

CHARACTERS:

Henry Diamant- Stephane's son
Roger Pont-brother of Stella Diamant
Stella Diamant- Stephane's wife
Stephane Diamant-Stella's husband
Zena- maid of the Diamants
Janette-girl at Sherry's place
Rudolf - Stephane's pilot
Elvis -Stephane's driver
Orphanage director-Samantha
Her Assistant-Lucia
Guard at orphanage
Female Teacher at orphanage
Elyse-Roger's neighbour's daughter
Gina Savoir-Girl at orphanage
Samantha's hired Assailant
Mechanic
Beggar girl
Sam-construction company manager
Police combatants
2 policemen at station
Assistant police chief
Vivien/woman-Gina's real mother

Gina's false parents/Gina's false mother

female voice/Gina's false mother

Cement Seller

Tiles seller

customer 1

customer 2

3 orphan girls

Paris Hotel Room service

Henry's taxi driver

Cab driver 2

Cab driver taxi driver 3

Orphan girl-Gina Savoir

Bar/brothel owner

Friendly male client at bar/brothel

Sam's friend-Roberto

Post man/assailant

Other assailants

Bar/brothel waitress

Pastor

EXT.COUPLE'S HOME- ANTANANARIVO-A BREEZY
NIGHT

Stella lies outside on a camp bed beside her
husband who lies on another.

STELLA

Such a beautiful night.

STEPHANE

(says and yawns)

The breeze makes it lovelier.

STELLA

Honey, I have something to say.

STEPHANE

What is it?

STELLA

About our son, he's a lucky boy,
isn't he? An only child with all
he needs and wants.

STEPHANE

We're even luckier to have a good boy: he doesn't drink, smoke or chase girls.

STELLA

I agree but we don't have to spoil him.

STEPHANE

(turns the head to look at her and say)

I don't, do you?

STELLA

Honey, he's your heir but owning all that at 18 isn't right for him.

STEPHANE

(turns to stare at her)

At 18 he'd be an adult, old enough to own his own wealth.

STELLA

Fine. But he doesn't need that much. Wait until he's 25.

Stephane chuckles.

STELLA

(sounds serious looking at
him)

Don't mock me.

STEPHANE

(says and yawns)

Relax. I'm not.

STELLA

(sounds serious looking at him)

Why were you laughing then?

STEPHANE

Nothing, just found it funny that
you were worrying about something
so trivial.

STELLA

(looking at him)

Does that mean you would do as I
wish?

STEPHANE

(looks at her)

Not exactly. Henry would still own his share but it would be in your care. Happy?

STELLA

(says and kisses him)

I love you.

STEPHANE

(cuddles her and says)

Hmm, the night just got lovelier.

STELLA

(romantically)

Yes, I think we should get in now, so it doesn't go waste.

STEPHANE

Certainly.

(Says and immediately rises from the bed)

Stella does likewise and rests her head over his shoulder while he holds her waist as they walk towards house.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

The couple have just entered the living room when the telephone there begins to ring. Stella hurries to pick it up while Stephane continues to their bedroom.

STELLA

(sounds cheerful)

Hello darling.

HENRY

Hi! Mother.

STELLA

How are you dear? I miss you so much.

HENRY

Mum I'm fine. How's everyone?

STELLA

Everyone is chilling honey, your dad is great and I'm excellent.

HENRY

(sounds cheerful)

Cool. I called to tell you I'm coming home tomorrow. We're on a break.

STELLA

Ok honey, I'd tell your father to ask Rudolf to pick you up.

HENRY

(sounds cheerful)

Thanks.

STELLA

Have a nice evening dear; I love you.

HENRY

I love you too, tell that to Dad also.

STELLA

I will baby, enjoy your night bye.

HENRY

Bye.

INT.COUPLE'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Stella enters and finds Stephane in bed reading under the bright lamp hanging from above.

STELLA

(Walks towards her closet and picks up a night gown and begins to change into it)

Henry called, he greets everyone especially you.

STEPHANE

Oh, he was the one who called then.

STELLA

Yes, he is coming home tomorrow; school is on a short break.

STEPHANE

Good. I miss his presence a lot.

STELLA

(Moving towards bed)

Honey.

STEPHANE

Yes.

STELLA

(Sits beside him in bed)

I wish that Rudolf picks Henry up tomorrow.

STEPHANE

He doesn't need to. He can come home himself.

STELLA

I know but it would be nice to give him a ride to lessen his...his fatigue.

STEPHANE

Dear, Henry would take a flight home. Don't worry, he isn't that worn-out.

STELLA

Stephane he's our only child. We won't always pick him up. It's just once.

STEPHANE

(places book on the lamp
table beside him and covers
himself with a blanket)

Good night. I need to sleep.

STELLA

(Under her breath
looking at him)

Fine.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-BEDROOM-DAY

It's 8am and Stephane has just woken up.
Stella isn't by him. He calls her as he
leaves the bed and exits room.

CUT TO:

INT.BATH-CONTINUES

Stephane washes his face, dries it with a
towel and exits room.

EXT.COUPLE'S HOME-GARAGE-CONTINUES

He opens the garage by remote control and
finds his wife's car gone. He closes it and
returns inside.

CUT TO:

INT. BATH-CONTINUES

Stephane re-enters bath to wash down.

EXT. COUPLE'S HOME-CONTINUES

A young, neatly dressed woman presses the front door bell assuming it is locked. She tries the door after none answers the bell. It opens and she enters.

CUT TO:

INT.KITCHEN-CONTINUES

The maid, young woman picks ingredients and quickly starts to cook breakfast.

INT. BATH-CONTINUES

Stephane leaves bath with a towel wrapped round his waist.

INT.BEDROOM-CONTINUES

Stephane enters room to change into clothes. Minutes later he exits room and heads for the kitchen.

INT.KITCHEN-DAY

Zena, the maid, leaves the kitchen with Stephane's meal in a tray but she almost bumps into him when exiting the place.

ZENA

Oh Sorry!

STEPHANE

No, it's not your fault. No one expected the other that suddenly.

ZENA

All the same I'm sorry. I was bringing your breakfast.

STEPHANE

Thanks. I'll take it here.

ZENA

(places tray onto the table)

Ok sir.

STEPHANE

Zena, have you seen my wife this morning?

ZENA

No sir, I haven't. I came in at 8. Sorry I had to take care of some matters.

STEPHANE

That's ok. Besides it's a weekend. So you didn't meet her?

ZENA

No sir. I didn't.

STEPHANE

Fine, she must have left very early then.

ZENA

Anything the matter sir?

STEPHANE

(Says and begins to eat)

No. Hmm, delicious sandwich.

ZENA

Thank you
sir.

STEPHANE

Why don't you sit down and have breakfast with me. Enjoy your cooking.

ZENA

Thanks but I had something from home so not hungry.

STEPHANE

Ok. Suit yourself. You may leave now.

ZENA

Alright sir, excuse me.

INT.COUPLE'S BEDROOM-DAY

Minutes later, Stephane stands in the living room calling his wife on the telephone. It goes through but none picks it. He tries again but the situation remains.

INT.HOTEL ROOM-PARIS-DAY

Stella stands by a window speaking to her son on phone.

STELLA

Honey how are you?

HENRY

Great mum. How's the house, how's dad?

STELLA

Dear when are you planning on leaving school today? I'm in Paris; I came to pick you up.

HENRY

Mum, you came to pick me up?

STELLA

Yes dear but not with the plane,
sorry.

HENRY

That's ok. I appreciate it but you
shouldn't have bothered.

STELLA

Ok, but I'm already here. Tell me
when you would be ready so I come
and get you.

HENRY

By 5pm.

STELLA

Why 5? What're you doing?

HENRY

There's a party coming on. I want
to stay and have some fun first.

STELLA

Henry, you can have fun at home. I
can easily throw you a party.

HENRY

Mum I know that but this is with my friends. I won't be seeing them until school reopens.

STELLA

Ok. Don't keep me waiting.

HENRY

No mum, I won't. Bye.

STELLA

Bye.

Subsequently, she lies in the sofa and, reads a magazine in it. After 5 minutes, there is a knock on the door.

STELLA

Who is it?

FEMALE VOICE

Room service

STELLA

Come in.

Young woman enters room with a tray holding a box of fruit juice and some snacks. She places it on the center table and attempts to pour it into a glass but Stella stops her.

STELLA

No don't serve me yet. I'm not taking it now.

ROOM SERVICE

Ok Madam. Anything else you need?

STELLA

No thanks for the service.

ROOM SERVICE

(exits room afterwards)

You're welcome, any time.

INT.CLASSROOM-DAY

The party is to come on but not at the school premises as earlier on stated. Henry finds out when he talks to the guy organizing the event.

HENRY

You wanted to talk to me?

ROBERTO

Yes about the party. There's been a change of venue.

HENRY

Why? I thought the authorities gave us permission.

ROBERTO

Yes but not enough space here.

HENRY

So where is the new location?

ROBERTO

At Sherry's place.

HENRY

Where is that?

ROBERTO

You still want to go? Then follow me.

Henry stares at him for a minute and replies, yes.

INT.HOTEL ROOM-PARIS-NIGHT

It's 7 and Stella is asleep in the sofa. The TV is on after she forgot to switch it off hours ago. Her phone rings, calls from her husband.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-NIGHT

Stephane paces about the living room, expecting someone. Immediately, a man enters the room, Elvis, his driver.

ELVIS

Good evening sir, you called for me.

STEPHANE

Yes Elvis, pick me up tomorrow by 6. We're going to the airport.

ELVIS

Ok sir.

STEPHANE

Alright, that would be all.

ELVIS

(Says and exits room)

Ok sir, good night.

STEPHANE

Night.

A minute later he phones Rudolf, his pilot and informs him to get the plane ready for the next morning.

INT.SHERRY'S PLACE-NIGHT

A large room filled with lots of people and loud music. Some dance while others sit or stand drinking, eating and chatting. Henry sits in a sofa sipping a glass while looking around. Suddenly, someone taps him on the shoulder. He is startled and quickly turns to see who. A tall, pretty dark-haired light-skinned girl smiles at him and introduces herself as Janette, sister of the club's owner.

JANETTE

(Says with outstretched hand)

Hi, I'm Janette, my sister owns this place. You are?

HENRY

(Replies and shakes her hand)

Henry Diamant.

JANETTE

(Remarks and sits beside
him)

Lovely name. May I know why you're
sitting here instead of dancing
like the others?

HENRY

(Replies quickly)

I danced already. I don't feel
like it now.

JANETTE

Oh I see. You're a student?

HENRY

Yes, in senior high school. What
about you?

JANETTE

Hmm, I don't school. I help my
sister and she pays me well. I'm a
singer here.

HENRY

That's a great.

JANETTE

Yes, my sister said that too.

HENRY

(his phone starts ringing)

How about your parents, are they here?

JANETTE

No they are in the Philippines.

HENRY

(phone rings momentarily.
exits room)

Sorry I have to pick my call.

EXT.SHERRY'S PLACE-NIGHT

HENRY

Mum, hello mum, I'm here at Sherry's place.

STELLA

Sorry sweetheart, I forgot. Where are you again?

HENRY

At Sherry's place. It's here in Paris. It's a club.

STELLA

What? You are at a club Henry?

HENRY

No, yes but I'm not doing anything wrong. We had the party here. I only ate some food.

