

Debt collected

Bernard Mersier

"If it's allowed once, it only gets worse."

Bernard Mersier

FADE IN:

INT. ICU - NIGHT

We come in on Toya asleep on the hospital bed hooked up to various machines. Her head is bandaged, and her once beautiful brown face is swollen with deep black swollen eyes.

As we listen to her heart-rate monitor beeping, we see she's slowly trying to open her eyes, and then...we hear the heart-monitor slowly starting to decrease.

As the screen slowly fades to black, and her monitor goes lower, and lower. Before it turns black, we hear the flatline.

BLACK SCREEN:

A MONTH EARLIER

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

It must be the weekend judging from how crowded the bar is, the music playing, and watching everyone enjoying themselves.

Her body is just as delicious as her face, with breasts that sit up perky, a flat stomach, breeder hips and thighs, so you can just imagine what it looks like when she stands up.

Drea is no slouch herself, with a nice petite body, a beautiful face and glowing brown skin.

TOYA

It's jumping tonight. It ain't no niggas worth talking to, but it's jumping.

Drea takes a sip looking at Toya confused.

DREA

Are you serious? Look at all these niggas in here.

TOYA

They ain't nothing to jump up and down about.

DREA

(Scoffs)

Well, everybody can't be like yo boo,
Wayne.

TOYA

That's my best friend, not my boo. And
what does he have to do with this?

DREA

When it comes to men, if he's not a
big baller like him. Look, dress,
smell, hell, even talk like him, yo
ass ain't interested.

TOYA

That's a lie. You know damn well I
gotta trophy shelf full of niggas. I'm
just picky on who I give the pink
lemonade.

Drea tries taking a sip and almost spills her liquor from
laughing.

DREA

This bitch said pink lemonade. I'm
done.

TOYA

(Laughs)

You need me to break it down for you?

DREA

(Laughs)

Nah, I think I got it.

TOYA

(Laughs)

Long as we're on the same page.

While the two laugh and drink, and despite the music playing
is fairly loud, along with the talking and laughter from
people in the background being heard, we hear a man clearing
his throat.

CORY (O.S.)

Excuse me, ladies.

The two turn to look at him.

CORY (CONT'D) (O.S.)
 Before y'all say anything, no I'm not
 about to run some game.

He turns his attention on Drea.

CORY (CONT'D) (O.S.)
 No disrespect towards you queen,
 because you are without a doubt
 beautiful, and I have no problem with
 buying y'all drinks. But, I would love
 to get to know your friend.

The two look at him, and then each other laughing, picking up
 their glasses taking a sip.

DREA
 (Laughs)
 I'm glad you said what you said. That
 was the lamest shit I ever heard.

CORY (O.S.)
 I understand. I'll leave you ladies
 alone.

TOYA
 No, wait a minute, we'll have the
 drinks. Pay D no mind.

CORY (O.S.)
 Are you sure?

TOYA
 Yeah, come on and squeeze in.

Drea picks up her drink taking a sip, snickering, as Cory
 stands between them.

He's a tall dark skinned man, well-groomed and dressed
 nicely, nothing too flashy. He's not big or muscular, but you
 can tell he has some weight to go with his height.

CORY
 What would you ladies like to drink?

DREA
 The lady of the hour can order for us
 both. I need a bathroom break.

Drea gets up still laughing, making her way to the bathroom.

Cory watches her walk off, and then focuses his attention back on Toya.

CORY
What were you ladies drinking?

TOYA
Patron.

CORY
Nice one. Regular or top-shelf?

TOYA
Does this have anything to do with you trying to run some greasy game?

CORY
No. And as I said, I can't speak what I don't know how to do. To answer your question, far as the drinks go. When you offer to buy a woman anything, she should know from what he's offering what kind of a woman he thinks she is.

She takes a sip from her glass impressed.

TOYA
I wasn't expecting to hear that. We were drinking the regular one. So, what does that let you know about me?

CORY
I see two best friends having a girls night out having drinks, probably talking about guys. One of them is looking for a date for the night, and the other one isn't impressed by the selection of men she sees.

TOYA
And which one am I?

Just as he gets ready to speak, Drea comes back up.

DREA
What did you get us to drink?

Cory looks at Toya smiling.

TOYA
I'll stick with what we're already

having, and this nice man---

CORY
I'm sorry, my name is Cory.

TOYA
Cory said he'll buy you something top-shelf.

DREA
Oooh, I'm with that.

Drea takes her seat, immediately signalling for a bartender, while Cory and Toya look at each other smiling.

CORY
That answers your other question.

TOYA
(Laughs)
I'm Toya, and this is my girl Drea.

CORY
Nice to meet you.

DREA
Hey, here comes the bartender.

Cory and Toya break out laughing.

The three sit laughing and drinking having a good time, but Cory and Toya are more so trying to get to know each other.

INT. TOYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Toya is laid in the bed in her matching bra and panty set, drunk, but enjoying the buzz flipping through channels on the television she has mounted on the wall.

Not seeing anything of interest, she turns to the music station, and then puts the television on low.

She grabs her phone from the nightstand, turning it on, going straight to her contacts.

She pauses on Cory's name, debating on calling him, but she quickly moves along because in her mind she would seem desperate.

Moving down her contact list, she stops on her friend Wayne's name, and a big smile comes across her face, starting a video

chat.

It doesn't take him long to answer the call.

SPLIT SCREEN:

Toya is laying on her side still smiling, trying not to reveal she's only wearing her bra and panties.

Wayne, the attractive looking brown skin man wearing a fitted blue hat and jewelry appears to be outside at a party from the people we see and hear walking past him in the background.

TOYA

Boy, where are you at?

WAYNE

Shit, I should be where yo ass at.
What you got on over there?

TOYA

(Laughs)

You worried about the wrong shit right now. Where yo ass at?

WAYNE

On the block at this little get together.

A guy that walks past does a double take, coming back trying to see who he's talking to, and Wayne moves him out the way.

WAYNE

Get yo thirsty ass on, trying to stare at my homie.

We can hear the guy laughing in the background.

TOYA

(Laughs)

Yo overprotective ass. What if I wanted to holla at him?

WAYNE

You'd have ya hotass here. What did you get into tonight?

TOYA

I was at the bar with Drea getting fucked up, as you can see. This dude

kept buying us drinks, so that's why I'm feeling good.

WAYNE

(Laughs)

He went through all that just for your number?

TOYA

(Laughs)

How do you know I gave him my number?

WAYNE

Because I know you. Especially when you get drunk, you turn into a whole dude, thinking you're pimping.

TOYA

(Laughs)

I don't have to think about what I already know. You know me better than that.

WAYNE

Yeah, yeah. Did he call you yet? Or did you call him?

TOYA

Neither.

Wayne takes a sip from his cup, and then sucks his teeth.

TOYA

Is somebody catching an attitude?

WAYNE

Never that.

We can hear people in his background trying to gain his attention.

TOYA

(Laughs)

Your fans are calling you.

WAYNE

My number one fan is on the phone.

TOYA

(Laughs)

Fuck you.

WAYNE

(Laughs)

I'll let you know when I'm free. Let me get back to this shit, and I'll hit you up tomorrow. You good?

TOYA

Of course.

WAYNE

Aight, I'll holla at you later.

He hangs up on his end, and it returns to us seeing Toya laying in bed, still smiling.

She places the phone back on the nightstand, and then lies on her back, looking up at the ceiling smiling.

Although they're nothing but good friends, you can tell by their communication they wanna be more than that, but they don't wanna ruin the friendship they have.

INT. TOYA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Toya comes into the house wearing her scrubs, looking exhausted as she closes the door.

She walks through her nicely furnished living room looking around for a second, before heading into the kitchen.

Opening the refrigerator door, she reaches in grabbing an already open bottle of wine, and then she closes the door.

Walking over to the table, she places the bottle down, and then goes back to the cabinet, opening it, grabbing a wine glass.

Preparing to take a seat at the table, her phone begins ringing. Already annoyed by her work day, she sighs deep, placing the glass on the table before going in her scrub pocket, pulling her phone out.

Looking at the screen, she sees it's Cory calling.

She blushes for a few seconds before answering the call.

TOYA

Hello?

CORY (V.O.)

Hi, Toya. This is Cory.

TOYA

Who?

CORY (V.O.)

Um...I'm sorry. I think I might have---

TOYA

(Laughs)

I know who you are. I was just fucking with ya.

