

F.A.C.E. (FRAGILE. ANGEL. CRUSHED. EMOTIONALLY.)

Written by

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BLACK SCREEN:

"A person is only as powerful as the people who fear them."

~Bernard Mersier~

FADE IN:

EXT. STARLIT SKYLINE - NIGHT

The stars are shining bright, meshing perfectly with the lights coming from the buildings on the Detroit riverfront, giving the scenery a glow of beauty.

ALICIA (V.O.)

In a world of madness, you can always embrace the natural beauty the world offers, releasing the stress in your heart and mind. Now... Some view stars as "Angels" looking down on those in need of their help. The brighter the star means they had a heavy impact while they were inside of a vessel putting forth positivity.

Slowly start moving closer to the stars.

Amongst the beautiful stars, there's one that's slowly dimming in and out.

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

Sadly... Some of the stars arrived back home before they could show they're true potential. But sometimes... Sometimes, the dimmest star gets another chance to finish what they started, so their presence can live on forever because of their impact. This can only happen if the human allows the star to help them, so they won't meet the same demise.

The dim star falls from the sky.

Following the star down to earth, we come to a stop at a corner liquor store in the slums on the Eastside.

Four people are standing around the store talking loudly, drinking and smoking.

Arguing can be heard from inside the store, accompanied by commotion.

Within a few seconds, Ebony, a homeless woman in her late thirties gets shoved out of the door, hitting the concrete.

She lies on her stomach moaning in pain.

The brown-skinned woman with a voluptuous body and long dirty black hair is wearing tattered clothes, a torn up coat and reeks of an odor that would instantly make you vomit.

The people standing around step back.

The store owner comes to the door.

She remains on the ground as some food items are flung at her.

STORE OWNER

Stay outta here, you filthy bum!
And take what you tried to steal!
Your filthy hands were all over
this stuff, so I know it's no
longer stuff I can sell.

Slowly sitting up, she begins placing the items inside of the raggedy pockets on her coat.

With all of the items gathered, she stands up and takes a deep breath, softly sighing.

The people standing around are silent for a few seconds before they start laughing and making fun of her.

Not bothered by the insults or laughter, she turns to face them.

EBONY

Can I get a cigarette from one of
you?

RANDOM MAN

Yeah, I got one. What are you
willing to do for it?

EBONY

(Scoffs)

Nothing that will lower my
situation worse than what it is.
I'm homeless, but I'm still a woman
with pride.

She turns her back and begins walking off.

RANDOM MAN
A bum with pride. Now, that's
something new.

The four begin laughing.

Ebony ignores them as she continues walking down the street.

She comes to a stop at the corner where a fairly in good condition fourplex apartment rests.

Some of the lights are on inside of the building.

Ebony sighs as she walks towards the building, heading toward the back where the alley is.

In the back, the grass needs to be cut, along with the weeds growing around the building.

A busted car is back there, and dumpster cans.

Ebony approaches the back door of the car, opens it and retrieves a dirty blanket and sleeping bag.

Closing the door, she walks back and places the blanket to the side and then lays the sleeping bag down.

Taking a seat on the sleeping bag, she leans back against the wall and sighs.

One at a time, she pulls her items out and puts them on the bag.

When she's finished, she goes back inside her coat pocket and pulls out a pint of vodka, a pack of cigarettes and a lighter.

Opening the vodka, she takes a nice sip and then places it to the side.

Shaking off the burning sensation, she takes a cigarette from the pack and places it in her mouth.

A window is heard opening.

Ebony prepares to light her cigarette, and that's when a nice amount of women's clothing comes falling down on top of her.

Confused, she moves the clothes to the side and then places her cigarette back in the pack.

KRIS (O.S.)

Since you think I'm always doing something behind your back, you can get out! I already called you an Uber! It should be here any minute now!

SHALETA (O.S.)

A Uber, really? Why can't you just drop me off at my mother's house?

KRIS (O.S.)

Be more responsible and keep up with the maintenance of your car, and you wouldn't have this problem.

SHALETA (O.S.)

I can't believe you right now.

KRIS (O.S.)

Keep talking and I'll give you something to believe.

SHALETA (O.S.)

Every time I try to have a discussion with you and things don't go your way, the first thing you resort to is putting me out.

KRIS (O.S.)

Because you need me! I don't need you!

SHALETA (O.S.)

Are you serious right now?

KRIS (O.S.)

If you don't get out of my house right now, I'll cancel the Uber and call you an ambulance.

SHALETA (O.S.)

I can't believe---

Something is heard shattering against the wall.

KRIS (O.S.)

Stop running your mouth and get out! The next thing I throw will hit you in the face! Trust me!

Shaleta can be heard crying as a door is heard opening and closing.

KRIS (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I don't know who she thinks she is.
It doesn't matter what I do because
I'm the man and she needs me. When
I decide to let her come back, she
better remember that, and stay
focused on what she's supposed to
do as far as being my woman.

He closes the window.

Ebony shakes her head as she stands up and makes her way to
the front of the building.

Standing in front of the building wearing some tight blue
jeans and a T-shirt is Shaleta, early twenties.

The petite, beautiful light-skinned woman has long black
hair, holding an overnight bag.

Sorrow is spilling from her light brown eyes, doing her best
to stop crying.

Ebony comes up and stands back to the side, staring at her.

Shaleta looks around and notices Ebony staring at her.

SHALETA
Can I help you?

EBONY
I'm sure if you allowed me I could.

SHALETA
(Scoffs)
No offense. But---

EBONY
It's already offensive, but
continue.

SHALETA
Anyway, no offense, but what can a
homeless woman possibly teach me?

EBONY
That anybody can be homeless at any
moment, but losing your self
respect as a woman, and regaining
it can take a long time. That's
even if you can reclaim it.

SHALETA

Excuse me? What do you think you know about me?

EBONY

Everything you're showing and telling me right now. All of the signs of a woman slowly losing self respect, but she doesn't think she is because she has a man who she thinks loves her, knowing he doesn't. Sounds about right?

SHALETA

Says the woman in the position she's in.

EBONY

And she's trying to help a woman so she doesn't end up in my position or worse. Don't let my appearance and lifestyle fool you. There's knowledge underneath this filth.

A car pulls up and comes to a stop.

Shaleta walks to the back, opens the door and then looks at Ebony.

SHALETA

Maybe you should use some of that knowledge to get yourself back on your feet. Have a good---

(Clicks her tongue)

You can't have a good night, look at you. Do whatever it is you do for the night, and enjoy.

