Late 1960’s, a train pulls into the active New York train station. The horn sounds and the train announces itself as it comes to a stop. Once the passengers are allowed to exit, a pair of the nicest pair of shoes touch the dingy concrete. The suit matches the crispness of the shoes. A more mature QUICK takes time to adjust his cool and inhale.

QUICK
(coughing)
I guess the air wasn’t as fresh as I remembered.

Quick takes time to survey the lay of the land. Two sexy ladies pass by and their eyes flirt with Quick, giggling as they walk off.

Quick turns to ATLAS, his immensely muscular, mute, bald headed, and equally dressed protege.

QUICK
New York. See what’d I tell you.
(guides Atlas’ eyes to the skyline)
You ever seen anything so inviting?
Wait til you see Harlem. It’s enough to even make you talk nigga.

In the near distance, HOODEENY has a small crowd around him. His sharp voice and fast words is cutting through the New York life. He catches Quick’s attention.

QUICK
(to Atlas)
Get the bags.

Quick leisurely walks over to the crowd and slithers into a good spot where Hoodeeny and his eyes could meet. Hoodeeny is hustling three card molly. He has a nice looking lady in front of him with her money down.

HOODEENY
Keep your eyes on the lovely lady. She’s so beautiful it shouldn’t be hard to do.
(stops and addresses the lady)
Just act like you’re looking in the mirror.

(the lady blushes. Hoodeeny cuts his eyes at Quick, who doesn’t let his move off of Hoodeeny.)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
HOODEENY (cont’d)
Now, here we go. Here we go. It shouldn’t be nothing to it.
(Hoodeeny smoothly moves the cards around, exposing different ones at different moments. He then lets all three come to rest on his table)

Ok. Now where is she?

The lady flips over the middle card, exposing the queen. Hoodeeny makes a miniscule scene like he is upset he lost.

HOODEENY
See, look a there. Nothing to it. Y’all trying to wipe me out. Who else wanna take on Hoodeeny. Known uptown to downtown and all around. East side to the west side and far and wide. I tell you what, I’m upping the bet to twenty dollars now.

QUICK
How bout fifty?

HOODEENY
(stutters)
F-f-fifty.
(eyes Quick)
Alright man. See this gentleman must know something I don’t. He just gone take all my money. Anybody else wanna get in on this.

People begin betting all around as Quick steps to the center. Quick goes into his pockets and pulls out a wad of cash.

QUICK
(sits fifty dollars down)
Money on the wood makes the gamble good, ha?

HOODEENY
You exactly right sir.

Hoodeeny drops his money down and goes into his card shuffling routine. He is talking and moving the cards. he places them all down.

(CONTINUED)
HOODEENY
Pick the lovel lady outta of the line up Mr...

QUICK
Quick.

HOODEENY
(face makes a funny expression)
Quick? You might wanna change your name around these parts.

QUICK
(as he turns over his card exposing the queen)
No I think I’ll stick with it.

The crowd roars. Hoodeeny looks down. He looks back up disgruntled, but tries to play it off.

HOODEENY
Another lucky winner! Another lucky winner people.

QUICK
I’m really feeling lucky.

HOODEENY
Oh yeah? How lucky?

QUICK
Let’s say two hundred and fifty dollars lucky.

HOODEENY
He feeling good y’all. yeah I like him already.

Quick slides his money down and Hoodeeny starts to shuffle the cards again. Quick interferes.

QUICK
Money on the wood...

HOODEENY
(with more squeak in his voice)
Makes the gamble good. I know. I know.

Hoodeeny reluctantly puts his money down. This times his hands move faster than anything anyone ever saw. Quick is
impressed. Hoodeeny’s conversation seems to be more distracting also. Quick takes a quick glance at all of the activity around him and back at the cards. Hoodeeny lets the cards rest on the table but his mouth is still running.

HOODEENY
Find that lovely lady. She been winking at you all night. She gone make you a happy man. Any more bets?

Quick reaches down to turn over a card and Hoodeeny interferes with him.

HOODEENY
You sure now?

QUICK
Yeah I’m sure.

HOODEENY
You positive?

QUICK
I got one hundred more on how positive I am.

HOODEENY
(pulls back)
I’m just making sure now.

Quick has his hand on the card on the left.

QUICK
You know what you might be right.

Quick switches to the card on the right. With one fell swoop, Quick uses the one card to turn over all three cards, exposing that neither card on the table is a queen. When the crowd recognizes what is happening they explode into a melee. Quick smoothely scoops up the money and slides out as smoothly as he slid in.

Quick eases by the TRAIN CONDUCTOR.

QUICK
You know that gigantic ass nigga I was with.

TRAIN CONDUCTOR
Yeah.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
Tell him I went to the men’s room.
(slides a ten dollar bill in the train conductor’s pocket)

TRAIN CONDUCTOR
Will do sir!

INT. MEN’S ROOM - NIGHT
Quick is in the men’s room washing his hands and in the mirror. Out of his side view he sees Hoodeeny walk in.

QUICK
(sarcastically)
I see why they call you Hoodeeny. You got up outta that shit?

HOODEENY
Yeah. But now I’m bout to get all up in your shit, if you don’t give me all your money.
(pulls out a switchblade)

QUICK
Now see you really don’t wanna do that.

HOODEENY
Wrong! You don’t know how bad I wanna do this.

QUICK
See that’s what’s wrong with black people. We can’t get along. Always wanna kill one another. I just got one question to ask.

HOODEENY
You better make it quick like your name because you ain’t got a lotta time.

QUICK
Now you was trying to hustle me, right?

HOODEENY
And? Man time’s up.
(starts to advance)

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
Hold up I just wanna know if you can breathe?

HOODEENY
(caught off guard)
Can I breathe?

With one arm, Atlas jerks Hoodeeny up from the ground in a choke hold. Hoodeeny’s feet are dangling as he struggles. Quick adjusts his jacket, exposing he has a gun in his waist. He walks up to Hoodeeny still in the air.

QUICK
See son first rule of hustling is you gotta recognize when you around another hustler. And you got to recognize when you the vic. Let him down Atlas.

Atlas drops the disoriented Hoodeny, who falls all the way to his knees while groping his neck.

QUICK
You also gotta understand when somebody admires you.

Quick drops a money clip full of money on the ground next to Hoodeeny, still on one knee.

QUICK
Come down to The Rest Haven. You already know who to ask for. That is if you wanna make some real money. Oh yeah you might wanna wake your two potnas up on the outside of the door.

Hoodeeny looks at Quick with a side eye.

QUICK
Oh you think I didn’t know they was working with you? They probably gone need aspirin too.
(begins to walk out)
They gone have the worst headache ever. That big black nigga hit hard in a bitch.
(laughs)

HOODEENY
(voice raspy)
So you really him?

(CONTINUED)
Atlas takes a good look at Quick.

QUICK
You willing to bet something on it?

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Quick and Atlas is standing at the front desk in the lobby of The Rest Haven. It is a young beautiful FEMALE ATTENDANT at the desk with an OLDER GENT off to the side.

QUICK
How you doing tonight beautiful. I was wandering if I could book your most glorious suite.

FEMALE ATTENDANT
The suite royale?

QUICK
(turns to Atlas)
The suite royale! I like the sound of that. Yes give us the suite royale. I feel like an African prince already.

FEMALE ATTENDANT
May I get your name sir?

QUICK
Quick.

FEMALE ATTENDANT
(with a confused tone)
Quick...?

QUICK
Yes. Quick.

FEMALE ATTENDANT
Quick what?

QUICK
Quick nothing. Just Quick.

OLDER GENT
(with a haggard laugh)
I haven’t heard that name around these parts in more than twenty years.

(adjusts his dusty bifocals towards Quick)
You know if I didn’t know no better. Nah! They all got gunned

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
OLDER GENT (cont’d)
down trying to leave up out the city.

FEMALE ATTENDANT
Well, here are your keys. And your room is on the top floor. Enjoy your stay at The Rest Haven.

QUICK
You are appreciated.

INT. HOTEL ROOM – NIGHT

Quick and Atlas are accompanied by a BELLHOP with their bags. Atlas is checking all of the nooks and crannies of the room. The bellhop takes their bags to the back room and comes back.

BELLEHOP
Is there anything else I can do for you? Perhaps take your order for something to eat?

QUICK
(tips him)
No. We’re just fine.

BELLEHOP
Ok. If you need anything you can just call to the front desk and ask for Darryl and I will be sure to accommodate you.

The bellhop begins to exit.

QUICK
Umm, Darryl. You know what there is something you can do for me.

BELLEHOP
(stops and steps back in)
Sir?

QUICK
I would like a lady.

BELLEHOP
A lady sir?
(Atlas reappears)
Just one?

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
Yeah one would be just fine.

BELLHOP
(mumbles)
I feel sorry for her.

Quick enjoys a brief chuckle when he looks at Atlas then back at the bellhop.

QUICK
I don’t need just any lady though.

BELLHOP
(mumbles again)
Tell me about it.

QUICK
I need her to be the most respected lady.

BELLHOP
Let me get this right. You want me to find you a lady?

QUICK
Yes.

BELLHOP
A lady lady?

QUICK
Right.

BELLHOP
(unsure)
One that’s respected?

QUICK
(pulls out some more money)
Is it going to be a problem?

BELLHOP
(Takes the money)
No sir! I’ll bring you a nun butt naked with nothing but that funny hat thing around her head if you need me to.

The bellhop flies out of the room.
Quick and Atlas is standing out on the balcony of their suite having a drink.

Quick

I’m bout to hop in the shower. If the broad gets here before I get out, tell her...I mean, make her feel comfortable.

5 EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Quick and Atlas is standing out on the balcony of their suite having a drink.

Quick

(looking out onto the city)
You know Atlas, I don’t think I ever told you why I came back. I had to watch all of the people I love leave me. And truthfully I felt disgraceful about it. Being on the run and all. I told myself that I wasn’t going to close my eyes for good and never see Harlem again.

(eyes begin to mist and words become harder)
My dignity and the dignity of them same people that raised me and loved me...

(Quick is happily interrupted by a beating at his front door)

Awww, yeah man, see who that is at the door.

Atlas walks off and Quick turns back to look at his heart.

6 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

As Atlas opens the door, he hears Rose with a bullish female tone. He is somewhat alarmed by the thick full figured chocolate woman.

Rose

Nigga you ain’t hear me out here knocking at this door. I been out here damn near...

(Rose cuts her conversation short when she sees Atlas answer the door in a muscle shirt and suspenders holding up his slacks)

Mmmm. If I woulda new it was a beef cake I woulda brought some icing.

(comes in and pushes all the way up on Atlas)

(MORE)
ROSE (cont’d)
You gone end up and make me pay you.

QUICK
Perfect!

ROSE
(looks up and goes back to her rambunctious self)
Un unh. I don’t know what y’all think this is but you got me fucked up.
(reaches for the inside of her bra)

QUICK
Hold up, hold up sister! It’s nothing like that.

ROSE
(brandishes a Darringer)
Well somebody better tell me what it’s like before I start World War III in this bitch.
(puts her gun in Atlas’ face)
So what it is?

QUICK
If you just let...

ROSE
Shut up! I want him to tell me.

Atlas looks foolish with both of his hands in the air, unable to speak.

ROSE
(cocks her gun)
Nigga you better start talking.