CORY (V.O.)

(Nervous laugh)

Oh. I'm sorry. I'm not used to this type of humor. I'll know next time.

TOYA

How do you know there'll be a next time?

There's a brief moment of silence as Toya stands smiling.

CORY (V.O.)

I, uh---

TOYA

(Laughs)

Oh my god, will you loosen up? Why are you so uptight?

CORY (V.O.)

(Laughs)

If we continue talking, I'm sure I'll get used to it.

TOYA

That's a good first step.

CORY (V.O.)

How was your day?

She takes a seat, picking up the bottle, taking the cork off, pouring a nice size glass.

TOYA

Tiring. I'm glad I'm at home so I can sit back and relax.

CORY (V.O.)

Completely understandable. What do you

do?

TOYA

I'm a nurse.

CORY (V.O.)

That's a plus. I guess when I get sick
you can take care of me.

TOYA

(Sarcastic laugh)

You got jokes, now?

CORY (V.O.)

(Laughs)

I'm trying.

TOYA

As you said, that's a plus. What do
you do?

CORY (V.O.)

I went to school for toxicology. That
didn't turnout so well, so I'm just
your average banker.

TOYA

There's nothing wrong with that. At
least you have a job.

CORY (V.O.)

True, true. So tell me, why are you
single?

TOYA

There's too many hoes and not enough
men out here.

CORY (V.O.)

(Laughs)

There's some good men out there.

Toya takes a sip from her glass, rolling her eyes.

TOYA

Show me where, and I'll gladly go
there.

CORY (V.O.)

You don't think you're speaking with
one now?

TOYA

I won't know until you tell me why you're single.

CORY (V.O.)

Actually, I'm going through a divorce right now.

TOYA

So, you go out to bars scouting for something to do when you're bored?

CORY (V.O.)

If I was anything like her, yes, I would.

TOYA

What do you mean?

CORY (V.O.)

(Deep sigh)

The reason why I'm going through a divorce is because I caught her cheating. Actually, she was cheating from the time we started dating, and throughout our marriage, but I didn't give it much attention because I was in-love. But when I saw her in our bed with another man...well, a man can only take so much.

Toya is speechless, taking a sip from her glass.

CORY (CONT'D) (V.O.)

Hello?

TOYA

I'm here. I'm just a little bit confused, that's all.

CORY (V.O.)

What are you confused about?

TOYA

Two things, actually. One, why did you stay with her knowing she was cheating on you? And two, why was she cheating on you?

CORY (V.O.)

She felt I wasn't doing enough, and I

wanted to spend too much time with her. Far as me staying with her, well...I guess when you're in-love, you'll do dumb things.

TOYA

I've never been in-love, so I wouldn't know. Even with my first love, I wasn't in-love. But, what woman wouldn't want her man spending as much time as he can with her?

CORY (V.O.)

I guess she was one of those women. Now, you said you loved your first, but you weren't in-love with him? How does that work? And why did y'all separate?

TOYA

He had a good heart, great conversation, there for anything I needed, and the sex was pretty fair. But, he was a pushover. I loved everything else about him, and I appreciated him being there for me, but what woman can be with a man who has no backbone?

CORY (V.O.)

You have a point there. Seems like we're somewhat the same, but a little different.

TOYA

Just a little bit. Listen, I'm enjoying talking with you, but right now, I wanna finish this wine, take a nice bath and go to bed.

CORY (V.O.)

That's fine. One last thing before we get off the phone.

TOYA

I'm listening.

CORY (V.O.)

If you don't mind, and of course, if you're not busy. Would you mind going out to dinner with me tomorrow? My

treat of course.

TOYA

Let me sleep on it, and I'll let you know tomorrow.

CORY (V.O.)

Hopefully, I'll hear from you. Enjoy the rest of your night, beautiful.

TOYA

You do the same.

She hangs up, placing the phone down with a smile, standing up, grabbing her glass, taking a sip as she walks out the room.

EXT. WAYNE'S PORCH - AFTERNOON

Toya is sitting on the steps of the fairly nice looking house in the quiet suburban neighborhood having a drink and conversation with Wayne.

Now seeing his whole body, and despite he's sitting down, you can tell he has some height to go along with his athletic frame.

WAYNE

I got a question I've been dying to ask you.

TOYA

What's that?

WAYNE

I know we're good friends. We talk about any and everything, and that's cool. I'm just wondering why you're not my woman?

TOYA

(Laughs)

Are you serious?

WAYNE

Hell yeah. Look at you. Why wouldn't I want you as my woman?

TOYA

You said it yourself, we're good friends.

Wayne takes a sip from his drink, and then follows it with a humorous laugh.

WAYNE

Get the fuck outta here. Drea told me how you really feel.

TOYA

(Laughs)

That bitch.

She takes a sip from her cup, still laughing.

WAYNE

Aw, don't act like that, we're all cool. She was just giving me a heads up. So, how about you try telling me the truth?

She takes another sip from her cup, and then looks at him with a smile.

TOYA

Do you really want the truth?

WAYNE

You know that's all I speak and accept, so, yes.

TOYA

Wayne, you're an all around perfect guy. From your looks, money, amazing personality and conversations. But, you're not the type of man a woman should settle down with.

Wayne takes a sip from his cup blushing, followed by a laugh, stroking down his goatee.

WAYNE

Ain't that a bitch?

(Laughs)

Explain.

TOYA

Look at the way you treat the women you know.

WAYNE

Don't tell me you're on that all men are the same bullshit.

TOYA

No, I know there's a difference. I just know y'all not far off from being the same.

WAYNE

Is that right? Do you know why men treat every woman he encounters differently, but somewhat the same?

TOYA

I'm listening.

Wayne pulls a cigarette out placing it in his mouth, lighting it, taking a calm pull, exhaling cool.

WAYNE

I'll tell you. What's up with this dude Cory you were telling me about?

TOYA

He's cool. Nothing real special at the moment. I told him I'll think about going out to dinner with him tonight.

WAYNE

I'll get into that dinner part in a minute. Why did you give him your number?

TOYA

His conversation was cool, and he had a lil sex appeal about him.

WAYNE

The same things you say about me. What else?

TOYA

(Laughs)

Boy, we're not about to have a who has a bigger dick or any other level of compare and contrast conversation.

WAYNE

See, that's what's wrong with you women today. The first thing y'all go to is his dick size, money and various other irrelevant shit, neglecting what you should be paying attention to.

TOYA

And what exactly should we be paying attention to?

WAYNE

You said you haven't answered him about the dinner date, right?

TOYA

Right.

WAYNE

Video call him.

TOYA

Why would I video call him?

WAYNE

I wanna show you something. After that, I'll tell you the reason behind what I said.

TOYA

You can't be serious right now.

Wayne takes a pull and laughs, shrugging up his shoulders.

WAYNE

Truthfully, I could give less than a fuck. I'm just trying to help my homie out.

Toya takes a sip from her cup, sighing, shaking her head.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

Since we see you're not about to---

TOYA

I'm about to call him, now.

She pulls her phone out, turning it on, going to her contacts finding Cory's name, hitting the video call button.

It doesn't take Cory long to answer the call.

Wayne sits back so he's not seen in the call, while Toya looks at the phone smiling.

CORY (V.O.)

Hey, beautiful. How's your day going?

TOYA

It's good so far. And yours?

CORY (V.O.)

Waiting to punch-out. I'm on my lunch break right now. Did you think about my offer from last night?

TOYA

Actually, I did.

CORY (V.O.)

I hope the answer is yes.

Toya blushes.

TOYA

Yes, I'll have dinner with you tonight.

CORY (V.O.)

You my dear. You just made my day.

TOYA

I'm glad to hear. Wait, before we both get extra excited, I want you to meet someone.

She passes the phone to Wayne, just as he's placing a blunt in his mouth, lighting it, looking at the phone smiling.

WAYNE

What's going on with you, homie?

CORY (V.O.)

On my lunch break, taking it easy. I'm ready to head home and get dressed so I can take that lovely lady out to dinner.

WAYNE

That's what's up. Just so we don't get each other twisted, I'm her best friend, Wayne.

CORY (V.O.)

(Nervous laugh)

Man, I'm just somebody trying to get to know her better.

WAYNE

(Laughs)

Shit, I mean I know her, but it's nothing more than that. I just wanted to say what's up.

CORY (V.O.)