Shaleta gets inside of the car and it pulls off.

Ebony looks on, shaking her head before walking to the back of the building.

INT. DESIGNER STORE - MORNING

There's a few people moving around the store as indistinct talking can be heard, along with soothing music playing softly over the speaker.

Shaleta is wearing a button up and black slacks, with her hair pulled up in a ponytail, moving around the store.

She pauses on a rack of elegant dresses.

She forces herself to form a slight smile, gently touching the black dress.

You can tell by her expression, she wishes she could wear the dress and go out for a fun night on the town with Kris, but she knows deep down inside, it will never happen.

MY'SEAN (O.S.)
Excuse me, can you help me with something?

Softly sighing, Shaleta turns around.

When she realizes who's in front of her, her eyes get wide, and a rogue of blush tints her cheeks.

SHALETA
Oh, my God. Look at you.

MY'SEAN
(Soft laugh)
I figured it was you. A woman with a specific beauty such as yours can never be mistaken.

SHALETA
(Shy laugh)
Boy, stop it.

MY'SEAN
I'm serious. But aside from that, how have you been?

SHALETA
I'm still the same girl you always flirted with in high school. Nothing much has changed.

The smile on his face slowly vanishes, turning into a look of disappointment.

MY'SEAN
I guess that means---

SHALETA
(Somber tone)
Yeah, I'm still with him.

MY'SEAN
I apologize. It wasn't my place to ask about your personal life.

SHALETA
No, it's fine. No harm done.

MY'SEAN

I beg to differ. Anyway, it's nice seeing you after all this time.

He turns around prepared to walk away.

SHALETA

Wait a minute. How have you been?
As handsome as you are, I know some lucky woman cuddles with you every night.

He turns around with a dry smile.

MY'SEAN

I work full-time at the Italian restaurant Downtown a couple of spots down from the bakery. I'm a cook.

SHALETA

Ooo, a chef. Maybe you can cook me something one day.

MY'SEAN

(Soft laugh)

When my skills improve, I'll do it. Aside from that, I've been in and out of relationships. Nothing truly based on love. Well, at least on my part there wasn't any love involved.

SHALETA

And why is that?

MY'SEAN

Like I told you in high school. Love comes and goes. Being in love with someone you know will complete you only comes around once. Why ruin that moment with someone you know won't fulfill their end of the deal?

SHALETA

So... Why were you bothered with women you knew wouldn't put forth their share?

MY'SEAN

I could ask you the same question, but because I still love...

He catches himself, and covers his mouth.

Shaleta is staring at him with googly eyes.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I was about to rekindle
feelings that shouldn't be there.
Maybe I'll see you around.

SHALETA

You know you can give me your
number?

MY'SEAN

I could. But if he's still the
same, there's no...

(Low laugh)

It's good seeing you again, "North
star." If it's meant to be, I'll
see you again.

SHALETA

(Bashful laugh)

You still call me that after all of
these years. Why?

MY'SEAN

If you know the meaning behind the
North star, you know the answer.

He turns and walks off.

Shaleta stands blushing, thinking about if she could go back
and date him.

Her phone goes off.

Pulling her phone from her pocket, the moment of joy she was
embracing vanishes, looking at a text message from Kris.

INSERT PHONE SCREEN

Did you get your mind right, and realize what your position
is in this relationship?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE PIZZERIA - CONTINUOUS

Loud talking can be heard from the workers preparing
pizza's, taking orders and various other tasks going on in
the kitchen.

Kris is standing up against the wall wearing an all black button up and matching slacks.

Arrogance outlines the dark-skinned chubby male with a low fade, stubble for a goatee and short in height in his early twenties.

Placing his phone back in his pocket, he sucks his teeth before he starts moving around the work area.

Moving towards the front counter, while the workers take orders, he spots Carol, a woman he finds attractive.

A few of the customers move out of the line, and just when Carol comes up to the register, Kris tells the worker he'll take the register.

Carol steps up, and Kris steps behind the register with a smile.

KRIS

How can I help you today?

CAROL

I'd like two deep dish specials.

KRIS

That's all?

CAROL

That's what I said.

KRIS

You don't have to respond that way, my baby. I'm just making sure you're satisfied with our service today, and you get everything you want to your satisfaction.

She looks at him with a seductive glance.

CAROL

You want me to be satisfied with the service?

KRIS

That's what I said.

CAROL

Then my order should be free.

KRIS

Only if you appreciate it, and know why I'm doing it, aside from what you're thinking.

CAROL

Hm. I can roll with what you're saying.

KRIS

So, again. Does this complete your order?

CAROL

(Soft snicker)

You can add extras if you plan on spending extra time with me later tonight.

KRIS

Your order will be out before you know it. I'll make sure when it comes out, you'll have a way to contact me. Cool with you?

CAROL

As long as everything is good.

KRIS

I'm about to have them start on it now.

Kris winks at her before walking off.

EXT. THE APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Ebony wakes up on top of the sleeping bag.

She stretches while looking around.

EBONY

Another day in heaven.

She gets up and walks to the car, opening the back door.

Reaching inside for a hot second, she pulls out a big black plastic bag.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Time to round up enough cans for dinner and a drink.

Going back to the sleeping bag, she places the bag to the side, and then picks up her blanket and sleeping bag, placing them inside the car.

Closing the door, she goes back and picks up the bag and then makes her way to the front of the apartment.

Kris pulls up in his car and comes to a stop.

Kris and Shaleta get out.

Ebony stands to the side staring at them.

Kris looks over at her and cocks his head to the side.

KRIS

What do you want?

EBONY

Nothing from you. Although, there is something I would love to give her that I know would change her life.

KRIS

(Scoffs)

What could that possibly be "Street trash?"

EBONY

Street trash?

(Laughs)

That's a new one. What makes me street trash?

KRIS

Look at you. Not to mention you live behind our building. Need I say more?

Ebony Smirks, trying to hold back from laughing.

EBONY

If that's what you're basing it on, the only difference is you have a roof over your head.

KRIS

(Laughs)

I'm not about to entertain this.

Kris goes inside the apartment.

Shaleta prepares to follow, and Ebony releases a soft snicker.

Shaleta focuses on her.

SHALETA
Is there something you find funny?

EBONY
Yeah. You.

SHALETA
And what's so funny about me?

