. (THRESHOLD) - TEEN SANCTUARY - NIGHT

MUSIC something like MOUTHPIECE - GET OUT THE GAME

Music pounds from the sound system as Niecy and Jordan enter the Teen sanctuary.

JORDAN

Oooo. I know y'all ain't playin' rap at the church.

NIECY

Just follw me. I'll show you to the way.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TEEN SANCTUARY - NIGHT

MINISTER KEITH (28) is at the podium.

MINISTER KEITH

Did y'all have a good time tonight?

The TEEN CONGREGATION responds zealously.

MINISTER KEITH

Man. Y'all got me flashin' back to when I used to come to ISM. What an awesome God we serve. Amen.

Again, the teens and adult volunteers respond with zeal.

MINISTER KEITH

All right. I need the Praise and Worship Team up here. Where's Niecy Jamison? Y'all know we couldn't have service without her. If don't nobody show up, she gon be up in here crunk for Jesus. She luuh da Lawd. Amen. Can't chall see'er holdin' a solo service?

CUT TO:

TEEN CONGREGATION

Jordan looks at Niecy surprised. Niecy stands up and walks toward the altar.

MINISTER KEITH

There she is. Come on up here and lead us in worship. Where the rest uh y'all? Come on up here, y'all know how we do. It's time to go fishin'.

The TEEN PRAISE TEAM make their way to the altar.

MINISTER KEITH

Alright. Every head bowed, every eye closed. Heavenly Father, it is with great honor that we come before you. We thank you in advance for the decisions being made here tonight.

Most of the teens posture in prayer as volunteers quiet others.

MINISTER KEITH

Father we thank you for those who decide to make Jesus Lord or rededicate their lives back to you oh God. For those who want to receive baptism in the Holy Spirit, and for those who decide to join the greatest teen ministry in the

TEENS  
Hallelujah.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS  
Hallelujah.

MINISTER KEITH

G-A becoming mighty young men of valor and faithful young ladies of virtue. And father, we thank you for blessing us with this opportunity to serve you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

TEENS  
(applaud)  
Amen.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS  
(applaud)  
Amen.

MINISTER KEITH

Now, for anyone who would like to receive these gifts, get your things and meet us here at the altar. We invite you to be blessed of our Lord. Amen.

Niecy and the Praise Team begin singing "Here I am To Worship" as Teens approach the TEEN PRAYER COUNSELORS at the altar.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP:

JORDAN (V.O.)  
Whoa. What is this?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT/EXT. TEEN SANCTUARY - THRESHOLD - NIGHT

MUSIC something like RUBIN STUDDARD - LOVE HIM LIKE I DO

Music plays on the sound system inside the Fellowship Hall as adult and teen volunteers busily clean up.

Minister Keith is in the hallway talking to a teen and his/her parents. Other parents enter and exit the Fellowship Hall meeting up with or leaving with their teen(s).

Teens enter and exit the building, socializing in the lobby and just outside the hall. SECURITY OFFICERS monitor them inside and outside the building.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHURCH CAMPUS - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The parking lot is full again as people make their way to their cars and others pull off leaving.

As Jordan and Niecy approach Niecy's car, Rashad calls from a distance.

RASHAD  
Jordan!

JORDAN  
Oooo, uhhn uun, who up n'ere know me?

He jogs over to them.

RASHAD  
I thought that was you. Who this you wit?

JORDAN  
 Oh, hey Rashad. This my cuzzin',  
 Niecy.  
 (to NIECY)  
 This Rashad, he go to...

Niecy slaps Rashad's shoulder.

NIECY  
 He know me.

JORDAN  
 Who you here wit?

RASHAD  
 Couple'ah my pot'nahs. I see you  
 representin' the Master wit'cha  
 chain. Whas'up, you comin' clean?

NIECY  
 We workin' on'er.

Niecy turns Jordan toward her to examine her necklace.

NIECY  
 (to JORDAN)  
 Le'me see.

RASHAD  
 Kooo, that's wus'up.

NIECY  
 (to JORDAN)  
 Where you get that from?

JORDAN  
 My dude sent it to me.

NIECY  
 Mmm.

RASHAD  
 I know y'all comin' to homecomin'?

NIECY  
 I'on know. Y'all be gettin' all  
 hyphie.

RASHAD  
 Like you don't be the crunkest in  
 the crowd.

NIECY  
 (laughing)  
 I know right. When is it?

RASHAD

October 8th, that Sunday. It's gone be real big. Y'all should come.

NIECY

We'll see. You comin' in thru for Pop's Kick-off Que?

RASHAD

Is that this weekend?

NIECY

Hello. Is it or is it not pre-season? I know yo parents got the invite.

DE'VON (19) calls out to Rashad from just outside the Fellowship Hall. He's with a couple other TEEN BOYS.

DE'VON

Yo Rashad! C'mon man.

RASHAD

Ah'ight fam. See y'all Saturday. Shalom.

NIECY

Bye.

JORDAN

(gesturing peace)  
Yeah, wa 'Aleykum As-Salaam my brutha.

Rashad pauses for a moment looking at Jordan confused then jogs off. She and Niecy continue on to the car.

JORDAN

Comin' clean. Whus'dat about?

NIECY

You can't be serious. Okay, how 'bout I straight put'chu on blast. I know yo dude sendin' you more then jewelery.

JORDAN

What is you talkin' bout?

NIECY

The weed you been gettin' the past couple months. Settin' traps all up n'thru the AUC.

JORDAN  
Who told you that?

NIECY  
Do I look stupid? Ain't nobody  
gotta tell me. You stank like weed  
half the time. J, you be at the  
AUC on the daily. I'm sayin', you  
gotta parking pass and you ain't  
even enrolled.

JORDAN  
Why you gotta put two on a ten.

NIECY  
Cuzzin', I'm tellin' you. You  
ain't gotta front. You be on  
red. And you spending way more  
money than anybody I know makin'  
minimun wage on a part-time job.

JORDAN  
You don't know what I do.

NIECY  
Whatever J. I'm just sayin' you  
ain't gotta go dumb on me. It's so  
obvious what'chu doin'.

Niecy unlocks the doors as they reach the car.

JORDAN  
Look. How 'bout you do you. You  
don't own me.

NIECY  
Right. But I love you.

MUSIC something like REIGN - C.O.G. (CHILD OF GOD)

Jordan reaches for the door handle and turns to see whose  
car the music is coming from before opening the door.

NIECY  
C'mon, lets go, you makin' me hot.

They get in the car.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAMISON HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

MUSIC something like LUTHER VANDROSS - BAD BOY/HAVING A PARTY

The DJ is in the mix. The backyard is full of FOLKS. Laughter and conversation fill the atmosphere. Kids are running around, adults are playing catch Frisbee with some of them while other adults socialize around the card, domino, and picnic tables.

CUT TO:

BRICK OVEN

Charles is don in his "Why You All In My Grill" apron tending the brick oven. DA'SHAWN (39) and Jay are standing near him sipping on flavored water.

CHARLES

Man, you ain't flipped that building yet?

DA'SHAWN

Nawe man. The last buyer had the loan pulled. I'm 'bout to step away from it.

CHARLES

Take yo time wit'it man. Real Estate investment gon turn around.

DA'SHAWN

That's what's up, call things as though they were.

JAY

How them steaks lookin' Grill Master?

CHARLES

Oh we gon be eatin' in a minute man, belieh dat.

DA'SHAWN

Man, I actually look forward to the kick-off queue 'bout as much as the season: a brotha serious wit' that grill.

JAY

Yes sir.

LaShay approaches them carrying a pan.

LASHAY  
Here you go baby.

Charles begins filling the pan with meat from the grill.

CHARLES  
Can you bring me the  
Tilapia?

LASHAY  
You ready for the  
fish? Mmm...hmm.

JAY  
See that. Y'all been together so  
long y'all got that finish-each  
-other-sentence type love.

CHARLES  
More like Shay stuck on a brutha.

LASHAY  
Whatever; you know you want  
me. Can't get enough.

CHARLES  
I know baby; gim'me kiss.

They laugh and kiss. Jay and Da'Shawn laugh at them. Just then Unique approaches.

UNIQUE  
Whuss'up Cee! You don't be playin  
with that grill.

CHARLES  
I thought you knew.

JAY  
Wait. How long you been'ere?

UNIQUE  
'Bout six months now, why?

JAY  
And you just now figurin' out  
Brotha Cee the Grill Sergeant.

UNIQUE  
I see. That's what I'm talkin'  
bout.

They all laugh as LaShay walks away.