QUICK
(rushes)
He can’t.

ROSE
And why not?

QUICK
He a mute.

(CONTINUED)
ROSE
A mute? You mean his swoll ass
can’t talk?

Atlas still with his hands high shakes his head no,
incessantly.

ROSE
(pushes back up on him
seductively)
So that means won’t nobody hear you
scream when I put this pussy on
your corn fed ass.
(points her gun at Quick)
Well you better tell me something
quick.

QUICK
Damn. I know you?

ROSE
Huh?

QUICK
Nothing. Could you put the gun away
darling? You’re making us nervous.
(reaches for his pocket)

Rose stiffens with her pistol.

QUICK
Easy.
(he pulls out cash)

ROSE
That’s supposed to impress me?

QUICK
We...well I just wanna talk to you.

ROSE
(suspiciously)
You just wanna talk?

QUICK
That’s it.

ROSE
Nothing else?

QUICK
Nothing else.

(CONTINUED)
ROSE
Well what if I want some of that?
(places her gun right on Atlas’s penis)

QUICK
That’s between y’all.

ROSE
Skin gonna be the only thing between us.
(licks her tongue nastily at Atlas)

Rose goes to sit down and sits her gun on the table in front of her. Quick sits across from her.

QUICK
Atlas...

ROSE
Atlas? You think you could hold these thighs on your shoulders?

QUICK
Get the lady a drink.

ROSE
Un uhn, I’m alright. I don’t know you like that. And I still don’t know what you trying to do.

QUICK
I’m just looking for someone like yourself, who possesses a certain skill set.

ROSE
And what skill set would that be?

QUICK
That can take care of business.

ROSE
Who’s business would that be?

QUICK
Our business.

ROSE
(looks at Quick with a questionable frown)
What business you think we need to have together?

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
After how you came in here and handled us I’m sure you wanna be in the business with a nigga named Quick.

ROSE
Quick? That’s your name.

QUICK
Mmmm hmmm.

ROSE
I ain’t so sure about that. That name said to have a voodoo curse on it.

QUICK
Voodoo curse?

ROSE
Yeah some witch doctor from the Louisiana swamps supposed to have a hex on anybody with that name.

QUICK
Oh yeah? What kind of hex?

ROSE
They dick shrivel all the way up in their stomach, all the way up to their throat, to where they choke to death on it.

QUICK
Damn! I guarantee my shit ain’t shriveled up.

ROSE
(scans Quick up and down)
I don’t know.

QUICK
(partly offended)
Well I know muufucka. Anyway. I’m from right here. I been gone for a while. Before I left I owned a candy store and I’m trying to open it back up.

ROSE
You know how long it’s been since it’s been a candy store around

(MORE)
ROSE (cont’d)
here. I remember it used to be one
back in the day I used to love to
go to.

QUICK
Like thirty years ago?

ROSE
Yeah! It had the nicest man in
there. What was his name?

Rose and Quick answers in a reminiscent tone at the same
time.

ROSE
Mr. Ray.

QUICK
Sugar.

ROSE
(shakes off the memories)
Nigga do it look like I’m trying to
sell some candy.

QUICK
Well if I can be totally honest. It
might be candy in the front but the
real sweet stuff will be in the
back.

ROSE
(looks at Atlas)
That’s what I’ve been told. My real
sweet stuff is in the back.
(turns her attention back to
Quick)
I know one thing, if you are
serious I’ll know. Because if you
really from Harlem, you know
you go to setting up the word
definitely gonna get around. And
I’ll come find you. I don’t know
how Kotton take to that idea but if
it’s some money to be made, and you
fair, I’m with you. Now about that
drink.

QUICK
Atlas.
(directs him to get Rose a
drink)
(MORE)
QUICK (cont’d)
So who is this Kotton you mentioned?

INT. CAB – NIGHT – MOVING

Quick and Atlas are in the back of the cab. Quick is lamenting at the fact his precious Harlem has changed so much, for the worst.

QUICK
Damn, I don’t know what happened.
This is a whole other type of renaissance here.

The elderly CAB DRIVER comes to a stop and turns around.

CAB DRIVER
Yeah it ain’t the same city I grew up on. Ain’t no rules out here now.

Quick looks out his window at the surroundings, dilapidated buildings, dope fiends, prostitutes, and decay.

QUICK
Yeah I don’t know what happened.

CAB DRIVER
Oh I can tell you that. Drugs and gangs. Welp, we here. That’ll be five dollars.

Quick passes the cab driver his fee.

CAB DRIVER
A couple well dressed fellas like yourself, you sure you don’t want me to wait for you. This ain’t the most ideal place to be stuck at night.

QUICK
Nah we fine.

CAB DRIVER
Ok. It’s your funeral.
Quick and Atlas stands in front of Ray’s old candy store. The window is broken, it’s dark and evacuated, and there seems no hope for it at all. Quick walks up to the door and twists the handle. It takes a little of his force to open it. They walk in.

The place is breathtakingly atrocious. Rats scurry across the floor and makes Atlas jump.

QUICK
Big scary ass.

Atlas moves his mouth.

QUICK
I know you don’t like rats.
(looks around examining the whole spot)
Damn shame. Come on before you shit on yourself. Last thing I wanna do is walk through Harlem with a giant shitty smelling nigga.

As Quick and Atlas exits they encounter a small gang of dudes. The men all have on matching jackets. Corner Pocket, the leader is short but more threatening than the other members.

CORNER POCKET
Oh what we got here.

QUICK
How you gentlemen doing tonight?

CORNER POCKET
Looks like we about to be doing a whole lot better.

QUICK
Well excuse us and let us let you get to it.

Quick and Atlas attempt to leave but the gang confronts and surround them.
QUICK
You all seem to be blocking our path.

CORNER POCKET
Oh you desire to get by? That’s not a problem. All it’s gone cost is everything you got.

QUICK
Everything? It’s cheaper to cross the Washington bridge.

CORNER POCKET
See you gotta understand something. The Demon Lords gotta special tax around.

QUICK
(turns to Atlas)
A Demon Lords special tax.

CORNER POCKET
Yeah, we’ll just call it Corner Pocket’s tourist tax.

QUICK
Corner Pocket’s tourist tax? Ain’t that quaint? i take it you’re Corner Pocket? Thang is though, I’m not a tourist.

CORNER POCKET
You look like a tourist to me.

QUICK
No, I’m Quick. Y’all don’t know me? Quick?!

Corner Pocket starts to laugh and his gang joins in. Corner Pocket gives a hand gesture and everyone goes silent.

CORNER POCKET
I know you a tourist now. Because ain’t no way somebody from around here would call theyself that?

QUICK
Oh yeah? Why not?

CORNER POCKET
It’s been a price on that name for a long time.
Corner Pocket pulls out a blade and his gang takes an offensive stance.

QUICK
I have the worst luck with niggas and knives.

Before any of the Demon Lords know it Quick pulls his pistol and shoots the shit out of Corner Pocket. Corner Pocket grasps his chest, looks up at Quick and drops. The rest of the Demon Lords look at each other and take off running.

QUICK
Ain’t been here twenty four hours and already done had to kill a nigga.

Quick and Atlas step over Corner Pocket’s body and walk off down the street.

QUICK
(walking away)
I don’t know why everybody wanna stab me, you know what I mean?

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Quick and Atlas wander into a little hole in the wall of a bar. They both take a seat at the bar. The BARTENDER wipes the bar down as they take a seat. He acknowledges them, throws his towel over his shoulder, and walks to where they are.

BARTENDER
What can I do for you two gentleman?

QUICK
Two of your finest whiskeys on the rocks.

BARTENDER
Coming right up.

The bartender starts to walk away and stops in his tracks.

BARTENDER
(turns around)
Hey don’t I know you?
(takes a harder look)
Yeah! I thought that was you! I be gotdamn! Man how long has it been?
QUICK (apprehensive)
You sure...

BARTENDER (interrupts)
It’s been like thirty years or so. Those sho’ll was some good times wasn’t they?

QUICK
They sure was.

BARTENDER
So where is everybody?

QUICK
Everybody like who?

BARTENDER
You know. Ray, Benny, and what was her name? Uh, uh...

QUICK
Vera?

BARTENDER
Yeah! Vera.

QUICK
They all passed.

BARTENDER (solemnly)
Sorry to hear that.
(back to being upbeat)
That’s life I guess. Remember Vera kicked your ass and you got mad and shot off her pinky toe.

QUICK
(more so to Atlas)
I ain’t get mad. The bitch pulled a blade on me man.

BARTENDER
Last I heard you all had made off with close to ten million. Robbed a bank and cut out to Africa. Man what brings you back here.
(catches his snap)
Look at me. Let me get your drinks. They on the house. Anything you want.
(calls out to a few men at the pool table)
A real live legend is in my spot.
(He brings the drinks and as he slides them)
Hey Quick?

QUICK
Huh?

BARTENDER
Kill anybody today?

Quick and Atlas both have a guilty expression come across their face. Then the bartender bursts into laughter and Quick joins in, while having his head on a swivel. Atlas can only mime his laughter in.

BARTENDER
Man, them really was some good times. So what brings you back to Harlem?

QUICK
I was thinking of opening Ray’s old place back up.

BARTENDER
Hey, hey, if you do and you need a good bartender I’m here for you?

QUICK
What about your fabulous establishment?
(adds extra drama to his statement)

BARTENDER
Man these lowlifes and bums barely pay my bills.
(sees Quick’s glass is empty and pours him another shot of whiskey.)
I’d shut it down in a heartbeat to ride that Sugar train.

Quick strokes his chin as he contemplates. Then he grabs his shot and throws it back.
INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Quick and Atlas is in their hotel suite when the phone rings. Quick picks it up.

QUICK
Hello.
(pauses)
Who?
(pauses)
Yeah, send him up.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Atlas opens the door donning a muscle shirt.

HOODEENY
Damn! Nigga answer the door looking like fee-fi-fo-fum. You’ll make somebody kill you.

Atlas grunts.

HOODEENY
So you gone leave me out here or let me in.

Atlas opens the door further and steps to the side, where Hoodeeny and Quick can see each other.

HOODEENY
Quick!

QUICK
Hoodeeny! Come on in.

Hoodeeny enters.

QUICK
Make yourself at home.

Hoodeeny goes airborne onto the couch and puts his feet on the table.

QUICK
You getting too comfortable now.

Atlas walks by and slaps Hoodeeny’s feet down.

HOODEENY
Alright. I can see your big ass coming this time.
(turns to Quick)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
HOODEENY (cont’d)
I don’t even know if it’s safe for me to be here.

QUICK
Why you say that?

HOODEENY
Man you got the streets on fire. It’s all kind of mouths out there running. Some people say a ghost is back from the dead. Others think you back to start a war. I do know the Demon Lords is trying to load up right now.

QUICK
With all this going on, why you here then?

HOODEENY
I ain’t no fool I do know to when it’s some money to be made.

QUICK
So you not afraid of what everybody is saying?

HOODEENY
Huh!

QUICK
And the Demon Lords?

HOODEENY
Mercenaries. Truth be told, they woulda been killed Corner Pocket theyself if they wasn’t so scared of him. You did them a favor. So what’s your angle?

QUICK
Why I gotta have an angle?

