

Diamond

District

Pilot Episode: Welcome Home

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INT. MERRICK OFFICE - EARLY MORNING

Taylor Merrick looking crisp, clean and starched is talking on the phone.

His office is the finely appointed executive suite of a successful contractor and there are plans on the desk and weight on his shoulders. He is alone.

TAYLOR MERRICK

What do you mean the application was put in late? We put that thing in three months early! Who's fucking with me on this one Paul?

PAUL (V.O.)

Well the way you handled....

TAYLOR MERRICK

Paul.

PAUL

Well the way that thing went down in the county, it could be any number of players. The point is, it's real and we have to figure a way to handle it.

TAYLOR MERRICK

Uh huh

(pause)

Uh huh.

EXT. - AFTERNOON

FADE IN: to Dez Phelan having lunch with Judge Jennifer Bryant at Le Monte a downtown cafe. They are seated at an outside table and their lunches are not being touched. More energy will be spent on sizing each other up than on eating or even ordering. Dez speak first.

DEZ

This was unexpected

JENNIFER

I'm sure it was

DEZ

I wonder what the ethics board would have to say about this?

JENNIFER

You don't have any cases on my docket and haven't for two years. We're two professionals. Colleagues having lunch out in the open where no one can ever say we tried to have any secretive or clandestine meeting. Besides. I really don't have much faith in your quest for ethical integrity anyway.

DEZ

(chuckling to herself) You got it all figured out huh?

JENNIFER

I carefully think out everything I do sweetie.

Cut to Merrick who has unbuttoned a few buttons and loosened his tie.

TAYLOR MERRICK

(On the phone)

Senator Landsfield please.

(Yawn)

Taylor Merrick.

Cut to Brandon Buff talking to his chief lieutenant Charles "Smitty" Smith.

BUFF

And you sure it was her

SMITTY

Positive. She was driving the Caddie on 14th when I first saw her and I thought it was strange to see her on that side of town so I followed her. Kept a good distance. She stopped at the Bumble Bee Lounge and ordered a sandwich. Didn't eat much of it just kept looking at the door like she was waiting on something and then she left.

BUFF

Anybody show up?

SMITTY

Nah. She was there for about 25 minutes and then she left. I followed her out the city just long enough for me to be sure she was heading home and then I dropped her. Is this a problem?

BUFF

(Contemplatively)

I hope not

Cut to Dez and Jennifer

JENNIFER

Well can we dispense with all the pleasantries? I do have some things that I have to do today.

JENNIFER

(Smiles)

I'd heard you were a "to the point" kind of woman. That's good. Real Good. So am I.

DEZ

(Loosing interest and
patience)

Great so I guess that means we'll
be getting to one soon huh?

Dez has just shown her disdain for the woman seated in front of her and resentment for being called to this meeting as she delivers her last question more so to the inside of her purse, which has suddenly caught her attention, than to the woman in front of her when Jennifer drops her bombshell

JENNIFER

Stay the fuck away from my
husband.

DEZ

Excuse me?

JENNIFER

(Even more calmly than
the first time but with
more emphasis on being
clearly understood)
Stay the fuck away from my
husband.

DEZ

(Clearly taken aback and
instinctively driven to
deny, fights that urge
before chuckling)
Is that a request? Or a demand?

JENNIFER

You're a smart girl. You tell me.

DEZ

(Who's gathered her
belongings and composure
in preparation to leave)
Well Judge Bryant, so as not to
put myself in a position where I
may be held in contempt of the
court, I will leave your husband
alone.
(Pause)
I will leave him alone and once I
do that, what do you think He'll
do? You're a smart girl. You tell

me. You be sure to have a great
day

(Dez exits with a
victorious smile and the
strut of the most
confident woman on
planet.)

INT. OF THE MODESTLY APPOINTED BUFF HOME KITCHEN. -
AFTERNOON

Brandon is preparing food as his wife Janice walks in. She
was not expecting him to be home and is obviously startled
by his presence.