DA'SHAWN  
 You must be 'Shay sister from  
 Oakland?

UNIQUE  
 Yes, that would be me. And you  
 are?

DA'SHAWN  
 Da' Shawn.

CHARLES  
 Awe, my bad. Unique this my buddy  
 Da' Shawn...

UNIQUE  
 Rude!

CHARLES  
 Whaa... what I do.

UNIQUE  
 It's what you didn't do. Anyway.

Unique smiles at Da'Shawn and extends her hand to shake his. With a blank face he takes her hand then, tilting his head back slightly, he slowly smiles back.

JAY  
 We fam, you gotz to give me a hug.

UNIQUE  
 I know tha's right.

She wraps her arm around Jay's waist as he squeezes her shoulder.

CUT TO:

PICNIC TABLE

Jordan, Niecy, Rashad, and Tommy are sitting together at a picnic table on the other side of the yard.

JORDAN  
 What's the story with that Jay  
 character, where he come from?

RASHAD  
 Outta darkness into the marvelous  
 light.

NIECY  
 (laughing)  
 Rashad! You know you wrong. C'mon  
 now, walk in love.

JORDAN  
 What; what's so funny?

TOMMY  
 It ain't funny, it's sad. He was  
 molested in foster care from 8  
 years old until he was 12 when his  
 mom's finally got custody back.

JORDAN  
 Are you serious?

RASHAD  
 Yeup. Uncle Cee met'im a few years  
 ago when he joined Overcomers. He  
 adopted Jay after his lil'brother  
 died from AIDS.

JORDAN  
 Wait. Uncle Cee brother died from  
 AIDS. Who you talkin' bout, Uncle  
 Anthony?

RASHAD  
 Yeup.

JORDAN  
 Oh-my-God! What'chu sayin, Unc was  
 DL?

NIECY  
 Didn't nobody know 'till we found  
 out he got AIDS. My dad was  
 devastated.

JORDAN  
 You can't be serious!

TOMMY  
 Oh, we serious. Under-cover brotha  
 was in affect.

NIECY  
 Ooo... un uuhhn. Stop.  
 (to JORDAN)  
 That's why my dad joined  
 Overcomers. He and Jay minister to  
 men who struggle with identity.

JORDAN

Whoa.

NIECY

I know right. Jay got healed of full-blown AIDS about five or six years ago. He been testifying every since. An'e engaged.

JORDAN

Whaaat?

NIECY

He been wit'Trish a little over a year now.

JORDAN

Whaaa? I'on think I could do that. Mm...mmm.

Rashad stands up.

RASHAD

Y'all know I love you right? But I can see where this goin'. I'm out. C'mon Tommy. Shalom.

TOMMY

(to JORDAN)

My number ain't changed.

They walk away.

NIECY

Whatever Rashad.

(to JORDAN)

I hear you. But he was just a kid when that happen.

JORDAN

Tha's serious.

NIECY

There go his fiancee.

Jordan turns to look.

JORDAN

Where?

NIECY

Over there. On the other side of the yard. See'er... at the card table.

CUT TO:

NIECY AND JORDAN P.O.V.

TRISHA(27) is standing at the card table talking to the PLAYERS.

JORDAN  
Where?

NIECY  
With the white dress. See'er?

JORDAN  
Tha's his finacee!

NIECY  
Yeaup.

CUT TO:

BRICK OVEN

DA'SHAWN  
So what's up wit'cha sister-in-law  
man, she born-again?

CHARLES  
Not yet bruh.

DA'SHAWN  
Is that right? We got work to do.

JAY  
Who testosterone. Proverbs 6:25  
main!

DA'SHAWN  
C'mon man. It ain't like  
that. I'm just sayin' we need to  
take care of the lost.

JAY  
True, true.  
(pause)  
Aye Cee. How 'bout ya niece  
gettin' packages from Oakland.

CHARLES  
Is that right. From who?

JAY

Tha's what I'm tryna figure out. It ain't a person, least I don't think.

CHARLES

How's that; what'chu sayin' man?

JAY

They from The Clique, and the return-address don't exist.

CHARLES

How you know the return-address don't exist?

JAY

I checked it after I delivered the last one. Sumin' ain't right about a 19-year-old gettin' UPS packages on a regular from the The Clique with no return address.

CHARLES

Hhhmm. You gotta point. I'mma have'tah talk to Shay about that.

DA'SHAWN

Yeah man. That sound like summin' you need to know.

CHARLES

If another one come, just ask Bobby or Tommy to hold it. I'll let'em know we talked.

JAY

I can do that.

LaShay approaches with a platter of seasoned TILAPIA, and sheets of foil. Charles covers the grill with foil then places the fish on it.

CHARLES

Babe, Jay tellin' me Jordan gettin' packages from Oakland. What'chu know about that?

LASHAY

Nuthin'.

Trisha walks up and wraps her arm around Jay's waist.

TRISHA  
Mmm, look like we 'bout to eat.

LASHAY  
What'e say?

JAY  
(to TRISHA)  
Fah'sho. C'mon, lets go  
find a seat.

CHARLES  
We'll talk later.

LASHAY  
Okay.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - KITCHEN - DAY

The telephone rings as Unique puts her plates in the fridge. She checks the caller ID, answering on the third ring.

UNIQUE  
Hey Trice, wus'up?

PATRICE  
Nikki?

UNIQUE  
Yeah, wus'up?

PATRICE  
Oh, hey. I thought you was  
Jordan. Lieu wanna holla.

CUT TO:

INT. CA STATE PENITENTIARY - DAYROOM - DAY

LIEU  
What'up Nick? Whus good?

UNIQUE  
Chillin'. Just gettin' in from  
Charles annual football kick-off  
queue. I finally got a job.

LIEU  
See that, I knew you would come  
up. Wit'cha edu-ma-cated corporate  
(MORE)

LIEU  
professional self. What Jordan up  
to?

UNIQUE  
I can can't call it. I mean she  
workin', it's just she be out all  
hours and I know she ain't working  
that late. Hell, the mall close at  
9 or 10 at the latest. And as much  
money as she spend, you would think  
she grindin'.

LIEU  
Tha's one of the reasons I'm  
callin'. Fools on the block sayin'  
she gettin' work from some lil'punk  
wit the set that kilt Bossy.

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - KITCHEN - DAY

UNIQUE  
What! Oh hell no. You can't be  
serious?

LIEU  
That's what I'm hearin'.

UNIQUE  
I can't wait for her to bring her  
lil'ass in here. Ooooppphh, she  
get on my nerves!

LIEU  
Look Nick, don't get all in'er  
grill. Be easy, and pray on it.

UNIQUE  
Pray on it! What is you talkin'  
bout? If anything, y'all need to  
pray I don't beat the black  
off'er. She gone get dealt wit.

CUT TO:

INT. CA STATE PENITENTIARY - DAYROOM - DAY

INMATE

Phone check!

LIEU

All I'm sayin is you'on wanna loose'er. But look, the other reason I'm callin' is to tell you I'm born-again. I'm free. You gotta try Jesus. I'm tellin' you Nick, ain't nothin' like'im.

PATRICE

Amen.

AUTOMATED OPERATOR (V.O.)

You have one minute remaining.

LIEU

Pray wit'us Nick.

UNIQUE

Okay, but'chu gone say the prayer though right?

LIEU

Yeah. I got'chu sis. Father, thank you for the opportunity to share your peace with my baby sister. We release your hand upon her and Jordan. According to Psalm 91, we declare they are divinely protected. Thank you for your grace under the blessing. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PATRICE

Amen

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - KITCHEN - DAY

UNIQUE

Amen.

AUTOMATED (V.O.)  
This call will disconnect in 30  
seconds.

LIEU  
Ah'ight, I'm out. I love you sis.

UNIQUE  
I love you too bruh. Ah'ight Trice.

PATRICE  
By Nikki. Good lookin' Trice. I'll  
see you next week.

PATRICE  
Bye baby. I love you.

LIEU  
Me too, down.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - EVENING  
LaShay and Charles are getting ready for bed.

CHARLES  
Shay, 'member I asked you about  
packages comin' to this house for  
Jordan?

LASHAY  
Yes.

CHARLES  
Jay told me they comin' from The  
Clique in Oakland, and the return  
address don't exist.

LASHAY  
What?

CHARLES  
I'm thinkin' she doin' somethin'  
she ain't got no bi'niss doin'.

LASHAY  
Ya think? So, what we gone do?

CHARLES

I already asked Jay to get with Bobby or Tommy if another one come. I'll find out what she up to.

LASHAY

Should I say anything to Unique?