Cool, cool. Nice speaking with you.

WAYNE

Likewise. I'll let you two get back to it.

He passes Toya back the phone, taking a hit from his blunt, looking at her smiling.

She takes the phone looking at him confused why he's smiling, but then she focuses back on Cory.

TOYA

That boy something else.

CORY (V.O.)

He seems cool to me. That's good you have a friend like him around.

TOYA

Don't blow his head up. What time are you talking about going out?

CORY (V.O.)

I was thinking around eight or eight-thirty.

TOYA

Cool. That gives me time to finish up with him, go home, take a bath and get dressed.

CORY (V.O.)

Sounds great to me. I'll text you my address, since I'm sure you don't want me to know where you live.

TOYA

It really doesn't matter, but okay.

CORY (V.O.)

I'll see you tonight.

She hangs up the call.

Wayne sits snickering, taking a sip from his cup, followed by a pull from the blunt.

TOYA
What's so funny?

WAYNE
Nothing at all.

TOYA
Nah, get the shit off ya chest.

WAYNE
He seems like a straight up goofball,
but that's cool.

TOYA
How is that cool?

WAYNE
Most goofballs are good niggas. Just
because they act differently from me,
that doesn't take away the possibility
of them being good men. It also means
you can't fully trust them either.

TOYA
So, what do you think I should do?

WAYNE
You're a whole grown ass woman, you do
what you want. I'm here if you need
anything, but I can't hold your hand.
Just be smart.

TOYA
Does this go along with the difference
between men you haven't told me yet?

Wayne takes a pull from the blunt, raising his eyebrow.

WAYNE
You still wanna know, and you're about
to go out with dude?

TOYA
Like you just said, I'm grown, so it
won't make a difference. But, I will
keep it in mind.

WAYNE

It's all based on pussy and if you boost his ego.

TOYA

(Laughs)

What?

WAYNE

That's what it's all about. Most niggas don't care if you give it up on the first night, unless of course he's like me, then you have to rearrange the thought process you once had about her.

TOYA

(Laughs)

Get the fuck outta here.

WAYNE

I'm speaking real. The whole moral is when you give a nigga some pussy, and you get extra freaky with that shit like them bitches in porno's, he'll either stay with you and be faithful. Pretend that he's faithful, but be out fucking other bitches. Or he'll just flatout treat you like shit. But...

(Takes a pull)

There's a catch with those options. Because some niggas get pussy-whipped instantly, and go straight into this is my girl mode, which in my personal opinion only happens with niggas that's not used to getting pussy.

TOYA

(Laughs)

Let me get my ass up and go.

WAYNE

(Laughs)

Hold on, I gotta tell you the rest.

TOYA

What's the rest?

WAYNE

A man always goes off what you display. This doesn't always determine

how he'll treat you, but it plays a big key part. And you never boost his ego because he should already know if he did or didn't satisfy you. Boosting his ego can possibly make it worse for you because you truly have no idea of how he's going to treat you after the fact.

TOYA

Thanks for the info, buddy.

WAYNE

You better pay attention. Niggas formats may or may not change after they get the pussy.

She downs her cup, and then stands up prepared to walk off.

TOYA

I heard ya, homie. I'll hit you up after my date.

WAYNE

Aight.

She walks off laughing.

Wayne takes a sip from his cup, shaking his head, watching her walk off.

EXT. FRANKIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

They pull up in Cory's black truck in front of the old-fashioned styled ranch house, where only a few other houses are on the block, and Toya's cream focus is parked in the driveway.

They get out and then meet each other on the sidewalk, both of them smiling ear to ear.

CORY

(Laughs)

Back in one piece, just like I promised.

TOYA

(Laughs)

I wasn't worried. I had a nice time.

CORY

Uh, I would invite you in, but like I said it's kind of messy in there since I'm in the process of moving.

Toya looks around for other cars.

TOYA

She's not in there, is she?

CORY

Nah. I told her I'll be back tonight to box up some more things so I can put 'em storage.

TOYA

Well, let me see how it looks inside.

CORY

Are you sure?

TOYA

Yeah, I'm sure. Come on.

She grabs him by the hand, and the two make their way up to the porch.

Cory goes in his pocket for the keys, pulling them out, opening the door, after which he gestures his hand as a gentleman signaling for her to walk in.

Toya walks in, and Cory follows behind her, closing the door.

It's dark for a hot second, and then the sound of a light switch being flicked is heard, and now we see the room.

It's very spacious, with a bunch of boxes stacked up throughout the room.

Toya stands with a smile looking around the room, while Cory stands to the side.

TOYA

This is nice. I bet it was decked out in here.

CORY

Yeah, she had it laid out. I'm not much on the decorating and furnishing thing. She pointed it out if it looked good, and I'd just buy it.

TOYA
Ain't you sweet.

CORY
I wish she felt the same. Listen, I
gotta use the bathroom. Feel free to
look around, and I'll be right back.

Cory walks off.

Toya remains still for a moment, taking in the room as if she would love living in the house, and then she starts moving around.

She steps into the clean kitchen, nodding her head of approval from what she sees, and then she continues moving through the house.

TOYA
This is a lovely place.

CORY (O.S.)
Thank you.
(Laughs)
Too bad I have to move out.

Toya continues moving through the house looking through the rooms.

TOYA
I'm pretty sure you'll find something
just like this, if not better.

She comes to a room that's closed, and that's when Cory comes from the bathroom.

CORY
Thanks, I appreciate it.

TOYA
What's in here?

Cory inhales deep, and then exhales sadly lowering his head, quickly picking it back up looking at the door.

CORY
This was our bedroom.

TOYA
Oh. I guess I don't need to see this
room.

CORY
It's cool. Take a look.

TOYA
Are you sure?

CORY
It's cool.

With a slight smirk, and shrug of the shoulders, she opens the door to the bedroom.

Out of all the rooms in the house, this is the only one still fully furnished nicely with a king size bed covered with black covers matching the furniture.

Toya steps into the room in awe, loving how the setup is laid out.

TOYA
I should have my room looking like this. This is truly beautiful.

Cory comes into the room stepping behind her.

CORY
All of the credit would go to her, but thank you.

Toya turns around looking at him with a devilish smile.

TOYA
I can just imagine the fun you two had in here.

CORY
You would think so, but, no. Sexual encounters were a rarity.

TOYA
And why is that?

CORY
Aside from when I told you I caught

her cheating on this very bed. The other issue she had with me was thinking all I wanted was sex. I told her, I have to enjoy every single moment, at any given moment because it's so good.

Toya licks her lips, stepping into him.

TOYA

Really? You don't think she was sleeping with other men because you couldn't satisfy her, and that's why she didn't wanna give you any?

CORY

(Coy laugh)

She was always satisfied. Ain't no slouch this way.

Toya smiles, placing her hand between his legs, grabbing his crotch with affection.

TOYA

Can you back up what you said?

CORY

Of course. But, that's not what I had planned for the night.

TOYA

What if that's what I had planned?

With no further words, he embraces her with a deep passionate kiss.

A sensual sex scene plays out.

INT. THE RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

The place is fairly crowded with low chatter being heard, as we watch the waiters, waitresses and people move around.

Toya and Cory come into the restaurant following behind the hostess showing them to their table by a window.

The two take their seats across from each other, staring at each other smiling.

TOYA

Thank you for the date, baby.

CORY

Anything for you. I know you're tired of cooking when I spend the night or eating carryout when you come to the room. But I swear as soon as I get my place, my baby won't have to cook because you'll be waking up to breakfast in your new home with me.

Toya blushes, reaching over, grabbing his hand.

TOYA

Baby, I don't mind, as long as I'm spending time with you. Now that you mention moving, I've been thinking.

CORY

About what?

Slowly releasing his hand, she goes in her purse for a split-second, pulling out a house key, placing it on the table, sliding it in front of him.

Cory sits back lost for words.

CORY (CONT'D)

Baby-baby, I can't take this.

TOYA

Why not?

CORY

Don't get me wrong, I'd love to move in with my baby, but that's your home. As a man, I wouldn't feel right if I'm not the one putting the roof over our heads.

TOYA

Those were not only real words, but they were also romantic, and I love you for that. But this is my choice, and I want you living with me.

CORY

Baby, I don't wanna be a burden on you. I'm sure I'll have my money right in a few weeks, so I can hold out.