STELLA

Fine. I think I know where you are. Stand outside so I can see you ok.

HENRY

Yes I'm outside before the place.

STELLA

(Says and hangs up phone)

Right I'm coming to get you. Bye.

CUT TO:

EXT.HOTEL-NIGHT

Stella quickly sits in a chauffeur-driven car which speeds off after she's given the driver directions to Sherry's place. Soon she finds Henry standing outside before the club, beside him his suitcase. She gets down from the car and hugs Henry while the driver places his suitcase in the boot.

INT.HOTEL-STELLA'S ROOM-NIGHT

Stella arrives in her living-room-cum bedroom with Henry. He sinks into the sofa after bringing in his suitcase.

STELLA

(Going up to him)

Honey, I'm so sorry. I overslept.
Do you want anything, a glass of
chocolate, sandwich or something?

HENRY

No mum, I'm not hungry. I already
ate something at the party. I told
you.

STELLA

(exits room afterwards)

Yes you did. But in case you need
anything, the fridge is stuffed.
I'm off to take a shower.

Henry turns on the set and checks the
channels. None interests him and he turns
off the set with the remote control and
pulls his suitcase along with him to the
adjacent room.

Twenty minutes later, Stella comes out of
the bath, dressed in a night gown. She walks
to the fridge in the room and picks out a
short box of juice with a straw attached to
it and begins to sip. She sits in the sofa
to watch the TV seeing it's on. Suddenly,
her phone begins to ring. She doesn't pick
it until it's rung for 2 minutes. It's
Stephane.

STEPHANE (on phone)

(seriously)

Stella, where are you?

STELLA

(cheerful)

Hi darling, I'm in a hotel in Paris with our son. How're you doing?

STEPHANE

Why didn't you answer my calls all morning?

STELLA

Sorry, I must have left my phone at the hotel. I went shopping all morning.

STEPHANE

Don't you lie to me. You deliberately refused to pick my calls!

STELLA

Don't scream at me, please. I left the phone by mistake.

STEPHANE

Fine. I called to tell you I'd be in Paris tomorrow. Where are you exactly?

STELLA

(smiling)

Hold on, while I get the address.

STEPHANE

Right.

EXT. COUPLES' S HOME-DAY

It's 6am and Stephane leaves home for the airport, driven by Elvis.

EXT.AIRPORT-CONTINUES

In less than an hour, they arrive there. Stephane alights and boards his private aircraft. Elvis waits until they take off and leaves.

EXT.SHOPPING MALL-PARIS-DAY

Stella shops in a chic clothing and accessories store close by her hotel. 2 hours later, she finishes and informs her chauffeur on the phone. He meets her at the exit and carries her bags into the car. They drive away afterwards.

INT.HOTEL ROOM-DAY

Henry sits in the sofa at the living room-cum-bedroom viewing the set. He seems focused on it, a documentary about Madagascar. Suddenly, the door opens silently, Stella walks in with 5 bags in both hands.

STELLA

Hello! Somebody

HENRY

(says softly doesn't take
eyes off set)

Hi mum.

STELLA

Hi baby, have you eaten anything?
You look a bit pale to me.

HENRY

I had breakfast brought to me.

STELLA

Good. I got you something special
today. Can you guess?

HENRY

(looking at her)

Designer shirts and trousers?

STELLA

(hands him a bag)

Something much better than that.
Take a look.

HENRY

(opens bag and brings out a small rectangular box and opens it)

A watch. Thanks but I already have some.

STELLA

It's a Rolex, for people of class and title.

HENRY

(smiles wanly)

You shouldn't have mum, it's costly. I don't really need a Rolex. It would only draw attention to you.

STELLA

Hey, don't speak that way. Always think positive. Your father wears one so I thought it nice to get you one that's all.

HENRY

(says and rises to leave)

Thank you.

STELLA

Where are you going?

HENRY

To sleep, I need to rest.

STELLA

Ok. Your father would be coming to pick us up. But we would be leaving tomorrow.

HENRY

(looking at her)

Cool.

STELLA

Sound sleep.

Henry leaves room. Stella empties the bags' contents into her closet and heads off to the bath. 10 minutes later she is out, dressed in casual attire. She picks a cup of ice cream from the fridge and sits in the sofa to view the set while eating. After 10 minutes, her phone rings. She picks it up after 2 minutes.

STELLA

(cheerful tone)

Hello.

MALE VOICE (ROGER)

Hello, Stella?

STELLA

(stunned)

Roger is that you?

ROGER

(not happy tone)

Yes sister, it's your brother.
How're you doing?

STELLA

(sad tone)

Fine. Roger where are you? Where
have you been all this time?

ROGER

I was in Qatar, I worked as a
valet there but it didn't end
well. I lost my job and now I'm
back in Tana.

STELLA

Oh sad news. I thought my brother
was going to give me some jewels.

ROGER

Stella I need your help. I badly
need a job. May be your husband
could help me.

STELLA

No, Roger. I would give you some
money; you find your own job.

ROGER

No sis, you can help me, I know that. I need a job. Money won't last.

STELLA

(says and hangs up)

Then find a job yourself. Search the papers for one.

ROGER

Hello? Stella? Hello?

He hangs up after there's no response and exits the phone booth and walks home.

INT.ROGER'S PLACE

Roger enters a small room, the living room of his 2-room house, a living room and bedroom. It has an old sofa and a single chair and table standing at a corner. He sinks into the sofa with a contemplative countenance.

ROGER (V.O)

Life's hard, you work, work, work and...later you lose everything...what next huh? What next? I need to find a job, I badly need one now..

Suddenly, he rises and leaves the house.

EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD STREET-DAY

Roger walks through the neighbourhood looking around for sign boards advertising jobs. Soon, he comes by one, 'Labourers wanted' and follows direction to a house in the neighbourhood. Yet after knocking thrice on the door and receiving no response he decides to ask some kids playing nearby where its occupants are. He approaches them and greets in Malagasy.

ROGER

(smiling)

Hello children (Malagasy)

Children all stop playing the ball and gather at one spot.

GIRL

Go away, evil man!

BOY

(says and emerges out of the group)

Hey, he's not evil. I know him.

ROGER

You do? Where?

BOY

(gestures with hand)

You live down there. I know where your house is because I live close by.

ROGER

(smiling)

Oh that's great. I'm not a bad man girl, I only want some information.

Suddenly, a man approaches him from behind.

MAN

What kind of information?

ROGER

(turning around)

Good afternoon. I followed a sign board to that house. I need a job.

MAN

I see. Follow me, I put that board there.

Roger obeys but the boy calls him.

BOY

Hey, are you leaving?

ROGER

(turns around)

Oh sorry, yes. I found the one I was looking for. Thanks, we'll meet again bye.

BOY

(waving)

Bye.

INT.MAN'S HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-DAY

Roger enters room with man. It's a larger place compared to his, has an expensive carpet, nice white walls, a nice lamp above and exquisite wooden furniture. Roger keeps standing until the man asks him to sit.

MAN/SAM

I'm Sam. I work for a construction firm and was asked to recruit labourers. How fit are you?

ROGER

(smiling)

I'm ok, but I wanted to know if you had any vacancies for drivers. I can drive.

SAM

Who can't? (chuckles). Well, yes, there's a vacancy but only for a licensed driver, are you licensed?

ROGER

No. Unfortunately no but I can take the test and get one.

SAM

Hm. That won't be necessary, meet me at 7 tomorrow here. You would get a license after you prove your ability to me.

ROGER

(excited)

Ok. Thank you sir.

SAM

I'm Sam, just say thanks Sam.

ROGER

Ok, thanks Sam. I would be going now so I make it here by 7 tomorrow.

SAM.

Hey, don't fly away yet. Your pay is hourly-based, \$15 is that ok with you?

ROGER

(shocked. excited)

\$15 an hour?

SAM

Too small?

ROGER

Far from that. I'm grateful Sam, I badly need money and here I get paid hourly and that much. Thank you.

SAM

(hands him some money)

That's ok. Here, take this for some refreshment. See you on Monday at 7.

ROGER

(hurries out of room smiling)

Thanks. Bye.

EXT. AN EATERY-PARIS-DAY

Stephane, Stella and Henry sit round a table in a restaurant in Paris. They chat as they dine.

STELLA

It's nice to have everyone here

STEPHANE

(glances at Henry)

Indeed, one happy family. Henry,
don't you like the food?

STELLA

We could get you your choice if
you want. Waiter...

HENRY

No mum, I'm ok. Just not hungry.

STELLA

Not hungry? This is your first
meal in the evening son. It's 5
o'clock.

HENRY

May be I had too much to eat for
lunch.

STEPHANE

That explains it.

STELLA

How about some dessert? Fruit
juice with pie, ice cream or what
do you want?

STEPHANE

He would say what he wants when he wants it.

STELLA

Alright. Let's have our dessert then shall we? Waiter.

WAITER

Yes ma'am what may I offer you?

STELLA

What do you want honey?

STEPHANE

Whatever you want.

STELLA

Fine, kindly get us some juice with...with what?

STEPHANE

A couple of glasses.

STELLA

(chuckles)

Exactly. That would be all.

Waiter goes away.

INT.HOTEL ROOM-PARIS-NIGHT

Stella returns to her hotel with Henry and Stephane. Henry immediately goes to his room and the couple remains in the living room.

STELLA

Ah, dinner was lovely. Now I need to take a shower.

STEPHANE

(sitting in the sofa)

Alright. I would just wait here.

STELLA

Come on, you need to freshen up.

STEPHANE

(looking at her)

I just did at the restaurant or don't I look fresh enough?

STELLA

(chuckles and exits room)

You're
funny.

Stephane turns on the set and views it. Twenty minutes later, Stella returns in a bathrobe. She picks a dress from her closet and returns to the bath to change into it.

She returns seconds later and joins her husband in the couch.

STELLA

(lies in sofa and lays head on husband's thighs)

Tell me a funny story of your life.

STEPHANE

I don't have any, except of yours.

STELLA

(chuckles)

What is it?

STEPHANE

You were a little girl with finger nails sharper than a sword.

STELLA

(chuckles)

And you were a little boy who never failed to stalk his mother for food.

STEPHANE

(chuckles and Stella pricks him with her fingers)

Yet unlike you, I never was a
glutton.

INT.ROGER'S PLACE-NIGHT

Roger sits in his living room eating supper.
Outside Elyse, his neighbour's daughter
knocks on his door. He rises to open her and
she enters.

ELYSE

Dinner is ready. Aren't you coming
to eat?

ROGER

Thanks but I already bought
dinner. I've a job now, ok almost.

ELYSE

Congrats, what job is it?

ROGER

A truck driver. I'm going for a
driving test on Monday to prove
myself.

ELYSE

Wonderful. Enjoy your meal. I'll
see you tomorrow. Good night.

ROGER

(returns inside)

Good night.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-BEDROOM-DAY

Stella is back from Paris with her family.
The couple exit from the bath into the
bedroom chatting.

STEPHANE

(wiping hair with a towel)

How about us visiting the farm on
Monday? I need to see it.

STELLA

The farm?

STEPHANE

I don't mean we'll be sleeping
there. We'd just see how things
are faring then harvest something
and cook a healthy meal.

STELLA

(chuckles and opens closet
for a dress)

You're
funny.