CHARLES

Not yet. Let's just see if another one come.

LASHAY

Tha's a plan.

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Unique is watching TV when Jordan comes in. She jumps up from the sofa turning the TV off with the remote, and rushes up to Jordan as she's closing the front door.

UNIQUE

Who you gettin' dope from?

JORDAN

What is you talkin' bout?

UNIQUE

The fool sending you dope, who is he!

JORDAN

Who told you I'm gettin' dope sent to me!

UNIQUE

Don't worry 'bout that!

Jordan turns to walk upstairs.

JORDAN

You trippin'.

Unique grabs her by the arm spinning her around.

UNIQUE

You don't walk away from me when I'm talkin' to you.

(sniffing JORDAN)

(MORE)

UNIQUE  
And you stink like weed.

Jordan throws her arm up and pulls away.

JORDAN  
You need to let me go.

Unique back hands Jordan in her mouth. Jordan trips and falls down holding her face.

UNIQUE  
Say sumin' smart again!

Jordan gets up and runs out leaving the door open.

UNIQUE  
That's right, you bettah run.

Unique slams the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAMISON HOME - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Jordan is in the driveway texting on her Razr, then she places a call.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - NIECY BEDROOM - NIGHT

Niecy is asleep lying in her Contour Full Canopy bed. Her room is a modern designer's boutique. Hardwood floors, fashionable decor, and artsy wall hangings. There's a Janome sewing machine facing the window and two Jersey Form mannequins on the left side of it, both with Tee shirts: one reading "Jesus Freak" and the other "ism: get in line".

On the right side of the sewing machine is a raw Steel Metal Lady Form mannequin with Shelves. There's a Medium Ladies Dress Form mannequin with Flexible Arms and Fingers on the other side of the room and a fabric roll dispenser next to it filled with quality fabrics.

Her Sidekick is vibrating on the night stand. The vibrating stops for a few seconds then starts again. She wakes up and checks the caller ID.

INSERT PHONE CALLER ID: "Jordan"

She answers half asleep.

NIECY

Hello.

UNIQUE

Cuz, come let me in. Mom's just  
flashed on me.

NIECY

Ah'ight. Meet me at the back door.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Niecy lets Jordan in then resets the alarm. They walk  
through the kitchen.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - NIECY BEDROOM - NIGHT

Niecy is getting back in the bed. Jordan plops on the sofa.

JORDAN

Why you tell my mom's I'm getting  
work sent to me?

NIECY

Hunh? Why would I do that?

JORDAN

Why wouldn't you?

NIECY

Look J. Like you said, I'mma do  
me. I ain't got no business  
tellin' yo business. But you  
really might wanna check  
yourself. I mean, it's just not a  
good look.

Niecy turns her back to Jordan then pulls the covers up over  
her shoulder. Jordan slouches back looking around the room  
considering Niecy's comment.

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - UNIQUE BEDROOM - NIGHT

Unique is tossing-and-turning in bed.

DISSOLVE TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE

She's dreaming she dove off the edge of a cliff on a densely dark night, and began to spiral down after spreading her arms to fly.

Suddenly she awakens sitting straight up, sweating and looking around to regain a sense of her surroundings then gets out of the bed.

CUT TO:

BATHROOM

After rinsing and drying her face, she stands at the mirror staring in it.

LIEU (V.O.)  
You gotta try Jesus.

PAN TO:

UNIQUE BEDROOM

Unique walks back to the bedroom and kneels at the side of the bed.

UNIQUE  
Dear God, I hope you hear me. I don't know what to say, and if I did, I don't know how to say it. So, I'm just gone be straight wit'chu. I'm tired. Help me and my daughter, Jordan. God help us, please. In Jesus name, Amen.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - HOMECOMING GAME - LATE MORNING

Niecy and Jordan are sitting together in the bleacher at the Homecoming Game. The stadium is packed. Rashad, Tommy, and De'von approach them.

RASHAD

Wus'up fam. I see y'all made it to  
the hottest Homecoming in the AUC.

JORDAN

'Sup. Tommy what'chu doin'  
here?

NIECY

Hey Rashad. Hey  
Tommy. What'chall up to.

TOMMY

Lookin' for you.

Tommy sits next to Jordan giving his attention to the action  
on the field. She looks at him, smiles then turns back to  
Niecy, Rashad, and De'Von.

RASHAD

Layin' tracks. I'll check  
y'all later.

NIECY

What? You not gon introduce us to  
your friend?

RASHAD

Awe, may bad. This De'Von.  
(to Niecy)  
Yo, this Niecy and her cousin,  
Jordan.

DE'VON

Hey, wus'up?

JORDAN

'Sup.

Jordan nods to greet him then turns her attention to the  
action on the field.

NIECY

(to DE'VON)  
So, you go to Clark too?

DE'VON

Yeah.

NIECY

You look familiar.  
(to RASHAD)  
Have you brought him to ISM?

DE'VON  
Yeah, I been a couple  
times. It was cool.

RASHAD  
Yeah. He came into The  
Kingdom 'bout a month ago.

NIECY  
Tha's whas'up.  
(to DE'VON)  
So you liked it?

DE'VON  
Yeah, it was cool. I remember  
seein' you there.

NIECY  
Okay. Yeah, I'm tryna get J to  
come out more often, but she too  
busy doin' to do.

JORDAN  
What chu say? Don't be talkin'  
bout me.

TOMMY  
Whoa, hold up. Calm  
yo'self down banana pepper.

JORDAN  
Fah'get chu Tommy.

NIECY  
Ain't nobody talkin' bout  
you. I'm tryna talk to  
you.

RASHAD  
See there y'all go. We  
out.

Rashad and De'Von walk off. Tommy stands in front of Jordan  
blocking her view.

JORDAN  
Mo-oove!

TOMMY  
Not 'till you gi'me yo number?

JORDAN  
Okay, 404

TOMMY  
Hold on.

He pulls out his cell phone, and begins keying in the  
number.

TOMMY  
404

JORDAN  
404, L-E-A-V-E-M-E.

TOMMY  
L-E-A-V. Yeah, that's what  
you gon tell yo dude when  
you clean the crust out'cha  
eyes so you can see me.

He walks off.

NIECY  
Why you do Tommy like that?

JORDAN  
Because?

NIECY  
Because why? Tommy top MLB draft  
pick, and a Child of God. I  
thought you knew.

JORDAN  
So.

NIECY  
So? So, he can take care of you...  
right.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH SANCTURARY - LATE MORNING

Unique, Charles, and LaShay enter the church.

CHARLES  
I gotta check in. I'll catch up  
with y'all after service.

Charles and LaShay kiss cheek-to-cheek then he walks away.

Unique follows LaShay into the sanctuary and down the isle  
toward the front. An usher approaches to seat them. They  
put their bags down and join the ADULT PRAISE TEAM singing  
"Faithful Is Our God" just before the song ends.

The Praise Team exit the stage as PASTOR LAWERENCE GEOFFREY  
(43) approaches the podium. The congregation applauds; most  
everyone that was seated stands up.

PASTOR GEOFFREY  
Heavenly Father, thank you for  
blessing us this morning with ears  
to hear and hearts to receive your  
(MORE)

PASTOR GEOFFREY  
 wisdom. Speak through my vocal  
 cords and think through my mind:  
 all of you and none of me. It's in  
 the mighty name of Jesus we  
 Pray. All those who agree said,  
 Aaaaamen.

CONGREGATION  
 Amen.

PASTOR GEOFFREY  
 You may be seated. Good morning,  
 and welcome to The Church of Praise  
 International.

The congregation applauds then take their seats.

PASTOR GEOFFREY  
 This morning I wanna talk about the  
 Believer's Authority in  
 Christ. Remember, God created man  
 with dominion over all the  
 earth. The bible says if we know  
 He hears us, then we have the  
 petitions we desire of Him  
 according to His will. So a  
 confident Believer will experience  
 the abundant life. We know the  
 devil is the lord of lies and his  
 only objective is to steal, kill,  
 and destroy by trying to get us to  
 conform to the world's way

The congregation begins paying closer attention.

PASTOR GEOFFREY  
 of thinking. We need to understand  
 who we are in Christ, so we don't  
 give in to the lies of the  
 enemy. Our mind, or how we think,  
 is the arena where we maintain  
 authority by taking the weapons of  
 our warfare, that is the word of  
 God and our faith in Christ, which  
 are not carnal, but mighty through  
 Him to the pulling down of strong  
 holds. How many of you know there  
 is no condemnation to them who walk  
 after the Spirit. I guarantee you  
 that when you spend time in God's  
 word to give place for the Holy  
 Spirit to dwell in you, He will

(MORE)

PASTOR GEOFFREY  
 convict the enemy of lies who's  
 trying to govern your  
 decisions. Now, if you have your  
 bibles with you this morning,  
 please go with me to the Book of  
 Romans chapter eight, verses five  
 through eight. Let's look at this  
 in the Amplified.