TOYA

You'd rather keep paying for rooms, instead of waking up with me, cooking us breakfast? Come on, now.

Cory blushes, unable to form the words to respond.

TOYA (CONT'D)

Tell me my idea ain't the move?

CORY
You know what?

With a big smile, he leans over towards her for a kiss, and without hesitation, she gives him one.

CORY
I love you. I promise, we'll have a new house soon.

TOYA
As long as I have you, we have all the time in the world.

CJ, a tall brown skin waiter comes over to their table ready to take their order.

CJ
How are y'all today? Are you ready to place your orders?

TOYA
Are you ready to order, baby?

The voice catches CJ's attention, causing him to focus his attention on her.

CJ
Toya?

She looks up confused for a split-second, and then she realizes who he is, showing him the pearly whites.

Cory sits back trying not to show he's upset, but you can sense it coming from him.

TOYA
CJ? It's been a long time, what's been going on?

CJ
I've been good, staying out the way, taking it one day at a time.

TOYA
That's good. I've been doing good myself. As a matter of fact, this is my man, Cory.

CJ looks over at Cory, and Cory is still trying not to show he's upset, putting up a fake smile.

CJ
You got a good one right here, man.

CORY
Thanks, man. I'm glad I have her.

Toya looks over at him smiling.

CJ
Are you guys ready to order or do you need a few more minutes?

CORY
Can we have a few more minutes?

CJ
No problem. Nice seeing you again, Toya.

TOYA
You too.

CJ walks off.

Toya remains with the smile she had, while Cory is still trying his best to keep up the front as if he's not mad.

CORY
Who was that?

TOYA
One of my exes from college. You're not mad, are you?

CORY
Oh, nah, nah, baby, I'm good. I was just wondering. Listen. Before we go home, can we stop by the storage place? I need to grab some clothes, and a few other things.

TOYA
Of course we can, baby.

CORY
Thank you.

TOYA
I love you.

CORY
I love you, too.

She picks up her menu smiling, debating on what to order, while Cory stares at her with hate in his eyes, sucking his teeth.

INT. TOYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Toya is lying on the bed, on top of the covers wearing nothing but her bra and panties with a smile, watching something on television she has on low.

TOYA
(Seductive tone)
Baby, what's taking so long?!

CORY (O.S.)
Here I come.

She positions herself on the bed with a sexy pose pretending as if she's watching television, but she's really keeping her eyes on the door.

Cory comes into the room wearing nothing but some black sweatpants, staring at her licking his lips.

She notices him staring, but she continues pretending as if she's watching television.

CORY
Look at you, looking all delicious and
shit.

Turing to look at him with a smile, she licks her lips seductively.

TOYA
I can say the same about you.

CORY
Are you ready to try out something
new?

She sits up on the bed eager to hear what he has to say.

TOYA
And what would that be?

He walks over to the bed picking up the remote, turning the station to an all R&B station.

CORY

The hardest orgasms you ever had.

TOYA

Oooh, shit.

She gets ready to stand up, and he gently places his hands on her shoulders stopping her.

He cuffs her chin, looking into her eyes with a smile.

CORY

If I'm blessing you with this orgasm,
you have to let me have full control.
Just follow my lead, and enjoy.

TOYA

(Gushing)
...Okay, daddy.

He goes in his pocket slowly pulling out a silk blue scarf, which causes her to blush closing her eyes.

Ever so gently, he wraps the scarf around her eyes, but he doesn't tie it tight, after which, he pulls out a pair of handcuffs.

CORY

Hold your hands out, baby.

Without hesitation, she extends her arms.

He places one cuff on, and puts her arm behind her back, after which he grabs the other arm, placing it behind her back, putting the other cuff on.

CORY (CONT'D)

Lie back on the bed, baby.

Feeling awkward, but enjoying what's going on, she lies back on the bed.

Cory then removes her panties, tossing them to the side.

He begins kissing on the inner part of her thighs, slowly making his way up.

She thinks he's about to go between her legs, but instead, he comes up kissing on her neck softly, followed by caressing the side of her face.

Now that he's in her face, looking at her smiling, he gives her a kiss.

CORY (CONT'D)

Before I give you this orgasm, I just need to know one thing?

TOYA

What, daddy?

The smile she had quickly turns into an expression of fear, as she gasps tight from him placing his hand tight around her throat.

CORY

What the fuck were you doing smiling in a nigga face you used to fuck?! You miss his dick or some shit?!

She begins struggling not to just get free from up under him, but to get some words out.

TOYA

Ba-ba-baby, I don't---

Before she can finish her sentence, he hits her three good times in the face, turning her gasping and whimpering into tear filled moans of pain, still struggling to get free.

CORY

YOU miss fucking that nigga?! Nod your fucking head yes, because if you speak I'll hit you again!

With tears soaking the blindfold, and coming down her face, she shakes her head no.

CORY (CONT'D)

What the fuck ever. Since you wanna be all friendly with a nigga you used to fuck, guess what?

With his hand still around her throat, enjoying her whimpers and attempts to get free, he leans down, licking the tears off her face with a sadistic smile.

CORY (CONT'D)

One thing you should know ahead of time. If you're thinking about filing a report on what's about to happen...

(Gives her a kiss)

The police know women like you are into this type of shit because y'all always bragging about getting fucked like whores. They'll just look at it as a waste of time, especially since you allowed it.

With his hand still clenched tight on her throat, we can tell by how he's using his other hand, he's aggressively removing his sweatpants, while Toya is still trying to get free.

Apparently he can't get her to open her legs, so he hits her a few more times, and that was the key to get her legs open.

Now that he has her legs spread, he spits a loogie in his hand, and then moves it down between his legs.

CORY (CONT'D)

Since you wanna be a hood bitch, I'll treat you like a hood bitch. Let's see if CJ made you scream like this.

From looking at her expression, and hearing her yells, you can tell the force he used to penetrate hurts.

CORY (CONT'D)

Scream louder, bitch! Scream, enjoying how you really love being treated!

Toya's screams echo throughout the room as he continues raping her, and the screen fades to black.

EXT. THE RIVERWALK - AFTERNOON

The weather is nice. We see people moving about the Riverwalk having a good time enjoying the day.

We focus our attention on Wayne and Drea sitting on a bench drinking smoothies, but little do people know, their drinks are laced with alcohol, so that explains the happy expressions, although they're enjoying themselves.

WAYNE

You know what's missing?

DREA

Don't tell me, you miss your boo, Toya.

WAYNE

That's not my boo. I'm just saying it

would be dope if she was here with us.
You know how we all get down.

DREA

That's my best friend, the same as yours. But, I know you like her like I know she likes you.

WAYNE

Yeah, whatever. When was the last time you chilled with her?

DREA

A good lil minute. You know she got her new boo thang, so she's been occupied.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TOYA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

We see Toya naked, shivering, whimpering, balled up in the bathtub wet, while Cory paces back and forth holding her phone, taking sips from the liquor bottle in his hand.

CORY

You know every nigga in this fucking phone I don't approve of is getting deleted, right?!

Cowering in the tub, she just shakes her head yes.

CORY (CONT'D)

I'm glad we have that understanding.
And you know what else?

He takes a deep swig, and then looks at her smiling.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. THE RIVERWALK - CONTINUOUS

WAYNE

Yeah, she's been acting strange since she got with him. How do you feel about him?

DREA

When I met him that night at the bar, he seemed like a cornball ass nigga to me. I figured she wouldn't give him a

chance, considering he doesn't measure up to you.

WAYNE

I felt like he was a lame ass nigga too, when I spoke with him on the video call. But, we're not on me. We're on---

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TOYA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

CORY

What's that nigga name you call your best friend?! NOT CJ! I know you fucked him! What's that other nigga name?!

TOYA

(Sobbing)
...Wayne.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. THE RIVERWALK - CONTINUOUS

DREA

Wayne, I know you love her just as much as I do. But if you're not trying to truly be with her, why do you care who she's with?

Wayne pulls a cigarette out, placing it in his mouth, immediately lighting it, taking a calm pull, exhaling calm.

WAYNE

It's not about being with her. It's about her knowing her worth far as---

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TOYA'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cory is finishing off his bottle, slinging it against the wall, shattering it, while Toya stays balled up in the tub in fear of her life.

CORY

When I met you, I thought you were worth more than words could explain,

and anything money could buy. But since you gave it up so easy, and I'm probably not the only one you've done this with. That nigga CJ, and Wayne probably got it easy from you too. Do you know what you're worth?