EBONY
You're a stand up woman with some sass to any and everybody, except towards the person you need to stand up to. So, that makes you funny.

Shaleta folds her arms across her chest.

SHALETA
By you saying that, I'm guessing you're talking about my man.

EBONY
If that's what you call him.

SHALETA
(Clicks tongue)
I'll let that slide. Now, what makes you think I don't stand up to him?

EBONY
Baby girl, I'm sure everybody in this building knows you don't. But if that's not enough, I sleep outside of your window. Need I say more?

Shaleta sighs, lowering her head before looking back up at Ebony.

SHALETA
...What do you want?

EBONY
Nobody can give me what I want.
But...

She goes inside her coat and pulls out an old diary.

A look of sorrow is in her eyes, staring at the diary for a few seconds before looking at Shaleta.

EBONY (CONT'D)

There's still hope for you.

Ebony walks toward her and extends the book.

Shaleta looks at it leery.

SHALETA

What is this?

EBONY

Hopefully, something that will help you realize things need to change before it's too late.

SHALETA

(Scoffs)

You want me to read your old memories, thinking---

EBONY

Either you will or you won't. It'd be a shame if you end up being "Street trash" as your boyfriend calls me.

She places the diary on the ground, pats Shaleta on the shoulder and then walks off.

Shaleta watches her walk off before looking down at the diary.

Bending down, she picks up the diary and taps the back of the diary against her palm.

She sighs, placing the diary in her purse before going inside the building.

Going up the stairs, she walks down the hall to the last door on the right, and walks in.

The inside of the apartment is a pigsty.

Clothes are all over the floor and sofa.

Shaleta sighs, walking over to the sofa placing her purse down.

She prepares to sit down, and that's when Kris comes into the room looking spiffy, smiling ear to ear.

A rouge of blush comes on her face.

SHALETA
Well, ain't you the finest man on
the Eastside of Detroit.

He looks at her and winks.

KRIS
As long as you know.

SHALETA
Oh, I know. So...

She blushes walking towards him.

SHALETA (CONT'D)
Where are we going?

He looks at her confused.

KRIS
Huh?

Shaleta takes a step back, looking at him confused.

SHALETA
What do you mean, huh?

KRIS
Um... I'm about to go out with the
fellas and watch the game. You...
(Laughs)
We were just arguing yesterday, and
you think I'm about to take you out
somewhere?

Shaleta folds her arms across her chest staring at him.

SHALETA
And you really believe I think
you're about to go out with your
boys dressed like that?

KRIS
(Sighs)
See. This is what got you in
trouble yesterday.

SHALETA
Got me in trouble?

KRIS
You heard what I said.

SHALETA
Who do you think---

He steps up to her and places a finger on her lips.

KRIS
Let's not ruin a good day. I'm
about to go out and have a few
drinks with my friends. If you plan
on staying...

He looks around the room.

KRIS (CONT'D)
You know what you have to do, and
have it done before I get back.

He gives her a kiss on the cheek, and then walks away.

Only a few steps away, he pauses and then turns back around.

KRIS (CONT'D)
I only turned around because I can
sense you're about to talk, so
before you get some words formed
together in your mind, don't.
That's unless you want this
relationship to end on a bumpy
note.

He turns around and stands there for a few seconds to see if
she'll respond.

Satisfied with the result he was expecting, he releases a
soft chuckle as he walks out.

Shaleta stands silent with shame and tears in her eyes.

INT. KRIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

Shaleta is standing in the bedroom looking out the window.

The same look of shame dwells in her eyes.

SHALETA POV

Ebony returns holding a store carry out bag.

She does her usual routine.

Shaleta slowly nods her head, thinking about what Ebony
said.

She leaves the room.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. THE ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Sitting back against the wall, Ebony goes inside the bag and pulls out a sub, juice and a pint of vodka.

She prepares to open the sub, and she hears footsteps.

Looking around the area unbothered, she sees Shaleta come around the corner.

Ebony scoffs, and focuses back on her sub.

SHALETA

Is that dinner for the night?

Ebony places the sub down.

EBONY

Everyday is a feast as long as you get to eat.

SHALETA

Understandable. But, how about we go to the coney up the street and get you some real food?

EBONY

And why would you wanna do that? I don't think your man would appreciate you feeding street trash.

SHALETA

...He's not my man.

EBONY

Since when?

SHALETA

Since what you told me earlier made me realize you were right about what you were saying.

EBONY

What's the catch? We go down there and you try to embarrass me.

SHALETA

No catch. I just...

EBONY

You just what?

SHALETA

I need someone I can talk to right now, other than my family because I know they'll judge me.

EBONY

I'll do this so you can vent, and you can understand why I've been trying to communicate with you. The food is the least of my worries.

SHALETA

(Shy laugh)

I know. You're a strong woman with pride who can stand her own ground.

EBONY

(Shy laugh)

You got that right.

Shaleta looks at her with a slight smirk.

EBONY (CONT'D)

What?

SHALETA

I know you're not worried about the food, but do you think you'll want that after we get some hot food?

EBONY

Nothing wrong with a little snack and a drink after a meal. Besides, I didn't get this lovely shape from not eating.

SHALETA

(Laughs)

Let's go.

EBONY

(Laughs)

You know I ain't lying.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. THE BAR - NIGHT

Mellow music circulates through the partially dim room where people are socializing on the dance floor.

Other people are sitting at tables and the bar having drinks while conversing.

My'sean comes into the bar wearing something casual with his hair pressed.

Krystal is standing beside him.

She's an attractive brown-skinned woman wearing something fitted.

The two take a seat at an empty table.

She's enjoying herself and the atmosphere.

Meanwhile, My'sean is busy thinking about Shaleta.

KRYSTAL

This is a cool place. I've never been here before.

MY'SEAN

Yeah, it's okay. I like coming here because it's laid back.

KRYSTAL

What's wrong? You seem dry.

MY'SEAN

I'm good. Just thinking about something, that's all.

KRYSTAL

(Seductive tone)

Could you possibly be thinking about what we're doing after we leave?

MY'SEAN

(Dry laugh)

Maybe after a few drinks I'll be thinking about that.

KRYSTAL

Okay, seriously. What's going on with you? I've never seen you this caught up in your thoughts or whatever. You don't like being with no more?

My'Sean wipes his face down, and reveals a slight smile as he reaches across the table to hold her hands.

MY'SEAN

I love being with you, you know that. You're right.

(MORE)

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

Let me stop thinking about it
because I'm being rude.