JANICE

Hey BB. I - I didn't expect you to
be home this early

BUFF

Yeah JT needs tomorrow off so he's
covering my hours at the shop.
Bryce is going to hang out with
his buddies after practice tonight
so I figured I come home and hook
up something nice.

JANICE

Oh. - Where's your car
(Concerned that he could
be home and she not be
able to recognize it
from first glance)

BUFF

JT's working on it so I caught a
ride in with Bear.

JANICE

I see. Well I hadn't planned on
staying long. I was just coming in
to get changed to go hang out with
Sharon. I'm hooking up with her
in about an hour.

BUFF

Cancel.

JANICE

I can't. It's kinda important.
We've been planning this for a
minute.

BUFF

Please, that broad ain't had
nothing important to do her whole
life. Look Jan we haven't spent a
whole lot of time alone together
lately so I figured we could chill
and have a nice quiet evening
together...and a less quiet late
night.

JANICE

(Sighing contemptuously)

When I want to do something you
ain't neva got the time or you
don't feel like it. Now I'm
supposed to just jump for joy
because you threw some chicken in
the oven? Please.

BUFF

Jan you know it ain't ever a time
I don't want to do something with
you. I just don't like spending
the kinda money you do when we go
out.

JANICE

You used to.

BUFF

Yeah well things change.

JANICE

They sure do. I'm going out

Janice walks out and slams the door.

INT. DEZ BEDROOM - EVENING

Taylor and Dez are in bed together under sheets that
partially cover their nude bodies.

TAYLOR MERRICK

They're trying to railroad me on
this Paraiso project.

DEZ

Who is?

TAYLOR MERRICK

The county boys. They see it as a
threat to the Harbor Initiative
that they haven't been able to get
through committee for three years.
My project has all the clearance
it needs from the District but now
the County is pushing for an
injunction hearing.

DEZ

(Reaches for a rolled
marijuana joint)

So what are you going to do?
(She lights it.)

TAYLOR MERRICK

I'm going to fight em. Have to.
Too much money has already been
spent and too much money is on the
table to be made.

DEZ

(After a long drag and
pause after exhaling)

Jennifer knows.

TAYLOR MERRICK

What?

DEZ

Jennifer knows...about us.

TAYLOR MERRICK

How do you know?

DEZ

She told me

TAYLOR MERRICK

(Now completely alert
sits up in bed)

What do you mean she told you?
When was this?

DEZ

She invited me to lunch today and
told me to stay away from you.
Stay the FUCK away from you
actually

TAYLOR MERRICK

And what did you say?

DEZ

I told her I would. So actually
this is the last time I get to see
you.

(She leans over to kiss
him passionately on the
lips)

And him.

(As she reaches under
the covers toward his
crotch)

So let's not waste any of this
time talking

(As she continues and
Taylor hesitantly rolls
her on her back and
kisses her back)

INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM

Cut to Rell and Janice in the middle of a spirited
lovmaking session at a seedy hotel.

RELL

Whose?

JANICE

It's yours baby boy. It's yours

INT. JUDGE BRYANTS CHAMBERS

Judge Jennifer Bryant and Councilman Daniel Bryant appear
to brokering some kind of deal.

COUNCILMAN BRYANT

I'm not looking for any guarantees. And I think you know this. I'm just looking for some assurances that you will be holding my best interests in your dealings with this.

JENNIFER

At this point your interests are also my own. You've seen to that

COUNCILMAN BRYANT

Well I was always good at the self preservation part.

JENNIFER

Uh huh. Just never gave a damn about anyone else.

COUNCILMAN BRYANT

Now you know that's not true. You may have had doubts that initially that I never gave a damn about you but I'm sure you know it was more complicated than that and that was the farthest thing from the truth.

JENNIFER

I was too young and dumb to know what it was I was thinking back then but I do know now that you had a place for me in that heart of yours...even if it wasn't the place I wanted to be. But don't you worry Danny Boy. I got you on this one.

COUNCILMAN BRYANT

What will your husband think of that?