She remains silent, balled up against the tub, quivering, crying.

He walks up and slaps her hard across the head, making her bump her head against the wall, causing her moans of pain and tears to amplify.

CORY (CONT'D)

I said, do you know what you're WORTH?!

Still not responding, we hear Cory laughing, as the sound of his belt being unbuckled is heard.

This causes her to look up with tears streaming down her petrified face.

TOYA

Don't-don't do what I think---

CORY

Who the fuck told you, YOU could think?! And were you about to tell me what I CAN'T FUCKING DO?!

TOYA

No-no, I was only---

With his pants and boxers down, we can tell what his intentions are.

CORY

Do you think I give a fuck---

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. THE RIVERWALK - CONTINUOUS

We see Wayne standing up against a tree taking a leak, while Drea stands back laughing, shaking her head.

WAYNE

Do you think I give a fuck if people see me?

(Laughs)
If they've never seen a dick before,
oh well.

DREA
(Laughs)
Yo ass a whole fool.

He finishes up, getting himself together before walking back to Drea, laughing.

WAYNE
I'm just telling the truth. On a
serious note, you should hit our homie
up.

DREA
Why can't you hit our homie up.

WAYNE
Regardless of the fact I'm her friend,
some niggas really feel insecure about
another man calling or texting his
woman.

DREA
Sounds like a pussy to me.

WAYNE
Despite what we think, and fuck him in
general. Since neither of us really
know how dude is cut, just do it, so
shit can remain peaceful.

DREA
If he's anything like what we're
thinking, it won't matter if I call
her because he'll still feel a way.

WAYNE
That could be true. But when it comes
to a female texting or calling her
friend and she possibly has a nigga
like that, it smooths over easier,
because---

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TOYA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sitting in the tub covered in shame, urine and fear, Toya

keeps her head down, sobbing low.

CORY

Shit like this is easy for these simple reasons, which I believe women like you shouldn't get mad about because you're the ones who made it this way.

As he pulls his boxers and pants up, we hear him chuckling under his breath.

CORY (CONT'D)

One is dick. Once y'all get that shit and love it, you praise and worship it more than God itself. And then y'all fuck around and say that line "I'll DO ANYTHING for you, DADDY. I got your back." That right there opens the door for all kinds of bullshit. And the other reason...

He goes in his pocket pulling out a wad of money unfolding it, cocking his arm back, bringing it forth with some force, slapping her hard with the money.

CORY (CONT'D)

That helps you hoes get over what you went through to get it, because that's the second thing you bitches praise and love more than yourself. Add that with some good dick, and you'll end up like this.

He takes a deep whiff looking around the room, and then he lifts up his arms smelling before finally looking down at her.

CORY (CONT'D)

I guess you were right when you said I need to drink some water. Clean ya ass up, and then come make dinner.

He walks out the bathroom laughing.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. THE RIVERWALK - AFTERNOON

Wayne and Drea are laughing and drinking, making their way back to Drea's car.

WAYNE

You think she misses us like we miss her?

DREA

(Laughs)

Are you talking about far as on the same level as you missing her?

WAYNE

(Laughs)

Gone with that shit. Nah, fa real. What do you think?

DREA

I'm sure she does. But you know how it is when you fall in-love, and all you wanna do is be with that person. I'm sure she's sitting up in the house or she's out somewhere happy with her boo.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. TOYA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Reeking of urine and shame, Toya remains balled up against the tub, with the money sticking on her.

INT. TOYA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Toya comes into the house, and it would appear she's in a good mood, placing her bags down from shopping, followed by closing the front door.

Picking up her bags still smiling from ear to ear, she makes her way to the bedroom ready to put her clothes away, but the closer she gets, her look of happiness slowly starts fading away.

Taking a few more steps towards the door, she pauses, places her bags down, and then places her ear to the door.

Hearing the sound of someone making out in the bedroom completely changes her whole demeanor, grabbing the knob storming in the room.

Entering the room, she sees Cory and a slim petite woman half naked on top of the covers making out.

TOYA
What the fuck?!

They continue making out for a few more seconds, before turning their attention to her.

Cory looks at her with a smile, wrapping his arm around the woman in the bed.

CORY
Hey, baby.

Toya's face is unexplainable as she places her hands on her hips.

TOYA
Hey, baby?! Are you out of your fucking mind?! You got another bitch in my bed, and you're talking about some hey, baby?!

CORY
(Snickers)
Baby, we were waiting on you.

TOYA
Waiting on me?!

CORY
Yeah. I was warming her up, so as soon as you walked in, we could get straight to it.

TOYA
Get straight to it? You know what?

She leaves out the room.

Cory laughs getting up from the bed following behind her.

Toya gets ready to walk out the front door, pulling her phone out, and Cory comes up behind her, grabbing her arm, turning her around.

She still has some rage in her trying to snatch away, and Cory just looks at her smiling.

CORY
Where do you think you're going?

TOYA

I'm not about to fight you to get you outta my house. I'm about to leave, call the police, and let you deal with that. This was the last goddamn straw.

CORY

(Laughs)

That's not what you're about to do.

TOYA

(Scoffs)

Watch what the fuck---

He grabs her by the shoulders slamming her hard against the wall, and his smile has turned into a look of hate.

CORY

I'm about to watch you take yo ass in the room with that bitch, and when I come in there, both of you know what to do. That's what you're about to do.

Toya motions her lips to speak, and he places his face closer against hers, nose to nose.

CORY (CONT'D)

If you're thinking about talking back, that's fine. If you're thinking about calling the police when I let you go, that's fine too. But...

He gives her a kiss on the forehead.

CORY (CONT'D)

You need to think about what'll happen when I get out, considering you truly have nothing they can hold me overnight for. The choice is yours.

He lets her arms go, but he remains in her face.

The fear consuming her is displayed in her face, lowering her head, sighing deep before looking back up into his eyes, saddened he's treating her the way he does.

TOYA

...You know I don't get down with women.

He smiles placing his hand under her chin.

CORY

There's a first time for everything, baby. Besides, it's not about you being with another woman. It's more so about keeping your man happy. You love daddy's big dick, right?

She doesn't respond quick enough to his liking, causing him to clutch her chin, making her shriek with fear.

CORY (CONT'D)

I said, you love daddy's big dick, right?

With tears forming in her eyes, she blinks, and nods her head yes.

CORY (CONT'D)

Good. Now, go in there and get familiar with each other. Daddy will be in there after I get me some water. Okay?

Closing her eyes, letting the tears fall, she nods yes.

CORY (CONT'D)

One more thing, baby.

With his clenched fist, he taps her softly a few times on the side of the jaw.

CORY (CONT'D)

Next time I ask you a question, you better hurry up and respond. But above all...

He gives her a kiss, and then pulls back smiling.

CORY (CONT'D)

If you ever think about calling the police on me again, I'll kill you, and make sure no one ever finds you. You understand?

With tears pouring down her pretty face, she slowly nods her head yes.

CORY (CONT'D)

That's my real bitch. Go in there and get them waterfalls flowing.

Ashamed of what she's about to do, but due to the fear he's installed in her, she makes her way to the bedroom.

With a cocky smile, he slaps her on the ass.

She ignores it, continuing making her way to the bedroom.

Cory smiles walking off to get his water.

INT. TOYA'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Ashamed about what she did the day before, she paces back and forth in the living room, hoping Drea will come over, and that's when the doorbell rings.

She rushes to the door opening it, and there stands Drea excited to see her, holding a bag with food, and another one with drinks.

DREA

My girl! How have---

Toya places a finger to her lips, and Drea looks at her confused, not just because of the finger on her lips, but by the way she's acting.

TOYA

Be quiet, girl. He's in the back sleeping.

Toya lowers her finger, and Drea is still confused, but she shrugs up her shoulders, and then walks in the house.

The two make their way into the kitchen, and Drea places the bags on the table before taking a seat.

Toya takes a seat across from her.

Drea goes in the bag pulling out some tequila and two big blue cups, preparing to make their cups.

DREA

So...how's the relationship going? You look exhausted over there.

Toya sighs deeply, shaking her head.

TOYA

We're working on making it better.

Drea finishes pouring the cups, placing one in front of Toya.

DREA

And what exactly are y'all working on?

TOYA

Communication skills. Different ways of expressing the love we have for each other. Doing more things as a couple. Things like that.