KRYSTAL

We can talk about it if you want.

MY'SEAN

Nah, I'll pass. Talking about it
will lead to an argument, and I'm
already putting a damper on the
mood.

KRYSTAL

When has there been a time you
couldn't talk to me about anything?

MY'SEAN

I understand that. But...

(Low sigh)

When a man wants to talk to his
female friend about another female,
it instantly---

She snatches her hands away, looking at him with anger in
her eyes.

KRYSTAL

What female are you thinking about
and I'm with you?

MY'SEAN

(Sighs)

See. That's why I said---

KRYSTAL

I'm sorry. Gon' head and---

MY'SEAN

It's all good. Let's just focus on
what we're about to drink and have
a good time.

KRYSTAL

No, I was wrong for coming off the
way I did. You love being with me,
but right now, some female has you
thinking about something that you
need to get off your chest. So,
tell me.

MY'SEAN

Nah, I'm not falling for that. I can tell you the story and you'll pretend to listen, but in the back of your mind, you really don't care because it's not about you.

KRYSTAL

No, I'm serious. It's bothering you, so it's bothering me. I swear I won't brush it off as nothing.

MY'SEAN

(Deep sigh)

Uh huh. Well, yesterday, I ran across an old friend from high school. Everything was going good until she told me---

My'Sean cuts his words short when he sees Kris walk by their table with Carol.

The two make their way to the bar, and Kris pulls her stool out so she can take a seat before taking his.

Anger outlines My'Sean eyes, keeping them locked on the couple, while Krystal tries to gain his attention.

KRYSTAL

Hello. Hello, what's wrong with you?

Snapping out of his anger, he focuses back on Krystal, while looking at Kris and Carol out of the corner of his eye.

MY'SEAN

I'm sorry, I blacked out for a moment. Umm... It doesn't matter about the rest of the story, I'm over it.

KRYSTAL

That quick?

MY'SEAN

Yeah. We're here to---

A female bartender comes over to their table.

FEMALE BARTENDER

What can I get for you guys?

My'Sean signals for Krystal to put in her order.

KRYSTAL
Can I have a long island and a
double shot of Jack Daniels?

FEMALE BARTENDER.
Okay. And for you?

MY'SEAN
I'll have a glass of Remy and a
Corona.

FEMALE BARTENDER
Okay. I'll be back with your
drinks.

She walks off.

KRYSTAL
Ooo, a Remy night.

My'Sean looks at her and winks.

MY'SEAN
You already know what that means.

She licks her lips provocatively.

KRYSTAL
You know it.

MY'SEAN
Long as we both know.

KRYSTAL
Uh huh. I'm about to go to the
bathroom.

MY'SEAN
I'll be here.

She gets up and gives him a kiss on the cheek before walking
off.

Focusing back on Kris, he notices the two are being touchy
feely.

Anger is building inside of My'Sean, but he's doing his best
to keep his composure because he knows it's not his place to
say something to Kris about his actions.

The female bartender comes back and places their drinks
down.

My'Sean keeps his eyes locked on the couple because deep down inside, something is telling him he should address the situation.

Carol gives Kris a kiss before she gets up and walks off.

My'Sean picks up his glass and downs it.

Sucking up the smooth taste of the liquor, he gets up and makes his way over to Kris.

Standing to the side of him, you can tell My'Sean wants to hit him dead in the mouth.

MY'SEAN

I see you're still the same from
high school.

Kris turns and looks at him confused.

KRIS

What?

MY'SEAN

You heard what I said.

KRIS

I don't know who you are, but you
can---

MY'SEAN

You know who I am, scumbag.

Kris picks up his drink and takes a sip, laughing under his breath.

KRIS

Because I'm having a good night,
I'll let that slide. But if you
call me out of my name again, I
won't be responsible for---

MY'SEAN

I don't understand why she's still
with you. I don't understand what
she saw in you in the first place.

Kris goes to take another sip, and then he puts the glass down, now realizing who My'Sean is.

KRIS

Oh, it's you.
(MORE)

KRIS (CONT'D)

(Laughs)

You still have an obsession with my property, I see.

MY'SEAN

That's sad you label her that.

KRIS

Because that's what she is, and how she likes to be treated. That's why you never had a shot with her. You're too soft. Then again.

(Laughs)

I mean look at you. That says it all.

MY'SEAN

If I was the type of man to---

Krystal comes over to him and wraps her arm around his waist.

KRYSTAL

Hey baby, who is this?

KRIS

Somebody he better leave alone before things get ugly.

MY'SEAN

In your case it's too late for that.

Kris prepares to stand up and Krystal pulls My'Sean back.

KRYSTAL

That's not why we're here. Come on, let's go back to our table and drink.

KRIS

You better listen to her. She's not as fine as my woman, but you're better off settling with that because you're not getting mine.

Krystal is offended, but she ignores it, trying to get My'Sean back to the table with her.

Carol comes back and walks by My'Sean and Krystal, looking at them confused before focusing on Kris.

CAROL

What was that all about?

KRIS

Nothing. Somebody needs to keep their feelings in high school, and realize he can never have what I have because he's not that guy.

Fed up, My'Sean snatches away from Krystal and storms back to Kris, greeting him with a punch to the mouth, followed by grabbing him by the back of the head, slamming his head on the counter.

Everyone stops what they're doing, focusing on the two brawling.

Bouncers are trying to get through the crowd to break the two apart.

CUT TO:

INT. KRIS APARTMENT - LATER

Shaleta and Ebony come into the apartment.

Ebony looks around at how filthy the place is.

EBONY

And I thought living on the streets was bad.

SHALETA

(Laughs)

Yeah, I need to clean up.

EBONY

Why do you need to clean up? This is his place.

SHALETA

Yeah, but I do live here, too.

EBONY

And why is that?

SHALETA

What do you mean?

Ebony walks over to the couch and moves the clothes onto the floor before taking a seat.

EBONY

Exactly what I said. Why do you live here with this slob?

Shaleta lowers her head, sighing.

SHALETA

...I wonder the same thing sometimes. I guess it's because I love being on my own.

EBONY

You can be on your own without this luggage you call a man.

SHALETA

I understand where you're coming from, but you don't understand.

EBONY

Help me to understand.

SHALETA

(Sighs)

It's just... Let me go get some clothes for you, and then I'll come back and talk about it.

EBONY

The clothes can wait. Shaleta, don't you think it's best to get a peace of mind first?