JENNIFER

Once again I am being put in a position to realize that I could give a damn about what my husband thinks of anything

INT. BUFF CAR SHOP

Brandon Buff pauses a moment from mindless tinkering on a project car to focus squarely on what has been occupying his thoughts. After a moment to reflect he slowly walks into his office and shuts the door to place a call to Smitty.

BUFF

Yeah it's time. Pull out 25. We going hunting.

INT. DEZ BEDROOM

Dez and Taylor still in bed kissing and close to taking it further when Taylor abruptly ends the action

TAYLOR MERRICK

Yeah well I should probably get going.

DEZ

What the Hell are you talking about?

(Pause as Taylor makes a move to start getting dressed.)

I know you aren't about to let her sop us. Stop this!

TAYLOR MERRICK

(Halfway dressed)

This needed to be stopped a while ago. All my wife did was remind me of that simple fact. Dez it has been fun. It truly has, but all rides must come to an end at some point.

(Looks at her naked body)

Even a ride as exhilarating as yours.

As Taylor gathers himself and exits Dez displays a look of disgust, contempt and defeat all rolled up into one. As we cut away she appears to have gone into deep thought.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - EVENING

Smitty intercepts Janice as she comes out with a small bag of groceries

SMITTY

There was an accident Brandon
needs you right now.

JANICE

Oh my God! What happened?

SMITTY

I'll tell you on the way. Get in.
Leave your car we'll get it later

INT. DEZ OFFICE

Dez playing the woman scorned sits in her office simmering with rage and other thoughts. She has a moment of contemplation before she abruptly rises and makes and leaves toward some purpose.

INT. BUFF HOME NEAR THE BAR

Taylor comes in and immediately fixes himself a drink from his bar. As he begins sipping on his cognac Judge Bryant arrives home

TAYLOR MERRICK

Wow. I just got home. Were you
just following me?

JENNIFER

Do I NEED to be following you?

TAYLOR MERRICK

(Muted chuckle)

No

(Pause)

Not any more. Look Jennifer. I'm a
man and I am a flawed one at that
so I make mistakes from time to
time, but I got to tell you.

(As he moves toward her)

You definitively weren't one of
them. Baby I love you, and I need

you, and that has always been the case.

JENNIFER

(Unmoved)

Is that what you told that trick Dez?

TAYLOR MERRICK

(As he looks into his wife's eyes with sincerity and purpose)

No. I told her that you were right and I was wrong. I apologize for being wrong

(He gently kisses her)

I know what I have. I just sometimes forget how precious it is.

JENNIFER

Oh it IS precious and you WERE wrong.

(Pause)

So how do you plan on making it right Mr. Merrick?

TAYLOR MERRICK

(Presses Jennifer against the wall and kisses her forcefully)

For one thing I'm going to rediscover America.

EXT. OLD ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Smitty and Janice pull up and Janice is just as confused as she is worried.

JANICE

I thought BB got rid of this place years ago.

SMITTY

Nah he kept a few spots tucked away and off the books. He still has this and a few other spots that you might not know about. But

it's time you get hip to some things.

As they walk in they find Brandon holding a very large pistol standing in front of two gagged and bound men. The men have seen better days and the one who seems to have suffered the worst of it is shown to be Rell. Janice's lover. Janice gasps and covers her mouth.

BUFF

Uh uh. Don't cover your mouth now. Rell here has just been telling me about how much you love putting things in your mouth so don't act shy now.

JANICE

(feebly)

Brandon.

BUFF

No sweetheart. Don't talk, just listen.

(As he walks around and between the two bound men)

See you didn't know who Rell here was. You knew he was some young dude with cash looking to spend a little bit of it with you and that's great. I'm sure he showed you a wonderful time. What you probably didn't know was that Rell here knew exactly who you were though, and more importantly who I was. See Rell here has a great uncle

(Looks to Rell for affirmation)

Great uncle right? Who I almost put out of business a few years back before I decide to leave that particular business alone. It was a hard thing.....

JANICE

Brandon.