Drea takes a sip from her cup staring at Toya with an expression saying I hope you don't expect me to believe what you just said.

DREA

Now, are these issues more about how he wants you to behave or reasons to help you escape this slavery you're in?

Toya takes a sip, and then looks at Drea, offended.

TOYA

What do you mean, the slavery I'm in? I'm not in slavery. We haven't fully pieced our relationship together for a solid foundation, yet.

DREA

We've been friends since middle school, right?

TOYA

Yeah.

DREA

We know each other...let me correct myself. I used to know you like that back of my hand. But ever since you got with dude, I have no idea who you are, and I believe you don't know who you are.

TOYA

How can you look at me with a straight face and say some bullshit like that?

DREA

The same way you just ignored my question from the get go. You truly don't believe you're in slavery?

TOYA

I know I'm not in slavery. You don't understand our relationship because you're on the outside looking in, since I decided not to tell you everything like I used to.

DREA

I'm on the outside looking?

TOYA

Yes, you're on the outside looking.

DREA

I see. Answer me this. When was the last time you've seen or chilled with Wayne? When was the last time you've been out period? When did you start putting a mountain of makeup on your face? I'm surprised I'm sitting here talking with you, but then again I'm not because we're limited to how loud we can speak because he's sleeping...in YOUR HOUSE.

Toya is silent, hurt hearing the truth, picking up her cup, taking a sip.

Drea takes a sip from her cup looking at the pitiful look on Toya's face.

DREA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, did we get silent?

Toya takes one more sip, wiping the residue from her mouth.

TOYA

...I'm not silent.

DREA

Well?

TOYA

We're---

Cory comes into the kitchen placing a hand on her shoulder, and she slightly cringes, not knowing what to expect.

CORY

Hey, baby, what's going on?

Drea takes a sip from her cup keeping her eyes locked on Cory.

Cory looks over at Drea, and a big smile comes across his face.

CORY (CONT'D)

Oh, I see. You convinced ya girl to share our bed with us? This should be fun.

Drea is stunned, picking up her cup almost downing it after what he said, while Toya remains silent with her head down.

CORY (CONT'D)

What made you decide to join us? Oh, I know. She told you how I lay it down?

DREA

I have no idea what you're talking about, and I didn't know she was into shit like that. But, I ain't the one.

Cory becomes confused looking at her, and then down at Toya, who still has her head down.

CORY

You didn't know she was into women, and you ain't the one? Then, what the fuck are you doing in my house?

DREA

Your house?

CORY

That's what I said.

DREA

(Laughs)

I'll leave it at that.

CORY

Unless you tell me what's funny, it's best you leave it at that.

DREA

(Laughs)

Again, I'll leave it at that. You're a funny guy.

CORY
Oh, I'm funny?

Cory gets ready to step towards her, and Toya quickly grabs his hand.

TOYA
Baby, calm down. It's not that serious.

He snatches his hand away, turning around looking at her with hate in his eyes.

CORY
Who the fuck asked you to speak? Did I ask you for your opinion in this situation?

Toya is silent, lowering her head, while Drea looks on laughing, taking a sip from her cup.

Hearing the laughter, Cory turns his attention back on Drea.

CORY (CONT'D)
What the fuck is so funny?!

DREA
You, nigga!

CORY
Bitch---

Before he can finish his sentence or take another step, Drea is up on her feet with her gun drawn, aiming directly at his head.

Cory is alarmed, in fear, taking a step back with his hands up, stepping behind Toya ready to use her as a shield just in case Drea fires.

DREA
The bullshit you run on her won't fly this way. I should splatter yo shit, but you're not worth the money I paid for these bullets. I'll tell you what you can do, since I'm a bitch.

She picks up her cup taking a sip.

DREA (CONT'D)
I'll give you ten seconds to not only

get outta this kitchen, but outta this
fucking house before I make your body
look and feel like a bitch the first
day of her period.

He gets ready to speak, and she cocks the hammer.

Seeing that she's serious, he takes some steps back toward
the island, grabbing his keys.

He looks as if he wants to cry out to Toya for help, but Drea
uses the gun signaling him to keep it moving.

As he makes his way to the front door, Drea is right behind
him making sure he leaves.

Lowering the gun, she stands in the doorway making sure he
gets in his truck and leaves.

She closes the door, lowering her head, sighing deep before
making her way back into the kitchen.

Toya is still sitting at the table looking pitiful, finishing
her cup, pouring another one.

Drea just stands to the side shaking her head.

DREA

I guess me and Wayne were right about
what we were thinking.

Toya takes a sip, and then looks over at her.

TOYA

Right about what?

DREA

This is why you haven't been around.
This explains why you look older than
what you are, and all that piled on
makeup.

TOYA

Whatever you're thinking---

DREA

I'm not thinking about anything.
Truthfully, I have nothing to say.

(Sighs)

I'll show myself out. I'm pretty sure---

Toya's phone goes off, notifying her of a text message.

DREA

He took longer than I thought, but
what the hell. I'm out.

Drea turns her back walking away, and Toya quickly gets up following behind her, grabbing Drea's hand.

TOYA

D...D, please don't go. I need you.

With her back still turned, Drea slowly removes her hand from Toya's.

DREA

...You don't need me. You need to find
you. Until then...

Drea turns looking at her with watery eyes, doing her best not to let the tears fall.

DREA (CONT'D)

...They say the only thing that ends a
true friendship is death. The lies
people tell are so funny.

Drea gives her a hug, and now the tears start flowing.

Before Toya can embrace her, she quickly releases her.

DREA (CONT'D)

(Sniffling)

...Bye, Cory's slave.

With no further words, Drea makes her way out the door, closing it behind her.

This is the saddest point we've seen Toya in the movie as she stands there with tears falling from her eyes, running across her quivering lips.

She goes into the kitchen getting her phone turning the screen on seeing she has a text from Cory.

She opens the message and it reads...

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

If that bitch is still in my house by the time I get home tonight, I feel sorry for you.

Placing the phone down, she completely breaks down crying in shame for allowing herself to lose focus of who she is, all because she thought she was in-love with a man who claimed he loved her.

Picking her phone back up, she makes a text to Wayne, hoping he'll come over and see her.

INT. TOYA'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Toya and Wayne are sitting on the couch laughing, having a drink.

Wayne knows what's going on between her and Cory because Drea told him what happened, but he doesn't mention it because he wants her to have some form of peace at the moment.

Although the conversation is going smooth, Toya has her phone clutched tight in her hand, looking at the time every few seconds.

WAYNE

Damn, it's been a minute since we had this much fun.

TOYA

I know, right. I'm so busy, I rarely get to hang and enjoy myself.

Wayne was doing his best not to bring it up, in hopes she would speak on the topic herself, but since she didn't, she leaves him with no choice but to speak his mind.

WAYNE

Busy doing what? Doing everything that nigga tell you to do?

She takes a sip from her cup, rolling her eyes.

TOYA

Really? Drea must've told you, so you're taking it there?

WAYNE

You've been letting it go there this long, so what's the difference now?

TOYA

Whatever she told you, I'm sure she over exaggerated. It's not that bad.

WAYNE

He doesn't have you out here having
thresomes, and that's not what you do?
He doesn't degrade and beat you?

TOYA

No.

WAYNE

He doesn't?

TOYA

I just told you no.

WAYNE

Why are you holding your phone so
tight?

She pauses looking down at her phone, and then back up at
him.

TOYA

He said he'll text me on the way home
so I can get dressed because he has
something special planned.

WAYNE

(Laughs)

I just bet he does. What is it, a new
form of ass-beating?

TOYA

How can you find the fucked up shit
you just said funny?

She gets up from the couch with an attitude walking off, and
Wayne, still laughing under his breath, gets up from the
couch following behind her.

WAYNE

Come here, don't act like that.

TOYA

Nah, you always think some shit is
funny.

WAYNE

It ain't like that, you know I'm
playing.

He reaches out grabbing her by the waist, and she tenses up

in pain, wincing, pushing his hands down.

He steps back looking at her as she rubs her side trying to ease the pain.

WAYNE

And what Drea told me was a lie,
right?

TOYA

Yes. I bumped my side on something
after she left, and the shit still
hurts.

WAYNE

Man...fuck it.

TOYA

What?

WAYNE

Nothing.

He shakes his head going in his pocket pulling out a blunt and lighter.