SHALETA

...Yeah.

EBONY

Okay then.

SHALETA

Ebony, just let me get the clothes first. I promise we'll talk.

EBONY

Okay.

Shaleta walks off.

Ebony looks around the room disgusted, trying to wrap her mind around why Shaleta is dealing with Kris.

Loud drunken footsteps are heard approaching the door.

The door flies open, and Kris walks in furious.

His face is bloody, and his clothes are torn.

KRIS
Where are you?!

He's so furious, he doesn't notice Ebony sitting on the couch as he makes his way to the bedroom.

Ebony remains unbothered until she hears Shaleta shriek.

KRIS (CONT'D) (O.S.)
Look at me! This is all your fault,
you know that?!

SHALETA (O.S.)
What are you talking about?

KRIS (O.S.)
Your high school crush who still
has a crush on you! That's what I'm
talking about! You're always
accusing me of cheating, so what
are you doing that has my face
looking like this?!

SHALETA
I haven't talked to---

KRIS (O.S.)
Shut up! You know what I'm about to
do?!

A brief scuffle is heard before Shaleta comes running from the back with Kris right behind her.

Ebony gets up from the couch and rushes over to Shaleta, standing in front of her.

Kris has a look of confusion on his face.

KRIS (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing in my
house?

EBONY
Thank God I'm here. It looks like
you're ready to do what every
coward who calls themselves a man
was about to do.

KRIS
Why do you have this street trash
in my house?!

EBONY

Don't you worry about her right now because I'm the one that's in your face. She's scared of you for whatever reason, but I'm not. And I'm not about to let you lay a finger on her.

KRIS

Listen, you bum. You're sticking your nose in something that can land you a position far worse than what you're already in. Now, we can---

EBONY

We're not doing anything. And there's nothing you can do to me that I haven't been through already that can land me in a position worse than what I am. What's about to happen is me and Shaleta are leaving you in this dump like the bum you are because you truly define every aspect of a bum.

KRIS

(Laughs)

Okay, I get it. She probably gave you a couple of dollars, something to eat and some of her old clothes. That's why you're standing up for her, but you truly don't care because bums will do anything to get a handout. So look.

He pulls out his wallet, opens it and pulls some money out.

KRIS (CONT'D)

Here's a few dollars so you can get you some food, a room for that night and actually take a bath. Doesn't that sound better than sleeping on a sleeping bag in the alley, and smelling the way you do?

He extends her the money.

Ebony looks at it with a slight smile.

EBONY

You know something? A hot bath, food and a bed would really come in handy right now.

(MORE)

EBONY (CONT'D)

And If I take this, you want me to leave so you two can discuss your personal issues, right?

KRIS

That's right, street trash. Either that, or suffer what I'm going to do to her.

EBONY

You know...

She smiles before she hauls off and slaps him.

Shaleta looks at her shocked.

EBONY (CONT'D)

I think I wanna see what you think you're about to do to her.

Before he can retaliate, she kicks him hard and deep between the legs, holding her leg there for a second as he bends forward moaning in pain.

She lowers her leg and he drops to the floor, balling up in the fetal position, moaning in pain.

EBONY (CONT'D)

I don't know what she's used to allowing you to do to her, but that's not happening on my watch. And your few measly dollars means nothing to a woman with pride, and knows she's worth more than money.

She looks back at Shaleta.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Let's go.

Ebony makes her way to the door.

Shaleta is still shocked, looking at Kris moaning in pain.

Ebony looks back at Shaleta.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Are you about to continue being his personal property, or do you realize you're a woman who deserves better? The choice is yours.

Ebony walks out.

Shaleta is stunned by the event that happens.

Coming from her daze, she makes her way towards the door.

KRIS

If you walk outta that door, you'll
be no better than her. Trash.
Worthless. Without me, what would
you be?

Shaleta pauses at the door, and then turns around to look at him.

SHALETA

In a better position that I knew I
could've been in without you.

KRIS

You're stupid, you know that?!
You're stupid, and you'll end up
just like your street trash friend!

Shaleta looks at him, shaking her head.

SHALETA

If it comes to that point, I'll be
content with the outcome until I
get back on my feet. You made me
believe without you there's no me,
and I was stupid to believe it. My
eyes are open, and as I look at the
woman I was, the woman I am now
knows better.

Shaleta walks out.

KRIS

Stupid! You're nothing without me,
and you know it!

CUT TO:

INT, MOTEL ROOM - LATER

The room isn't too shabby with two beds.

Shaleta comes in and Ebony is right behind her.

Shaleta takes a seat on the bed and covers her face,
sniffing low.

After locking the door, Ebony takes a seat on the other bed
across from her.

EBONY

Why are you crying?

Slowly lowering her hands, Shaleta looks at her and sighs, shaking her head.

SHALETA

Because I'm stupid.

EBONY

That's a harsh word.

SHALETA

And it fits perfectly with who I am.

EBONY

I wouldn't say that.

SHALETA

Well, thank you for sparing my feelings. Although, I know that's what you're thinking.

EBONY

If that's what I'm thinking, why wouldn't I tell you? What do I have to lose?

SHALETA

(Soft laugh)

You make a point. Thank you for helping me back there.

EBONY

Oh, I can't accept that.

SHALETA

Huh? Why not?

EBONY

Because I'm only helping you see how situations should play out. The true help is you helping yourself with what I'm showing and telling you.

SHALETA

If only it could be that simple.

EBONY

Why can't it be?

SHALETA

(Sighs)

You see what he puts me through.

EBONY

No, I see what you allow him to put you through.

Shaleta closes her eyes, shaking her head in shame.

EBONY (CONT'D)

Right. So... Why do you allow him to do it? And please don't say it's because of love.

SHALETA

How can I exclude the reason why?

EBONY

If that's the reason why you allow him to do it, fine. You remind me of my best friend.

SHALETA

How?

EBONY

She was going through the same thing as you.

SHALETA

How did she solve the problem?

EBONY

He solved it for her when he killed her.

Shaleta covers her mouth, shocked.

SHALETA

Oh my God. I'm so sorry.

EBONY

Don't feel sorry. I have enough of that to share between us.

SHALETA

Why do you say that?

EBONY

If I had stood up for her like I'm doing for you, she would probably still be alive.

SHALETA
What stopped you?

EBONY
I just gave up on her because she
has the same attitude as you.

Shaleta lowers her head.

SHALETA
...Oh.