BUFF

Shut up!

(Pause)

It was a hard thing leaving that business the way that I did but Smitty here convinced me it was necessary and helped me out tremendously. You on the other hand didn't lend me the same support. I guess you wanted to test my love. See the problem is you picked the wrong one.

(Pause)

Or maybe the wrong one picked you
(As he looks accusingly at Rell)

Either way that put me in a position where not only was my love being tested but the streets were testing my heart. And when you fail a test in the streets, you end up like this mutha fuck right here. Now baby I wanted you to be here when I asked Mr. Rell here one little question. You with me baby?

(Janice doesn't move or respond. She'd like to run but Smitty is blocking her from the entrance to the warehouse)

Baby?

(Janice nods weakly
silent tears streaming
down her face)

Rell, was it your "heart" or your "hard" that you were giving my wife for the past few weeks?

(he waves the barrel of the pistol from Rell's chest to crotch while asking the question)

What's wrong? Pussy cat got your tongue?

(Buff nods in direction of an as of yet unseen

"helper" in the shadows
watching from a distance
he points to the other
man tied up next to
Rell)

Untie him. I want you to make sure
you tell his uncle everything that
happened here today. You let him
know that this was personal but
that I'm treating it more like a
business expense. Taxes. The
hospital is not too far from here
and your car is parked right out
side

(Turns back to Rell in
two shot extreme close
up)

You must have been giving her your
dick cause it's apparent you ain't
got no heart

(Loud gunshot followed
by Janice screaming as
Brandon turns to leave
followed by Smitty and
the "helper")

INT. MERRICK BEDROOM - MORNING

Jennifer and Taylor are snuggling in bed and whispering
quietly to each other.

TAYLOR MERRICK

Wasn't your son supposed to be
coming home yesterday?

JENIFFER

Yeah he was supposed to, but his
friend from Colgate was in town
and since he won't be here for
Dan's birthday, he took him out
last night. I think they went to
that new club on First Street. He
should be home now.

TAYLOR MERRICK

(With a proud smile)

Let's go check on what almost 21
looks like. It's been so long
since we've seen it personally

They walk down the hall toward their son's bedroom door. Before they get to it, it opens on its own and out steps Dez Phelan dripping with the after glow of sex and adjusting her collar and fixing her skirt. Taylor and Jennifer stand there speechless as Dez savors the moment before speaking.

DEZ

Oh hey. Your son's such a good kid. Can't hold his liquor for shit, but a real real sweet kid. I hope he enjoyed his birthday present as much as some people used to. I'll let myself out

She turns to leave with a devilish smirk on her face as Taylor and Jennifer remain speechless **Fade to credits end of first episode. The next episode is Titled "Pull Up Your Pants"**

PULL UP YOUR PANTS

INT. OFFICE OF DEVIN ROYSTER

The office is cluttered and nondescript and looks like it could be used for anything which is appropriate as Royster operates at least two legitimate businesses out of it. In the room are Royster and his son Gavin. Both men are silent and appear not to notice or pay much attention to each other. Royster is deep in thought and is broken from his daydream by a call he was expecting and answers immediately.

DEVIN ROYSTER

Yeah....You sure?Ok, see you when you get here.

(Hangs up)

Your cousin is going to be alright.

GAVIN ROYSTER

Really?

DEVIN ROYSTER

I mean that vine ain't gon' have no more grapes to give but he'll live.

GAVIN ROYSTER

If you call that living. We need to go see Buff now.

DEVIN ROYSTER

"We" don't need to do nothing. Not right now. Rell was wrong as two left foots. That boy was tagging that mans wife for weeks. All out in the open. Half of Diamond City knew it. Brandon should have killed his dumb ass. I know I would have. Letting him live was a smart play and needs to be responded to with another one so going to "see" him is not a part of that program.

GAVIN ROYSTER

But if we don't do nothing we gone look like we soft.

DEVIN ROYSTER

We are soft!