He places the blunt in his mouth prepared to light it, and she quickly stops him.

TOYA

What are you doing?

He takes the blunt from his mouth staring at her confused.

WAYNE

What? I'm not about to have this
debate with you about why you're in
pain. So, I'm about to smoke and
continue having fun.

TOYA

You can't light that up in here.

WAYNE

Huh? Since when did it become an issue
with me smoking in your house?

TOYA

As of now.

WAYNE

Damn. This nigga took over yo life,
and yo crib. That's tight.

TOYA

He didn't take over shit! I don't know---

WAYNE

You can keep this pretend crazy bitch
act because if you were crazy, dude
wouldn't be beating yo ass, and
controlling everything about you.

She instantly gets upset, stepping up in his face, and he
just stares at her unnerved or impressed.

TOYA

Since you don't know what the fuck
you're talking about, I need you to---

The sound of the front door being opened is heard,
immediately followed by it being slammed.

CORY (O.S.)

Is that bitch still in my house?!

We can tell by the pitch of his voice, and slurring of his
words he's drunk.

Wayne stares at Toya with a smirk, while she looks back
waiting for Cory to come into the room with a nervous look on
her face.

WAYNE

I wonder how this---

Cory comes into the living room staggering with his head
down, not realizing Wayne is in the room with her.

CORY

Didn't yo ass hear me calling you?! If
I have to---

He looks up seeing Wayne, and now his whole demeanor is
different.

Wayne stares at him with the same smirk, not bothered by his
tough guy act.

Toya rushes over to Cory, wrapping her arms around him in a

loving manner, but he continues staring at Wayne, not paying attention to the affection she's giving him.

TOYA

Baby, Wayne stopped over for a few minutes because we haven't talked in awhile. Are we still doing what you have planned?

With his eyes still locked on Wayne, he moves his hands against her arms locked around him to let her know to release him.

CORY

Yeah, we're still doing that. Right now, I'm wondering why this nigga hasn't spoke to me in my house.

Wayne breaks wide laughing, still holding the blunt between his fingers, clapping his hands proud in a sarcastic way.

Cory motions as if he's about to lunge at Wayne, but due to Toya somewhat holding him back, he calms his nerves.

CORY (CONT'D)

I don't see what the fuck you find funny, nigga!

Wayne is trying to stop himself from laughing, which he eventually does, looking at Cory still being held by Toya.

Cory's expression says you should be afraid of me, but Wayne pays his supposedly game-face no mind.

WAYNE

I'll tell you just like I just told your bitch, property or whatever you look at her as because I know for goddamn sure you don't view her as a woman. I get that. She allows it, so fuck it, why not? But...

He takes a step towards him, and Toya quickly jumps between them.

TOYA

Hold on! It's not about to go down like this!

WAYNE

He ain't with the shits, so of course

not.

Cory gets ready to motion towards him, and Wayne just shakes his head no, don't even bother wasting your time unless you want your ass beat.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

You one of them niggas, so behave like the bitch you are. I don't understand why she allows you to treat her like a bitch, and she knows you're a bitch, but that's not my business.

CORY

You think I'm a bitch? You don't think I'll bust yo shit?

WAYNE

(Scoffs)

If you were real, we'd be scrapping instead of talking. Let me tell you this before I go. The only person you put fear in is her.

He places the blunt in his mouth lighting it, taking a nice pull, blowing the smoke in their faces.

Toya fans the smoke away, while Cory stands with a look of rage, but he doesn't budge watching Wayne walk off.

Wayne pauses, and takes another pull, exhaling calm as his demeanor, turning around looking at the two.

WAYNE (CONT'D)

I'm not sorry for disrespecting you in your house. She doesn't respect herself, so why should I respect anything about this house or the people who live in it? We know it's her house, but y'all get the point.

(Takes a pull)

Toya, I'll take your advice because I don't know shit. I'll step the fuck outta ya life the same as Drea because apparently all you need is that bitch.

Wayne walks off towards the front door, and we hear it open, and then close.

Cory is still wrapped up in his feelings, but when we look at Toya, we can tell the words Wayne said are stinging her deep.

We can hear Wayne pulling off in the background, while Cory remains staring towards the doorway for a few more seconds before finally focusing on Toya.

CORY

First you had that bitch in my house.
And now, not only did you let that
nigga in my house, but you let him
disrespect me too?

Toya's expression instantly turns into a look of fear.

TOYA

Baby, listen to---

CORY

What did you say?

TOYA

I'm sorry. I mean hear me, please.
Drea over exaggerated what happened
earlier, and he came over to check on
me. I told him he had to leave because
you were on the way home.

He grabs her tight by the shoulders causing her to release a high pitched shriek of fear. How close he gets in her face, the spit coming from his mouth lands on her face.

CORY

I don't give a fuck about what you
just said! So let me guess, you fucked
him too?!

Trembling lips and all, she prepares herself to speak.

TOYA

I've never---

He quickly releases one of her arms, slapping her hard across the face.

She keeps her head turned while crying.

CORY

It's a yes or fucking no answer! I
don't wanna hear no long drawn out
shit!

She remains with her head turned, still crying.

TOYA

No.

CORY

I don't believe that shit, but whatever. Why the fuck did you let him disrespect me in my house?

With tears pouring down her face, she turns looking into his eyes filled with hate.

TOYA

I--I didn't know---

He slaps her again, but this time it's harder than the first, after which, he immediately grabs her by the shoulders, slinging her hard onto the floor.

CORY

Before you even get that stupid ass fucking excuse outta ya mouth because that's what you were about to give me! The point is, you let that bitch ass nigga disrespect me in my house, but you say you love me?!

With a swift hard motion of his leg, he kicks her so hard in the stomach she almost hurls on the floor, lying on her side trying to catch her breath.

Cory looks down at her disgusted, not because of what he's done, but for the simple fact in his eyes she has no legit reason why she allowed Wayne to disrespect him in her house.

CORY (CONT'D)

Useless bitch. Why am I even bothered with you? The pussy is trash. You can't hold your own ground to defend your man. All in all, you're just weak. You know what?

He pulls out a flask taking a deep swig, and then places it back in his pocket.

While swallowing the alcohol, he looks down at her, and then spits the saliva residue on her.

CORY (CONT'D)

You might as well call off tomorrow, because you won't be in a good enough condition to go in.

He coughs up a nice size loogie, and then spits it directly in her hair.

CORY (CONT'D)

Hurry up and get yourself together. I
feel like doing some ATM.

He walks off.

Toya stays on the floor crying, rubbing her fingers through her hair and the saliva, trying to understand why he doesn't respect her, but more importantly, why is she allowing him to treat her this way?

We slowly fade to black as Toya remains on the floor crying, and we hear Cory yelling in the background.

INT. TOYA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

CLOSE UP - TOYA'S FACE

We see Cory held up on his words when he said she should take the day off.

Her eye is swollen, lip busted, a nice bruise is on the side of her face, and a handprint is on her throat.

The beauty we saw in the beginning of the movie no longer exists, and we can see the mental breakdown pouring from her expression.

Moving from her face seeing her sitting on the bed in her bra and panties, now we see old bruises along with a few new ones.

Taking a deep breath of sorrow, she reaches over on the nightstand for her phone.

Turning her phone on, she goes into her text messages, and the look of despair sinks even lowerer seeing the multiple messages from Cory.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

If the house ain't clean, and I don't have a meal by the time I get home...you might as well get ready to check yourself into the hospital.

Sighing deep, she prepares to put the phone down, and then she pauses for a second, and decides to text Wayne.

After the text, she places the phone down, and then gets up from the bed gathering her thoughts so she can prepare to clean.

Putting some clothes on, she begins her cleaning in the bedroom first.

As she goes through the day cleaning the house, she takes a break here and there to text Wayne, still getting no response.

Nightfall comes, and we see Toya in the kitchen preparing dinner. She pulls her phone out to see if Wayne texted her, and he still hasn't responded.

Sighing, placing her phone back in her pocket, we hear the front door being opened, and then closed.

She sighs, placing her hands on the sink shaking her head, listening to Cory moving around the house complaining before making his way into the kitchen.

Cory stands in the doorway drinking a fifth of Jack Daniels, staring at her sucking his teeth.

CORY

You did a good job for what it's worth. What's cooking?

Toya remains silent with her head down, shaking her head.

CORY (CONT'D)

Shaking your fucking head doesn't answer my question.