EBONY
Her death hurt me so bad, I lost
track of who I was. I ended up
going down the same path she was
on.

SHALETA
What happened in your situation?

EBONY
I decided I'd rather get things
done on my own and keep my pride,
instead of having a person treating
me like trash, possibly killing me,
and easily replacing me as if I
didn't exist.

SHALETA
...Good point.

EBONY
On a happy note. Who beat your
boyfriend up and had him ready to
fight you?

SHALETA
(Laughs)
You said boyfriend. That's cute.

EBONY
(Laughs)
Well, it's true.

SHALETA
(Laughs)
Anyway, the guy he got into a fight
with is My'Sean. He's my good
friend from high school.

EBONY
Why do you think they were
fighting?

SHALETA

They didn't like each other in high school. As you heard, his mouth is reckless when he's been drinking. At that point, he doesn't care about anything or anyone.

EBONY

So, you think he said something disrespectful to your friend?

SHALETA

I wouldn't doubt it.

EBONY

Hm. You don't think they were fighting because he did or said something your friend found disrespectful towards you?

SHALETA

What makes you think that?

EBONY

Why aren't you with...

She points her finger at her.

SHALETA

My'Sean.

EBONY

Why aren't you with My'Sean?

SHALETA

Because I've been with Kris since high school.

EBONY

And what made him better than My'Sean?

SHALETA

I... Well, Kris... He---

EBONY

Take your time.

SHALETA

(Sighs)

Honestly... I should've been with My'Sean. Anything I needed financially or just a shoulder to cry on, he was there.

(MORE)

SHALETA (CONT'D)

(Soft laugh)

He would always call me his "North star." He still does to this day.

EBONY

His "North star." And you turned that down for a true piece of trash?

SHALETA

Don't be so harsh about it.

EBONY

The same thing I said when you called yourself stupid.

SHALETA

You're on a roll tonight.

EBONY

No. We're on a roll. By the time it's said and done, you'll remember your worth as a woman.

SHALETA

I don't think it's going to happen overnight.

EBONY

Anything is possible. Especially if you believe in God and have faith.

SHALETA

(Sighs)

It would be nice if he showed me a sign that he still cares about me.

Ebony taps her on the knee with a warming smile.

EBONY

He is. You just have to open your heart and eyes to the sign.

SHALETA

I would like to believe that's true.

EBONY

It is. Just like I believe you should give My'Sean a chance.

SHALETA

I don't know.

EBONY

Right. Listen. Do you mind if I take a bath? It's been a long time since I had a hot bath.

SHALETA

We're becoming friends. Why would I care about that?

EBONY

You still have to ask, it's common courtesy. But before I do that. Here's something to think about on why you should give My'Sean a chance.

SHALETA

Okay.

EBONY

Why does Kris love you? And why do you love him?

SHALETA

I'm sorry... Come again.

EBONY

Aside from the typical reasons people tell each other why they love them. Why does he love you, and why do you love him?

SHALETA

I... I never looked at it that way.

EBONY

Now, you can. Thank you for allowing me to take a bath.

SHALETA

No problem. Oh, wait.

EBONY

What's up?

SHALETA

Since my car will be up and running tomorrow. How about after I make a few runs, we go do something fun?

Ebony looks at her and smiles.

EBONY

I would love to.

SHALETA
I would, too.

Ebony stands up and makes her way to the bathroom.

Shaleta remains sitting on the bed smiling.

INT. THE RESTAURANT - MORNING

Indistinct talking can be heard coming from the patrons inside of the restaurant as waiters and waitresses move across the room.

Shaleta comes into the restaurant smiling, making her way towards the hostess.

The hostess looks up at her with a smile.

HOSTESS
How are you doing today?

SHALETA
I'm doing fine, and yourself?

HOSTESS
I'm having a great day. Do you have a reservation or would you like a table?

SHALETA
(Shy laugh)
Actually, I was wondering if My'Sean is working today?

HOSTESS
I'm sure he is, but let me go check to make sure.

SHALETA
Thank you.

HOSTESS
Not a problem.

The hostess walks off.

Shaleta steps to the side, standing with a smile.

The hostess comes back.

HOSTESS (CONT'D)
He's on the way.

SHALETA

Thank you.

My'Sean comes from the back making his way to the front.

He speaks with the other workers he walks by.

When he gets to the front, the smile he had on his face vanishes when he sees Shaleta.

He walks over to her and stares at her with no expression.

MY'SEAN

What's up?

SHALETA

Wow. That's a real dry welcome.

MY'SEAN

What kind of welcome were you expecting?

SHALETA

The usual, bubbly, hey, North star.

MY'SEAN

Let's not play with each other. I know you know what happened.

She lowers her head for a second, and then looks back at him.

SHALETA

Can we step outside and talk?

MY'SEAN

For what?

SHALETA

My'Sean, please. Can you do this one thing for me?

He sighs, shaking his head as he walks towards the door, walking out.

She releases a soft sigh following behind him.

As the two stand on the sidewalk people are walking by as cars move down the street.

MY'SEAN

Now what?

SHALETA

Okay. Yes, I know what happened between you two.

MY'SEAN

...Okay.

SHALETA

I don't know why he would pick a fight with you, but I want to say that---

MY'SEAN

Is that what he told you? He picked a fight with me.

SHALETA

I know how he gets when he drinks, and I'm sure seeing you set off something he thought about during our high school---

MY'SEAN

(Low laugh)

You really haven't changed since high school.

SHALETA

What do you mean?

MY'SEAN

Nothing, Shaleta. What is it that you wanna tell me?

SHALETA

Why are you being so hard towards me?

MY'SEAN

The real question is why are you still being hard towards yourself? Look at you. You're beautiful. Educated. But you're lacking one thing.

SHALETA

And that is?

MY'SEAN

Common sense to use your brain instead of your heart. That's why we got into that fight. Because I know you know better, but you choose...

(MORE)

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)
 (Sighs)
 Forget it. Listen, I gotta---

SHALETA
 No. For once, say what you have to
 say to me.

MY'SEAN
 Your heart makes you stupid. Your
 heart is the reason why you're
 still with someone you know cheats
 on you and shows you no respect.
 Your heart is the reason why you'll
 forever be blinded from the true
 love I've been trying to give you
 from day one.
 (Sighs)
 Here I am calling you my North
 star, and I know you never gave it
 a second thought to wanna know why,
 and that's cool.

Sadness outlines her face.