HOODEENY
You didn’t leave here on the greatest terms. And you slide back in unannounced, looking like a million bucks with this Godzilla built ass nigga. You gotta be here for something. Because I heard you sho’ll didn’t need to come back. And probably didn’t wanna come back.

(CONTINUED)
Quick glances at Atlas.

QUICK
You right. Didn’t really need to and probably shouldn’t have. But I had to. You can say I was homesick. I’ve been all around, got money in some of the prettiest places, but nothing is quite like home.

HOODEENY
So what do you have planned?

QUICK
You know I was thinking about opening up a club. Booze, gambling, women. Maybe even running numbers.

HOODEENY
I see why they call you Quick, but you need to slow down.

QUICK
Why? Kotton wouldn’t approve.

HOODEENY
Yeah and anybody Kotton doesn’t approve of got a mysterious way of never being seen or heard from again. Kotton running all that up here. Plus he got the dope. You know he in them spaghetti eating muufuckas pockets. And I don’t think you ready to play with them.

QUICK
Italians? Them my favorite peoples.

HOODEENY
Something tells me the feeling isn’t mutual.

QUICK
You know I was thinking about visiting Kotton’s club tonight. you wanna join me.

HOODEENY
Me? Go to Kotton’s? Aww man I ain’t got that kind of clout. Damn sho’ll ain’t got the clothes.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
Don’t worry about it. You rolling with a legend. Atlas gone take you down to the tailor to get you fitted for a suit.
(talks to Atlas)
Matter fact, get him three. Can’t be a part of my crew and not look the part.

HOODEENY
I’m part of your crew?
(begins to try out names)
Quick and the clique. The Quick crew. Quick Posse.

Quick laughs at Hoodeeny’s youthful exuberance.

14 EXT. CLUB - NIGHT
Quick, Atlas, and Hoodeeny is walking towards Kotton’s when Rose appears.

ROSE
Quick you one weird son of a bitch. I don’t know what you up to but I started not show up. You lucky I knew my hubby was gone be here.

Rose grabs Atlas’s arm and puts it around her. He tries to pull away.

ROSE
Nigga you better put your arms around me.

HOODEENY
Quick who is this husky ho?

ROSE
What you say? You don’t know who you fucking with.
(reaches inside of her voluptuous breasts)

QUICK
Everybody cool it. We all on the same team. Rose this Hoodeeny. Hoodeeny this Rose.

ROSE
Hoodeeny? And he ain’t done no magic on that ugly ass face of his.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
    That’s enough. Now we gone go in here and enjoy ourselves. You think you can do that without killing each other?

Rose and Hoodeeny agrees and they walk to the door.

15 INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Inside, Quick observes the place. It is adorned with all kinds of lavish decorations and beautiful decor. Quick is impressed. With one glance Quick identifies KOTTON, an extremely light colored man with someone whispering in his ear, bringing his attention to Quick and his high rolling entourage. A MALE HOST gets a signal from Kotton and escorts Quick and his party to a VIP section.

    MALE HOST
    Follow me.

16 INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Quick and his people all take a seat.

    MALE HOST
    We have a couple of bottles of our finest on the way, compliments of Mr. Kotton himself.

    HOODEENY
    Bring it on! I’m ready to get fucked up.

    QUICK
    (gives a hard look to Hoodeeny then addresses the host)
    Forgive my associate. He’s a little overzealous and classless.
    (Quick signals Atlas to tip him)

    MALE HOST
    My name is Clarence and I’ll be waiting on you tonight. If there is anything you require leas don’t hesitate to ask.
    (takes a slight bow and steps away)

Quick looks over his shoulder, towards the back, and checks out all of the gambling tables and people at them.
HOODEENY
I can’t wait to get over there to the tables and break them fools too.

QUICK
that’s not what we are here for.

HOODEENY
I thought you said enjoy ourself.

QUICK
I did but you need to exhibit some self discipline. We are here to get our business up and running.

Kotton steps up.

KOTTON
I hope you find the scenery to your liking.

Quick heads spins around expeditiously.

QUICK
Oh, I find the scenery magnificent.

KOTTON
You must forgive me, but I’m sure you could imagine my excitement when I was informed that an icon was honoring my little slice of heaven with his presence.

QUICK
Surely, the honor is all mine. To finally meet the man, who’s name is as strong as the might Mississippi.

KOTTON
I’m flattered.
   (goes inside his jacket and pulls out a few cigars and offer them to Quick and his crew)

QUICK
Thanks but I don’t smoke.

HOODEENY
I’ll take one.
   (reaches and youthfully grabs one out of Kotton’s hand)
Kotton smirks.

KOTTON
Mr. Quick, one could only hypothesize if you are man or myth?

QUICK
A little of both. One could say the same of you.

KOTTON
Likewise. Well I have some matters to attend to, but Mr. Quick, before you leave, you must join me in my private quarters. I have the most exquisite brandy that I only enjoy in the most special of occasions and this moment is more than fitting.

QUICK
Will do.

KOTTON
Until later.
(bids everyone farewell and leaves)

17 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Quick joins Kotton, a more mature gent like himself, in his office. Quick takes time to appreciate the decor. He is brought to a pause when he notices a picture of Dominique Larue on Kotton's desk. Kotton walks over to the bar and pours them both a glass of brandy.

KOTTON
(as he pours)
You wouldn’t believe how much I paid for this one bottle.

QUICK
By the looks of things, you really couldn’t care how much something you really wanted cost.

KOTTON
A very astute man. You know I can appreciate that. You know an oldhead told me once don’t be afraid to spend your money.
(hands Quick his drink and walks to his throne behind his

(CONTINUED)
desk and takes a seat and uses his hand with his drink in it to offer Quick a seat opposite him)

But I’m sure that kind of wisdom was bestowed upon you at many a point in your life.

QUICK
True. I had my share of guidance and scolding.

KOTTEN
Quick, you don’t mind if I call you Quick?

QUICK
By all means...Kotton.

Kotton gives quick a look of peculiarity.

KOTTEN
You know Quick, I must be honest. You gotta be one hell of a man.

QUICK
Why would you say that?

KOTTEN
You have been...
(ssearches for the word)
incognito for like three decades yet your shadow looms over all of Harlem. If I may continue with my honesty...

QUICK
Please do.

KOTTEN
As revered and respected as it may be, there is an adequate amount of negativity attached to it too.

QUICK
As well as fables and fantasies.

KOTTEN
Is that so?

QUICK
I’ve heard my fair share.
KOTTON
You give the streets something to believe in. Something to aspire to. I’ve also heard my fair share of you. If you don’t mind me asking what drove you and your associates away.

QUICK
Sometimes life forces you to make certain decisions. You can let your emotions get in the way or you can survive. We chose to survive.

KOTTON
Perseverance, the first law of nature. So what brought you back?

QUICK
(insightfully)
Pride. I traveled through the midwest, down the eastern coast, all through the south. Then one night I had this dream. Harlem was this silhouette of a beautiful woman and it kept calling my name over and over. So I caught the first thing smoking back here.

KOTTON
You don’t say? So you went through the south? What part?

QUICK
As far as Texas?

KOTTON
I’m from the south.

QUICK
Is that so?

KOTTON
Yeah, Louisiana.

QUICK
(passive aggressive)
What brought you to the Big Apple?

KOTTON
(voice deepens)
I guess it was around thirty years ago. Somewhere around the time you decided to leave.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
(takes a sip)
Mmmm.

KOTTON
I got word my baby sister
(calls Quicks attention to the
picture on his desk. He looks
at Quick intently for any
signs)
had gotten involved with some real
serious dudes and ended up losing
her life. So like you, I hopped on
the first thing to come here and
try to make sense of it all.

QUICK
Did you ever find what you was
looking for?

KOTTON
(makes a face and sips his
brandy)
Just a bunch of fables and
fantasies.

QUICK
Yeah, it seems that Harlem has them
in abundance.

Quick toasts the air and Kotton joins him. They both throw
back what’s left in their cup.

18 INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Quick steps back into the club. He scans quickly and spots
Atlas on the dance floor with Rose, assaulting him with her
body. He chuckles then looks around and sees Hoodeeny at the
dice table.

Quick slides up next to Hoodeeny who is being his usual
talkative and obnoxious self.

HOODEENY
(shaking the dice next to the
side of his head)
Kotton gone have to sign this
muufuckin’ club over to me before
tonight over with.
(with extra emphasis he rolls
the dice)
QUICK
(in Hoodeeny’s ear)
Come on it’s time to go.

The DEALER yells out the point and begins to make transactions along the table.

HOODEENY
What?! I’m on roll! Up three hundred...
(looks down at the dealer placing his winnings in front of him and pushing the dice back to him)
Four hundred dollars and you ready leave.

DEALER
All bets down! Dice coming out.

QUICK
(whispering more agressive)
Cash out and we out!
(Quick walks off to inform Atlas and Rose)

HOODEENY
(looking back at Quick)
Quick! Quick!

DEALER
Shoot the dice or pass ’em.

EXT. CLUB - NIGHT

Quick and his crew are standing on the curb and hail a taxi. It pulls up. They open the door and let Rose in.

QUICK
(leans in the front window and throws the cab driver some money)
Take her where ever she wants to go.

ROSE
What? Just like that? Nigga I was bout to get me some tonight!

Quick slaps the top of the taxi and the driver takes off.
ROSE
(yells out of the window)
Bye baby! I’ll see you later!

HOODEENY
What’s wrong with you? You act like you seen a ghost or something. What happened in his office?

QUICK
I just found out some things.

HOODEENY
What?

QUICK
I’m gone kill him...
(pauses)
Or he gone kill me.

Quick whistles and hails another taxi.

20 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

JOHNNY CALHOUENE and his goons walk into Kotton’s club after it is closed. There is no one but Kotton’s workers left, cleaning up.

JOHNNY CALHOUENE
(asks a worker)
Where’s Kotton.

The worker, intimidated, points towards Kotton’s office.

21 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Johnny just walks into Kotton’s office.

JOHNNY CALHOUENE
Knock knock.

KOTTON
(looks up)
Calhoune?! You didn’t have to come down. I was going to have your money at your place bright and early...

JOHNNY CALHOUENE
(cuts Kotton off)
That’s not why I’m here. I got word that we have a visitor that’s been prowling through the streets.

(CONTINUED)
KOTTON
Huh?

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
A one, Mr. Quick.

KOTTON
You heard about that?

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
It’s my business to hear everything. So when were you planning on telling me?

KOTTON
I just found out myself. And I was waiting to get confirmation.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
And?

KOTTON
It is him?

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
So where is he now?

KOTTON
Don’t know.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
Well don’t you think it is your business to know.

KOTTON
Finding out won’t be a problem.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
As soon as you, do let me know. I have a very special gift for him. And unlike his name, I don’t intend on making it quick.

KOTTON
Whoa! Hey! You think that’s the smartest thing to do?

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
What?

KOTTON
Last thing you want is to start a war up here.

(CONTINUED)
JOHNNY CALHOUNE

A war?!

KOTTON

Yeah! He like a folk hero to all of Harlem. These streets are already a powder keg and if you, YOU, kill him that’s gonna be the match. I promise it’s not gonna just stay in Harlem either.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE

So what do you propose? Just allow the man that killed my, and your, family just walk around like everything’s good? Nooo! Nooo! That’s unacceptable.