CUT TO:

INT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - HOMECOMING GAME - DAY

Stephan approaches Jordan and Niecy.

STEPHAN  
 What'up J. Le'me get some grapes.

Jordan frowns, shaking her head no, and gestures the same  
 with her hands.

JORDAN  
 What is this? You the third person  
 that dun came at me. What I look  
 like, a farmer? I ain't got no  
 grapes.

STEPHAN  
 Yeah right. C'mon man, hook a  
 brutha up.

Niecy looks at Stephen curiously then at Jordan in  
 anticipation.

JORDAN  
 Look, I'on know what'chu talkin'  
 bout.

STEPHAN  
 So it's like that. What? You'on  
 wanna serve me?

She turns away, shrugging her shoulders and scratching the  
 left side of her hairline.

JORDAN  
 Man, you need to get up from 'roun  
 me wit' all dat.

STEPHAN

Ah'ight. I see how you do. Later  
wit'chu den.

He walks away just as a couple young ladies approach them passing out fliers. They stop to offer Niecy and Jordan a flyer. Niecy stuffs hers in her jacket pocket and Jordan begins carefully reading hers.

NIECY

Is it me or do people think you  
running a grape stand up  
in'ere? Matter fact, how did you  
meet Rashad?

JORDAN

You'on wanna know.

NIECY

Oh no, I'm really tryna know.

JORDAN

Let's just say we know some of the  
same folks.

NIECY

Oh really, how's that?

JORDAN

Like that. He know folks I know.

NIECY

Okay, but who?

JORDAN

You'on know'em. So what difference  
do it make.

NIECY

How you know I don't know'em?

JORDAN

Cuz I know, ah'ight!

NIECY

You didn't know I know Rashad 'till  
we saw'im that night. So how you  
know I don't know who you was wit  
when you met'im?

JORDAN

Ah'ight cuz! Look, how 'bout he  
came at me'n my folks tryna get us

(MORE)

JORDAN  
to go to his little bible study on  
campus.

NIECY  
Okay, but who were you with?

JORDAN  
You asked me how I met'im.

NIECY  
Whatever J.

JORDAN  
You just mad 'cuz I ain't tol'ju  
who I was wit when I met'im.

NIECY  
Cuz you special.

JORDAN  
You just now figurin' that out: I  
mean, look at me.

NIECY  
I'm sayin', you short bus special.

JORDAN  
Whatever Niecy.

They laugh.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - DAY

The Adult Praise Team are back on stage standing behind  
Pastor signing "I'll Say Yes".

Unique and LaShay are at the altar with the GROUP that came  
forward for the invitation. They're standing together  
holding hands. LaShay whips her tears; she's  
smiling. Unique looks up at Pastor attentively as he  
gestures the music ministry to end the song.

PASTOR GEOFFREY  
C'mon, let's give the Lord a hand  
clap of praise.

Pastor scans the congregation, acknowledging the people  
leaving.

PASTOR GEOFFREY

No walking please. I pray you show reverence for the Father as He speaks to the hearts of those making the most important decision of their life.

(pause)

Heavenly Father, thank you for leading your precious sheep down the path to the perfect life you planned for them. We pray thier

Most everyone postures to pray.

PASTOR GEOFFREY

hunger and thirst for righteousness never cease, and we thank you that all their needs are met according to your will. In Jesus name, Amen.

CONGREGATION

Amen.

PASTOR GEOFFREY

Now if you will please turn to your right, and follow our Deacons to the prayer room. Our Prayer Counselors

Everyone at the altar turns to walk toward the stairs.

PASTOR GEOFFREY

are gonna minister to you, and give you biblical understanding of the things you came to receive and we pray you will never be the same again. Amen. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah.

The congregation applauds.

CUT TO:

LOBBY

LaShay and Unique enter the lobby from the sanctuary approaching Charles and Da'Shawn.

LASHAY

Baby, Unique gave her life to Christ today.

CHARLES  
 (hugging UNIQUE)  
 Congratulations! Praise  
 God sis!

DA'SHAWN  
 Well all right, praise God.

Da'Shawn hugs Unique's shoulder then releases her.

DA'SHAWN  
 Welcome to the Kingdom.

UNIQUE  
 Thank you.

Charles notices Bobby and Tommy across the lobby.

CHARLES  
 Aye, I gotta go take care of sumin'  
 real quick. I'll be right back.

LASHAY  
 Okay.

Charles walks away.

DA'SHAWN  
 (to UNIQUE)  
 So, how you feel?

UNIQUE  
 Great. I'm excited.

LASHAY  
 I'll be right back. I gotta get  
 today's CD.

UNIQUE  
 Okay. I'll be right here.

LaShay walks away.

UNIQUE  
 So, yeah, my brother-in-law asked  
 me to try Jesus. I remember how  
 different he seemed when he told  
 me.

DA'SHAWN  
 Is that right. So you're married?

UNIQUE  
 Well no. I shouldn't call'im my  
 brother-in-law. Jordan's dad and I  
 (MORE)

UNIQUE

never married. As matter fact, one of the reasons we came here was because he was murdered, but I stay in touch with his brother.

DA'SHAWN

Mmmm, that must've been hard.

UNIQUE

Yeah, and we working through it.

DA'SHAWN

That's what's up. Stay positive. I encourage you to continue seeking God spending time in His word. It's the only place you gon find real peace.

UNIQUE

I'm learning.

Charles returns.

CHARLES

Were'd Shay go?

UNIQUE

She went to the bookstore.

DA'SHAWN

Ah'ight fam. I'm out. Congratulations again Unique. Be blessed and stay encouraged.

UNIQUE

Thank you.

He and Charles grab hold of each other's right hand and half hug.

CHARLES

Ah'ight man, call me later.

DA'SHAWN

Belieh'dat.

CUT TO:

INT. MARY MACK'S TEAM ROOM - DAY

Charles, LaShay, and Unique are seated together at Mary Mack's Tea Room. The restaurant is bustling. The WAITRESS (20) just gave them their orders.

WAITRESS  
Can I get you folks anything else?

UNIQUE  
No thank you.

LASHAY  
No thank you.

CHARLES  
Yes, some lemon wedges for my water, and an Arnold Palmer.

WAITRESS  
Yes sir. Would you like that with sweet tea?

CHARLES  
Yes, thank you.

WAITRESS  
No problem. You're welcome.

The waitress walks away. Unique, LaShay, and Charles join hands and bow their heads.

CHARLES  
Thank you for this and every meal you set before us Father. For your mercy and grace, we thank you. And with the Angels in Heaven we rejoice Unique is born again. Amen.

LASHAY  
Amen.

UNIQUE  
Amen.

They begin eating.

LASHAY  
It's your birthday Nikki! How you feel?

UNIQUE  
I feel great. As a matter of fact, I'm feelin' stress free right about now. It's like my posture changed, I can sit up now; that weight is off my shoulders.

LASHAY  
Praise God, that's the peaceful  
rest of salvation.

The waitress returns with Charles' drink.

CHARLES  
Amen.

WAITRESS  
Can I get you folks anything else?

CHARLES  
No thank you.

LASHAY  
I'm good.

UNIQUE  
(gestures no thank you)

The waitress walks away.

CHARLES  
What's important is that you hold  
on to it, never letting go. Before  
you know it, you'll have more  
reasons to be thankful than to  
complain about anything or anyone.

LASHAY  
Amen, and Amen.

CUT TO:

INT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - HOMECOMING GAME - DAY

Niecy and Jordan make their way through the crowd leaving  
the stadium.

JORDAN  
So wus'up cuzzin, I know we goin'  
to the party?

NIECY  
What party? What is you talkin'  
bout?

JORDAN  
The flyer. Homecoming. Tonight.

NIECY  
I been threw that thing away.

JORDAN  
Awe c'mon Niecy. Goooo.

NIECY  
I'on know. I gotta ask moms. She  
proolly gon flip cuz it's a school  
night.

JORDAN  
See that ain't right. I went  
wit'chu to ISM on a Wednesday  
night.

NIECY  
That's different. Besides, as many  
times as I asked you to go, you  
didn't.

JORDAN  
Still, I went wit'chu a couple  
times already. Just call'er. You  
goin' to college next fall. So  
what you sayin', you ain't going to  
homecoming parties when you get on  
campus?