(stands up here)

Terrell is a weak link in the chain and we only as strong as our weakest link so that makes us soft! Now that's a hard pill for me to swallow, believe me, but it's been one stuck in the back of my throat all day. And because we are soft ain't no need in doubling down on that by being stupid too.

(begins pacing..)

This aint 86 Gavin. Now I know you don't know what that means but its a new day and it ain't got a damn thing to do with Obama being in office. Brandon Buff has had wet dreams tougher than you and

Rell put together and when he left the streets I profited from it. We've had a gentleman's agreement since then and no part of that agreement said anything about fucking his wife. Now I'm gonna figure out a way to deal with this but I got to sort things out first and do some thinking. Now go find yourself something to do, that don't involve me having to look at you while you doing it.

Gavin gets up to leave feeling dejected and angry for being berated.

DEVIN ROYSTER

Oh and Gavin....pull your pants up son.

CUT TO:TAYLOR
MERRICK AND
JUDGE JENNIFER
BRYANT

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

Taylor is aimlessly pretending to fix breakfast while Judge Bryant is seated at the table head in hand nursing a headache and a Bloody Mary as Vodka and Tomato Juice are visible on the table. They are both still stunned by the appearance of Dez in their home and are uneagerly awaiting the entrance of Daniel Bryant Jr. Danny walks in wearing sweatpants and a wifebeater.

DANNY

(yawning)

Good morning.

BOTH

(muffled and insincere)

Good morning

Danny notes their attitudes but ignores it as he also does the vodka both being standard fare. He shuffles to the table and pours himself some Tomato juice and gulps down a healthy glass really quickly as he continues to wipe the

sleep from his eyes before he looks at his mother and step father more closely.

DANNY

So what's up?

Judge Bryant moves to speak but is unable. Taylor interjects

TAYLOR MERRICK

We bumped into your friend from last night.

DANNY

Ewww. Sorry bout that. Dezi told me she would be out of here before you guys woke up. I got really wasted last night and she drove me home. She didn't have any problem getting me here either she must have a really good navigation system cause this place is usually so hard to find. I was so hammered I don't remember if I gave her good directions or not, but since she lives so far away I told her she could crash for a little while. I didn't think it'd be that big a deal.

Taylor is looking to choose his words carefully.

TAYLOR MERRICK

You know how I feel about company in my home right?

Judge Bryant clears her throat and shifts uncomfortably in her seat.

DANNY

Yeah I know but I mean I was partying and it got a little wilder than I thought someone offered me a ride home and I took it. Jeesh you would think I'd get some credit for being responsible.

Judge Bryant finds her voice

JUDGE JENNIFER BRYANT

A responsible person wouldn't have gotten drunk in the first place to put themselves in the position to have to take rides from the nearest available whore laying around.

DANNY

Ma it's not like that Dezi was just....

Judge Bryant cuts him off and begins talking without looking at him

JUDGE JENNIFER BRYANT

Don't mention that tramps name ever again in my house. Please get out of my face right now Danny before I....(sigh) and Danny before you do....pull up your pants.

Danny confused at the level of anger being shot his way slowly complies with his mother's wishes and leaves the room without another word.

FADE OUT:

INT. ENTERPRISE JAZZ CLUB - AFTERNOON

Brandon is seated at the bar ignoring his drink Eric the club manager is stocking the bar and keeping a watchful eye on Brandon

ERIC

You alright?

BRANDON BUFF

As alright as I'm going to get. Hey man you sure you alright with me hanging out here for a while. I don't want to get in your way.

ERIC

Stop tripping man. This is "your" spot. I'm just the man sitting next to the man.

BRANDON BUFF

Yeah but this man ain't been around for a while and you've been handling business. I never told you how much I appreciate the job you do around here

ERIC

Don't sweat it man. I'm here for you and I'm here forever.

BRANDON BUFF

That's real good to hear man. With this thing with Rell I'm not as comfortable at the shop right now. Who knows how Royster is gonna respond. I feel more comfortable on this side of town, but I don't want to feel like I'm hiding, you know? Plus this is a spot Janice doesn't know about either.