KOTTON

Johnny I’m going to take care of it. Trust me. This thing takes tact. Let’s not forget, we are not animals but gentlemen.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE

You better take care of it! Or I’m going to take care of you! Capiche?

Kotton sits all the way back in his kingly chair and plays with the ring on his pinky finger.

KOTTON

Understood.

22

EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Lieutenant Daniels is leaning against the stoop outside of The Rest Haven as Quick and Atlas walks up. Everything about his presence and demeanor says he is an officer of the law.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS

(as Quick approaches)
The renowned and notorious Quick I presume.

QUICK

That depends on who’s asking.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS

Lieutenant Daniels.

(extends his hand for Quick to shake)
QUICK
(refusing his hand)
New York’s finest. You know I always feel much more safe and secure whenever you all are around.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Is that so? Maybe I should have been around so that your victims could have had the same feelings.

QUICK
(clutches his chest)
Victims?! By whatever do you mean lieutenant?

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
So, you’re one of those playful types. Let’s say I have a stiff by the name of Corner Pocket that I hear has your name all over him.

QUICK
Corner Pocket? corner Pocket? Nope, i can’t say I ever met that fine gentleman’s acquaintance. By the name though he sounds like he was a delight.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Yeah, most delightful. Since that doesn’t ring a bell, how about I received word that you were responsible for a missing cop from thirty years ago. A Sergeant Phil Cantone?

QUICK
Now how would I remain feeling safe if I took cops off of the force. Lieu, you don’t mind if I call you Lieu ha?

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
By all means.

QUICK
Lieu, you gotta be more careful who you talk to.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
So, I guess you wouldn’t know anything about a pretty little

(MORE)
LIEUTENANT DANIELS (cont’d)
Damsel named Dominique. Uuh what was her last name?
(snarls his finger)
Oh yeah Larue! Or Tommy Smalls, his brother and his crew, or the entire Calhoune family? All unsolved.

QUICK
Hold up, did you say Calhoune?

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Yeah.

QUICK
You know, now I did hear something about that.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Oh you did?

QUICK
Yeah I heard they was killed during a breaking and entering or home invasion, something like that.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
(laughs sarcastically)
Breaking and entering. Home invasion.

QUICK
Yeah. Like you that’s what I heard. But you know people say some of the most outlandish shit. You wouldn’t believe half of what I’ve heard.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Try me.

QUICK
You know something tells me you are a very busy man and you don’t have time for stories.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Actually, I have all of the time in the world for someone of your stature and folklore.

QUICK
Maybe another time. you must forgive me, it has been somewhat an eventful night.

(Continued)
LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Sure. Now I intend on taking you up on that offer. You gentlemen enjoy the rest of your night.
(as Quick and Atlas starts to walk off)
And Quick...
(Quick pauses)
I’ll see you later.

QUICK
I’m sure you will.
(watches as Daniels tips his hat and walks off)
It’s getting too crowded on the streets.
(turns to go in the hotel and as an afterthought)
Cantone still missing?
(Atlas opens the door for Quick to enter as he argues with himself)
Sugar you a muufucka. You forgot to tell...or was I supposed to... Oh well, too late now.

23 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT
Quick is sitting down in contemplation. Atlas walks in and breaks his concentration.

QUICK
You bout to lay it down ha? I’m a sit up for a few more minutes.
(Atlas goes to trying to clean up a little)
I’ll take care of everything in here. I just need you to remember to pick Kitty up tomorrow. Hoodeeny supposed to have a couple of Demon Lords to accompany you and help you with all of those bags.

Atlas walks off to the back. He stops and turns when Quick starts speaking again.

QUICK
Man make sure you are on point tomorrow. We can’t afford any mistakes.

Atlas gives him a look and makes his chest muscles jump, then walks off.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
Rose been trying to rape you but you wanna talk to me with your chest.

24 EXT. TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

Atlas and his small crew is standing on the loading dock when the train pulls in and stops.

HOODEENY
Kitty. Boy I know this a lil jazzy something. Quick’s ride or die. Nigga I bet he be coming off the top rope in that pussy.

KITTY, a short, stout, and sassy middle aged woman with an extra low blonde haircut steps off the train with a small suitcase, and makes her presence known.

KITTY
(places her hand out, daintily, for the conductor to help her off)
Nigga don’t you see my hand. You better act like you who a bitch is. Fuck around and make me treat your ass like the Big Apple and take a bite out of it.

Atlas and everyone with him eyes zoom in on Kitty.

KITTY
Come on Niecey.

HOODEENY
Niecey? Quick didn’t say anything about somebody being with her.

NIECEY, a young caramel and cute female steps off behind Kitty.

HOODEENY
Damn Niecey.

KITTY
(looks over and sees Atlas and his band)
Girl, there he is over there, with his big Baby Huey looking ass.
(yells over)
Nigga you just gone stand there or you gone do your job.

(continues)
Atlas signals for his followers to move. Hoodeeny nearly sprints over.

HOODEENY
(greets them with his hand extended to Niecey)
Hoodeeny! And I am here to serve and please.
(makes his innuendo obvious.)

KITTY
(slaps her luggage ticket in his hand)
Here, since you aim to please.
Running over here looking like a skeleton with skin.
(holds the suitcase she’s carrying up and calls back over to Atlas)
Hey chatterbox! You gone use all them muscles for more than just stuffing em in a little ass shirt.

Atlas give a look of embarrassment before he walks over.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Atlas, Kitty, and the clan hauls all of Kitty’s luggage into a suite at Hotel Uptown. After the Demon Lords sits the bags they are carrying down, Atlas gives them some money and they leave.

KITTY
(looking around)
Hotel Uptown! This ain’t the hotel Quick told me he was at.

HOODEENY
He said to check you into here and he’ll be here later on. Meanwhile I am to see that all of your needs are met.
(looks at Niecey)
All of your needs.

NIECEY
Don’t make me take you up on that offer and you can’t deliver.

HOODEENY
Deliver? Shid I’ll deliver pizza, laundry. I’ll deliver a sermon if I need to. I have a dream that one day...

(CONTINUED)
KITTY
Shut up fool before I deliver a foot to your ass. I know Quick didn’t bring me all the way up here to New York to be cooped up in a room wit speak no evil and so ugly it should be illegal. Somebody better get him on the phone and tell him to bring his ass on.

HOODEENY
(bolts to the phone on the desk)
Gladly because I’m tired of your shit talking Humpty Dumpty had a great fall built ass anyway.

Hoodeeny dials out but the phone just rings.

HOODEENY
(hangs the phone up)
Damn!

QUICK
Hey, what’s up everybody?

Everybody in he room jumps when Quick appears from the back.

KITTY
Quick?! Don’t you be sneaking up on a bitch like that. I hate when you do that shit. Almost make me have a heart attack.

HOODEENY
All that fat what’s gone make you have a heart attack.

KITTY
Quick if you don’t get this little malnutritioned pekingese away from me before I kill him.

QUICK
Hey! Hey! everybody just calm down. Now y’all might as well learn to get along.

KITTY
And why is that?
QUICK
Because we are all family now. And we need to have eachother’s back.

Quick looks at his watch and there is a knock at the door.

QUICK
Right on time. Hoodeeny get the door.

Hoodeeny opens the door and Rose is standing there.

HOODEENY
Damn you would think it’s a buffet up here or something.

ROSE
Boy if you don’t get your lonely dick ass out the way.

Rose enters and behind her is HEAVEN, a statuesque bombshell. High yellow with an extra low blonde haircut like Kitty, the movement of her body sucks all of the air out of the room.

ROSE
(walks up to Quick)
This is who I told you about.
Quick, Heaven. Heaven meet...

HEAVEN
(with her hand out for Quick to kiss)
Ooooh Quick. Is it true what they say?

QUICK
(after kissing her hand)
And what would that be?

HEAVEN
That you fuck a bitches brains out.

QUICK
They do know me so well.

HEAVEN
I might have to go dumb, deaf, and blind then.

Kitty looks Heaven up and down.

(CONTINUED)
KITTY
Ain’t this a bitch. I never knew I had a long lost twin.

HOODEENY
(bursts out laughing)
Un-uhn! You and her bout as much twins as me and old muzzled mouth here.

Atlas growls.

HOODEENY
(steps to Heaven)
Such an appropriate name. I must have died and gone to Heaven. I ’m Hoodeeny, Quick’s right hand man.

HEAVEN
I guess I’ll let that pass because you don’t know any better, but baby you can’t afford to say another word to me.

Rose mouths, "Watch this," to Quick.

HOODEENY
Afford? Baby you shoulda checked that at the door.

HEAVEN
That’ll be fifty dollars.

HOODEENY
Fifty dollars?
(laughs and turns to Quick)
She serious? Fuck y’all find this broad at?

When Hoodeeny turns back to Heaven she punches him, grabs his arm, and twists him to the ground, in what seems to be one motion.

HEAVEN
I said don’t say another moherfucking word.

HOODEENY
Quick get this bitch man!

HEAVEN
Bitch?!
(twists his arm harder. You hear it crack)
Now it just went up to one hundred. You wanna make it two.

Hoodeny writhes in pain.

QUICK
Nigga I wanna see you use your magic to get out of this one.

ROSE
He better try making some money appear.

HOODEENY
Ok, ok.
(reaches into his jacket pocket with his other hand, pulls money out and offers it up to Heaven)

Heaven takes the money and kicks Hoodeny in his ass as she releases him. Hoodeny turns and reaches for his gun in the small of his back.

QUICK
(grabbing Hoodeny)
Trust me you don’t wanna do that.

HOODEENY
But Quick she...

QUICK
She gave you a fair warning and you didn’t listen. Atlas take him outside to go clear his head.

KITTY
(instigates as Atlas pulls Hoodeny off)
That’s what your ass get for fucking with my twin. You lucky it wasn’t me.

NIECEY
Auntie I’m going to go with them.

KITTY
Alright. Atlas you keep my baby safe now.

Niecey kisses Kitty’s cheek, waves bye to everyone, and does a karate move and sound, in admiration of Heaven as she walks by. Quick watches them all out of the door. Conversation resumes when the door closes.
HEAVEN
So what is it you trying to get me to do?

QUICK
Baby it’s what I’m trying to do for you.

HEAVEN
And what would that be exactly?

QUICK
Well everybody in this room got one thing in common and that’s money. And I’m going to make sure we all see more of it than we’ve ever seen in our lifetime.

HEAVEN
Is that so?

QUICK
More than you know.

INT. KITTY’S CORNER - NIGHT

BOOCOO, Kotton’s son, and his makeshift crew walks into Kitty’s Corner. After taking a quick glimpse around he is instantly engulfed in the vivid scene.

Rose sees BooCoo and his goons enter the club and she walks over and whispers in Kitty’s ear.

KITTY
(grabs one of her girls walking by)
Get a few more girls and go over and take care of our guests who just walked in. V.I.P. Anything they want. Stay with them the whole night. Keep your eyes and ears open all night. Rose don’t be so rude go over and greet them.

Rose goes over to Boocoo and his crew. The high yellow, crazy colored eyes chap seems to be overly excited.

ROSE
How are you fine gentlemen doing tonight?

(CONTINUED)
BOOCOO
Damn baby, we good.

ROSE
Well it’s my job to make sure you are better than good. Here at Kitty’s Corner we aim to provide the most memorable experience of your life.