NIECY  
First of all, Ai don't have an  
athletic program so there won't be  
all this homecoming hype.

JORDAN  
I thought we was gon start doin'  
more stuff together. Why you think  
I even went back to ISM with  
you? Because that's what you  
wanted to do. Now I wanna go to  
the homecoming party.

NIECY  
Ah'ight, calm down.

Niecy reaches in to her pocket and pulls out her Sidekick.

CUT TO:

INT. MARY MACK'S TEAM ROOM - DAY

LaShay's cell phone is ringing.

LASHAY

Who is this callin' while I'm tryna eat?

She pulls her cell phone out of her purse and checks the caller ID.

LASHAY

I know this gurl know I'm somewhere eatin'. This better be serious because I'm really not tryna eat cold smothered chicken.

She answers.

LASHAY

What do you want?

NIECY

Mah.

LASHAY

Yes, what is it?

NIECY

Can me and Jordan go to the homecoming party tonight?

LASHAY

Jordan and I: where?

NIECY

Can Jordan and I go to the homecoming party at The Center Stage Theater tonight?

LASHAY

Center Stage, what is that and where is it?

NIECY

The old EarthLink building in Midtown.

LASHAY

Hold on.

(to CHARLES)

Here, talk to your daughter.

She passes Charles the phone.

LASHAY  
(to UNIQUE)  
Niecey. She and Jordan wanna go to  
the homecoming party tonight.

UNIQUE  
Mmmm, oh~kaay.

CHARLES  
Now what'chu tryna do?

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - HOMECOMING GAME - DAY

Jordan leans on Niecey's shoulder trying to listen.

NIECY  
Go to the homecoming party at  
Center Stage in midtown.

CHARLES  
Hol'on.

She vaguely hears Charles and Unique.

CUT TO:

INT. MARY MACK'S TEAM ROOM - DAY

CHARLES  
You okay with Jordan going to the  
homecoming party?

UNIQUE  
As long as she's with Niecey, I  
don't care.

CHARLES  
Y'all can go. Just make sure to be  
home no later than midnight.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - HOMECOMING GAME - DAY

NIECY  
Yes sir. Thank you Dad.

Jordan is excited.

CHARLES

Just remember what I said. You hear.

NIECY

Yes sir.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

WIDE SHOT:

West Peachtree is busy, bumper-to-bumper traffic. The line to get in the party is a half block long, and an Ambulance is parked a block up the street.

CUT TO:

Niecy and Jordan cross the street approaching the steps.

NIECY

Ooohh, uun uuuhn! I am not about to stand on line to get in no party.

JORDAN

Relax cuzzin. Just wait right here, I got this.

Leaving Niecy at the foot of the stairs, Jordan walks directly up to the SECURITY GUARDS at the door.

Niecy watches as she stands near the guards, stepping up to a MALE GUARD, tapping his shoulder then whisper something to him. Jordan points at Niecy and the guard nods yes.

Niecy's arms are folded; she appears indifferent.

Jordan slips the guard something and in return he gives her two laminated VIP badges. She gestures for Niecy to come on.

Niecy's demeanor quickly changes; she's excited yet calmly walks up the stairs to collect her laminate placing the lanyard around her neck as they enter the venue.

PAN TO:

INT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE

MUSIC something like REAL MONEY THE BOSS - FRESH

Music pounds from concert speakers. The security guard escorts them inside to have their inner wrist stamped "MILK".

The party is jam-packed. Niecy follows Jordan through the crowd.

NIECY

Cuz, how much you pay for these laminates?

JORDAN

Fitty dollahs.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

Jordan and Niecy are dancing next to each other with their respective dance partners

A few people approach Jordan and purchase weed

Jordan and Niecy enter the VIP lounge

Niecy watches Jordan wile out from across the room

Niecy approaches Jordan then they leave the VIP lounge

CUT TO:

LADIES ROOM

The walls seem to vibrate as Niecy exists the stall. She approaches the sink to wash her hands using the mirror to canvas the room.

NIECY

(under her breath)

Now where she go?

(pause)

NIECY

Jordan!

No one answers.

When she exists the ladies room, silence consumes her and she presses through the crowd.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

Unique, LaShay, and Charles are together in the family room.

CHARLES

Nikki I don't know how to tell you this, but Jordan been hustling weed since y'all got here.

Unique drops her head, pinching the bridge of her nose.

UNIQUE

I know. Lieu told me. I should've told y'all. I was just hopin' that... I don't know what I was thinking. How did you find out?

CHARLES

Jay got at me when he noticed packages addressed to her about every other week. I asked Bobby and Tommy to hold the next one that came. I picked it up when we got back; it had a ounce of weed in it.

Unique starts crying. LaShay gets up, walks over to sit next to her, and comforts her.

UNIQUE

I'm so sorry.

LASHAY

Don't apologize. You haven't done anything wrong.

UNIQUE

That's just it. I haven't done anything, and now she's way outta control. I don't what to do!

Charles gets up, sits on the other side of Unique, and hugs her.

CHARLES

C'mon sis, it's gone work out. We're here for you, and Jordan.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE - SIDE OF BUILDING - NIGHT

Jordan and Stephan are standing on the side of the building smoking a blunt.

STEPHAN  
C'mon man, sell me some of this?

JORDAN  
Can't do it. This personal.

She reaches in to her pocket to pull out her cell phone when Stephan passes her the blunt.

STEPHAN  
Yo. What was up wit'chu ealier?

JORDAN  
When?

STEPHAN  
At the game. You was frontin' like you ain't had no smoke.

JORDAN  
Not wit'me. Besids, I was wit' my cousin, and I ain't tryna have her all in my bi'niss.

STEPHAN  
What, you scard?

JORDAN  
No. I'm just sayin', she don't need to know what I do. She one of them sanctified heifers tryna save the world.

She passes the blunt back to him.

STEPHAN  
If ya scared go to church.

JORDAN  
Scared of who?

STEPHAN  
(sneezing)  
God. I'm sayin', if you scared, go to church.

Jordan flips her phone open.

INSERT CELL PHONE

She speed dials QUAME

JORDAN

What happen to sending me some work?

CUT TO:

INT. 1977 CHEVY NOVA - BLACK ON BLACK - EVENING

Man-man is in the car with a YOUNG LADY (20) sitting up under him.

MAN-MAN

What'chu talkin' bout? You should'ah got it last week.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE - SIDE OF BUILDING - NIGHT

Stephan starts choking, and passes Jordan the blunt.

STEPHAN

How they say, Aaaak...ahhh  
 (coughing, staining to speak)  
 kooo...coo... men. Hah-lay-lu  
 (sneezing)  
 jahh!

Stephan is gagging and begins coughing violently, pounding his chest. Jordan laughs at him.

JORDAN

(to MAN-MAN)  
 I didn't get it.

CUT TO:

INT. 1977 CHEVY NOVA - BLACK ON BLACK - EVENING

MAN-MAN

You didn't get it? You need to be tellin' me you got my money.

JORDAN

The work didn't get here.  
 (to STEPHAN)  
 See, tha's why I ain't sellin' you none. You can't handle Bay Area hydro.

MAN-MAN

Then you need to figure out how you  
gon get my money.

JORDAN

How I'm gon get'cho money?

MAN-MAN

You heard me trick.

JORDAN

Why is you talkin' to me like that.

MAN-MAN

Look. I'on know what you thought  
you thought. But I'mma need you to  
send me my money.

JORDAN

How I'mma do that.

MAN-MAN

Figure it out. Tha's why I dumped  
yo daddy trick.

Man-man hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE - SIDE OF BUILDING - NIGHT

Jordan is stunned and confused.

Suddenly Stephan's eyes roll up and he collapses.

CUTO TO:

INT. ATLPD PATROL CAR - NIGHT

OFFICER #1, the driver, turns on the blue lights, sounds the  
siren one time then pulls to the curb against traffic.

PAN TO:

EXT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE - SIDE OF BUILDING - NIGHT

He gets out of the vehicle and runs up to Setphan while  
dispatching an ambulance.

OFFICER #1  
[Whatever officers say to dispatch  
an ambulance]

His partner, OFFICER #2, follows behind running up on Jordan. Jordan toses the blunt and stuffs her phone back in her pocket.

OFFICER #2  
Hold it right there! Don't  
move. Hands above your head, face  
the wall.

SOUND FX: AMBULANCE SIREN

Officer #1 checks Stephan's pulse.

OFFICER #1  
Nothing. He's dead.

Jordan quickly turns toward Officer #1.