ERIC

Yeah I hear that.

Smitty walks in to inform Brandon there is a woman waiting to see him. He motions for him to let her in. In walks Monica Saxton of Saxton Realty Group. Camera frames her as she pauses at the entrance to the room.

FADE OUT:

INT. OUTER OFFICE OF DEZ PHELAN'S OFFICE AT MCFARLAND, MALCOM AND BOOTH LAW FIRM. - MORNING

Charlene, Dez' secretary is on the phone when Taylor Merrick walks in purposefully toward Dez' private office. Charlene attempts to stop him but he waves her off with the directive "Don't bother" and walks unannounced into her office. Dez also on the phone making scheduling arraignments for something informs the person on the other end of the line that she will call them back and hangs up

DEZ

Good morning Mr Merrick how can I help you?

TAYLOR MERRICK

What the Hell are you trying to do?

DEZ

Well I was trying to set up a dinner reservation for Thursday. Why? Did you want to join me?

TAYLOR MERRICK

I'm not in the mood. What are you trying to do with my son?

DEZ

Well for one thing, he's not "your" son. I'm sure Councilman Bryant might have a few things to say about that and two an acceptable answer could be, none of your damn business. We are both grown adults, but if it makes you feel any better I haven't slept with him or anything. Yet.

TAYLOR MERRICK

My wife told you...

DEZ

(cutting him off)

Your wife told me to leave you alone. And I am. Last I checked I am in "my" office and you just barged in here on me. I'm thinking maybe she needs to focus her attention to those closest to her and not on me from now on.

(in the middle of this dialogue Dez gets up slowly and advances seductively toward a stoic Merrick by the time he speaks she is close enough to be playfully fingering his

tie. Sexual tension
builds)

TAYLOR MERRICK

Look Dez I don't know what kind of
games you are trying to play here
but it's not something I see
working. Stop it.

DEZ

Any games I may choose to play Mr.
Merrick, I play to win and I think
you know this. As far as stopping
me. Well good luck with that one.

CUT
TO:COUNCILMAN
BRYANT

EXT. DIAMOND CITY HARBOR - DAY

Councilman Daniel Bryant and three other hardhatted
individuals are surveying a construction site near the
Diamond City Harbor. He nods as information is passed
between the other men and translated to him in language he
can understand. You can't hear what they are saying just
transitional music and visuals of men agreeing.

DISSOLVE TO:EXT.
ENTERPRISE JAZZ
CLUB

INT. ENTERPRISE - AFTERNOON

Monica Saxton has joined Brandon Buff at the bar and they
are seated beside each other sizing each other up. Saxton
more interested in this exercise than Buff

MONICA SAXTON

A little early to be drinking
isn't it?

BRANDON BUFF

I wouldn't know I don't drink.

Monica gives a slightly raised eyebrow and Taylor gives a
slight smile.

BRANDON BUFF

It's iced tea.

MONICA SAXTON

I see. Fresh brewed?

BRANDON BUFF

Every day.

MONICA SAXON

Well then I will have one as well
if that's okay with you

Brandon motions for Eric to get an extra tea.

MONICA SAXTON

So how is it that a non drinker
winds up owning a bar in this
city?

BRANDON BUFF

I don't see a need to use many of
the products or services I've made
money on in my lifetime I only see
a need to make money on them.

MONICA SAXTON

Don't get high on your own supply.
I understand

BRANDON BUFF

Do you.

MONICA SAXTON

I think so. Do you know why I'm
here Mr. Buff.

BRANDON BUFF

It's Brandon. I have an idea. But
I definitely need you to fill me
in on some things but I'm not sure
you're gonna be happy with the
outcome. I'm still not ready to
sell this place and I told those
other guys the same thing so I
don't know how satisfied you are
going to be when you're done with
me

MONICA SAXTON

I believe there's a strong possibility that I will leave very satisfied.