The girl Kitty instructed returns with her own crew of beautiful ladies.

ROSE
Hopefully, you find these to your liking.

BOOCOO
This how y’all doing it up in here. Y’all gone fuck around and have to call the cops to put a nigga up outta here.

ROSE
Sounds like my type of men.  
(steps to the side and allows the women access)  
Ladies.

Rose watches as they all walk off. She then looks at Kitty who gives her a head nod towards the back.

27 INT. KITTY’S CORNER - NIGHT

On the way to V.I.P. BooCoo walks pass a table and notices the star player for the New York Knicks, WALTER MONROE, is sitting with Heaven. BooCoo can’t help himself. He has to stop.

BOOCOO
Walter Monroe! Man you the man! I would ask what you doing in here but I already see.

WALTER
(tries not to be a jerk)  
Thanks. So you’re a fan?

BOOCOO
Your biggest. We a couple games out of the playoffs, you think you gone pull it off this year.

(CONTINUED)
WALTER
It’s a long shot but I think I’m up to it. We’re favored heavily the rest of the way.

BOOCOO
Yeah and y’all been on a roll lately.

WALTER
It’s been a pleasure...

BOOCOO
BooCoo!

WALTER
(laughs half-heartedly)
Ok, BooCoo. If you don’t mind I have more pressing issues to get back to.

BOOCOO
Oh fa’ sho.

BooCoo walks off still a little star struck.

BOOCOO
I just was talking to Walter Monroe!

INT. BACK OFFICE - NIGHT
Kitty and Rose is in an office in the back with Quick.

KITTY
Quick, Kotton’s son is out in the front.

ROSE
Yeah him and a few of his wannabe hardheads.

QUICK
Does it look like their here for trouble, to perform reconnaissance, or for pleasure.

ROSE
From what I can tell, they just came to have a good time.

(CONTINUED)
KITTY
I put some girls on em just to make sure.

QUICK
Smart.

ROSE
You don’t have to worry bout him.

QUICK
And why not?

ROSE
All of Harlem know he softer than baby shit. Just a li’l spoiled rich kid.

QUICK
Yeah but even pawns can checkmate you if used right. Make sure them girls report to me as soon as... What’s his name?

ROSE
BooCoo.

QUICK
BooCoo? Well Just have them back here no soon as BooBoo...

ROSE
BooCoo!

QUICK
That’s what I said. Soon as Poo Poo leaves.

Both ladies laugh at Quick and leave.

29 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

BooCoo is sitting in Kotton’s office with his feet up when his father walks in.

KOTTON
Nigga if you don’t get them cheap ass shoes off my desk and get the fuck out my chair. What the hell you want anyway. I just gave you some money the other night. I ain’t giving you shit else.
BOOCOO
What did it look like round here last night?

KOTTON
It was alright.

BOOCOO
The take wasn’t kinda light?

KOTTON
Nigga what’s up with all the questions bout my business?!

BOOCOO
The take wasn’t light over there at Kitty’s Corner.

KOTTON
What?

BOOCOO
Yeah. One of my boys said he heard it be jumping, so we swung by.

KOTTON
And?

BOOCOO
Everybody that was anybody was in there. Nigga I met Walter Monroe in there last night.

KOTTON
So this nigga Quick think I’m a gotdamn fool.

BOOCOO
Quick? Some old Gorgeous George named bitch named Kitty own that spot.

KOTTON
Sometimes I wonder if you mine or not. I always thought your moma was still fucking this pimp nigga I stole her from named Money Printer.

BooCoo gives a hilarious look of disgust.

KOTTON
You think it’s a coincidence Quick shows back up and a club pops up in (MORE)
KOTTON (cont’d)
the same spot they had one back in the day?

BOOCOO
But I heard you say ain’t nobody seen him in months?

KOTTON
And what that mean?

BOOCOO
It’s hard not to be seen in Harlem Pops. What makes you think he’s still around.

KOTTON
(pauses then turns to BooCoo)
Pride.
(goes in his desk)
Here. I want you to take this money and go to Shadow’s. Telli him I want him to find Quick and make it Quick.

BOOCOO
Pops, why don’t you just let me do it?

KOTTON
Let you...? Son, how many times I gotta tell you, you are not made like that. You are a messenger at best. And sometimes you can’t even do that right.

BOOCOO
One day you gone believe in me.

KOTTON
Naw, one day I’m gonna have you tested to see if you’re mine. Shoulda done it right when you was born. Now do what I said son. Do you think you can do that without fucking it up?

BooCoo stands up and gets the money off of the desk.

BOOCOO
One day you gone get old and need help to go to the restroom and I’m just let you shit on yourself and sit there in it.

(Continued)
BooCoo turns to leave.

KOTTON
BooCoo you forgot? I’m a rich nigga. I can pay somebody to wipe my ass.

30 INT. KITTY’S CORNER - NIGHT

It is early evening and Kitty is in her club with her employees preparing for the night when Lieutenant Daniels walks in.

KITTY
(looks up)
Sorry sir, but we don’t open for another two hours.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Oh no, see I’m a special guest.

KITTY
(has a look of realization)
Fucking pig. Ok, what is it can I do for you. Everything here is on the up and up.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Oh is it now? I take it you’re Kitty?

KITTY
Yes.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Well Ms. Kitty how bout you go tell YOUR boss an old friend is here.

KITTY
Excuse me? My boss?

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Yeah. Quick. As in fast.

KITTY
Who?

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
(goes to looking around the immediate establishment)
So you don’t know the great and incomparable Quick.

(CONTINUED)
KITTY
Nope, can’t say I do. Look do you have a warrant or something.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Warrant? A warrant is for people we believe to be engaged in illegal activities. Do I need a warrant Ms. Kitty?

KITTY
If you wanna waste your time.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Didn’t think so. Let’s hope you keep it that way. Anyway, give Quick my regards.
(turns to leave and stops at the door)
Tell him eventually he’ll have to come up for air.

KITTY
(after Lieutenant Daniels is gone)
Ooooh, I can’t stand them dirty muufuckas.

31 INT. SHADOW’S APARTMENT - NIGHT
BooCoo is in SHADOW’s apartment. It is pitch black. You can barely see their silhouettes.

BOOCOO
Man this some bullshit. I hate coming over here. you need to cut on the lights, pay your electrical bill or something.

SHADOW
Don’t worry about my lights muddafucka. What do you want bitch ass nigga?

BOOCOO
Man my daddy need you to take care of somebody for him.

SHADOW
Tell me something I don’t know.
Who?

A female moans.

(Continued)
BOOCOO
Un-uhn. Nigga what you over there doing?

SHADOW
Mind your business and maybe you can walk outta here. Now who does Kotton want taken care of?

BOOCOO
This nigga Quick. Ain’t nobody seen him in the streets for like three months. My Pops want you to find him and make sure the next person that finds him wanna throw up.

(screams)
Hey! What the fuck? Somebody touched me? Man I ain’t ever coming back to this bitch. You some kinda freaky ass vampire or something.

SHADOW
Tell Kotton done deal. Now drop the money on the floor and get your baby Sunlight looking ass up outta here.

INT. KITTY’S CORNER - NIGHT
Kitty’s Corner is having another extravagant night. The place is swinging when Johnny Calhoune and his crew steps in. Everything comes to a screeching halt.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
Damnit. You can here a rat piss on cotton. What y’all don’t serve my kind here.

KITTY
(walks up)
There is but one color in Kitty’s Corner. Green!

Kitty waves her hand in the air and the festivities resume as if they never were interrupted.

KITTY
By your appearance and the way you travel...

(makes notice of Calhoune’s family)
I can see you are truly someone of importance.
JOHNNY CALHOUNE
Astute and observant. I like that.
You must be Kitty.

KITTY
I am. And you fine sir?

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
Calhoune. Johnny Calhoune.

KITTY
Well Mr. Calhoune can I offer you
the best seat, drinks, and company
in all of New York?

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
You most definitely can.

Kitty claps her hands and some lovely ladies come running to escort Calhoune into the club.

33 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Kitty is in the back office with Quick.

QUICK
A white man ha?

KITTY
Yeah and you can tell he heavy too.

QUICK
Did you get his name?

KITTY
Yeah. Johnny Calhoune.

QUICK
(nearly spits up his drink)
Calhoune?

KITTY
Yeah that’s what he said.

QUICK
Daniels comes by earlier and now a Calhoune. This shit smells all too familiar.

KITTY
Huh?

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
Nothing. Tell the family we got a mandatory meeting tonight after closing.

KITTY
Ok.

QUICK
And put Waymond on Calhoune whenever he leaves. Tell him to stay lowkey and outta sight. Let him know to report directly to Hoodeeny.

KITTY
Gotcha.

Kitty walks off, but when she gets to the door she stops and turns back to Quick.

KITTY
Quick, something about all of this don’t feel right. You know if they kill you they gotta kill me. But I ain’t ready to die.

QUICK
Me neither Kitty. Me neither.

34 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

A couple of nights pass and Quick has the closest of his crew in the back office for a meeting. (Kitty, Rose, Heaven, Hoodeeny, Atlas, Niecey, and a couple of the Demon Lords)

QUICK
I’m sure by now all of you have heard what’s going down.

HOODEENY
What with that white boy tonight? You do know that’s who Kotton works for right?

QUICK
Oh, he is? That’s good to know. Believe it or not, everything is right on schedule as planned.

HOODEENY
Nigga what schedule and what plan. Ain’t nobody told me shit about a schedule or a plan.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
It’s on a need to know basis.

HOODEENY
And I don’t need to know?

QUICK
Hoodeeny relax. Now I promised everybody a major payday and it ain’t far away. Just bare with me.
(speaking more to Kitty)
This is gonna be the biggest play since South Carolina.

ROSE
(perplexed)
What play was that?

KITTY
The one motormouth over there fucked off. just had to talk to that white woman.

All of the newest members heads flew towards Atlas.

HOODEENY
Wait, hold up. What? Talk?

QUICK
Yeah I had all of Charleston on a rope. And Atlas sees some snow bunny and can’t hold his tongue.

ROSE
A white woman?! I been trying to give you all this chocolate.
(rubs his chest)
And you can still eat it. Right now if you want to.

HEAVEN
So what happened?

KITTY
Baby! They held it for him. Cut it right out his head.

QUICK
Yeah then they said he was gonna make history by being the biggest nigga ever to hang.

(CONTINUED)
HOODEENY
So what happened then?

QUICK
He made history alright. It was the most white folks killed at one time since the Civil War. I had to grab his big bloody mouth ass and high tail it outta there.

KITTY
Yeah and you just left me behind.

QUICK
Aww now Kitty, you had all the money. And it was so much more to get.

KITTY
Yeah, but imagine going in a store telling somebody you need to buy every piece of luggage they had.

HOODEENY
Hold up again! So you saying all of them suitcases was full with... What? Man!

QUICK
Anyway. What I need is a little more info before I set everything into motion. The NBA season is coming to an end and if everything plays out how I anticipate, all of New York is going to be our playground. Now Hoodeeny I need you to gather me as much intel on this Lieutenant Daniels cat as you can. How he moves, family, if he wipes his ass front to back. Dig?

HOODEENY
No thang.

QUICK
Heaven I need you to pour it on heavy with Walter Monroe.