JORDAN  
What!

Officer #2 pins her to the wall.

OFFICER #2  
Quite! Face against the wall.

Officer #1 dispatches a female officer then begins securing the area.

OFFICER #1  
[Whatever officers say to dispatch  
a female officer]

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Niecy is outside talking to the security guard that sold Jordan the laminate VIP badges. He points down the block.

CUT TO:

EXT. CENTER STAGE THEATRE - SIDE OF BUILDING - NIGHT

From the corner Niecy sees PARAMEDICS attempt to revive Stephan with a defibrillator, and Jordan handcuffed being led to the female officer's vehicle.

She runs towards them.

NIECY

Jordan! Hey! Hol'up!

The Paramedics connect Stephan to an oxygen delivery system then lift him up on a gurney to put him in the ambulance. Officer #1 stops Niecy before she could get near Jordan.

OFFICER #1

Hold it young lady.

NIECY

What'chall doin' to my cousin!

OFFICER #1

She's being arrested for possision with intent to distribute.

NIECY

What! Jordan what's wrong with you?

Jordan doesn't respond, and drops her head as the FEMALE OFFICER places her in the back of the patrol car.

NIECY

Where y'all takin'er?

OFFICER #1

Fulton County Jail for booking. Do you know where it is?

NIECY

No.

OFFICER #1

Are you driving?

NIECY

Yes.

OFFICER #1

Where'd you park?

NIECY  
Just tell me where y'all takin'er!

OFFICER #2  
Calm down, and...

NIECY  
Calm down! Y'all got my  
cousin handcuffed all in  
the back of a police car,  
and you tellin' me to calm  
down!

OFFICER #1  
I need you to listen carefully to  
what I'm saying young lady and I'll  
tell you where she's going.

NIECY  
I don't beleive this!

OFFICER #1  
Where's your car?

NIECY  
At a parking lot on Peachtree, why?

OFFICER #1  
Because we can't wait for you to  
get your car and follow us. So,  
give me a minute. I'll write the  
directions to the station and you  
can meet us there.

He walks back to his patrol car.

NIECY  
This is crazy!

CUT TO:

EXT. PEACHTREE BLVD - NIGHT

Niecy is walking down Peachtree Blvd on her cell.

NIECY  
Mah, Jordan just got arrested!

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

LaShay is on the phone and jumps out her seat to her feet. Charles mutes the TV. He and Unique look at LaShay concerned.

LASHAY

What! Jordan got arrested? Where are you?

Charles and Unique stand to their feet and walk over to LaShay.

NIECY

On Peachtree on my way to the police station.

LASHAY

No you're not. You're gonna stay where you are until we get there. Now, where on Peachtree are you?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PEACHTREE BLVD - NIGHT

Niecy is exiting a Hotel hanging up her cell phone when Charles pulls up in the Escalade and gets out. LaShay hangs up her cell, and moves from the front passenger seat to the driver seat. Unique moves from the back passenger seat to the front passenger seat.

NIECY

I'm sorry daddy.

CHARLES

Where's your car?

NIECY

In the parking lot.

CHARLES

Come on. Give me the keys.

Niecy pulls her keys out of her purse and gives them to Charles.

NIECY

What about mom and auntie?

CHARLES  
They gon follow us. Now c'mon.

NIECY  
Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

The precinct is quiet with just a few people working. Charles gestures for the ladies to take a seat on the benches then approaches the clerk behind the large plexy glass window.

CHARLES  
Hi. My name is Charles  
Jamison. I'm here to pick up my  
niece, Jordan Mitchell.

The clerk doesn't look up at him.

COUNTY CLERK  
Are you the father?

CHARLES  
No. I'm her uncle. Lieutenant  
Baker told me to let the front desk  
know he sent me to pick her up.

COUNTY CLERK  
Oh yes. He said I should be  
expecting you. Is there a parent  
with you?

CHARLES  
Yes, her mother.

Charles turns and gestures for Unique to come over. LaShay points at herself. He shakes his head no.

CHARLES  
(mouthing)  
Unique.

Unique gets up and approaches the counter.

CHARLES  
This is her mother, my  
sister-in-law, Unique Roberts.

UNIQUE

Hi. I'm sorry for any trouble my daughter caused.

COUNTY CLERK

Thank you ma'am, but you don't have to apologize. She's still growin' up and learning. Thank you for picking her up before we released her. Do you know why she was arrested?

PAN TO:

LaShay consoles Niecy.

UNIQUE

Yes. My niece told us.

COUNTY CLERK

Okay. We're finishing up her release. Please take a seat. She should be coming out in a few minutes.

UNIQUE

Okay. Thank you.

COUNTY CLERK

You're welcome. It'll be just a few more minutes.

Unique and Charles walk back to the benches and sit with Niecy and LaShay. Just then Jordan is escorted out to the lobby by a female officer.

UNIQUE

You alright pumpkin?

JORDAN

Do I look alright?

Niecy, LaShay, and Charles are suprised.

CHARLES

Hey. You need to watch your mouth.

JORDAN

Look, we gon stand here or what?

Unique reaches out to hug Jordan, but she pulls away folding her arms and rolling her eyes. Unique begins to tear.

JORDAN

There you go with the water works.

LaShay wraps her arm around Unique's shoulder comforting her.

NIECY

Cuz! Wha's wrong wit'chu?

JORDAN

Why you keep asking me what's wrong wit'me? What's wrong wit'chu? Like you so perfect. Get on my nerves. Lil'Miss Puritan.

NIECY

See. This why I don't be tryna be around you too much because...

JORDAN

Trick! Like I need you.

NIECY

What'chu say?

LASHAY

Excuse you?

JORDAN

(to NIECY)  
You death? You heard me, I said trick like I need'ju.

CHARLES

Didn't I tell you to watch your mouth.

LaShay looks at Jordan like she's crazy. Niecy walks away toward the exit. Charles grabs Jordan by the wrist, and she pulls away.

JORDAN

Let me go. You ain't my daddy.

Charles pauses for a moment looking at her hard.

CHARLES

You ridin' wit'me.

Jordan looks back at him cocky.

JORDAN

Whatever. Can we just leave?

Charles turns and walks away. Jordan follows him. LaShay and Unique follow them.

CUT TO:

INT. 2005 BLACK VOLKSWAGEN JETTA - NIGHT

Charles and Jordan are traveling on the freeway.

CHARLES  
Talk to me Jordan.

JORDAN  
About what?

CHARLES  
What think you need to sell weed?

JORDAN  
Who told you I was sellin' weed?

CHARLES  
Jordan, I just picked you up from  
the police station. What did you  
think you got arrested for?

JORDAN  
Why is you all in my business?

CHARLES  
Why is you havin' weed sent to my  
house?

JORDAN  
Look. I already told you you ain't  
my daddy. So stop tryna be.

CHARLES  
What makes you think I wanna be yo  
daddy?

JORDAN  
Because you tryna tell me what to  
do.

CHARLES  
I'm not tryna nothin'. I'm tellin'  
you what you not gon do in my  
house.

JORDAN  
I'm tired of folks all the time in  
my bi'niss.

CHARLES  
Ah'ight listen. We'll finish this  
conversation in the morning after  
you had a chance to think about

(MORE)

CHARLES  
 what'chu you thinking. Don't get  
 it twisted little girl. As long as  
 you under my roof, you answer to  
 me. Understand?

Suddenly Jordan releases her safety belt, grabs hold of the door handle, unlocks the door then opens it. Charles quickly grabs her left arm swerving to a stop in the shoulder lane nearly hitting the guardrail.

CUT TO:

EXT. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY - SHOULDER LANE - NIGHT

LaShay skids to avoid crashing into the back of them.

Charles gets out of the car, runs around the front to the passenger door, opens it, and takes Jordan by the hand. She pulls back, but he drags her out of the car. She beats on him and begins crying hysterically. He holds her tightly.

JORDAN  
 Why did he have to die!

CHARLES  
 It's okay.

JORDAN  
 No it's not! I can't stand  
 this. I want my daddy back!

Unique, LaShay, and Niecy walk toward them holding on to each other sadly watching.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - LOFT - EARLY MORNING

Jordan picks up clock radio.

INSERT CLOCK RADIO

It's 5:07am. She gets out of the bed, walks down stairs, and notices Unique's bedroom door is open. She peaks inside, but doesn't see her. She walks in the room.

JORDAN  
 Mommy?

Nobody answers.

She runs back upstairs, puts on her flip-flops and leaves the cottage.

CUT TO:

INT. JAMISON HOME - KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Jordan uses her key to enter the house then quickly disarms the alarm.