He stares at her, shaking his head.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)
 (Dry laugh)
 Just like I thought. Go back to
 your life, Shaleta. I won't say I
 regret running across you again
 because I'll always love who I know
 you can be. But whoever this is...
 Please keep her away from me.

He turns his back and walks toward the door.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)
 Next time you come down here, just
 order something because there's no
 other reason for you to come in
 here.

He walks back in the restaurant.

Shaleta stands with tears coming from her eyes, slowly
 turning around to walk away.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ebony is sitting on the bed watching something on television.

Whatever the program is, it causes her to release a deep laugh.

Shaleta comes into the room carrying an overnight bag.

You can still see the sadness in her eyes as she takes a seat on the other bed.

Ebony turns her attention to her.

She can feel the heartache in Shaleta.

EBONY

What's wrong?

Shaleta sighs, shaking her head.

SHALETA

Nothing. I brought you some clothes you can change into.

EBONY

I appreciate that, but what I would really appreciate is you telling me the truth about what's wrong with you.

SHALETA

...It doesn't matter anymore.

Ebony turns the television off.

EBONY

Don't tell me you're letting---

SHALETA

No, it's not Kris. It's My'sean.

EBONY

The man you should be with. What about him?

SHALETA

I don't think that will be in my future.

EBONY

Conversation went that bad?

SHALETA
Let's just say he regrets meeting
me.

EBONY
Oh, baby girl.

Ebony gets up and sits next to her.

As soon as Ebony wraps her arms around her, Shaleta breaks
down crying.

SHALETA
(Sobbing)
How could I be so blind and stupid.

EBONY
You're not stupid.

SHALETA
What do you call it?

EBONY
Trial and error.

SHALETA
Well, trial and error caused me to
lose the one man I should've given
a chance because he actually loves
me.

EBONY
Girl, you didn't lose him.

SHALETA
Believe me. After what he told me,
I---

EBONY
You think you lost him, but you
haven't.

SHALETA
I love your positive outlook, but I
know it's a wrap. Once My'sean sets
his mind on something, nothing can
change it.

EBONY
And I'm telling you, true love
never dies. All you have to do is
open up your heart and allow it in.

Shaleta looks at her, wiping the tears from her eyes.

SHALETA
Sadly, life isn't a fairytale,
Ebony.

EBONY
It can be if that's what you choose
it to be, and set out to make it
come true.

SHALETA
...I don't know.

EBONY
(Soft laugh)
You can't see it now because you're
hurting. But I promise you,
everything will be perfect in the
end.

SHALETA
Do you think so?

EBONY
I know so.

She smiles, patting her on the shoulder before she stands
up.

Ebony picks up the overnight bag.

EBONY (CONT'D)
How about after I shower and
change, we can go Downtown to cheer
you up as we talk, and then we can
talk to My'sean together.

SHALETA
Together?

EBONY
Trust me. You want your fairytale
ending, right?

SHALETA
(Shy laugh)
Yeah.

EBONY
Okay then. Just let me shower and
change.
(Laughs)
I hope these clothes fit. You know
I'm a whole lotta woman.

Ebony laughs as she walks off to the bathroom.

Shaleta sits on the bed wiping her eyes, slowly forming a smile.

CUT TO:

INT. KRIS APARTMENT - LATER

Kris is sitting at the table drinking cognac straight from the bottle.

He's wearing a dirty T-shirt and jeans.

Taking a sip from the bottle, he swallows hard, followed by licking his dry lips.

Looking into his bloodshot eyes, you would think he's angry, but he's actually filled with sorrow because he knows he ruined it with Shaleta.

KRIS

Who does she think she is? I mean, truthfully. Who does she think she is to call it quits with me? ME!

(Takes a sip)

Not only did she leave me, she sided with that street trash. ...Street trash.

(Takes a sip)

That street trash is the reason why she believes this relationship is over with no repercussions. I got a mind to...

He pauses to think, and a sinister smile comes on his face.

Pulling his phone out, he turns it on and scrolls for a hot second.

Picking up the bottle, he releases a low laugh, while taking a sip.

KRIS (CONT'D)

I'll show 'em better than I can tell 'em why I'm the man, and I'm the only one who can say this relationship is over.

He takes one more sip before getting up from the table, leaving the room.

EXT. DOWNTOWN DETROIT - LATER

It's a beautiful sunny day.

Downtown is filled with people enjoying the weather, coming in and out of restaurants and the casino.

Ebony and Shaleta come out of the bakery eating cookies.

Both of them are radiating joy.

SHALETA

I'm glad this friendship blossomed into what it is.

EBONY

Me, too. Who would've thought a lonely homeless lady like me would be having fun experiencing new things with a beautiful young woman like you?

SHALETA

You're not just some homeless woman. You're my lifesaver. My light at the end of the tunnel. But above all, you're my best friend.

EBONY

That's nice of you to say.

SHALETA

And I meant every word.

EBONY

I know. When do you think you'll start on the diary?

SHALETA

As soon as I get set up in my apartment, that will be the first thing I do.

EBONY

That's good. Hopefully, you'll give me an invite.

SHALETA

Invite?

(Playful laugh)

Girl, we're gonna be roommates until we get you on your feet.

EBONY

(Laughs)

We'll see how things turn out. So,
are you ready to go talk to
My'sean.

SHALETA

(Soft sigh)

Do you really think he'll listen to
us?

EBONY

I don't see why he wouldn't.

SHALETA

You know how men are when it comes
to their egos. I don't think---

EBONY

You're My'sean's "North star."

Shaleta stops walking, which makes Ebony stop walking.

SHALETA

...Yeah... That's what he calls me.

EBONY

Do you know what it means?

SHALETA

(Light laugh)

I have no idea why he---

EBONY

No, not his meaning.

SHALETA

Okay. What are you talking about?

EBONY

It's a good thing we became
friends.

SHALETA

(Laughs)

I'm listening.

EBONY

When a man views you as a complete woman, and only wants you to be the woman he's in love with... There's no such thing as an ego because he'll go to the depths of hell and back as long as that woman he loves is comfortable. He knows the love coming from her heart is genuine, and he'll listen to whatever she's going through, right or wrong.

SHALETA

So, you're saying---

EBONY

A genuine man enters your life once. Love him and keep him.

Shaleta looks at her with love in her eyes before hugging her.

Ebony embraces her with the same love.

SHALETA

Thank you so much. I don't where would be if---

Kris comes from around the corner, startling them.