STEPHANE

Ok. We won't harvest or cook
anything, just tour the place and
relax in a 5-star hotel.

STELLA

That would be sweet, with some
massage included.

STEPHANE

Get ready then, we leave Monday
morning.

INT. HENRY'S BEDROOM-DAY

Henry lies on his back in bed staring above
him. He recalls the documentary he had
watched back in the hotel in Paris, the one
about poverty in Madagascar. Suddenly, he
rises from the bed and exits the room.

EXT. HENRY'S NEIGHBOURHOOD-DAY

Henry strolls in the plush neighbourhood
looking around. Suddenly, a cab stops before
one of the houses and a young casually
dressed woman steps down. The driver brings
out her load from the car boot and returns
to his seat. Subsequently, he drives away
but Henry stops him as he is close by. He
runs to the cap and engages in a short talk.

HENRY

Hey man, how much would you take
to send me round town tomorrow at
7am?

DRIVER

You mean a jolly ride?

HENRY

No, a much serious one. I need to see an orphanage. Do you know of any near by?

DRIVER

Yes, it's about 2 hours away from here. It's called Happy Kids. Why do you want to see an orphanage?

HENRY

Good. Come here 7 sharp, that's my house, the one with the silver gate. I'll be waiting before the gate.

DRIVER

Alright. The pay is 40 ariary.

HENRY

No problem. See you here tomorrow at 7.

DRIVER

(subsequently pulls away)

Bye.

Henry continues with walk through the neighbourhood.

INT. COUPLE'S HOME-KITCHEN-NIGHT

Stephane has dinner while Stella complains in the living room about Henry's whereabouts. Zena is there with her.

STELLA

How come no one heard him leave?

ZENA

Sorry madam, I was at the kitchen.

STELLA

And Stephane and I were in our room. I can't believe this. He's never left the house without our permission.

Suddenly, front door opens and Henry enters room. He greets and passes by but is halted by Stella.

STELLA

Henry, where were you? Why did you sneak out?

HENRY

I didn't sneak out mum, I went for a walk. May I please go now, I need to rest.

STELLA

After dinner, your dad is waiting
for you at the kitchen.

HENRY

(goes to kitchen)

Ok.

INT.COUPLE'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Stella talks with husband about Henry's
behaviour.

STELLA

I suppose he is bored. How about
he joining us?

STEPHANE

He needs to rest. Some other time.

STELLA

Alright. Honestly I prefer it this
way, only the two of us.

STEPHANE

Me too.

EXT.ROGER'S PLACE-BATH-DAY

It's 5am and Roger washes down in the bath.

INT. ELYSE'S PLACE-KITCHEN-DAY

Elyse quickly makes breakfast for Rogers. Soon she finishes and exits the room with a tray of food in hand.

INT. ROGER'S PLACE-LIVING ROOM-CONTINUE

Elyse enters room and places down tray on the center table and walks quickly away. Moments later Roger arrives in room with a towel round his waist. He doesn't take notice of tray and enters bedroom to dress up. Few minutes later he is out and sees tray on the table. He unveils it and smiles.

EXT. PARK-DAY

Roger arrives at the park to meet Sam who stands against a truck.

ROGER

(shakes hand)

Good morning Sam.

SAM

Morning. You're here early, that's a good impression.

ROGER

(chuckles)

Actually, I couldn't sleep all night, anxious to start work.

SAM

(chuckles)

That's normal. Anyway, this is the test. You drive this truck safely to the work place and you get the job.

ROGER

Let's go then.

Both sit in truck and drive away.

INT.COUPLE'S PLACE-HENRY'S ROOM-DAY

Henry dresses up in his room, getting ready to leave house. It's 6.30 now.

INT.COUPLE'S ROOM-CONTINUE

Stella and Stephane are yet to awake. Stephane silently snores.

INT.KITCHEN-CONTINUE

Zena prepares breakfast while humming softly a tune. Suddenly, Henry enters room and greets good morning.

ZENA

Hey, you're up so early.

HENRY

(opens cupboard and takes out a bottle of cocoa)

Yes, I need to see a friend. It's quite urgent.

ZENA

What's wrong? Is he sick?

HENRY

No, he just told me it was urgent. I don't know what it is.

ZENA

Have you told your parents about it?

HENRY

Not yet. But I need to be gone by 7. Could you tell my mum about it?

ZENA

Oh Henry, no, that isn't right. You have to tell her yourself.

Just then Stella enters room dressed in a bathrobe.

ZENA

Good morning ma'am.

STELLA

Good morning Zena. Henry, you're up so early.

HENRY

Yes, because I'm going out to see a friend.

STELLA

A friend? You mean Charles?

HENRY

Yes Charles. Can I go mum?

STELLA

Sure but come back early. Anyway, your dad and I are visiting the farm this morning. We'll be home tomorrow.

HENRY

Great. That's lovely.

STELLA

Yes it is. Enjoy your day.

HENRY

(rises from table.)

Thanks mum, bye.

Zena and Stella respond in unison, bye.
Henry exits room.

EXT.COUPLE'S HOME-FRONT OF HOUSE-DAY

Henry enters taxi and it pulls away.

EXT.STREET-DAY

DRIVER

You still haven't told me why
you're visiting the orphanage.

HENRY

I'm on break from school. I just
want to help.

DRIVER

You've a good heart.

HENRY

How long is it from here?

DRIVER

About 2 hours. Don't worry we'd get there soon.

EXT.CONSTRUCTION SITE-DAY

Roger arrives at the site with Sam. They descend from the car and walk into a shelter.

SAM

Your job is mainly buying materials and transporting them to the storehouse and here when needed.

ROGER

Ok Sam.

SAM

Can you start work today?

ROGER

Of course I can.

SAM

Good. I'll give you the location and some money for purchasing.

ROGER

Alright.

EXT. ORPHANAGE-DAY

Henry arrives at orphanage and talks to the guard at the gate.

GUARD

Hello, how may I help you?

HENRY

I'm Roberto, I would like to see the head of this place.

GUARD

Why do you want to see her? She's busy.

HENRY

I like to work here.

GUARD

You like to work here?

HENRY

Yes, as a help.

GUARD

(opens gate for him to enter
and walks away)

Wait here.

Five minutes later, he returns and asks
Henry to follow him.

INT. ORPHANAGE-DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

Samantha, the head of the orphanage speaks
with Henry in her office.

SAMANTHA

May I know your full name?

HENRY

Roberto Porto. I'm a student on
vacation.

SAMANTHA

I get your point. There's work for
you. But pay isn't much.

HENRY

That's no problem. I'm working as
a volunteer.

SAMANTHA

(smiles)

Oh that's nice of you. I shall take you to see the classes going on now. Afterwards, you can help serve their meals at the cafeteria.

HENRY

Ok.

SAMANTHA

Let's go.

They exit room.

EXT.CEMENT STORE-DAY

Roger arrives at a cement shop to buy some bags. He speaks to the seller at the counter.

CEMENT SELLER

Hello, how many bags?

ROGER

A hundred. Sam sent me.

CEMENT SELLER

(goes away and enters the warehouse nearby and calls ten young men in there)

I see. I'll let the boys pack them now.

ROGER

Thanks.

Roger leans against the counter and watch as the young men pack the bags of cement into his truck. Seller returns to the counter and writes him a bill after which Roger pays.

CEMENT SELLER

(hands it to him)

Your bill.

ROGER

(looks at the sum on the paper for a moment and brings out the exact amount from his pocket)

Thanks.

Seller puts money in the cash machine to count.

CEMENT SELLER

(smiles at Roger)

Complete.

Moments later, a truck pulls up on the compound. A man steps down and walks to the counter. He makes an order of a hundred bags.

CEMENT SELLER

(writes and hands him bill)

Alright, your bill.

CUSTOMER

(says receiving paper and
looks a moment at it then
nods head and brings out a
white envelope)

Thanks.

INT.ORPHANAGE-CAFETERIA-DAY

Henry carries some plates to the dinning
tables. It's midday and the children rush to
the cafeteria from their classrooms. Henry
places a plate before a tall, pretty girl,
Gina.

GINA

(smiles when plate is placed
before her)

Thanks.

HENRY

(Henry smiles at her and
walks away)

You're welcome.

INT.ORPHANAGE-WASHING BAY-DAY

Behind the cafeteria, water pipes fitted in a wall. Thirty minutes later, lunch is over and the kids wash their plates. Gina washes her's under some water.

INT.CAFETERIA-CONTINUE

Henry clears a table of some food particles. Suddenly, Gina appears beside him.

GINA

Hello!

HENRY

(turns to look at her)

Hi!

GINA

Can I help you?

HENRY

No but thanks.

GINA

Ok, I'm going to sleep now, it's siesta time.

HENRY

(smiles at her)

Sound sleep.

GINA

(goes away)

Bye.

INT. ORPHANAGE-DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

Samantha speaks to a female bank agent on the phone.

SAMANTHA

Hi, may I know if I received any money in my account recently?

AGENT

Hold on please, as I check.

SAMANTHA

Thank you.

AGENT

(3 minutes later)

Yes, you received a sum of \$10000 in your account yesterday at 4pm.

SAMANTHA

Oh really, thanks.

AGENT

You're welcome.

SAMANTHA

Ok, thanks for the service bye.

AGENT

Bye.

SAMANTHA

(subsequently, calls someone
on the phone)

Hello, Samantha speaking.

FEMALE VOICE

Hi, is it ready?

SAMANTHA

It's all yours now. I just
received news of your payment.

FEMALE VOICE

I don't joke with my business. You
should know that by now.

SAMANTHA

You would have it by tonight, be
here at 7.

FEMALE VOICE

Thank you.

Shortly afterwards, there is a knock on her door. Lucia, her assistant is the one.

SAMANTHA

Who is it?

LUCIA

It's me, Lucia, Gina is with me.

SAMANTHA

(stares at the door)

Oh come in.

LUCIA

Here you are, I'll leave you two.

SAMANTHA

Yes.

Lucia exits room.

SAMANTHA

Sit down Gina, don't be shy.

Gina obeys.

SAMANTHA

You know why I called you here?

GINA

(cheerfully)

No please madam.

SAMANTHA

Your mother would be here at 7 to pick you up.

GINA

My mother?

SAMANTHA

Yes, your new parents. You're an orphan, your parents died when you were very young so some people want to adopt you as their daughter. Does that sound good to you?

GINA

Yes, I'm happy. I would get a family and brothers and sisters.

SAMANTHA

(smiling softly at her)

You deserve it Gina, you deserve all the best things in life.

INT. ORPHANAGE-DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

Henry's closed for the day. He informs Samantha about it.

SAMANTHA

I hope you enjoyed your first day at work.

HENRY

Certainly ma'am I did so expect me here tomorrow.

SAMANTHA

Oh, you're such a nice young man. How better the world would be if all people acted like you're doing.

HENRY

I'm sure there are others, even you. You set up an orphanage because you have compassion on orphans.

SAMANTHA

(smiles looking at him)

Exactly, thanks for the comment.

HENRY

I shall leave now please. My driver is waiting for me.

SAMANTHA

(smiles at him)

Do have a nice evening Roberto.

HENRY

(exits room)

You too ma'am, bye.

SAMANTHA

Bye.

INT.ROGER'S PLACE-NIGHT

Roger arrives home with the truck parking it on the compound. The noise brings Elyse out to see what it is. Roger descends from the car.