HEAVEN
They are having some kinda big benefit dinner and he been begging me to go.
QUICK
Well make sure you are there.

HEAVEN
Cool.

QUICK
Everybody else just go on about your regular routine, until further instructions. Alright

Everybody agrees and starts to file out of the room.

QUICK
Atlas.

Atlas stops. Quick waits for everyone to leave.

QUICK
I need you to do something for me. I need you to tail Kotton’s boy, personally. He just might end up being our ace in the hole if something goes wrong.

Atlas nods his head and turns to leave.

QUICK
Don’t talk to no white women on the way.

35 INT. BOOCOO’S HOUSE - NIGHT

Atlas is inside BooCoo’s home hiding in the shade. BooCoo enters his domicile with two of his LACKEY(s), LACKEY 1 and LACKEY 2 unaware of the breach. When Atlas hears more than just BooCoo’s voice he begins making his moves.

LACKEY 1
Damn get out the way nigga. I gotta piss bad than a muufucka.

36 INT. BOOCOO’S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Atlas hears Lackey 1 and slips into the restroom before he gets there. When he does get to the restroom and closes the door, he is met by Atlas, who quickly puts him to sleep and catches him before he falls and makes any noise. He then peeks out of the door. When he sees the coast is clear, he eases out and pulls the door behind him.
INT. BOOCOO’S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
BooCoo is in his living room.

BOOCOO
(calls to the kitchen)
Nigga this ain’t your moma house.
Everytime you come here you go
straight for the kitchen. You gone
start helping with the bills.

CUT

INT. BOOCOO’S KITCHEN - NIGHT
Nigga fuck you, your daddy pay all the bills. Damn what
happen to all the salami?

CUT

INT. BOOCOO’S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
Your greedy ass ate it up last time you was here. Bring me a
Coke outta there with you.

CUT

INT. BOOCOO’S KITCHEN - NIGHT
Lackey 2 is bent over in the refrigerator. He stands up and
is surprised by Atlas, who puts him to sleep faster than he
did Lackey 1. He catches him before he falls and places him
gently on the floor.

CUT

INT. BOOCOO’S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
BooCoo gets antsy.

BOOCOO
Wooh! Shit I don’t need that soda.
I gotta piss now.
(calls to his bathroom)
Damn Shrimp, What you doing in that
bathroom?

BooCoo gets up and walks to the bathroom
INT. BOOCOO’S BATHROOM - NIGHT

BooCoo approaches his bathroom door.

BOOCOO
Shrimp? Shrimp You hear me.

Boocoo knocks on the door and it pushes open. When he sees Shrimp laid out on the floor he enters and begins yelling.

BOOCOO
Hen Dog come here. This bitch ass nigga Shrimp done passed out.

BooCoo waits for a response.

BOOCOO
Hen Dog! I know this nigga ain’t pass out too.
(begins to exit bathroom)
I told these fools they can’t drink with me.

BooCoo gets in the hallway and is confronted by Atlas.

BOOCOO
Nigga who is you and what the fuck you doing in my house?

Atlas lunges for BooCoo but he is quicker than he gives him credit for. BooCoo dodges and punches an unfazed Atlas in the face.

BOOCOO
King Kong looking muufucka. You done fucked up now.

Atlas lunges again. BooCoo side steps, picks up a vase off of a nearby table, and goes upside Atlas head. Atlas shakes it off and keeps coming.

BOOCOO
This nigga tougher than bear meat.

Atlas swings but BooCoo ducks.

BOOCOO
Oh you for real?!

BooCoo catches Atlas twice more. Atlas expresses his displeasure.

(CONTINUED)
BOOCOO
(bobbing and weaving)
You thought this was a walk in Central Park. Un-hunh. Just for that you finna go night night.

BooCoo dips and does a little shuffle. When he raises up Atlas catches him with a blow that knocks him all the way across the room and unconscious. Atlas goes and picks him up and throws him across his shoulders.

43 INT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - NIGHT 43

In a dimly lit room, Atlas drops BooCoo on a table in front of Quick.

QUICK
I told you to kidnap the nigga not kill him.

Atlas grunts.

QUICK
One time? You telling me that was one lick. My second career need to be managing your retarded strength having ass. Wake his ass up.

Atlas slaps the shit out of BooCoo, who jumps up screaming.

BOOCOO
Shrimp, Hendog, I just had the craziest dream I was fighting a silverback gorilla.

BooCoo recognizes it wasn’t a dream. He sees Quick and hops up from the table.

BOOCOO
You that nigga that came up in our club that night. Your name Quick. Nigga you killed my auntie.
(BooCoo tries to get aggressive until he hears Atlas growl)
(addresses Atlas)
And I knew I knew your fee, fi, fo, fum built ass from somewhere.

QUICK
Easy champ. Unless you got another round in you. If I was you I’d sit my ass down somewhere.
BOOCOO
(lets it slip)
You a dead man you don’t even know it yet.

QUICK
Oh I know it. You know how many times I done died?

BOOCOO
So what you want with me? To do me like you did my auntie?

QUICK
All I want from you is to be my guest.

BOOCOO
Your guest?

INT. UNDISCLOSED LOCATION - NIGHT
BooCoo is completely tied up in a chair with his mouth gagged. He is still making noises and trying to talk. Quick and Atlas is standing at the door.

QUICK
Some people just don’t know when to shut up.

Quick pulls the door closed and BooCoo screams louder.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT
Shadow is lurking in the darkness. Dressed in all black, against his black skin, he is barely noticeable. He just partly steps out of the gloom.

SHADOW
They say this muddafucka ain’t been seen on the streets in months.
(looks around then looks to the skyline.)
That’s because he’s not on the streets.

INT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT
Shadow pulls up on the side of a building and stands up. He spins and looks at the majestic view. His focus sharpens to see Quick in the distance moving from rooftop to rooftop.

(CONTINUED)
SHADOW
I got you now nigga.
(gives pursuit)

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT
Quick is moving briskly among the roofs when a premonition strikes him. He stops and looks around. He finds a specific point, smothered in darkness and stares at it. When it gives way to constant stillness he moves on.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT
Quick is walking nonchalantly along a roof. He appears to unknowingly passes right by Shadow, hiding in the despair.

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT
Quick stands at the edge of a building, looking over. Shadow, with a pistol drawn, thinks he is sneaking up on Quick, with his back turned.

QUICK
(without turning around)
I gotta admit you good.

SHADOW
The best. So you know this is the end of the line?

QUICK
Is it?

SHADOW
Don’t try it. Make me fuck up your process nigga.

QUICK
You mind if I ask you who sent you?

SHADOW
Don’t worry bout who sent me. You need to worry about these bullets I’m finna put in your ass.

QUICK
Before you do, since you won’t answer who sent you maybe you’ll answer this. You know the biggest mistake most men in our position make?
SHADOW
No, but please enlighten me.

QUICK
They always gotta make a speech or have something cool to say before squeezing the trigger.

Quick turns swiftly and fires off a shot from his pistol, he had concealed. Shadow dodges it and fires back, which Quick evades in turn.

SHADOW
Slick muddafucka.

QUICK
(perplexed)
I missed? Damn I must be getting old.

Both men take cover and fire off a couple more shots at each other. Shadow does what he does best, takes cover in the darkness.

Quick hugs the building as he makes his way to Shadow’s supposed location. Quick swings around, his pistol leading the way, to nothingness.

There is a gunshot. he ducks just in time for the bullet to hit the bricks where his head once was. He turns in the direction it came from, identifies Shadow, and fires.

Shadow takes off running, antagonizing Quick at the same time. Quick gives chase. They both take their own moments to discharge their weapons at each other.

Quick has to take cover again. When he peeks up over a ledge, he scans the the roofs for Shadow but he lost him. Quick proceeds with caution.

He again passes by a sinister nook. As soon as he passes, Shadow steps out. Quick turns instantaneously. Quick and Shadow both face off with their pistols in the other’s face.

They both squeeze their triggers and both guns only click. They are out of bullets.

SHADOW
Ain’t this a bitch.

(CONTINUED)
Quick belts out a laugh. They look at each other then both rush and engage in fist o’ cuffs. They fight all over the place, using the environment when they can. A game of cat and mouse ensues. Then they again engage in a formidable battle.

Quick gains the upper hand and begins to wail on Shadow, encouraging him to fight dirty and try to even the odds. They squabble to the edge of a building, where both are literally on the edge of death.

Shadow tries to be conniving once more. This time Quick is ready for it. It leads to Shadow hanging over the side of the building, holding on for dear life.

QUICK
See now I’m in a position to give a speech. Lemme see what should I say. Oh ok. It looks like one of us got a date with death.

SHADOW
Laugh now but trust me your day coming.

QUICK
Not faster than yours. I tell you what. Tell me who sent you and I’ll pull you up and we can let bygones be bygones.

SHADOW
Fuck you. I ain’t telling your undercover rapist mustache having ass shit.

Quick makes a face as if I tried to bargain with you, shrugs his shoulders, and forces Shadow’s hands off of the ledge.

SHADOW
(falling to his death)
Quick you a bitch ass niggaaaaaa!

Quick takes a look over, dusts himself off, and turns to walk away.

QUICK
(walks off, talking to himself)
Damn! I shoulda said something cool like lemme give you a hand. Naw! Going down next stop the ground.
Quick enters into the office of Kitty’s Corner through a private passage. Kitty and Atlas is sitting in the office.

Kitty
(takes one look at Quick)
What happened to you? Look like you been through hell.

Quick
Atlas pour me a drink. Some runaway slave just tried to kill me. I don’t know how he found me. The only ones who know how I move around is in this room.

Kitty
You know I ain’t said nothing. Now I can’t speak for big mouth back there.

Atlas looks up from pouring Quick’s drink with a humorous expression.

Kitty
Where he at now?

Quick
Shit, all over one twenty third?

Kitty
Quick what I tell you. We might be in over our heads on this one. I heard it’s a serious price on your head right now. So much somebody round her might try to collect.

Atlas brings Quick his drink. Then he points at himself and shakes his head.

Quick
I know not you Atlas. You heard by who Kitty?

Kitty
Who would want you dead?

Quick
In New York? That could be anyone. I guess I gotta get rid of everyone who possibly could wanna kill me then.

(CONTINUED)
KITTY
Yeah, but when is ti going to end
Quick. Somebody else just gone pop
up and be next in line. It’s time
to think about...

QUICK
What? Retiring? Giving up?

KITTY
...Living a normal stress free
life.

QUICK
How you propose we do that? Get a
regular job like one of these dead
end stiffs? This is who we are.

KITTY
We got enough money. You know I was
thinking we could fly to Hawaii and
open up a nice little bar on the
beach or something. Nice weather,
laid back people, no worries. You
know what I mean?

QUICK
Kitty I ran away from Harlem once,
I be damned if I run away again. I
watched everyone I love pass away.
And you know the one thing I seen
in common in all of their deaths?

KITTY
What’s that Quick?

QUICK
I seen the pain on their cold blue
faces of not taking their last
breath in the only place they ever
really loved and called home.

KITTY
So what? You just gone sit around
here until one of all these shots
that’s about to be taken at you
catch you?

QUICK
(throws his drink back)
Catch me? I ain’t been caught yet.
You ain’t heard I’m too Quick.
KITTY
I refuse to go out like that. I’m trying to live.