CUT TO:TAYLOR
AND DEZ

INT. DEZ' OFFICE - DAY

After pulling away from Dez, Taylor has moved in closer to Dez to give more emphasis and weight to his words. However the closer he gets to her her the stronger the physical connection they have been sharing is evident. Dez is winning.

TAYLOR MERRICK

What do you want Dez? What's the endgame here?

DEZ

I never really gave much thought to an endgame as you put it but I want so many things and what I want changes from day to day sometimes. What I want now is for you to come take care of me. But not right now....and not here. Been there done that took a picture. Besides The Judge made some special requests of me and I would at least like to appear compliant. I'm not totally disrespectful of the court decisions handed down to me.

(Dez has slowly retreated back to her seat behind her desk as she delivers her speech slowly easing the built up sexual tension in the room and returning to a more casual tone almost as if cuing up for a big announcement which presents itself directly)

After a pregnant pause the door bursts open. In rushes Danny carrying a brief

DANNY

Ms. Bryant I have that.....what are you doing here?

Taylor is taken aback literally and figuratively as he backs away from a smiling Dez

TAYLOR MERRICK

I...uh....had some..

DEZ

(smiling devilishly)

Mr. Merrick was renewing some licensing for his business and we are his legal counsel. You two know each other?

DANNY

Yeah he's my stepfather. Small world.

Danny looks suspiciously at Taylor not quite sure what he's suspicious about and gives him a full and quick once over before he hands Dez the brief.

DANNY

It has all the numbers from 2009 and 2010 I will have to go to the courthouse tomorrow to get the 2008 information.

He glances at Taylor once more before exiting

TAYLOR MERRICK

What the Hell is he doing here?

DEZ

We needed an intern and he needed an internship. It was so fortuitous that we were able to meet when we did or else I would have had to go somewhere else to fill that position. Good help is so hard to find these days.

TAYLOR MERRICK
(much more impatiently.)
Dez what do you want?

DEZ
Well...What I want right now is
for you to go home and figure out
when and where we're going to see
each other again. After that I
really can't say but let's start
there shall we?

CUT
TO:ENTERPRISE

INT. ENTERPRISE JAZZ CLUB - EVENING

Monica and Brandon are still seated at the bar chumming it
up like two old friends. Business hours have started and a
decent happy hour is brewing as strong as the iced teas
that the two are still sipping on from time to time.

MONICA SAXTON
(laughing)
So you ran all the way through
Belle Park?

BRANDON BUFF
Yep straight down Jefferson. It's
amazing how much faster you can
run with no clothes on. Maybe
it's the lack of wind resistance
or something

MONICA SAXON
Well at least he left you your
shoes.
(still smiling and
laughing with her eyes)

BRANDON BUFF
Oh he ain't have no choice but to
do that because he knew how long
it would have taken to forgive him
and laugh it off. He did the right
thing.
(sighs)

He was the closest thing to a brother I ever had. He died four years after that. That was about fifteen years ago.

MONICA SAXON

Oh I'm sorry to hear that.

BRANDON BUFF

It's been a while but you really never get over a loss like that.

MONICA SAXON

(reflectively and compassionately as his story seemed to have taken her somewhere)

No you don't

CUT TO:

EXT. ON THE STRIP IN THE PASSENGER SEAT OF HIS CAR TARIK TAKES A CALL - NIGHT

The strip is alive and vibrant and Tarik takes it all in with a sharp eye that sees more than it lets on. He's in a conversation on his phone that he handles with his usual calm and coolness

TARIK

Fuck I look like? The muhfuckin UN?.....Yeah I understand but you talking about Brandon Buff.....Your word, my bond. You know that tab you keep adding to.....yeah well it just doubled.

He signals for his driver to leave and they pull off

INT. ENTERPRISE - EVENING

Monica notices the time and moves to excuse her self

MONICA SAXON

Oh I didn't realize it was so late. I have to get going.

BRANDON BUFF

(rises with her)

Let me walk you out.

MONICA SAXON
It's not necessary but thanks
(with a smile)

BRANDON BUFF
Well look I havent done this in a
while but I'll give it a shot.
Would you have dinner with me.
Thursday night?

