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.