INSERT MICROWAVE OVEN

It's 5:14am. She hears faint voices, and follows them to a closed door with a "Secret Place" sign hanging from the doorknob. She puts her ear to the door, and hears Unique, Niecy, LaShay and Charles speaking in what sounds like gibberish. She steps back from the door, looking at it strangely, rolls her eyes then creeps away.

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - LOFT - MORNING

Unique is walking up the stairs to the loft. She approaches Jordan laying in the sofa bed.

INSERT CLOCK RADIO

It's 7:38am now. Unique sits down, and carresses Jordan's face waking her up.

UNIQUE

Jordan. We need to talk.

Jordan turns over to face Unique.

JORDAN

Hhm?

UNIQUE

Wake up pumkin. I need to talk to you.

JORDAN

What is it mommy?

UNIQUE

Listen, I know we haven't been very close, and I'm sorry for that. But ever since your dad passed away we've grown farther apart, and I

(MORE)

UNIQUE  
don't like the feeling of not  
knowing you. Now I know you miss  
him...

Jordan sits up in the bed.

JORDAN  
Mommy, you don't have to  
apologize. If anything, I need to  
apologize to you. And Niocy and  
Auntie and Uncle. I was up all  
night thinking about something  
Uncle said to me on the way home.

UNIQUE  
What?

JORDAN  
He asked why I think I need to sell  
weed. I never thought about  
it. And that reminded me of  
something dad would say; think  
before you act. All I could come  
up with was thinking I would make  
enough money to go back home. Then  
I realized, this my only home. I  
thought about how different I grew  
up compared to Niocy. Not sayin'  
it's all bad. But where I from,  
it's different. I mean, I wasn't  
even suprised when daddy got  
killed, because how he made  
money. And remember a couple years  
before it happened, it seem like  
every day somebody he new was  
getting kilt.

UNIQUE  
I know baby.

JORDAN  
We had our good times, but there  
was always drama. You and daddy,  
me and you; always goin' at it  
about small stuff. It was  
noisy. And got louder after he  
died. I'on hear all that noise  
here. That's it mommy. It's like  
the noise

Jordan begins tearing then crying.

JORDAN  
 cluttered my thinking. An'on top  
 of all that, I come to realize I  
 been played by the dude that killed  
 my daddy! I feel so stupid.

Unique whips her tears.

UNIQUE  
 I know baby. Lieu told me.

JORDAN  
 Why you didn't say nothin' to me?

UNIQUE  
 Because I knew you wouldn't believe  
 me. So I prayed he would be  
 revealed to you. Listen, I miss  
 your farther too, and I feel the  
 strain on us. That's why I left  
 California so we could start a new  
 life, and move on. We need to  
 trust each other, and work on  
 getting along. I know you want a  
 better life, and I want nothing but  
 the best for you. The problem is  
 that you're old enough to think for  
 yourself, but not mature enough to  
 make the right decisions.

Unique holds Jordan's hands.

UNIQUE  
 Baby listen, I need you to stop  
 dealin' with whoever he is that's  
 been sending you weed.

JORDAN  
 I'm through wit him. He treated me  
 like a joke.

UNIQUE  
 Only because you don't know  
 him. What's important is you learn  
 to avoid mistakes. The bible says  
 bad company corrupts good  
 morals. Some people do all types  
 of foul things because they believe  
 something somebody told  
 them. Before long they have no  
 restraint. Their morals become  
 corrupt, and they're  
 out-of-control.

JORDAN

What do you mean morals become corrupt?

UNIQUE

Imagine a traffic intersection without stop signs. No one would know when to stop and go. It's the same with morals. When you don't know right, you're probably doing wrong. The bible teaches us how we should live. And every act has a consequences. If we chose to disobey a law, then we've already accepted the consequence. That goes back to what your dad taught you. Think before you act. In other words, know the consequence of your actions. And we can't get upset with anyone who doesn't agree with us. They have just as much right to their choice as we had to ours.

JORDAN

I see. It's not like I didn't know selling weed is illegal. And even if I didn't get arrested, I was fooling myself thinking I had a real future in it. I was stuck the whole time, trapped in the trap.

UNIQUE

Exactly.

JORDAN

I love you mommy.

They hug each other tightly.

UNIQUE

I love you more pumpkin. I always have.

CUT TO:

INT. CORCORAN STATE PRISON - PROTECTIVE HOUSING UNIT - DAY

MUSIC something like KIRK WHALAM - WADE IN THE WATER

ACTION ONLY

Man-Man is carrying a blanket and pillow being escorted by TWO PRISON GUARDS to his cell in to the Protective Housing Unit.

CUT TO:

EXT. CORCORAN STATE PRISON - RECREATION YARD - DAY

ACTION ONLY

THREE INMATES from the security housing unit rush through an unlocked emergency door dividing their recreation yard from the protective housing unit recreation yard.

Two of the inmates attack Man-Man, beating him violently. An officer shoots one round from a woodblock gas gun to break up the incident. All the inmates scurry back inside to their cellblock.

Man-man lays still on the ground.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WORKSPACE - UNIQUE'S OFFICE - DAY

Unique is on her cellphone.

UNIQUE

Yeup, I'm born-again bruh. I been waitin' for your call to tell you.

LIEU

Praise God sis! Welcome to the Kingdom. Listen, I gotta get off the phone in a minute, I wanted to let you know Man-man got dumped when'e came inside. Turns out that fool had a gang of blood on his hands.

UNIQUE

Really? That's sad. I don't know whether to thank God, or pray he got saved.

LIEU

I say we thank God that all things work for the good to those that love Him.

UNIQUE

Amen.

LIEU

I'll talk to you again real soon  
sis. I love you.

UNIQUE

Love you more bruh.

LIEU

Down.

UNIQUE

Bye.

She hangs up the phone, turns to her laptop, pings LaShay on  
Yahoo Instant Messenger, and begins a cyber conversation.

CUT TO:

INSERT LAPTOP MONITOR

UNIQUE

hey, u there?

CUT TO:

INT. WORKSPACE - LASHAY'S CUBICAL - DAY

LaShay is busy typing on her desktop keyboard when her phone  
rings.

LASHAY

Message Media, LLC. LaShay  
Jamison, how may I help you?

CHARLES

Baby. Da'Shawn just called asking  
for Unique number. He wanna  
take'er onna date.

LASHAY

Are you serious?

CHARLES

C'mon now Shay. You know brutha D,  
he know what'e want, and right now  
it's yo sister number.

LASHAY  
 Le'me ask her, she just pinged  
 me on Yahoo. Hol'on.

CHARLES  
 Just call me back.

LASHAY  
 Okay.

She hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

INSERT DESKTOP MONITOR SCREEN

The Yahoo Instant Messenger chat window vibrates. She begins a IM conversation.

LASHAY  
 yeah. how 'bout charles just  
 called talkin' bout da'shawn  
 won'cho number. he wanna take u on  
 a date.

UNIQUE  
 OMG! r u serious [BIG GRIN  
 EMOTICON] what'e say?

LASHAY  
 i just told u. what'chu gon do?

UNIQUE  
 what'chu think! if u don't hurry  
 up and give that man my number!

LASHAY  
 lol... hol'on. lemme call'im back

UNIQUE  
 m'k

She calls Charles back from her cellphone.

LASHAY  
 Baby. She said give'im the number.

CHARLES  
 Koo. He wanna take'er to the High  
 for Jazz.

LASHAY  
Really, when?

CHARLES  
This Friday.

LaShay continues the IM conversation while talking to Charles.

LASHAY  
gurl... he wanna take you to the  
high for friday jazz. i kinna  
figured he like u.

UNIQUE  
r u serious? [BIG GRIN EMOTICON]

LASHAY  
(to CHARLES)  
Ooooweee! Da'Shawn takin' Unique on  
a date.

CHARLES  
Yeup. Le'me call'im back and  
give'im her number.

LASHAY  
yes, gurl... day after tmrw. u gon  
HAVE to get dun'up.  
(to CHARLES)  
Okay. Bye baby.

CHARLES  
Bye.

CUT TO:

INT. WORKSPACE - UNIQUE'S OFFICE - DAY

INSERT LAPTOP MONITOR

UNIQUE  
i know right, gotz to get my wig  
washed. u have to call Tonya  
n'schedule an appt. NOW!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. 2005 BMW - EVENING

LaShay pulls up in a 2005 SPARKLING GRAPHITE METALLIC 335i BMW with black leather and aluminum trim, and parks. Unique is with her.

UNIQUE

I hope we don't be up in here all night.