ELYSE

Hey, truck driver!

ROGER

(walks to her)

Hi!

ELYSE

I didn't know you were going to bring it home.

ROGER

Neither did I. It's great isn't it? A nice truck.

ELYSE

Yes, doesn't look rickety at all.

Seconds later, Elyse's mother, Rose comes out and asks what the noise was.

ROSE

Elyse, what was that noise on the compound?

ELYSE

It's Roger's truck mum, he's a truck driver now.

ROSE

Yes, you told me. But why park it here?

ELYSE

(turns to mum)

What's wrong with that mum?
Besides, there's much space here.

ROSE

(silently to Elyse)

Your dad would soon get a car.
Where would he park his then?

ELYSE

When that day comes, Roger would find another place.

Rose stares a moment at her and walks away.

ROGER

What did she say?

ELYSE

Nothing relevant. Tell me how did it go, your first day at work?

ROGER

Fine. I made some money today so I'd buy my own supper. Thanks for the other days.

ELYSE

No problem, you're always welcome to my table.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-KITCHEN-NIGHT

Henry's arrived home and eats dinner with Zena at the kitchen. They chat.

ZENA

How was your friend?

HENRY

Ok.

ZENA

And what was the urgency about?

HENRY

He needed some information about some school work so I'd send it to him tomorrow.

ZENA

Why didn't he tell you that on the phone?

HENRY

He might have forgotten to. That's ok. I'd send it to him tomorrow.

ZENA

(nods head looking at him)

Alright.

EXT. ORPHANAGE-NIGHT

A posh, black, saloon car enters the orphanage. The guard closes the gate afterwards. The car parks on the compound and a man descends from the driver's seat and opens a door for a woman to descend. They walk towards the building and a woman meets them and shakes hands with them.

INT. ORPHANAGE-DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-NIGHT

Samantha ushers them in.

SAMANTHA

Have a seat please.

MAN

(both sit)

Thank you.

SAMANTHA

She would be here in a minute.

WOMAN

(nods head)

Right.

SAMANTHA

So, it's been nice doing business
with you Madam.

WOMAN

Likewise you. I'd let you know
when I would need more girls.

SAMANTHA

Certainly.

Suddenly, door opens and Lucia walks in with Gina, dressed in a fitting top and mid-length skirt. Her hair's been dressed and she has make-up on.

MAN

Wow, you look as pretty as Cinderella.

WOMAN

(smiles at her)

You look gorgeous Gina, come here.

Gina smiles and walks to woman. She's a bit shy.

GINA

You're my new parents right?

WOMAN

(glances at man)

Of course, we are.

MAN

We'll take you to school, buy you nice clothing and shoes and give you a place to live.

WOMAN

We're a family now Gina, you, your father and me.

Samantha smiles at them. Gina does the same. Moments later, they exit the place and drive away.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-HENRY'S ROOM-NIGHT

Henry lies in bed and recalls Gina, the 13 year-old girl he had met at the cafeteria in the orphanage. He smiles and closes his eyes afterwards.

INT. ROGER'S PLACE-DAY

It's morning, 5.30. Roger rises and goes to the bath to wash down.

INT.ELYSE'S PLACE-KITCHEN-DAY

Elyse heats some left-over meal and places it in a tray and exits room. Subsequently, she takes it to Roger's place.

EXT.CONSTRUCTION SITE-DAY

Roger arrives at his work place some minutes later. He packs the truck and enters the shelter to speak to Sam.

SAM

(sitting in a chair reading
a paper)

Hey, good morning.

ROGER

(shakes hands with him)

Good morning Sam.

SAM

(teasingly)

Did you sleep yester night?

ROGER

(chuckles)

Yes, I did. Anxiety is gone.

SAM

(chuckles)

Anyway, you did a great job
yesterday. You transported the
items and you didn't crash the
truck.

ROGER

Thanks. I'd sit here and wait till
work starts.

SAM

(rising up)

Hm, that sounds a bit boring. Why don't we tour the building?

ROGER

(rises)

Great idea.

They walk towards the house under construction.

INT.COUPLE'S HOUSE-KITCHEN-DAY

Henry's just finished breakfast and bids Zena bye.

HENRY

(rising from chair)

Zena, I'm off.

ZENA

Won't you like me to pack you some sandwich?

HENRY

Thanks but no. I'd eat something there.

ZENA

Alright, bye.

HENRY

Bye. Please tell mum I went to
give a book to Charles.

ZENA

I would. Bye.

EXT.COUPLE'S HOME-DAY

Henry enters taxi before the gate and it
pulls away.

EXT.STREET-DAY

DRIVER

Good morning, philanthropist.

HENRY

(smiles)

Morning, but I'm not that yet.

DRIVER

When would you be then?

HENRY

Hey, I need you to take me to some
church where I can meet a pastor,
a real pastor.

DRIVER

Why? Are you in need of salvation?

HENRY

(chuckles)

No, but I can't tell you why.

DRIVER

(chuckles afterwards)

Ok. No problem. There's a church in my area. It's Anglican but the pastor is a healthy-looking young man, he won't need help.

Henry stares a moment at him and slowly shakes the head.

EXT. ORPHANAGE-DAY

Henry descends from taxi and it pulls away. He enters the place and salutes the guard at the gate. Moments later, a young woman probably in her late 30s knocks loudly on the gate. Henry stops and turns round to see her. The guard cries some words at her and she stops and speaks something quickly to him and he reluctantly opens the gate.

WOMAN

(furiously)

Where is she? Where is my daughter?

GUARD

(sternly)

Madam, if you want to see someone, you go to the director's office. You don't stand here and scream. This is an orphanage not a market place.

WOMAN

Fine, where is the director's office then? I need to see my daughter.

HENRY

I can take you there. Please follow me.

EXT.DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

Henry knocks on the door and receives a 'come in' cry moments later. He enters with the woman.

SAMANTHA

Roberto, I didn't know your mother was coming with you today?

HENRY

No ma'am, she isn't my mum. I met her outside. She said she wanted to see you.

SAMANTHA

Right, you may leave now. Madam,
please have a sit.

Henry exits room.

Woman continues to stand and eyes Samantha
and asks where her daughter is.

SAMANTHA

Madam, could you please sit down
first.

WOMAN

I came for my daughter, not to sit
down.

SAMANTHA

Fine. Suit yourself. However, I
don't think I know what or who
you're referring to as your
daughter.

WOMAN

My aunt brought her here after I
left the city to work as a hotel
maid elsewhere. Her name is Gina,
Gina Savoir.

SAMANTHA

(composed tone)

Madam, Gina Savoir does not exist here. I have no record of that name or person. I suppose you're in the wrong place.

WOMAN

(furious)

Huh? What do you mean? My aunt specifically showed me this place. She said my daughter was here!

SAMANTHA

If so why didn't she accompany you here so she backs your story?

WOMAN

(slaps the table with her palm after speech)

I don't know. But what I do know is that my daughter is here and I want to see her!

SAMANTHA

(rises)

Madam, I would appreciate it a lot if you don't do that again. I don't have your daughter. If your aunt brought her here then she should be here to identify the person who took her in.

WOMAN

(relaxes a bit)

Fine. I'd bring her here tomorrow.

SAMANTHA

Good. By the way, may I know where you live and your name in case I wish to contact you?

WOMAN

My name is Vivien. I need a pen and paper to put down my address.

SAMANTHA

Certainly, here you are, write it here.

WOMAN

(bends to write in a book on the table)

Here it is. Ask for mother Vivien when you come. That's how everyone calls me or ask for the food seller.

SAMANTHA

Alright. I would make time to visit tomorrow about Gina. May be, one of my stuff admitted her here without my knowledge.

WOMAN

Ok. I would be going now. I have some work doing at home.

SAMANTHA

Go on and don't worry about Gina,
I'm sure someone here took her in.
I'd find out about it today.

WOMAN

(nods the head at her and
says)

Bye.

SAMANTHA

Bye.

Woman exits room. Samantha quickly returns
to her seat and dials a number on her cell
phone. It goes through immediately.

SAMANTHA

Hello, I need your help. It's
urgent. I'd send the information
via text. It needs to be done
tonight. Payment would be received
upon completion. Fine, you'd get
half of it now and half when I
have evidence that it's been done.
Expect it in 5 minutes.

INT. ORPHANAGE-CLASSROOM 1-DAY

Henry stands before a class full of children
teaching them English. After the lesson's
ended in 20 minutes, he marks the attendance
by calling each person's name in the
registry. The kids rise and respond. He
looks out for Gina but doesn't see her.

Adjacent to his class, another class goes on.

INT. ORPHANAGE-CLASSROOM 2-DAY

Henry knocks on the open door of the adjacent class. A female teacher welcomes him in. There're no students in there.

TEACHER

Hello Roberto, come in.

HENRY

Thanks.

TEACHER

It's lunch time. I thought you would be at the cafeteria by now.

HENRY

Yes, I'd soon go. I wanted to ask you something, it's about the kids' registry.

TEACHER

You want to take a look at it? It's right here.

HENRY

Thanks but even if I did, I
wouldn't find what I'm looking
for.

TEACHER

What? Someone?

HENRY

No, don't bother. It's actually
nothing. I'd be going now.

TEACHER

Wait for me please, just 5
minutes. Let me quickly clear this
table so we go.

HENRY

Of course.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-DAY

Stella and Stephane drive into the compound
of their house. Zena meets them outside and
pulls Stella's luggage inside.

INT.LIVING ROOM-DAY

STELLA

(sinks into sofa)

It's been a beautiful trip, so lovely, so wonderful. We should visit the farm often honey.

STEPHANE

Is it all about the farm or there's something more?

STELLA

(chuckles)

Well, there's something else. I loved the beach, the sand, the water...I wish I lived there.

STEPHANE

Would you like to live there?

STELLA

Of course! Why are you thinking what I'm thinking?

STEPHANE

No was just a question.

STELLA

How about building a vacation house there? Not so big, just enough to contain the three of us.

STEPHANE

(exits room afterwards)

I'd think about it. Not now,
sometime later.

EXT. ORPHANAGE-DAY

It's evening, 5 o'clock. The cab driver
picks Henry up at the orphanage.

EXT. STREET-DAY

DRIVER

How was your day?

HENRY

Fine.

DRIVER

(glances at him)

You don't look fine as fine?

HENRY

Ok. I'm not fine. I miss someone.
A girl I met at the orphanage.

DRIVER

Hmmm. I thought as much. It's
about a girl.

HENRY

No, not what you think. She lives there as an orphan.

DRIVER

How long have you known her?

HENRY

Less than a day. But I didn't see her afterwards. She just disappeared.

DRIVER

Disappeared? You mean like a ghost?

HENRY

I can't find her there. I taught a class today and she wasn't part of it.

DRIVER

Perhaps, she was in another class.

HENRY

I don't think so. I don't even know her name.

DRIVER

Too bad.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Henry enters the living room where Stella sits watching TV.

HENRY

Good evening mum.

STELLA

Hi, dear. Zena told me about your visit to Charles's place.

HENRY

Yes. I gave him the book.

STELLA

Dinner is ready, your dad is asleep.

HENRY

(nods head and begins to walk away)

Ok.

STELLA

Henry.

HENRY

Mum.

STELLA

Henry, you don't look happy.
What's wrong?