MONICA SAXON
Did you just ask me out Mr. Buff?

BRANDON BUFF
(chuckles)
Oh it's back to Mr. Buff again is
it? Well I figured you weren't
done with your campaign to get me
to sell this club and that you
would be scheduling another
meeting anyway. I just wanted to
see if you would like to eat some
food next time.

MONICA SAXON
I don't normally mix business with
pleasure.

BRANDON BUFF
I don't normally continue
discussions when I've already made
up my mind on something..and I'm
not asking you to mix business
with pleasure I'm asking you to
mix it with food.

MONICA SAXTON
(chuckles)
Thursday?

BRANDON BUFF
Thursday

MONICA SAXON
Call me

She smiles warmly and turns to exit and she can feel the gaze of Brandon Buff admiring her form as she does so

CUT TO:EXTERIOR
SHOT OF
NEIGHBORHOOD
BODEGA

INT. OF BODEGA - NIGHT

Tarik is speaking to a local Latino tough

TARIK

I need to see Smitty.

LOCAL TOUGH

What makes you think Smitty sees just any and everybody off the street?

TARIK

What makes you think I'm just anybody off the streets?

A second tough walks in from the back presumably after watching the happenings through one of the many surveillance cameras that Tarik noticed soon as he walked in and has been playing to ever since.

SECOND TOUGH

(in Espanol)

What's he want?

LOCAL TOUGH

(also in Espanol)

He say he wants to see Smitty.

SECOND TOUGH

Tell him Smitty ain't here. Tell him Smitty ain't ever here.

The Second Tough turns to walk away but is stopped by the voice of Tariq which is confident, even and in perfectly intonated Espanol.

TARIK

Smitty comes here every night at 10:30 to pick up the reciepts for the night. After he's done he

leaves out the back door and does
the same at the laundrymat on 3rd.
I know that and the people I work
for know that.

(in English)

I just want to talk. As you can
see I came through the front door.

Both of the toughs are taken aback by Tarik's command of
the language and the second tough turns uncertainly to go
find Smitty as the first tough engages him in a staring
contest that Tarik let's him win without a fight as he
internalizes a laugh and inside joke that he shares with
just himself.

Smitty walks in closely followed by the second tough and
looks upon Tarik with reserved calm.

Tarik speaks first

TARIK

You don't look like a Smitty

SMITTY

And you don't look like you belong
here.

(to the first tough)

Did you frisk him?

TARIK

With his eyeballs

Smitty not completely masking his disgust at the ineptitude
of his underling motions for him to do something he should
have done before he stepped in the room. Tarik yeilds to
the pat down graciously and with a smile while never taking
his eyes off of Smitty.

LOCAL TOUGH

He's clean

SMITTY

(impatiently)

What do you want

TARIK

(smiling)

I have a message. A message from
Devin Royster

Slow zoom in on a stoic but attentive Smitty before cutting
back and forth between his stone face and Tarik's smirking
one then dissolving into next scene

DISSOLVE TO:
DRIVE THROUGH
DIAMOND CITY.

EXT. BRANDON BUFF DRIVES AROUND THE CITY - NIGHT

Miami Vice Style drive through Diamond City as Brandon Buff
drives along lost in his thoughts as he looks at all of the
lights that make up his beloved hometown...music plays in
the background evoking memories of the first time you heard
Phil Collins' Heat of the Night. He is alone and he finally
pulls up to a local tavern as the music continue to play as
makes a quick phone call in which he only says "I'm here.
You sure about this" and then we follow him with the music
still playing as he walks in to the tavern and politely
says hello to people he is obviously familiar with as he
walks to the back of the tavern to a booth that he is
surprised to find empty. Before he can fully assess the
situation for what it is and what it is not the door opens
from the nearby Mens room and out steps Devin Royster
drying his hands. The two men face to face for the first
time in a long time.

DEVIN ROYSTER
Hunh. You almost caught me with my
pants down.

Fade to black and credits

Fin