QUICK
And I ain’t?

Kitty waves Quick off in disgust and turns away.

KITTY
I thought Sugar taught you better.

QUICK
(speaks with more of a maturity and feeling)
You know what? You right. Look Kitty, how bout this? We make this last score and we disappear. What’s the use of having all the money in the world if you don’t get to enjoy spending it? Right?

KITTY
Now that’s the nigga I fuck with.

Atlas tries to grunt his approval.

KITTY
Nigga shut up. Don’t nobody in here speak caveman.

Kitty and Quick both laugh.

51 INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Quick and his closest confidants are in his hotel room watching the news. when the NEWS REPORTER begin reporting on the New York Knicks.

NEWS REPORTER
The New York Knicks had their annual charity ball. It was splendid as usual. All Of the stars showed up.

The tv cuts to the people walking the red carpet. Kitty pinpoints Johnny Calhoune.

KITTY
Quick, look right there! That’s that Calhoune boy. The one who came into the club the other night.
QUICK
Oh he in deep ain’t he? Check it out, Heaven.

NEWS REPORTER
The New York Knicks All Star Walter Monroe was all smiles. With the Knicks only a game out of the playoffs with four games left, when asked what he thought the chances were they would make the playoffs he responded...

WALTER
(speaks into a microphone)
You can take my word for it. I guarantee we will be there for the post season.

NEWS REPORTER
There you have it folks, from the mouth of the man. The entire city can buckle up for the ride.

QUICK
Could this get any better?

NEWS REPORTER
And Walter Monroe wasn’t through for the night. In a surprising turn of events, while giving a speech, he uses this opportunity to propose to his girlfriend.

The tv shows Walter get down one one knee and propose to Heaven. Heaven gives the camera a confused look before accepting. Everyone stands and applauds. The camera catches Johnny Calhoune front and center standing and clapping.

KITTY
Babyy! I think it just did.

Quick laughs.

52
EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Lieutenant Daniels is searching around the rooftop Shadow fell from. He is looking for clues. He notices that there is evidence that a struggle took place. He walks to the edge of the building, and approximates the exact spot Shadow dropped. Lieutenant then looks out at the rest of the rooftops.

(CONTINUED)
LIEUTENANT DANIELS
(to himself)
Hmmm! You are everything they say
you are and more, ain’t you?
(briskly takes off)

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT
Quick slides down a fire escape in the alley behind Kitty’s Corner. Lieutenant Daniels is waiting in the abyss.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
You are one hard man to get in contact with. If I didn’t know any better I would say you’ve been hiding.

QUICK
I would say if I was hiding from you I can’t be doing that good of a job lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
So you found some new digs to camp at. You could have at least informed me. I went by the Rest Haven and had a look see. Tell your little madame she made me lose my lunch, walking around naked. Don’t nobody wanna see that.

QUICK
(sarcastically pokes fun)
Lieu, you’re a peeping tom. Now what section of the law is that you was violating.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Not at all. I was just trying to make sure I could continue providing you with that feeling of safety you appreciate so much. Though I don’t know how long that may last.

QUICK
Lieutenant, by whatever do you mean?

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
We both know you gotta money problem.
QUICK
I’m rather comfortable.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
What about a head problem?

QUICK
Nope, just got a fresh do earlier today.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
How about a money on your head problem?

Quick cuts his eyes at the Lieutenant.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Oh, no quick come back to that one ha? I’ll tell you what else I know. Whoever wants someone so dead they hire Shadow, don’t have any plans on quitting until they see it through. They probably come ten times harder, because they lost a pretty penny with Shadow slipping and falling over the side of a building and all. But I’m sure you wouldn’t know nothing about that.

QUICK
(dry)
No I wouldn’t.

LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Well, I’m so glad I know how to find you know. You know your safety and all. And if I was you I’d be careful hopping from rooftop to rooftop. This New York weather can make landing smoothly tricky.

(begins to walk off and stops)
Oh before I go. You wouldn’t happen to know anything about this young brother named BooCoo. Been kidnapped? Missing for some days now?

QUICK
(sounds confused)
BooCoo? They sho’ll have some colorful names these days. Can’t say that I do

(CONTINUED)
LIEUTENANT DANIELS
Thought not. Have a nice night.

Lieutenant Daniels pulls the brim of his hat over his eyes, begins whistling, and turns to leave.

54 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT 54

Quick is sitting in his office when Kitty escorts the rest of the crew comes in.

KITTY
Here everybody is. You act like it was life or death.

QUICK
It’s been a slight change in plans.

KITTY
A change? I thought we had everything mapped out.

QUICK
I gotta make sure that everyone in here gets the kinda payday that takes care of them the rest of their life.

Everyone looks around at everyone else agreeing.

HOODEENY
What’s the plan?

QUICK
Heaven you’re still the front. Only thing is, we all need to gather as much as we got to spare. Heaven you’re going to go place it on the Knicks.

HEAVEN
I thought we was betting against the Knicks?

QUICK
That’s for the last game. We got two games before we get to that.

ROSE
So we bet on the Knicks? You do know the return on that isn’t much at all. They are heavy favorites in these last games.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
I know. When all of these bookies see Heaven come putting money down on her man, they won’t suspect much, right? But right before the last game, Heaven I need you to tell Walter you can’t see yourself with an athlete who wasn’t a champion and give him his ring back. Somewhere extremely public. Then when he goes to begging as he will do, you put on a Fourth Of July display.

KITTY
Then when the word gets around she called off the marriage...

HOODEENY
And she goes and puts all of this money down against the Knicks...

ROSE
And we spread that word around...

HEAVEN
Everyone is going to think either he’s not going to play worth shit because of a broken heart...

QUICK
Or that the fix is in. Either way we’re covered. Except for true die hards, all of New York is going to bet against the Knicks...


QUICK
No, we not gone rob the shit outta everybody. We gone rob the shit outta Calhoune.

HOODEENY
(towards Atlas)
With your karate chop mouth ass.

ROSE
Quick don’t you mean Kotton?

(CONTINUED)
Where do you think all of that money is going? That’s why I’m going to put somebody on the money. I wanna know exactly where it all ends up at. And that’s where we strike.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Quick is in his hotel room with SOLOMON, a curly head, talkative white boy with a heavy New York accent.

SOLOMON
You know you got some real big balls to be back here. Truthfully, I thought I’d never see you again. So everyone died ha?

QUICK
Yeah.

SOLOMON
I swear when I first moved to the neighborhood, if it wasn’t for you and Sugar I don’t think I would have survived. So you bout to pull off another score?

QUICK
Yeah and I need your help.

SOLOMON
For you, anything?

QUICK
First off, do you know about four or five more white boys interested in making some good money.

SOLOMON
In today’s climate, I could throw a rock in a crowd and find that.

QUICK
Gotta be someone you trust and knows how to keep their mouths shut.

SOLOMON
Quick I got you. You talking to family here.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
Solomon.

SOLOMON
Yeah. I know

QUICK/SOLOMON
(at the same time)
Silence is the key to all doors.

SOLOMON
Yeah, Sugar used to tell me that all of the time.

56 INT. BOOKIE’S SPOT- AFTERNOON

Heaven walks into the bookie’s spot with Atlas and Hoodeeny both with a suitcase in each hand. She walks up to the window and the MAN sitting on the other side is flabbergasted at the sight of Heaven. She stands there and he just stares at her.

HEAVEN
Hellooo!

MAN
Oh. Yeah. Ahh, how may I help you?

HEAVEN
What you think? I wanna place a bet.

MAN
(still shaken)
Ok. For how much?

Heaven signals Atlas and Hoodeeny. They step to the counter, place the suitcases on top of it and open them. The man becomes even more flustered.

MAN
(nearly falling off of his seat)
A minute please.

57 INT. BOOKIE’S SPOT - AFTERNOON

Kotton enters in front of his employee. When he sees Heaven he straightens his attire and glides to the counter.

KOTTON
So I heard a super fox was in here to place a nice sized bet.

(CONTINUED)
HEAVEN
That’s right.

KOTTON
Do you mind if I asked on what?

HEAVEN
The Knicks, to win tonight.

KOTTON
So what kind of numbers are we talking?

HEAVEN
One million American dollars.

KOTTON
(loses his cool for a second)
A million dollars?!

HEAVEN
(stabs at his credentials)
If you can’t cover that I can understand. I’ll just have to take my money elsewhere. Maybe downtown.
(teases by instructing her guards)
Close it up fellas. Obviously, somebody lied to me and said this was a big time organization.

KOTTON
Now wait one minute baby. You better act like you know who you talking to.

HEAVEN
And who is that?

KOTTON
The one and only Kotton.

HEAVEN
(becomes ultrafeminine)
So you’re the Kotton I’ve heard so much about?

KOTTON
(egotistically)
In the flesh. And if I can’t cover a bet, it can’t be covered in all of New York.

(CONTINUED)
HEAVEN
My apologies. If I knew, I wouldn’t have ever insinuated...

KOTTON
Don’t worry bout it beautiful. It happens to the best of us. So where did a little lovely lady like yourself get so much money from.

HEAVEN
Let’s just say I have a benefactor, my own private investor.

KOTTON
Now you do know the odds is five to one on tonight’s game.

HEAVEN
I do. (signals for her security to put the money back to the window)

KOTTON
You do know you should let me take you out.

HEAVEN
That’s a possibility.

KOTTON
Depending on what?

HEAVEN
(pushes the cases towards Kotton)
How good you make me feel about trusting you.

KOTTON
You can definitely trust me to make you feel good.

HEAVEN
Mmm-hmm, I bet.

Heaven blows Kotton a kiss. He watches her assets as she walks off.

KOTTON
I didn’t get your name.
(without stopping or turning around)

Heaven.

KOTTON

What I wouldn’t do to get in them pearly gates.

Atlas opens the door and lets Heaven, then Hoodeeny, leave before he exits.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Solomon is casing out Kotton’s bookie spot. Using binoculars, he sees two cars pull up with two white boys in each. The passenger of the first car gets out and knocks at the door. It opens. Solomon sees him converse with an unknown individual, before three healthy men walk out with duffel bags. The passenger opens the back door of his vehicle and they toss the bags in. He gets back in the front passenger seat and both cars pull off. Solomon waits for a few seconds then he pulls off in the same direction as the two cars.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Solomon is at Quick’s hideaway.

SOLOMON

So I followed Calhoune’s pick up crew. He sends two cars, two riders in each. After they get the money they drive to a little spot in Midtown, some little small building where the cars pull in.

QUICK

After y’all make the pick up, me and the fellas will be waiting down the way. You pull over, take the bags out, and Hoodeeny and I will get in the trunks.

SOLOMON

You’re getting in a trunk?

QUICK

I’ve been in way tighter places.

SOLOMON

(pretends to be serious)

Yeah like my sister.
Quick and Solomon both laugh.

QUICK
Your mother always said I was like a son to her.
(Quick jumps back on track)
So how many people does it look like is inside.

SOLOMON
From what I can tell, it mainly looks like accountant types. I only seen like two guards from where I was posted. And one dude outside, waiting on them to pull up and let them in.

QUICK
With the heavy influx of cash, he just may throw extra security on detail. I’m going to need you and your people to lay the guards down immediately and open that trunk.

SOLOMON
Got ya.