HENRY

Nothing I'm fine. I'm just a bit
tired. We played some tennis.

STELLA

Oh I see. You had too much fun
then. Go eat now, Zena's cooked
something delicious.

HENRY

I think I would wash down first.
I'm not so hungry.

STELLA

As you wish.

Henry walks away.

EXT.MOTHER VIVIEN'S PLACE-NIGHT

It's 10 o'clock and Vivien packs her cooking
wares inside. She enters the building with a
basin and returns to take the others when a
young girl, about 10 years old suddenly
appears asking for food.

BEGGAR

(says softly staring at her)

Madam, I'm hungry. Can I have some food please?

VIVIEN

(checking pots)

Oh, there is nothing left...

BEGGAR

Then can you please give me some water? I'm very thirsty.

VIVIEN

(says and rushes inside to get some water)

Of course, wait here.

She returns shortly afterwards and hands the girl a cup of water. Girl drinks it quickly and Vivien tells her to take her time. Girl gives cup back to her and turns round to go but Vivien stops her.

VIVIEN

(gives her money)

Wait. Take this, buy some food with it.

BEGGAR

Thank you.

VIVIEN

That's ok. Good night.

Girl doesn't respond. She stares at her while Vivien smiles looking at her. Suddenly, a masked person dressed in black approaches her from behind and covers her head with a black plastic bag. She begins to struggle and the girl runs away.

CUT TO:

Vivien's lifeless body lies in front of her food table.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-KITCHEN-DAY

It's morning, 9 o'clock. Stella has breakfast with Stephane.

CUT TO:

INT.LIVING ROOM-DAY

Suddenly, the gate bell rings and Zena leaves the room to check. The paper vendor's brought some papers which she pays for and brings in.

INT.KITCHEN-DAY

Zena arrives with papers which she places beside Stephane on the table and walks away.

STEPHANE

(reads afterwards)

Thanks Zena. Seller murdered
before her house?

STELLA

Stephane! I'm eating.

STEPHANE

Sorry, just sounded strange. I'm
yet to read the full story-not
aloud though.

STELLA

(says sternly, rises and
walks away)

I'm done.

INT.LIVING ROOM-DAY

Stella arrives at room and sits in the sofa
while Zena dusts the TV set.

STELLA

(to Zena)

Please turn it on for me.

ZENA

Yes ma'am.

INT.KITCHEN-DAY

Stephane reads paper. Suddenly, Henry enters room and greets cheerfully.

HENRY

Good morning dad.

STEPHANE

Good morning. How're you?

HENRY

Fine. How about you?

STEPHANE

I'm good.

HENRY

(sits down with a plate of food)

That's nice to hear.

Suddenly, he breaks the silence.

HENRY

Dad, I need your permission on something important.

STEPHANE

Speak up.

HENRY

It's about Charles, my friend. His parents travelled recently and he needs someone to take care of the house while he teaches at school. He is a part-time teacher.

STEPHANE

So you want to be that someone, is that it?

HENRY

Yes dad.

STEPHANE

Fine, you can go. I'd tell your mum about it so don't say anything.

HENRY

(excited but speaks in composed tone)

Thanks dad. Charles would be glad. He was thinking of hiring someone.

STEPHANE

(still reading)

I see.

INT. ORPHANAGE-DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

SAMANTHA (on phone)

Yes, I just received a copy of a paper with the news in it. Good job done. Expect the remainder before the end of the day. Bye.

Shortly afterwards, there's a knock on her door.

SAMANTHA

Come in.

Lucia enters.

LUCIA

Good morning.

SAMANTHA

Great morning. How're you?

LUCIA

Fine. I suppose you're elated about something.

SAMANTHA

Yes, about many things. Anyway, let's talk business. Another client called me yesterday. She needs 10 girls.

LUCIA

All 10 at once?

SAMANTHA

Yes, but I told her that would
provoke suspicion, so 3 girls for
now then the rest in 4 days
interval.

LUCIA

That's true. The same age?

SAMANTHA

A bit older, 14-16 years.

LUCIA

Alright. I think we have a stock
of them. I'd select them and get
you their photos before the day
ends.

SAMANTHA

(hands her a brown envelope)

Thanks Lucia. This is for you.

LUCIA

(smiling and looking at her)

Thank you.

INT.CONSTRUCTION SITE-SHELTER-DAY

Sam instructs Roger on some materials needed.

SAM

(shows him a tile)

Buy the tiles there, floor tiles remember. 50 boxes of this kind.

ROGER

Alright.

SAM

You bring them here; we'd be using them today.

ROGER

Ok.

Walks to the truck and pulls away.

INT.TILES SHOP-DAY

Roger arrives at the place and walks to the counter. The male seller greets him.

TILES SELLER

(watching him approach the counter)

Good day.

ROGER

(shows him sample piece of
tile)

Hello, I need 50 boxes of floor
tiles, this kind.

TILES SELLER

Alright. My boys would pack them
into the truck. Just a minute.

Exit shop and walks to a shelter
where some boys sit on a bench.
They follow him into the shop and
pack tiles into truck. Henry leans
against the counter watching them.
Seller writes his bill.

10 minutes later, a truck pulls
over and a man steps down and
walks towards the counter.

HENRY

Looks like another customer here.

TILES SELLER

(Lifts head to see and hands
Roger his bill)

Good. Here is your bill sir.

ROGER

(stares at it and takes out
bundled money from pocket
and hands it to him)

Ok.

TILES SELLER

(receives money and counts
with a mother counter)

MALE CUSTOMER

(greet's Roger)

Hi.

ROGER

Hi.

TILES SELLER

(looking at Roger)

Complete.

TILES SELLER

(to male customer)

Hello, sir how may I help you?

MALE CUSTOMER

I need some floor tiles, any kind
would do. Just have to be
beautiful.

TILES SELLER

Ok. I'd get you the best available. How many boxes do you need?

MALE CUSTOMER

Give me 20 boxes.

TILES SELLER

(writing bill)

Right. The boys would soon finish and pack them in. For the meantime, let me give you your bill.

Roger watches the men packing the boxes into the truck.

TILES SELLER

(hands bill to man)

Here you go.

MALE CUSTOMER

(looking at bill)

Wow, tiles are expensive.

Roger turns round immediately to see.

ROGER

Well, it depends on which brand you buy. May I have a look?

MALE CUSTOMER

(gives Roger bill)

Sure.

ROGER

(receives it and looks at
it)

Thank you.

Suddenly, he takes out his bill
from his pocket and compares it
with customer's bill.

ROGER

(looking at his bill)

Sir, I believe you made a mistake
writing my bill. He bought the
same kind of tile but the price
per box is more than what you
wrote on my bill.

TILES SELLER

Let me see it.

ROGER

(hands it over)

It's right there.

TILES SELLER

(looks at it and corrects
it)

Oh, sorry. I must have confused it
with another style.

ROGER

That's ok. We all make mistakes.

INT.CONSTRUCTION SITE-DAY

Roger arrives at site and parks
truck.

INT.SHELTER-DAY

Roger enters Shelter to speak to
Sam.

SAM(on phone)

Don't worry, I'd take care of it.
Bye.

ROGER

I'm back.

SAM

Yes, I heard the truck. Did you
get the tiles?

ROGER

Yes I did. The seller made a mistake writing the cost but I corrected him.

SAM

(smiles dryly)

Well done.

ROGER

Ok. I'd leave to eat now. It's lunch time.

SAM

Sure. Bon appétit.

ROGER

(says and leaves)

Thanks.

ENT.ORPHANAGE-DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

It's past midday and Henry's just arrived at the orphanage. As he walks to Samantha's office, he sees a woman walking along with Lucia, the director's assistant and 3 girls. They enter the office while he approaches from afar.

INT.DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-CONTINUE

SAMANTHA

Please take a seat madam. Lucia
you may leave now.

Lucia nods and walks out. Girls are all
beautifully dressed up in posh clothes and
make up. They appear cheerful sitting in a
sofa.

SAMANTHA

Well, these are the girls: Louise,
Stephanie and Fabienne.

WOMAN/GINA'S FALSE
MOTHER

(stares at them and nods)

They look sweet.

SAMANTHA

Yes, they indeed are. We take very
good care of our orphans because
we believe they deserve the best
like any other child.

WOMAN/GINA'S FALSE
MOTHER

That's great to hear. Please
introduce me now.

SAMANTHA

Of course, I will. Girls, this is
Mrs. Annie and she has some great
news for you. Who can guess it?

STEPHANIE

We're going on a trip!

SAMANTHA

Hm, it's much more than that. Today is your last day here. Mrs. Annie would accommodate you in her house and give you work to do so you can earn some money.

WOMAN/FALSE GINA'S
MOTHER

That's right. From now on, you would be living with me in France.

Girls excited giggle and murmur.

WOMAN/FALSE GINA'S
MOTHER

You don't need to worry about food, clothing, shoes or money. I would provide you with everything because I'm adopting you as my daughters.

LOUISE

What about the other children here? Would you adopt them too?

SAMANTHA

No. Some person would adopt them some day.

EXT.DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

Henry stands behind the door listening to their talk. He quickly moves away when he hears footsteps approaching from within.

INT. A BAR/BROTHER IN FRANCE-NIGHT

A tall, young girl, Gina Savoir dressed in black mini-skirt and a fitting white blouse serves drinks to some male clients. She places a glass of beer on a table with two men sitting round it. As she turns to go, one man grasps her waist and pulls her towards him but she slaps him hardly and hurries angrily away.

INT.BAR/BROTHEL-GINA'S ROOM-CONTINUE

Gina arrives in her room and shuts the door behind her then sits on her bed and starts weeping.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-HENRY'S ROOM-NIGHT

Henry lies in bed thinking about the woman and girls he saw entering Samantha's office that day. Suddenly, he rises and picks a few clothes from his closet, folds them and puts them in a small suitcase.

INT.COUPLE'S ROOM-NIGHT

In bed, Stella and Stephane argue about Henry's decision to stay with his friend.

STEPHANE

It's only for a few days; it's
nothing to fret yourself over.

STELLA

(looking at him)

Honey don't you realize something is amiss
here? He's never wanted to leave home for
anywhere. He's never felt bored here and
he's never left this house to stay with any
friend!

STEPHANE

He's 15 years old now darling and
like every teenager he wants to
discover new things like living
away from home. Besides, he's a
good boy, he wouldn't cause us
grief.

STELLA

I hope so. I just don't feel good
about this. It's like the world is
changed for me in a way. I feel
I've lost him.

STEPHANE

(hugs her)

Don't say that please, think
positive.

EXT.COUPLE'S HOUSE-DAY

Henry's Taxi stands before the house. The driver puts Henry's luggage in the boot while he enters the car. Subsequently, they drive away.

INT.TAXI-CONTINUE

Henry sits beside driver looking unhappy.

DRIVER

Still haven't found the girl?

HENRY

(smiles softly)

No but that's not what I'm worried about.

DRIVER

Tell me, what is it?

HENRY

Is there a legal way to adopt children?

DRIVER

Yes I believe there is. Why? You want to adopt the orphans?

HENRY

No. I just wanted to know.

DRIVER

(glances at him)

Hey, don't hide things from me. I won't tell anyone I promise.

HENRY

Could you take me to the church today? I need to see the pastor.

DRIVER

Ok, after you've settled down. Now we're heading home.