LASHAY

Well, she did sueeze you in for seven and it's six forty-five now.

UNIQUE

I can't stand bein' in the shop for hours.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAIR SALON - EVENING

LaShay parks, they get out and walk toward the salon.

LASHAY

What are you sayin'? Unique, your hair ain't seent a shampoo bowl but once a twice since you got here.

UNIQUE

Fah get'chu. I'm just sayin'. I ain't tryna be up in the shop all night.

LASHAY

You don't get it. You don't see a stylist often enough to not need a make-over when you do make it to the shop, and you wonder why you be up in here for a minute.

CUT TO:

INT. HAIR SALON - EVENING

TONYA (32), the owner, greets them as they enter the salon. Some of the other stylists look at Unique and smile.

TONYA

Hey Shay.

LASHAY  
Hey Miss Tonya.

TONYA  
Hey Unique, long time.

UNIQUE  
I know; hey.

TONYA  
C'mon on back and have a seat so we  
can get you all dun'up for ya hot  
date.

UNIQUE  
Hunh?

LASHAY  
Gurl please, the whole shop know  
you gotta date.

UNIQUE  
How you gone put me out there?

LASHAY  
By tellin' e'rybody. Ha!

LaShay and Tonya laugh.

UNIQUE  
You wrong Shay.

LASHAY  
Yeah, but you know you juiced.

Unique laughs embarrassingly.

CUT TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - LOFT - EVENING

Niecy is sitting on the sofa bed texting on her  
Sidekick. Jordan is at the full-length mirror styling her  
hair and adjusting her clothes.

NIECY  
So that's what'chu gon wear?

JORDAN  
Yeah.

NIECY  
 Finally. Now get'cho do right and  
 lets go.

Jordan touches up her hair style.

JORDAN  
 What was y'all doin' in the room  
 early that morning?

NIECY  
 Y'all who, what room?

JORDAN  
 There was a sign on the door that  
 said secret place.

NIECY  
 Prayin' for yo butt.

JORDAN  
 C'mon. Seriously, what was y'all  
 doin'?

Niecy looks up at Jordan.

NIECY  
 Seriously.

JORDAN  
 I mean, y'all was making some kinna  
 noise.

Niecy closes the Sidekick.

NIECY  
 That wasn't noise. We were praying  
 in the Spirit.

JORDAN  
 Praying in the Spirit, what's that?

NIECY  
 The Holy Ghost. It's the spirit of  
 God. When we pray in the Spirit  
 we're praying in our Heavenly  
 language. Speaking in tongues is a  
 gift from God when you get baptized  
 in the Holy Ghost.

JORDAN  
 Whoa! Tha's deep. I just wanna  
 know what'chall was doin'?

NIECY

Tha's what I'm sayin'. We were interceding for you J. We believe there's power in prayer to change any situation or circumstance, and if you know God hears you, He'll give you anything you ask for according to His will.

JORDAN

Wow, anything I ask for. Tha's big.

NIECY

Anything according to His will. That's why knowing His word, and walking in obedience to it is so important; it's what builds faith. And with faith your desires can be fulfilled. It ain't easy bein' breezy though; you gotta have hope in faith.

JORDAN

Wow, that sound like work.

NIECY

Nothing worthwhile comes easily.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. YOUTH SANCTUARY - NIGHT

Minister Keith is at the podium.

MINISTER KEITH

For those who would like to receive any of these gifts, please get your things and meet us here at the altar. We invite you now to be blessed of our Lord. Amen.

CUT TO:

ALTAR

The Praise Team begins singing "You Are My Shield". Niecy is standing at the altar with the Teen Prayer Counselors.

PAN TO:

YOUTH CONGREGATION

Jordan and Stephan are sitting next to each other. Jordan slowly rises and walks toward Niecy who's smiling and reaches out to hug her.

NIECY  
So you ready to come clean?

JORDAN  
Yes ma'am.

NIECY  
That's wus'up cuzzin. I'm so glad you asked to come with me this time, and you invited Stephan.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY

Jordan and Niecy are sitting facing each other with their hands raised. Stephan is seated with and talking to a teen prayer counselor too along with the other teens coupled with their teen prayer counselor.

NIECY  
Thank you Father for my salvation.

JORDAN  
Thank you Father for my salvation.

NIECY  
In Jesus' Name.

JORDAN  
In Jesus' Name.

NIECY  
Amen.

JORDAN  
Amen.

NIECY  
Hallelujah! You know the angels in Heaven havin' a party for you? It's goin' down!

Niecy leans forward to give Jordan a big hug. Jordan hugs her back then they release each other.

JORDAN  
You silly. Thanks cuzzin, I luuh'u.

NIECY

Love you back cuzzin! And if you ever have any questions about your relationship with Christ, just ask me. If I don't know the answer, trust me, we'll find it in the Bible. And if there's anything you don't understand, pray for understanding and God will give it to you.

JORDAN

Wow. That's awesome.

NIECY

Just follow me as I follow Christ.

JORDAN

Tha's wus'up.

DISSOLVE TO:

SOUND FX: LIVE PERFORMANCE (KIRK WHALUM - THE MOMENT I PRAYED: STUDIO TRACK)

MONTAGE

Da'Shawn picks Unique up at the house

They're examining one of Romare Bearden's collages

The Table 1280 MAITRE D' seats them. Da'Shawn quickly steps behind Unique's chair to hold it for her while she sits. She's impressed.

CUT TO:

INT. LOUNGE

Unique and Da'Shawn are seated together in a booth. The band is performing; something like Kirk Whalum's The Moment I Prayed - Studio Track.

UNIQUE

Okay, let me ask you this?

DA'SHAWN

Shot.

UNIQUE

Why did you ask me out?

DA'SHAWN

Because I need to get to know you.

UNIQUE

You need to get to know me. What do you need to know?

DA'SHAWN

That you're the woman I need in my life.

UNIQUE

Okay. What kind of woman do you need?

DA'SHAWN

One who has a relationship with Jesus.

UNIQUE

That's it?

DA'SHAWN

Believe me. That alone is what matters most. I don't plan to be single much longer. I know what I need, and I plan to have it.

UNIQUE

Okay.

DA'SHAWN

Does that answer your question.

UNIQUE

Yes; completely. Thank you.

DA'SHAWN

You're welcome. Now relax, enjoy the show, and be you.

UNIQUE

Okay.

She looks at him, smiles, then turns her attention to the performance.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE: ONE YEAR LATER

EXT. JAMISON HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

CLOSE UP:

Charles is standing at a table dressed in a cream color suit with his champagne glass raised. Music plays softly in the background.

CHARLES

To the bride and groom.

He taps his glass with his fork.

PAN TO:

WIDE SHOT:

He sits down next to LaShay on his right. Jay, seated to his left, is caressing Trisha's face and kissing her. The guests tap their glasses provoking the newly weds.

Da'Shawn and Unique are seated at one of the round guests tables in front of the bridal party. He takes Unique's hand and kisses the back of it: she's wearing an engagement ring.

Bobby Johnson and his wife are at the table with them. Tommy and Jordan are at the table with them along with Niecy and Rashad.

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

INT. IN-LAW COTTAGE - LOFT - DAY

JORDAN

So there you have it. Hope in Faith. Now for the best thang you ever did. Niecy go'on show'em.

NIECY

Ah'ight listen up. Cuz you will get left if you don't get right.

CUT TO:

INSERT SIDEKICK: MATTHEW 19:20

NIECY

He says for where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

CUT TO:

ANGLE

NIECY  
Ladies n'gentlemen. The King!

Jordan and Niecy look to their right, and begin rocking from side-to-side.

JORDAN  
J-E-S-U-S-C-H-R-I-S-T  
homebooyeeh!

NIECY  
J-E-S-U-S-C-H-R-I-S-T  
homebooyeeh!

NIECY  
That's right, Jesus  
Christo. Trust, and believe He  
intercedes. God takes care of the  
rest. Bigger than we can ask or  
thing is how we gets blessed.

Jordan approaches the webcam to cover the lens with her hand.

JORDAN  
Oh~kay! And we out. Shalom!

FADE TO BLACK:

MUSIC something like GENERATION J - THE ROCK

FADE IN:

MONTAGE

Jordan and Da'Shawn playing one-on-one basketball at a park

Jordan's at ISM helping clean up

Unique and Da'Shawn strolling a scenic trail holding hands

Unique, Da'Shawn, and Jordan seated together at service

DISSOLVE TO:

FADE TO BLACK.

Red drops fill in the verse Romans 10:9 - 10 one word at a time; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

TITLE: THE BEGINNING