TOYA

...Look on the fucking stove, and in the oven.

Cory gains a look of confusion, taking a sip from the bottle.

CORY

Run that by me again.

TOYA

You heard exactly what the fuck I said.

Remaining confused, he takes another sip from the bottle before taking a few steps towards her, placing the bottle on the table.

CORY

Hm. I see you ready for me---

TOYA

To put me in the hospital? Ready for you to degrade me more than what you've already done? Yeah...I'm ready for all that. Why? Because I'm ready for the pain to end. But before I let you do that...I'll make sure you feel everything you put me through.

CORY

(Laughs)

I want whatever you had to drink because you lost your goddamn grip.

TOYA

You come any closer to me, you'll see how bad I lost it.

CORY

Oh, yeah?

She hears him taking a step towards her, and she quickly grabs the handle of a pan in the dish rack, turning around swinging with all her might, connecting with his head.

As soon as his head turns one way, she quickly swings again, making his head turn the other way.

She goes for the knockout blow, and he grabs her by the wrist, taking the pan from her, followed by a punch of his own, but she takes the punch like a champ, swinging back on him.

The two are brawling like grown men in the streets, using any weapon they can pick up, showing no mercy on the other one.

The fight is going great as they tear up the kitchen, until Cory gets the best of her, knocking her to the floor, quickly kicking her in the face, not allowing her to get up.

While he's bending over catching his breath from the ass-beating he received, we can hear Toya moaning in pain.

CORY

(Panting)

You bitch!

He stands straight, and then stomps her a few times in the

face.

CORY (CONT'D)

Yo dumbass won't try this shit again!
I'm the fucking man up in here, you
hear me?!

He stares down at her waiting for a response, but she's gone silent.

CORY (CONT'D)

Bitch, you better speak, before I
stomp you again.

She remains silent.

His rage slowly turns into a sense of concern. Not because of what he did, but it's a possibility she could be dead.

CORY'S POV

Toya's face is covered with blood, and her eyes are closed with no sign of her breathing.

He slaps her a few times on the cheek, still getting no response.

Standing straight, the tough guy turns into a pure female, looking around nervous trying to figure out his next move, beginning to pace back and forth.

The fear is consuming him, picking up the bottle, taking a sip, still unsure on what to do, and that's when he hears her phone go off.

Taking one more sip, he starts calming down, forming an idea in his head as he bends down going in her pocket, taking her phone out.

He turns the phone screen on, and he sees she just received a text from Wayne, and a devilish smile comes across his face.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

For some reason, you're not getting the point, so I'll fully break it down for you in person. I'll be there in ten minutes.

Reaching on the table, grabbing the bottle, he takes a sip with a smile, coming to the conclusion of how he's getting out of the situation.

Still in her text messages, he goes to his name, clearing all the old messages, and then he makes up a text sending it to himself from her phone, detailing how Wayne is trying to fight her.

He waits for the sound to go off, before he clears his throat a few times, pulling out his phone, calling the police, and then places the phone to his ear.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
911, what is your emergency?

CORY
(Sounding in distress)
Please! Can you please send the police to 9637 Ashton street?! My wife just texted me in fear of her life thinking her best friend is about to assault her! They've had plenty of fights, but this time I'm nowhere near home to break it up! I'm afraid I won't make it there in time! Please, can you send my wife some help?!

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Sir, calm down, help is on the way.

CORY
Please, tell them to hurry! I can't lose my wife or have harm come her way!

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Officers are on the way, sir. Please, just remain calm, and---

He hangs up with a sinister smile, taking another sip from the bottle, making his way out the kitchen.

INT. ICU - NIGHT

We return to the beginning of the movie with Toya laid on the hospital bed.

DOCTOR (O.S.)
It's a good thing the medics got to her when they did. She was on the verge of death.

CORY (O.S.)

(Sobbing)

Despite me and him having our fight as the police pulled up...I can't believe he took it this far. They've been best friends for years, and for him to fully flip out because she found happiness...I just don't understand it.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

Be happy your wife is alive and stable. Not to mention the police have him in custody.

CORY (O.S.)

...You're right. I just can't believe her friend would take it this far, especially since she let him know she's happy.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

The blind can't see the truth without some form of help.

CORY (O.S.)

True words.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

Thank you, sir.

CORY (O.S.)

Can I go in and sit with her?

DOCTOR (O.S.)

She's stable, but she's not awake. But if you feel you should be by your wife's side, I don't see why not.

CORY (O.S.)

I'm glad you understand the pain I'm going through. Thank you.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

If I were in your position, I would want someone who understands as well.

CORY (O.S.)

Thank you.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

You're welcome. Go in there and be with your wife.

Cory comes in looking over the room, having no true concern about Toya, walking around the bed a few times staring at her, before finally stopping at the side of the bed.

CORY

You shoulda keep your hands to yourself. Ah well, it doesn't matter. Ya lil friend is in jail at the moment for beating you so badly.

(Laughs)

Seems like he was good for something aside from running his mouth. Although I know they'll probably release him soon, and I'm the first person he'll come for, and that's fine. I'll be long gone by then. So, this all revolves around you in the end. You're the only one who can place me behind bars, and we can't have that.

He goes in his pocket pulling out a syringe filled with cyanide.

He looks at her with a sinister smile, as he places the needle in her I.V.

CORY (CONT'D)

Just so you know...the only thing I loved about you is how you let me use and treat you like shit. Other than that, there was never any love between us. What man would dare love a spineless woman?

As he injects the cyanide into the I.V., he leans down giving her a kiss on the forehead.

CORY (CONT'D)

Here's the peace you were searching for.

As he stands straight looking down at her smiling, her heart-rate monitor goes flatline.

Before the doctors can get a chance to rush in the room, he's already at the door opening it, screaming out for help.

As the doctors rush in trying to save her, Cory slithers away without being noticed.

FOUR WEEKS LATER

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

We come in on VETTE, an attractive dark skin woman sitting at the bar downing her glass of liquor, shaking her head with depression.

She looks off for the bartender, and she sees he's busy with some other people at the end of the bar.

Sighing and shaking her head, she pulls her phone out, turning it on looking at the picture of her and her boyfriend, which is probably the reason why she's in the slumps.

Placing the phone back in her pocket, she just waits for the bartender to make his way back towards her.

CORY (O.S.)

Don't take this as a come on or I'm desperate. But it seems like you have a lot on your mind, and if you don't mind, I'd like to buy you a drink. Again, I'm not pressing the issue. You can tell me to walk away without even looking at me.

VETTE

No...it's fine. I could use another drink, and somebody to talk to. Have a seat.

Cory takes a seat beside her.

When she turns looking at him, it's apparent she likes what she sees from the slight seductive grin she gives him.

VETTE (CONT'D)

Hello, my name is Vette.

CORY

My name is Kenny. Nice to meet you, Vette.

VETTE

Likewise. So, what have you been drinking tonight? I wouldn't want you

to switch up.

CORY

(Shy laugh)

My first drink of the night will be whatever you're having while we have or little talk.

His response caught her off guard, and apparently has not only made her gain more interest in his conversation, but it was kind of a turn on.

VETTE

I wasn't expecting that, but okay. Um...I have to use the bathroom real quick. When I come back, do you mind buying us a few rounds of something dark?

CORY

I'll be right here. When you come back, you do the honors of ordering what we'll drink.

As she grabs her purse blushing, she gets up staring at him for a few seconds, before she walks off.

Cory sits smiling, pulling his phone out making a call.

CORY

(Into the phone)

I got another one on the floor.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. FRANKIE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

We're back in the house where Cory took Toya in the beginning, except this time it's furnished.

Sitting on the sofa smoking a cigarette, having a drink is Cory's friend FRANKIE, a tall slender dark skin man with dreadlocks.

FRANKIE

(Into the phone)

That's what's up. Is it anything like that last one?

CORY (V.O.)

Nah, I'm running something different

this time. Moving all that shit was overrated.

FRANKIE

Thank God. Can you make sure she has a friend for me?

CORY (V.O.)

That's the script I'm on.

FRANKIE

Cool. Let me know the updates.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

CORY

(Into the phone)

No doubt.

He hangs up, placing the phone back in his pocket.

He stares directly into the camera with a blank stare for a hot second before cracking a devilish grin.

FADE TO BLACK:

"If your life is all you have, how are you comfortable letting someone else control or ruin it?"

Bernard Mersier