INT. TAXI DRIVER'S HOME-LIVING ROOM-DAY

Henry and driver enter an almost empty room except for an old sofa and a couple of chairs and a wooden centre table.

DRIVER

Welcome to my humble abode.

HENRY

Hm, indeed it is, almost empty.

DRIVER

Come see the room, where you would be sleeping.

They walk into his bedroom.

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Room's in a mess: clothes on the bed and a couple of bottles and plate beneath the bed.

HENRY

What the hell...

DRIVER

Don't worry I'd clean it up right away.

HENRY

Hm, why didn't you do it before?
Surprise me with a nice atmosphere.

DRIVER

(collecting clothes from bed)

Sorry, I've been too busy lately.

Henry clears the place also.

EXT.CONSTRUCTION SITE-SHELTER-DAY

Sam speaks to a mechanic friend on the phone.

SAM

I need you to come for the truck at midday. Do as I told you and expect your pay after it's done.

MECHANIC

Ok.

SAM

Expect him by evening.

MECHANIC

Alright.

Moments later, Roger enters the room.

ROGER

Sam, you called for me?

SAM

Yes I did. Your truck has a bit of a leakage problem so I asked the mechanic to come and take it to his shop. By the meantime you can use any of the other trucks.

ROGER

Ok.

SAM

However, you would need to pick it up by evening at his place. I'd give you the direction there.

ROGER

Alright.

INT.CHURCH PLACE-PASTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

Henry speaks to a pastor about an aid programme he intends to set up for the poor and needy.

PASTOR

It's a good project you have but I can't accept this money until I know where it's coming from.

HENRY

Pastor it's mine, my mother gave it to me for my personal expenses. Thus, I can use it any way I want.

PASTOR

Ok but not for setting up a relief-aid for the needy. I don't think your mother knows about this, does she?

HENRY

No she doesn't. But I want to do this Pastor. I need to help someone.

PASTOR

I doubt that not but there's a right way to do everything. Go home and speak to your parents about it, if they agree they can come and see me and we would decide on the project.

HENRY

What if they don't?

PASTOR

Then I can't accept your money. I'm sorry.

INT. BAR/BROTHEL-OWNER'S OFFICE-DAY

The brothel/bar owner addresses Gina in her office over the incident at the place.

BAR/BROTHEL OWNER

What really happened here yesterday night?

GINA

A client harassed me after I served him some drink.

BAR/BROTHEL OWNER

And you embarrassed him in front of everyone, am I correct?

GINA

Madam, I'm not a prostitute. If he wanted to, he could visit one of the inner rooms.

BAR/BROTHEL OWNER

That's right. But you had no right to slap him the way you did. By that act you forfeited your weekly pay. You may leave now.

GINA

(immediately kneels down and start shedding tears)

Madam please...I need to eat. I can't go a week without money...please..

BAR/BROTHEL OWNER

Then learn how to treat my clients. They mean a lot to me than any of you girls. Please get up and go now, I would soon have a visitor here.

Gina reluctantly rises and leaves while the woman watches her.

EXT.MECHANIC SHOP-NIGHT

Roger arrives at the mechanic's to pick his truck. There's none there except his truck. He climbs into it and pulls away.

EXT.HIGH WAY-NIGHT

Roger drives home in his truck on the high way.

INT. TAXI DRIVER'S HOUSE-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Henry chats with the driver over dinner about the needy aid project.

DRIVER

So you want to start a needy aid project?

HENRY

Yes, but the Pastor refused to help me unless I told my parents about it.

DRIVER

Would you?

HENRY

They wouldn't listen to me. My mum is...she loves money, travelling here and there...while my father is just a husband who says yes to

almost every suggestion his wife makes.

DRIVER

(chuckles)

So what would you do? Set it up yourself?

HENRY

Yes with your help. I have some money to begin with. You make a sign board here tomorrow asking people to come for loans for their businesses. They take and pay a little interest on it later so it keeps the project running.

DRIVER

That's a good idea. Early tomorrow morning, I would get it done.

HENRY

Won't you be working tomorrow?

DRIVER

Not in the morning, later on in the day.

HENRY

Ok.

EXT. HIGHWAY-NIGHT

Roger continues to head home but realizes the car travels too fast. He tries to slow down using the appropriate brakes but is unable to do so. Beams from oncoming vehicles blind his direction. Suddenly, he sees a car heading straight at him, he tries the brakes the last time and jumps out of the car when they fail to work. The truck runs headlong into the car.

INT.BAR/BROTHEL-NIGHT

Gina serves a client some drink and the man tips her off heavily but she returns the tip.

FRIENDLY MALE CLIENT

I'm not paying for a service. It's just a tip.

Gina remains silent and begins to walk away.

FRIENDLY MALE CLIENT

I'm not here to visit the brothel, just to chill out.

GINA

(walks to him and asks
silently)

What descent man would visit a
bar/brothel?

FRIENDLY MALE CLIENT

Right. But I'm not here for the
brothel, the bar yes.

GINA

(smiles dryly and walks
around)

You're sick.

EXT.HIGH WAY-NIGHT

Roger lies injured and unconscious in some bushes beside the road. The police see to the accident and search around for a body.

EXT.ROGER'S PLACE-NIGHT

Elyse sits outside before Roger's house awaiting him. Suddenly, her mother comes out to get her in.

ROSE

I'm locking the door now, it's either you want to sleep outside or you're coming in now.

ELYSE

(tearful tone)

Mum, I can't sleep...I can't,
feeling that something is wrong.

ROSE

(walks away afterwards)

I know you like him. But the security of my house is prime. I'm locking the door now.

ELYSE

(cries after her)

Mum, 10 more minutes please.

Five minutes later, she rises and walks reluctantly away, looking back occasionally.

INT. ORPHANAGE-DAY

Henry arrives early at the orphanage and knocks on the gate. The guard opens him up and he enters.

GUARD

Good morning, you're here early today.

HENRY

Yes, the director asked to meet me for an important talk.

GUARD

(smiles at him)

Oh that explains why.

HENRY

(goes away)

Yes.

EXT.DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-CONTINUE

Henry looks around for a clear atmosphere and swiftly inserts a key into the entry door. It opens and he enters.

INT.DIRECTOR'S OFFICE-CONTINUE

Henry unlocks the drawers on the table with his key and empties them. In the pile is a small black book which he picks up. He opens it and finds some names with numbers written against them. He places it into his pocket and proceeds to search the bookshelf. He pulls out the first shelf of books and looks through them. Soon, he finds one with a purple rose covering. He picks it up, opens it and sees some pictures of girls, it's an album. He flips through and finds Gina's picture on the fifth page. Quickly, he packs and replaces the books and the contents of the drawers and exits the room.

EXT.ORPHANAGE-CONTINUE

Henry speaks briefly with the guard at the gate.

HENRY

Meeting is over. I'm going to get some things she needs.

GUARD

(smiles at him)

Ok.

Henry walks away.

EXT.ROAD SIDE-DAY

Henry stands by the road and waves the hand frantically to the oncoming buses to stop but none does. 10 minutes later at 6.45 a taxi stops a few meters away and the driver steps down to help the passenger get down, an elderly woman with a stick. Henry runs to it.

HENRY

Hello, I need to get somewhere immediately. I would pay for a charter.

DRIVER 2

Alright, sit in the front seat.

HENRY

(sits)

Ok.

DRIVER 2

(enters seat)

So where are we going?

HENRY

To Redemption Ministries, it's a church near by.

DRIVER 2

I know. That's where I worship.

INT.CHURCH-DAY

Henry quickly gets out when they reach the place and asks the driver to wait for him.

HENRY

Hey, I would soon be back, don't go anywhere.

DRIVER 2

(nods)

I won't.

Henry runs into the building. In his haste, he forgets the pastor's office and keeps screaming his name, Pastor Emmanuel. Soon, he remembers it and runs there.

INT.PASTOR'S OFFICE-DAY

Henry barges into his office and the man is startled.

PASTOR

Jesus! What...

HENRY

Pastor it's me, I need your help
it's urgent.

PASTOR

You spoke to your parents about
it?

HENRY

No, it's not that. I work in an
orphanage and I think the head is
up to some bad deals.

PASTOR

Calm down and sit down would you.

HENRY

(ok. quickly takes out the
album and small black book
and hands them to him)

I found these in her office: an
album containing girls' photos and
a small address book.

PASTOR

(opens the album and starts
looking at the pictures)

I see. You broke into her office.
Who are those in these photos?

HENRY

Try calling the numbers in the
book. They may open up something.

PASTOR

(picks phone and dials first
number)

Yes you're right.

French female automatic voice message
says:Le Palais Bijoux, please leave a
message and we'd get back to you.

Pastor holds on for 3 minutes and the
recipient answers.

FEMALE VOICE(O.S)

Hello, le Palais Bijoux, who am I
speaking to? Hello?

PASTOR

(replies after a minute)

Hello, I'm calling to make a reservation.

FEMALE VOICE(O.S)

A reservation? ok, hold on while I
get you customer service.

PASTOR

I'm in a hurry please. I'm on my
way there now, tell me what I need
to do.

FEMALE VOICE(O.S)

Excuse me sir, this isn't a hotel
if that's what you think it is.

PASTOR

What is it then? Because I thought
it was.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S)

We serve clients with girls. It's
an agency.

PASTOR

Oh, I see. Sorry, I must have
dialed the wrong number.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S)

That's ok. Have a good day,
bonjour.

PASTOR

Bonjour.

HENRY

What is it?

PASTOR

An adult agency.

CUT TO:

INT.POLICE STATION-DAY

Henry and the pastor arrive at the police station and ask to see the head.

POLICEMAN 1

Sorry he is not around.

PASTOR

Where is he?

POLICEMAN 2

He's travelled out of the city.
Would be back in a month's time I believe.

PASTOR

What of a sub, an assistant or something?

POLICEMAN 1

There is, but he won't be in until afternoon.

HENRY

We can't wait until afternoon!

PASTOR

Where does he live so we see him at home?

HENRY

Yes!

POLICEMAN 1

(glances at second police
and he nods at him)

Let's go.

INT.ASSISTANT CHIEF'S HOME-DAY

ASSISTANT

You've got some strong info, but
as to whether it's linked with
these girls I cannot tell.

PASTOR

Does it mean you won't help us
sir?

ASSISTANT

Who else knows about it?

HENRY

No one sir.

PASTOR

But I'm sure by now his boss would
have discovered something missing
from her wares.

HENRY

Exactly and I'm afraid..

PASTOR

What?

HENRY

My friend, the taxi driver, they would go for him.

PASTOR

Is that where you live?

HENRY

Yes, I moved out my house so I could serve at the orphanage.

PASTOR

Hmm. We have to move now sir, if we want to save his friend.

CUT TO:

EXT.TAXI DRIVER'S PLACE-DAY

They arrive there along with 6 policemen. They enter the house but see no one.

POLICEMAN 3

There's none in there sir, we searched the entire place.

HENRY

No one? Oh my God...

POLICEMAN 3

Unfortunately, we found blood in the living room and the bedroom along with some foot prints of it.

HENRY

Oh God... I didn't mean to...I caused him trouble...

PASTOR

Henry does he know where you live?

HENRY

Yes, oh no... my mum and dad...yes he does...he does!

ASSISTANT

Guys let's go now, let's go!