At this point, he's beyond the limit of being drunk.

The two slowly start stepping backwards.

KRIS

You'll be dead if you don't come home like you're supposed to.

SHALETA

What are you doing here?

KRIS

Did you forget? We share our locations through our phones.

Shaleta lightly palm slaps herself.

KRIS (CONT'D)

That's right. Warm it up for me, baby. When we get home, it'll be far worse than that.

Ebony steps up in Kris face.

EBONY

She's no longer your property, and
that will never be her home.

Kris looks at her with disgust before focusing on Shaleta.

KRIS

This is what started your problem
in the first place. Talking to this
street trash has you thinking---

EBONY

This "street trash" made her
realize she's the one who was
homeless digging in the trash,
hoping she'll find a treasure
that's worth something.

KRIS

You say one more word, and I'll---

EBONY

You'll what?

(Laughs)

What happened the last time when
you tried to do what I know you're
thinking?

Kris prepares to step up in her face and Shaleta steps
between them.

SHALETA

This is not about to happen.

KRIS

You're right. Because you're---

SHALETA

You're about to shut up for once,
and finally face the reflection you
constantly ignore.

KRIS

What?

SHALETA

You had a good thing and you ruined
it because the only thing you view
that deserves your respect is you.
With that, I wish you and yourself
the best. But this mirage shared
between me and you...

She leans in and gives him a light kiss on the cheek.

SHALETA (CONT'D)

It's time we both face reality and
move on.

She turns her back and walks away.

Ebony gives him a sly smirk before following behind Shaleta.

Kris is lost for words, pacing back and forth with hate
building in him.

My'sean comes out of the restaurant and spots Shaleta.

KRIS

Get back here! I'm the one who made
you realize your worth as a woman!
I made you realize you're
beautiful! Get back here before I
do something I'll regret!

The two stop but don't turn around.

SHALETA

You won't regret it like you don't
regret everything else you did
behind my back. You do what you
need to do.

My'sean sees Kris walking towards the two, reaching under
his shirt for a gun.

MY'SEAN

North star!

Shaleta looks across the street and sees My'sean running
towards them.

She's confused until she turns around and sees Kris raising
the gun.

The people outside scream, dropping to the ground right
before Kris opens fire.

SMASH CUT:

INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY - LATER

Shaleta is standing against the wall in the partially
crowded lobby.

Sorrow outlines her face with a few blood splatters on her
clothes.

The television, people talking and people over the intercom can be heard indistinctly.

A doctor comes down the hall making his way to Shaleta.

The two exchange some words that can't be heard, and after a few seconds Shaleta breaks down crying.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Wearing the same clothes, Shaleta is propped up against the headboard with tears streaming down her face, reading the diary Ebony gave her.

As she flips the pages, she comes to a stop.

Wiping the tears from her eyes, a slight smile forms on her face.

An aura of love and understanding radiates from her as she stands up and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

EXT. STARLIT SKYLINE - LATER

Shaleta is sitting under a tree with the diary on her lap.

A bookmark is placed inside of the diary.

On the blanket beside her is a wine glass that's half full, a wine bottle and a picnic basket.

Picking up the glass, she takes a sip with a smile.

When she places the glass down, My'sean takes a seat beside her.

She leans over to the side placing her head on his chest.

He embraces her.

MY'SEAN
North star.

SHALETA
Always and forever.

He kisses her forehead.

MY'SEAN

It's a shame what had to happen for it to get to this point.

SHALETA

I wouldn't say that.

MY'SEAN

I'm listening.

SHALETA

God brought three things into my life. Two were tests that I had to pass in order to receive the blessing, which is the third thing.

MY'SEAN

What were the tests?

SHALETA

Kris and befriending Ebony. Mainly Ebony because she was the key for me to receive the blessing.

MY'SEAN

How so?

SHALETA

When God sees you realize the wrongs in your life he removes them. Kris is no longer here because he tried to take my life, and ended up losing his life by trying to have a shootout with the police. He was my first test that I'm thankful Ebony helped me with. Because without her, I would've stayed with him and he eventually would've killed me.

MY'SEAN

Yeah... But did she have to lose her life?

SHALETA

She's not dead. She returned home to our heavenly father after delivering the message he wanted me to receive. And I'm sure her best friend, who is a special person in both of our lives. I'm sure she was missing her.

MY'SEAN
You lost me there.

SHALETA
Ebony was sent by God and my sister
to help me with the situation with
Kris, and help me realize who I
should be with.

MY'SEAN
Your sister?

She hands My'sean the diary.

My'sean takes it and opens it where the bookmark is.

INSERT DIARY

There's a picture of Ebony and Alicia standing beside each
other smiling.

Alicia is almost a spitting image of Shaleta.

Beside the picture, the caption reads...

"BEST FRIENDS FOREVER."

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)
I never knew you had a sister.

SHALETA
I didn't talk about her because she
was murdered by her boyfriend when
I was young. That's part of the
reason why Ebony became homeless.
She felt bad that she couldn't do
anything to prevent what happened,
and she was going down the same
road. She decided she'd rather
struggle before suffering the same
fate as my sister over a lifestyle.

MY'SEAN
Now, that's a strange coincidence.

SHALETA
The Lord works in mysterious ways.
You have to pay attention to his
signs in order to receive your
blessings.

MY'SEAN
Agreed. And what would you consider
me?

She smiles, turning to look at him, puckering her lips for a kiss.

He smiles, giving her a kiss.

SHALETA

You're the man I'm glad never gave
up on me. Now, I know why you call
me your "North star."

MY'SEAN

Why?

SHALETA

Because you need me as much as I
need you. And now that we have each
other, there's no need for us to
use a compass to find love.

MY'SEAN

You're absolutely right.

They kiss again.

She snuggles closer, and he hugs her tighter.

They gaze at the stars, smiling.

MY'SEAN (CONT'D)

This is a beautiful night.

SHALETA

And our father and guardian angels
are looking down on us, protecting
our love with their love.

Move in closer to the stars.

Two of the stars are shining brighter than the other stars.

ALICIA (V.O.)

If you don't believe in "love
conquers all," there's your proof.
But you have to allow it into your
heart and trust what God has
planned for you.

SLOWLY FADE TO BLACK:

BLACK SCREEN:

"Allowing authentic love into your heart will open your eyes
to the things you need, not desire."

~Bernard Mersier~

END CREDITS: