

COLOR OF CRIME

By
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FADE IN

EXT. PRESTON ELEMENTARY - AFTERNOON

Buses fill the parking lot. Teachers watch over the little students as they get on their buses. Parents escort their children from the school.

SARAH (mid - 30s) pulls up in to the parking lot behind the buses to pick up her daughter TAYLOR (11).

Taylor notices Sarah in her latest model SUV and DASHES to the car with her bookbag flapping back and forth.

INT. SARAH'S SUV - SAME

Taylor HOPS in and puts her seatbelt on.

SARAH
(on phone)
This is Dr. Gibson.

TAYLOR
Hi mommy.

SARAH
(waves Sarah in)
Yes... (beat) How far are the contractions? (beat) I thought I made myself clear when I said call me when they are five to six minutes apart. (beat) Okay, goodbye.

Sarah backs up and leaves the parking lot.

SARAH
We are going to run a few errands before I take you to karate.

TAYLOR

Okay... Did you bring my headband
this time mommy?

SARAH

Yes, it's in your bag.

Taylor smiles.

SARAH

Come on, hand me your bookbag.

Taylor hands her bookbag over the seat to Sarah.

SARAH

Thank you.

TAYLOR

Mommy, Erin Franklin wanted to
come over and play with me this
weekend.

SARAH

You're supposed to spend the
weekend with your father.

TAYLOR

Oh yea, (smiles) this is the
weekend. He's going to take me
to an indoor water park.

SARAH

(sarcastically)

Oh joy.

Sarah stops at a stoplight. Looks thru Taylor's
bookbag. Sarah notices a folded note.

SARAH
(holds it up)
What's this?

Taylor reaches for it.

TAYLOR
Can I have it mommy?

Sarah opens it up.

Note says "I LIKE YOU, DO YOU LIKE ME? CIRCLE YES
OR NO." JACKSON

SARAH
(upset)
Who's Jackson?

Taylor looks out the window.

SARAH
Taylor!

TAYLOR
Yes mommy?

SARAH
Answer me. Who is Jackson?

TAYLOR
He's a boy in Mrs. Aries class.

SARAH
When did he give this to you?

TAYLOR
Jessica Andrews gave me the note
at lunch.

SARAH
I'll have a talk with her mother.

TAYLOR
Why mommy?

SARAH
Do not question me.

TAYLOR
I'm sorry mommy.

SARAH
(sternly)
What color is he Taylor?

TAYLOR
He's black.

SARAH
What did I tell you about black boys?

TAYLOR
You said, that they can't be trusted and that I should only like white boys.

SARAH
That's right. There's nothing good about black guys. So the next time he tries to talk to you, you tell the teacher that he is bothering you. They are criminals and make a lot of babies that they expect other people to take care of.

Melissa looks back at Taylor with a stern look.

SARAH (CONT'D)
- and he will get in trouble.
Do you understand?

TAYLOR
Yes mommy. He's just -

SARAH
He's just nothing Taylor, he's
not equal to you.

Sarah pulls in to the bank parking lot.

SARAH
Mommy will be right back and
then we will go to your karate
class.
(looks around)
Looks safe but I will lock
the doors.

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON

Sarah gets out of her truck. She stands behind a young white girl who is at the ATM.

A few minutes later, another car pulls up. A black male, DEREK (late 20s), parks his car, gets out and stands behind Sarah in line.

Sarah tries to hide her disgust for him standing behind her. Once the young white girl is complete, Sarah goes to the ATM. Her transaction is rather long and during that time, a middle - aged white male, RONALD, kind of scruffy looking in the face, in jeans in a tee shirt, stands behind Derek in line.

Sarah breathes a sigh of relief when she sees Ronald walk up behind Derek.

After Sarah's transaction, she snarls at Derek and smiles at Ronald. Ronald smiles back. Sarah walks back to her and is immediately approached by Ronald. Derek is at the ATM.

RONALD

Hello ma'am.

SARAH

(smiles)

Hi.

RONALD

Uhh, I wanted to know if you know where I can get some good pizza from?

SARAH

Hmm... Around here, I would say Anthony's Pizza, it's a few lights up and on the right.

RONALD

Righ', right... say, ummm, how much money did you get out?

SARAH

Excuse me?

RONALD

Money, I need some cash and I want to know how much you got out

SARAH

(interrupts)

But you were in line.

RONALD

Waiting for someone like you,
now give me the money before I
hurt you!

SARAH

My daughter is with me, please
please

RONALD

(interrupts)
Shut up and hand it over.
(pulls out a switchblade)

SARAH

Oh my god... HEEEEELLPPP!!!! I'm
being robbed!

Ronald reaches for her bag, she tries to scuffle
to hold on to it.

Derek sees it and runs over and grabs Ronald from
behind and slams him down.

Taylor SCREAMS from inside the truck for her mother.

DEREK

Go lady! Get out of here and
call 911!
(as he pins Ronald down)

INT. SARAH'S SUV - SAME

Sarah scurries in to her SUV, frantic. She starts
the SUV, drives up some then pulls over.

TAYLOR

Mommy! Are you okay?

Sarah tries to calm herself and Taylor down. She pulls out her cell phone and dials 911.

SARAH

Oh my god! Oh my god!

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

A clean - cut white man, PHILIP (40s), pulls up and notices Derek on top of Ronald.

Philip stops his car and JUMPS out instantly.

RONALD

Get this nigger off of me!

DEREK

Who the hell you calling a nigger?

PHILIP

What's the problem?

DEREK

He tried to rob the woman in the truck.

RONALD

Bullshit! He tried to rob her and when

DEREK

(interrupts)

You're lying!

Derek roughs Ronald up while on the ground pinning him down.

PHILIP

I don't know what's going on but I'm going to call 911 -

DEREK

Go ask the lady in the silver
SUV.

Derek points at the SUV.

Phone in hand, Philip walks to Sarah's truck.

INT. SARAH'S SUV - CONTINUOUS

Sarah hangs up with 911.

TAYLOR

Are you okay mommy?

Philip KNOCKS on Sarah's window, which STARTLES her.

SARAH

Shit!

(looks at the window)

Yes! Who are you?

PHILIP

My name is Philip ma'am and I
am calling the police for this
situation.

SARAH

I did already.

PHILIP

What happened?

MELISSA

I was robbed.

PHILIP

By whom?

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT - SAME

A police car pulls up. OFFICER HUNTER (30), white male, barely puts the car in park before he JUMPS out and asserts his authority.

OFFICER HUNTER
Both of you get up!

RONALD
I'm glad you're here officer,
this negro jump on me and
physically assaulted me!

DEREK
Officer, he tried to rob the
woman in the truck and I just
tried to help her out till you
came.

Sarah walks up with Philip and holding Taylor's hand.

OFFICER HUNTER
Ma'am, were you the one that
called 911 about being robbed?

SARAH
Yes.

OFFICER HUNTER
Can you point out the perpetrator?

Sarah takes a long look at both Derek and Ronald.

Sarah's eyes filled with water, very distraught --

OFFICER HUNTER
Ma'am, take your time.

TAYLOR
(tearful)
Mommy...

Taylor squeezes Sarah's hand.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.