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-KITCHEN-DAY

Stella helps Zena cook. Suddenly, the gate bell rings and Zena leaves to check who it is.

INT.COMPOUND-CONTINUE

A post man stands outside the gate.

ZENA

Hello, how may I help you?

POSTMAN/ASSAILANT

Good day, I'm here to deliver a parcel.

ZENA

Ok, whose is it?

POSTMAN/ASSAILANT

It's for the head of the house.

ZENA

You mean Mr. Diamant?

POSTMAN/ASSAILANT

Yes, Mr. Diamant.

ZENA

(opens the small portion of the gate and steps out)

Alright.

Immediately, post man holds a gun to her stomach and orders her to walk him in.

POST MAN/ASSAILANT

Slowly and quietly, walk me in.
Don't make a sound else you and
every one in there would die,
understand?

ZENA

(nods shivering)

Yes, yes I do.

They move towards the house and two other men dressed in plain clothes enter the compound following them. Yet a few steps to the door Zena cries, Madam! And the man shoots her with a silencer. They quietly enter the house.

INT.KITCHEN-CONTINUE

Stella's phone rings and she answers it and talks for 5 minutes with Stephane and returns to her cooking. 10 minutes later, she cries Zena but receives no response. Subsequently, after a few minutes she exits the place.

INT.LIVING ROOM-CONTINUE

Stella arrives at the room and cries Zena but receives no response. She heads towards the front door and suddenly is grabbed from behind. She turns to see the one and screams.

INT.HOSPITAL- ROGER'S ROOM-DAY

Roger lies bandaged and in coma in a hospital bed. Beside him Elyse sits in a chair silently shedding tears while starring at him.

INT.BAR/BROTHEL-DAY

The place is almost empty except for some 5 male clients sitting chatting aloud. Gina chats with the friendly male client she met earlier on. They sit round a table.

MALE CLIENT

So tell me your story? Why're you working in a bar instead of being elsewhere?

GINA

(feigning cheerfulness)

I love this job, that's why.

MALE CLIENT

Ok, why not in any other bar but this one which also serves as a brothel? Were you bought?

GINA

(silent for a minute then speaks)

We can't talk here. It's dangerous.

FRIENDLY MALE CLIENT

I know. I'd be here in the evening
with directions as to where to
talk.

GINA

Ok, thanks.

FRIENDLY MALE CLIENT

(smiles at her)

De rien.

INT. COUPLE'S HOME-LIVING ROOM-DAY

Stella calls Henry on the phone.

EXT. COUPLE'S HOME-DAY

Henry's just arrived with the police but are
yet to enter the compound. Henry receives a
call on his phone. He answers it in haste.

HENRY

Mum! How are you? Are you ok?

STELLA

(composed tone)

I'm fine. Where are you? I really
miss you.

HENRY

Mum I'm...here home.

STELLA

Oh good. Good. Come in, I think
Zena left the gate open.

HENRY

(says and ends call then
reports to the others)

Ok. I'm on my way. My mum just
called. She wants to see me.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

That confirms my prediction, they
have her. We need to get in now.

HENRY

But they want me not the police!

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Of course, but we'd get in with
you. My men would scale the walls
and meet you behind the door.
Stand before the door but do not
enter. My men would get in before
they realize.

HENRY

(quivering voice)

Ok.

ASSISTANT

Now go, walk normally as though
nothing is wrong.

EXT.LIVING ROOM-CONTINUE

One of the assailants stands behind the living room door and sees Henry approaching. He informs his partner inside the living room who intends tells the one holding Stella.

ASSAILANT WITH STELLA

(leaves immediately)

Good. I'm off to the kitchen. You two stay here and make sure the boy enters alone.

ASSAILANT 2

(exits room and joins the other behind the living room door)

Yes sir.

Henry has almost reached there he seems less shaky and looks composed. As soon as he gets to the door, the policemen appear behind him he tries to turn but one whispers to him not to. They hide leaving him standing alone behind the door. He puts his hand to the handle and slowly opens the door.

Immediately, one of the assailants shows up with a gun pointed at him but one policemen shoots him down with a silencer. The other assailant immediately opens fire but none is

hurt. He is gunned down as well.
Subsequently, the seven men enter the room.

LEADER POLICE TEAM

Henry, you wait outside. It's not
safe to have you here.

HENRY

What about my mum?

LEADER POLICE TEAM

She'd be taken care of. Go now.

Henry nods and quietly exits the room.

LEADER POLICE TEAM

(to the others)

I'd see the kitchen. The rest go
in twos and search the other
rooms.

INT.KITCHEN-DAY

Stella lies against the dinning table with
her mouth covered with a cloth and he hands
tied behind her. She silently sheds tears.

INT.COUPLE'S BEDROOM

Two men search the room but find none there
thus exit to another room.

INT.HENRY'S ROOM

Two search the place.

EXT.KITCHEN-CONTINUE

Assailant hides behind door holding Stella with a gun pointing at her head. Suddenly, the leader arrives and hides behind the door then slowly pushes one half of it waiting with a gun pointing towards it. Immediately, the assailant comes before the door and the policeman shoots him abruptly. Stella falls down but hits her head against the floor in the process. The policeman rushes to pick her up but she's unconscious. Two rush in to help carry her away.

INT.HOSPITAL-STELLA'S ROOM-NIGHT

Stella lies on a hospital bed still unconscious, in coma.

INT.WAITING ROOM-CONTINUE

Henry sobs on the pastor's shoulder while he taps him on the back. Suddenly, Stephane appears there being led to them by a nurse. The pastor sees him but Henry doesn't.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP-NIGHT

Gina chats with the friendly man at the bar who reveals his true identity.

GINA

So that's what you do, helping girls who are trapped in prostitution?

FRIENDLY MAN

Yes, it's a secret organization and I'm just a scout.

GINA

(smiles)

I'm happy...that the world has people like you. I wish to return home but I have no life there. Besides I'm an orphan.

FRIENDLY MAN

(holds her hand)

Don't worry, we'd get you a job and somewhere nice to stay.

GINA

(smiling)

Thank you.

INT.SAM'S PLACE-LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Sam meets the mechanic at his place.

SAM

(to mechanic)

Have a seat. Would you like anything?

MECHANIC

No thanks.

SAM

You did well though he was smart enough to jump out of the car before the accident occurred. Nonetheless, he's out of the picture.

MECHANIC

I hope so.

SAM

(referring to that on the centre table)

That's your pay, it's all in the envelope on the table.

Mechanic picks it up and opens it then counts money.

SAM

(sits in sofa before him)

It's just as we agreed on.

MECHANIC

(nods head)

Yes it is.

SAM

Good. One more thing though, let this be our little secret.

MECHANIC

Of course, be rest assured.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-HENRY'S ROOM-DAY

Three days later: Henry sits in a corner of the room with his head bowed and weeping silently. Suddenly, there is a knock on the door which he doesn't answer. Another sounds with the call of his name yet he responds not. Pastor Emmanuel enters room subsequently dressed in casual wear. He carries a tray of food in hand which he places on a table in the room.

PASTOR

Henry, stand up and eat something else you fall ill. I know you're grieving but your mum wouldn't have wanted you to die.

HENRY

(lifts the head)

I killed her...I killed her because of my actions. I lied about

everything...and now I'm reaping the fruits of it.

PASTOR

Don't torture your conscience son, you apologized to God already and he's forgiven you since you truly repented. Now it's time to forgive yourself.

HENRY

How can I? Because of me two people lost their lives-my mother and the taxi driver. Now my dad is in his study...he wouldn't come out to eat or do anything. He's been there since Monday.

PASTOR

What? You mean he's been in the study for 3 days?

HENRY

Yes.

PASTOR

Why didn't you tell me this before...have you tried opening the door, is it locked?

HENRY

No, but he's been in his seat staring away from the door.

PASTOR

(hurries out of room)

Right.

INT.STUDY-CONTINUE

Pastor silently enters room. Stephane has his back facing the door in his seat.

PASTOR

How long would you stay like this
Diamant?

Stephane does not respond nor move. He
stares at a window before him.

PASTOR

It's been 3 days and you've not
eaten or slept. Your son stays up
all night crying in his bed for
his mother and there's none to
comfort him. That's the least you
could do for him now Diamant.
Obviously, you wouldn't want to
lose him too.

STEPHANE

(suddenly rises to face him
and asks softly in anxious
tone)

How is he?

PASTOR

Not good. He's grieving just as you are but at this time, he needs you most.

STEPHANE

(softly)

I know. I just...needed some time to think things through. I can't believe this happened. I can't believe Stella is gone...Zena too...

PASTOR

The Lord would see you through Diamant, he cares about you and he would heal the wound you now feel, just trust in him that all would soon be well.

STEPHANE

(nods head)

Hmm, I don't even...go to church. I used to but...I stopped. Could this be the reason why this suddenly happened?

PASTOR

No...no don't think that way please. God doesn't wish bad for anyone. His only desire is that all find salvation and happiness here and above.

STEPHANE

(nods staring at him)

I think I have to see my son now.

PASTOR

Certainly.

They exit the room with Stephane leaving first.

INT. HENRY'S ROOM-DAY

Pastor and Stephane quietly enter room. Henry hears the sound of the door but doesn't turn.

HENRY

How's my father pastor?

STEPHANE

(walks to the bed, sits down
and touches him on the back)

Fine. He missed you so he's here
to see you.

Henry turns round on the bed, hugs him and weeps. Stephane weeps too. The pastor quietly leaves the room.

INT.MECHANIC'S PLACE-BEDROOM-NIGHT

Quiet ambience except the ticking sound of an alarm bell: mechanic lies in bed asleep. Suddenly, there's the sound of splashing water from a near by bath. He shudders and opens his eyes.

INT.BAR/BROTHEL-DAY

Gina wipes a table with a cloth. Suddenly, someone taps her on the back. She shrieks and the one chuckles. It's a fellow waitress, Nina.

GINA

Hey, don't do that again.

NINA

(gives her a small brown sealed envelope)

Sorry, I received this for you.

GINA

When did it come in?

NINA

Right now, about 5 minutes ago.

GINA

(staring suspiciously at
her)

Is that true?

NINA

Of course it is! Oh you think I
opened it? Check it it's sealed.

GINA

Who brought it?

NINA

A certain woman, a young girl I'd
say.

GINA

Ok, thanks for taking it for me.

NINA

(smiling)

De rien.

CUT TO:

INT.GINA'S ROOM-CONTINUE

Gina quickly tears open the envelope and empties the contents onto her bed. There is a small white envelope which she opens and finds a paper with some instructions. She smiles after reading it and folds it and places it back into the envelope.

EXT.MECHANIC'S SHOP-DAY

Mechanic works on a car on his compound when suddenly, a car approaches. Immediately, he stops working to see the one. A policeman steps down from the car and walks towards him, he's the assistant police chief.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Good afternoon, sir.

MECHANIC

Good afternoon.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

I'm Sergeant Bondieu, assistant police chief. Sorry if I came in the wrong time but can I have a few minutes talk with you?

MECHANIC

Of course, what is it about?

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Do you recall the truck driver whose truck you worked on the day before his near-death? I mean the driver from Ilea construction firm?

Mechanic remains silent.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

I assume you know something about his misfortune by your silence. Anyway, that's only an assumption.

MECHANIC

Yes. Yes the man came here but I didn't work on his truck as you're saying. He came to deliver some message.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

What message and from whom?

MECHANIC

A message from his boss Sam who is the manager of the firm. He said he needed me to come over to the site.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Come over to the site? Was that all?

MECHANIC

Yes that was all he said.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Alright. Ok. So you never touched the truck to work on it? You didn't tamper with any brakes?

MECHANIC

(silent for a moment and
speaks confidently)

No. I didn't tamper with anything.
I only received his message and he
left.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Sir, what's your name?

MECHANIC

Ramson.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Right Ramson. May I ask you a
simple question, I want a straight
forward answer and you have only
one chance to give me that.

MECHANIC

Ok.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Ramson why would Roger Pont drive
all the way from the site to
deliver a message from Sam while
Sam could simply have told it to
you via phone?

MECHANIC

(silent for a minute then
answers softly)

I don't know. Perhaps...

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

Perhaps what?

MECHANIC

I don't know, sorry I don't know.
I mistakenly said that.

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF

(says and signals to the
officer by the car to come
over)

I see. But I'm not satisfied with
your defense. It'd do you good if
we continued this conversation in
my office because obviously, some
things need to be clarified.

INT.COFFEE SHOP-NIGHT

Gina meets the friendly male guest at the
shop. They chat about her escape.

FRIENDLY MALE GUEST

...So you meet me there tomorrow
morning at 5.

GINA

5am?

FRIENDLY MALE GUEST

If you could sneak out of that place and meet me here then 5 isn't a problem.

GINA

(nods head)

Ok.

FRIENDLY MALE GUEST

Good.

GINA

What about my...luggage? I can't be packing everyone would find out.

FRIENDLY MALE GUEST

You don't need to. I told you the company would provide you everything, even with a decent job.

GINA

Yes, you said that. Sorry.

FRIENDLY MALE GUEST

(looks at his watch)

It's 10 minutes to 8 now, you've to go to avoid suspicion.

GINA

(rises from chair)

Yes, you're right.

FRIENDLY MALE GUEST

See you there tomorrow.

GINA

(smiles at him)

I'd be there.

He returns her smile and walks away. However, 5 minutes afterwards there's a screeching sound followed by a woman's cry. The man has just been knocked down. The car flees the scene. Gina runs to see and finds his body on the road. She screams.

INT. BAR/BROTHEL-BAR-NIGHT

Gina returns to the bar and meets her boss at the bar waiting for her.

BAR/BROTHEL OWNER

Where have you been miss sneak-out?

GINA

(softly)

I went out for a walk.

BAR/BROTHEL OWNER

Alone or with someone?

GINA

(silent for a moment)

Alone.

BAR/BROTHEL OWNER

(walks away afterwards)

I see. That's ok. Henceforth, any time you feel like going out for a walk just go, don't tell me ok. Your pay day would bear the blunt.

Gina stares at her as she leaves.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-BALCONY-DAY

Henry sits on a couch in the balcony staring ahead of him.

INT.STUDY-DAY

Stephane sits before his laptop typing some documents on a bunch of papers before him. He looks concentrated on it. Suddenly, there's a knock on his door which is open. A fair-skinned woman dressed in a maid's uniform comes in with a tray of food.

NEW MAID

Sir, your breakfast.

STEPHANE

(not looking at her)

Thanks put it down there.

NEW MAID

(walks away afterwards)

Ok sir. Please excuse me.

INT.BALCONY-CONTINUE

Henry rises from couch and walks to edge of the balcony. It's breezy but suddenly becomes intense, apparently a storm is at hand. Water droplets begin to fall on him but he doesn't leave, he keeps standing.

INT.LIVING ROOM-CONTINUE

New maid dusts the furniture at the living room. Suddenly, the rain begins and she rushes out of the place.

INT.HENRY'S ROOM-CONTINUE

New maid arrives there and shuts windows. She doesn't see Henry and calls him as she leaves the room.

Maid hurries to the study but doesn't find him there. Stephane continues to type undisturbed. New maid rushes to couple's

room but doesn't find him. As she heads for the balcony some fierce thunder strikes and she instantly falls on her belly. A minute later she rises screaming Henry's name until reaching the balcony where she finds him on the floor.

INT.HOSPITAL-ROGER'S ROOM-DAY

Elyse sits on a chair beside Roger's bed. He's still in coma. She stares at him with a composed look. Suddenly and slowly, his eyes begin to open. Elyse doesn't see it because her mind is elsewhere. She just stares at him. Moments later, a female doctor enters the room and sees it. She seems ecstatic but doesn't scream. She rushes out of the room to call another doctor. Five minutes later, they arrive in the room together with Elyse's mother who walks to Elyse and whispers to her that Roger is awake. Suddenly, she returns to reality and screams but immediately covers her mouth.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-HENRY'S ROOM-DAY

Henry lies on the bed while the new maid splashes his face with cups of water trying to revive him. Suddenly, he awakens.

NEW MAID

Oh thank Jesus!

HENRY

(looking at her)

What happened?

NEW MAID

You were at the balcony when thunder struck. I rushed there and found you on the floor. You were unconscious.

HENRY

It struck me. I felt it within me. I'm supposed to be dead.

NEW MAID

What are you saying? You mean the thunder struck you? Was that why you were lying on the floor?

HENRY

All I felt was some power rushing through me and I fell instantly.

NEW MAID

Oh my God...you have to get you to a hospital...

Pastor enters room suddenly.

PASTOR

Why does he need to see a doctor?

NEW MAID

Oh Pastor thank God you're here. Henry just told me something

grave. He said he was struck by
thunder and yet he's alive.

PASTOR

Henry what happened?

HENRY

I was at the balcony and it began
to rain but I didn't want to go
in. I wanted to...I wanted to just
die. I stood at the edge and
suddenly, thunder struck and I
fell.

PASTOR

Did you feel it within?

HENRY

Yes, it felt like some power was
rushing through me. Then I fell.

PASTOR

Oh praise Jesus! Henry God saved
your life.

HENRY

I think so.

PASTOR

He loves you and he needs you to
do his work. Where is your father?

NEW MAID

In his study pastor. He's working on his laptop. I served him breakfast but he's yet to eat.

PASTOR

I'd check on him. Stay here with Henry.

NEW MAID

Ok pastor.

INT.STUDY-CONTINUE

Pastor enters study and finds Stephane with his head on the desk. He appears to be sleeping.

PASTOR

(taps him on the back)

Diamant.

Stephane doesn't respond and pastor taps him more but he doesn't respond. Immediately, he holds his wrist to check his pulse. He's breathing but unconscious. Moments later, Stephane lies on his back on the floor of the study and the pastor splashes some water on his face. He opens his eyes.

PASTOR

Welcome back.

STEPHANE

(rising to his feet)

What happened? Why am I on the floor?

PASTOR

You probably passed out due to shortage of food in your system. Diamant you haven't eaten anything solid for 3 whole days. You haven't even touched your breakfast yet. How long can you survive?

STEPHANE

I was doing some work. I'd soon be done and take my breakfast.

PASTOR

(hurries to stand before his laptop)

No way. Finish that meal, rest and when you seem OK I'd allow you complete this work.

STEPHANE

(walking towards desk)

No. I need to finish it now.

PASTOR

Your son just survived
miraculously after being struck by
thunder. Wouldn't it be fair if
you stayed alive for him even if
it's only for now?

STEPHANE

What...are you saying?

PASTOR

You heard me. Henry was struck by
thunder as he was at the balcony
wishing death for himself. But God
wished for him otherwise. Go and
see him and put an end to all of
this.

Immediately, Henry enters the room.

HENRY

(hugs his father after that)

Dad, he's right. God saved me for
a purpose. I could have died but I
didn't and I no longer wish to
die. Let's live for mother please.
Let's live for her.

INT.BAR/BROTHEL-GINA'S ROOM-DAY

Gina lies in her bed weeping silently.
Suddenly, Nina enters the room.

NINA

Gina, what's wrong? Aren't you
supposed to be working today?

Gina doesn't respond.

NINA

Why did something happen with
madam?

Gina doesn't respond.

NINA

Ok. She's the problem. She refused
to pay you again?

GINA

Please go. I'm not feeling well.

NINA

Are you hungry? I could get you
some food.

GINA

Just get out!

NINA

Ok, I'm going but make sure you
report at the bar before she
returns.

GINA

When would she be back?

NINA

(walks away afterwards)

I don't know. You can find out
from her office.

INT.BAR/BROTHEL-OWNER'S OFFICE-DAY

2 hours later, Gina enters room with a glass
of drink for her madam. Owner sits in chair
with her head on the table.

GINA

(places glass on the table
and exits the room)

Madam, I brought your drink.

5 minutes later Gina returns to the room to
pick up the glass. Owner still has head on
the table.

GINA

(calls when she sees drink
still standing in glass)

Madam?

Gina walks to her and attempts to touch her
head but refrains. She wraps her hand with
the apron she's wearing and shakes her by
the shoulder but owner doesn't respond.
Suddenly, Gina checks her pulse on her wrist
and realizes she's dead. She gags slightly
and quickly but quietly exits the room.

INT. GINA'S ROOM-CONTINUE

Gina picks a few clothes from her closet into a large black polythene sack and exits the room.

INT.BAR -CONTINUE

Gina goes through the bar with the polythene bag. Nina sees her and asks where she's going.

GINA

To throw away the garbage in our room.

NINA

(watches her as she leaves)

Ok.

EXT.STREET-DAY

Gina quickly stops a taxi and enters.

TAXI DRIVER 3

Where to?

GINA

To the nearest train station.

INT.POLICE STATION-ASISSTANT CHIEF'S OFFICE-
DAY

Sergeant Bondieu speaks to Sam in his
office.

ASSISTANT CHIEF

Sir, I'm afraid you're not leaving
here today or any other day unless
we get to the bottom of this case.

SAM

Are you serious? What makes you
think that I'd consent to that?
Some stranger sent you a note
stating I paid him to murder my
own close employee and you believe
him?

ASSISTANT CHIEF

In case you don't know the man
already identified himself as a
mechanic you hired. He sent his
picture along with the letter
including this, an envelope
containing a huge amount of money,
something he could never have
owned. Moreover, he has your
complimentary card, and a look in
his call log shows you two quite
KNOW each other. Tell me if this
isn't enough evidence to trust
him?

SAM

(silent for a moment)

Where is he now? Why didn't he show up here to point a finger at me?

ASSISTANT CHIEF

(staring at him)

It's because he's dead. He committed suicide probably.

INT.COUPLE'S HOME-DINNING ROOM-DAY

Henry, Stephane and the pastor lunch together.

PASTOR

So when is school reopening for you Henry?

HENRY

In a week's time.

PASTOR

Oh that's just around the corner.

STEPHANE

I plan to go with him to France for relaxation. I've been too busy with work.

PASTOR

(smiling at him)

Really? Diamant that's great news coming from you.

STEPHANE

And one more thing.

PASTOR

What is it?

STEPHANE

Henry told me he wanted to set up an aid-for-the-needy organization. I liked the idea so I'd be setting it up after my month-long stay in France.

PASTOR

Oh, double great news. What's up with you two today? It seems you really wanted to surprise me.

STEPHANE

(chuckles)

We just want to live for Stella, do things rightly as she would have wanted.

PASTOR

I'm glad. Shall we toast to a new life or is it too early?

They clink glasses.

THE END