QUICK
Then we open the door and let the truck in and clear the place out. We shouldn’t be in there longer than six minutes.

SOLOMON
What about the other pick up crew?

QUICK
Don’t worry, I got that covered.

SOLOMON
What if something unexpected happens.

QUICK
Then we go to plan B.
(Quick pulls his gun out of his shoulder holster and sits it on the table in front of him)
Heaven and Walter is at a fine restaurant. There are violinist standing at their table. It is packed wall to wall. Heaven is acting real distant and irritated.

WALTER
What’s wrong you don’t like the food?

HEAVEN
(with attitude)
The food’s fine?

WALTER
What’s the problem then beautiful.

HEAVEN
You!
(raises her voice)
The problem is you!

Everything quiets and all eyes are on them.

HEAVEN
I can’t do this anymore.

WALTER
But bae... Not here, not like this.

HEAVEN
No Walter, it has to be here. You started it in the public and that’s where I must finish it.
(pours it on)
I like you Walter I really do but I can’t... I’m sorry.
(She leans in to kiss Walter on the cheek before she does she whispers to where he can only hear)
I can’t see myself marrying a man who isn’t a champion.
(removes the ring from her finger)
Since this seems to be the only ring you’ll ever have.

Heaven gets up and runs off. Walter just sits there torn.
Heaven walks into Kotton’s booking house this time with two more guards accompanying Atlas and Hoodeeny, also with suitcases. When the man at the window sees her, he just gets up and bolts for the door behind him. He sticks his head in and within seconds Kotton appears.

KOTTON
Look-a-here. My favorite person in all of Harlem.

HEAVEN
Oh is that so?

KOTTON
It most definitely is. You know strangest thing, I got word that some superfine blonde bombshell had a serious episode with Walter Monroe at some high class shindig last night. They was supposed to be engaged and she called it off. Must had been making room for a real man.

HEAVEN
So is that what you heard? Since you into hearing things, maybe you can hear this. I’m here to place another bet.

KOTTON
On the Knicks, I presume.

HEAVEN
Against the Knicks.

KOTTON
Oh yeah? A change of heart altogether I see. How much this time doll?

HEAVEN
Two point five.

KOTTON
Your...
(clears throat)
...investor is one brave individual. Makes me think y’all know something I don’t.

(CONTINUED)
HEAVEN
And what is that supposed to mean?

KOTTON
Nothing. Just saying.
    (changes subject)
So when are you gone be ready to
let me walk those golden streets of
Heaven?

HEAVEN
When you show me you are blessed
enough.

Heaven steps to the side and let her squad give Kotton the
cash.

KOTTON
You do know you are one piece of
work.

HEAVEN
So I’ve been told.

Heaven turns to leave and makes sure to seduce Kotton with
her curves as she does. As soon as Heaven and her entourage
is gone he picks up the phone and dials.

KOTTON
Hello! I need to speak to Mr.
Calhoune! Tell him it’s Kotton. Yes
I’ll hold.
    (within a couple seconds)
Hello. Mr. Calhoune you know that
broad who Walter Monroe proposed to
and is said she broke up with him,
well she just came in with two
point five. Yeah, against the
Knicks. I think the fix is in.
    (listens for a few seconds)
Got ya!
    (hangs up the phone)
Slick muufuckas.

INT. CAR – NIGHT

Calhoune’s crew that picks up the money from Kotton is stuck
in a traffic jam. The DRIVER and PASSENGER are growing
agitated at the delay.

PASSENGER
What the hell is going on?

(Continued)
DRIVER
I don’t know. But we are falling behind.

63 EXT. STREET - NIGHT
The traffic light is malfunctioning and there is a cop out on the street (purposely) doing an atrocious job at directing traffic, causing a serious back up.

64 INT. SKYBOX - NIGHT
Johnny Calhoune and his family are up in a skybox at Madison Square Garden preparing to watch the Knicks play.

65 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT
Kotton is in his office, sitting at his desk. One of his female employees bring him a drink.

KOTTON
Cut that tv on for me before you leave.

She turns it on and the ANNOUNCER is excited.

ANNOUNCER
Ladies and gentleman, so glad you could join us tonight. For the Knicks versus the Lakers. I don’t even have to tell you the importance of this game. It’s win or go home for our New York Knicks. It’s promised to be a dog fight. So please stay tuned in as we go to a small break and we’ll be right back with the New York Knicks, at home in the world famous Madison Square Garden.

66 EXT. BUILDING - NIGHT
Solomon and his crew pulls up to the back of Kotton’s booking house. Solomon gets out and knocks on the door. One of Kotton’s STOOGES answer the door.

SOLOMON
Hey, let’s make it quick.

STOOGES
Hold it, who are you?

(Continued)
SOLOMON
Who am I? I’m Peter.

STOOGE
Where’s Paulie?

SOLOMON
Paulie? Uhh, boss sent Paulie down to the docks to take care of some things, if you know what I mean. Hey you busting my balls or what?

STOOGE
I don’t know. I gotta call boss...

SOLOMON
(convincingly)
Look, you nor I need for me to be late. If I’m late, then my boss is upset. If my boss is upset, that means he takes it out on your boss. Now I don’t know how your boss does things but if he’s anything like my boss this it’s not gonna turn out good. Especially for you and me.

STOOGE
(considers what Solomon has said)
Yeeeah.
(starts barking to his subordinates)
Y’all hurry up and get all these bags in these gents cars so they can get on about their business.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

When the last of the bags are in the car, Solomon breathes easy.

SOLOMON
(to his driver)
Let’s go.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Calhoune’s pick up crew finally makes it up to the cop directing traffic. The cop waves them through and gives them a wink and tip of his cap as he does.

(CONTINUED)
PASSenger
Fucking unbelievable!

69  EXT. STREET - NIGHT 69
Solomon and his band pulls over in a dark alley. They are greeted by a black Chevrolet Suburban. Quick and his gang hop out of the Suburban. Atlas and some of Quick’s disciples start transferring the bags into the Suburban. Quick and Hoodeeny each hop in a trunk of a car.

70  INT. OFFICE - NIGHT 70
Kotton is in his office watching the game.

ANNOUNCER
We’re just starting the second quarter, but I must say Walter Monroe is in rare form tonight. He’s having the game of a lifetime.

KOTTON
No shit! Don’t look like this nigga trying to lose to me.

71  INT. SKYBOX - NIGHT 71
Calhoune is sitting with other MOB BOSS(es) and MOBSTER(s) discussing the game.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
What the fuck is this?

MOBSTER 1
(leans in)
I don’t know boss. Maybe he’s trying to make it look good you know.

MOBSTER 2
Yeah, he’s probably saving it all for the second half.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
I fucking hope so!

MOB BOSS
Yeah, me too!
INT. CAR - NIGHT

Solomon and his crew pulls up to the entrance of Calhoune’s warehouse. When the door man sees them, he opens the door and grants them access. Both cars pull in and he closes the door behind them.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Atlas is sitting in the passenger seat of the Suburban with the other miscreants watching from the distance. He grunts out some orders but the SUBURBAN DRIVER and occupants all look confused. Atlas, then hits the dashboard aggressively and points in the direction of the warehouse.

SUBURBAN DRIVER
Oh nigga I ain’t know. That’s all you had to say!

Atlas looks the Suburban driver upside his head.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Solomon and his boys all step out of the car. One of the warehouse guard(s) see them and instantly get defensive.

WAREHOUSE GUARD
Wait! Who are you? I’ve never seen any of you before.

SOLOMON
Hey! Boss said he had some serious business attended to down at the docks. And he wanted Paulie and his team to take care of it personally.

WAREHOUSE GUARD
Something more important than this? Mmm, I don’t know. What do you think?

SOLOMON
Give me a break here. I’m new to the family. Boss is giving me the chance to prove myself. What do you think I’m breaking in to give you money?

The warehouse guard peeks into the backseat of one of the cars and reaches for his pistol when he sees it is empty.

(CONTINUED)
WAREHOUSE GUARD
Where’s the money?

SOLOMON
What do you think I’m some kind of a moron or something? I’m not gonna ride around with something like that in the backseat. I put it in the trunk.
(to his driver)
Give him the keys.

Solomon’s driver tosses him the keys. The Warehouse guard walks to the trunk as Solomon follows him. When he opens the trunk, he sees Quick.

WAREHOUSE GUARD
What the...

Solomon hits the warehouse guard in the back of the head with his pistol. The rest of Solomon’s crew draw down on the other guards.

QUICK
Let Hoodeeny out. Solomon the door.

75 INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT
Solomon goes to lift the door up. When he does Atlas is standing there with an unconscious doorman. The Suburban rushes in.

76 EXT. BUILDING - NIGHT
Calhoune’s pickup crew pulls up to Kotton’s booking house. PAULIE gets out and goes to the door.

PAULIE
Sorry we’re late but...

STOOGE
Paulie? What are you doing here?

PAULIE
What do you mean what am I doing here? What I’m always doing here. To pick up the money!

STOOGE
The money?! We gave it to Peter already.
PAULIE
Peter?! Who the fuck is Peter? You stupid fuck!

Paulie starts to run back to the car.

STOOGES
(yells out)
He said you was down at the docks!

Paulie jumps into his car and they speed off.

77 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Kotton is in his office watching the game still.

ANNOUNCER
Who would’ve guessed it. The beginning of the fourth quarter and the Knicks are up by thirty. Walter Monroe has had one of the greatest performances ever in the history of the game. Playoffs here we come!

KOTTON
(jumps up in realization)
Aww shit!
(bolts out of the door)

78 INT. SKYBOX - NIGHT

All of the mob bosses are looking at Johnny Calhoune.

MOB BOSS
Johnny this is not good.

The other Mob Bosses goons all pull pistols on Johnny Calhoune and his boys. Calhoune tries to make a run for it.

MOB BOSS
(orders one of his guys)
Grab that son of a bitch!

79 INT. ARENA - NIGHT

The mob bosses and their goons are closely escorting Johnny Calhoune and his crew, when they are coming upon Heaven, on the arm of some dapper chap.

JOHNNY CALHOUNE
That’s her! Right there! It was a setup! You gotta believe me! Her...
She...

(CONTINUED)
(being dragged off in a fit of rage)
You black bitch!

80 INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Quick marches into Kitty’s Corner.

QUICK
Kitty, you ready? Everything went as planned and it’s time to...

Quick stops short when he sees Kitty is being held at gunpoint by Kotton.

KOTTON
Time to what? Skip town? And leave even more fables, legends, and question marks. I think not. You see the one thing we as humans never can plan for is the uncontrollable. That one variable that, for some reason, just can’t be determined. So what we do? We usually overlook it.

Quick makes a subtle move.

KOTTON
Ah,ah,ah! Try it and this garbage can built bitch gone catch a hot one. See the one thing you overlooked Quick, is that you and I are one in the same.Yo know I asked myself, where would be the perfect place to catch this bastard.
(Kotton does his hand as if he is revealing something for the first time)
The one place that has the most sentimental value to you in all the world. Sugar Ray’s
(Kotton looks at Kitty’s reaction)
Oh you didn’t know?
(chuckles)
You didn’t tell her. Poetic Justice.

QUICK
See the thing is, if you were truly the same as me, you’d know I even plan for the unknown.

(CONTINUED)
KOTTON
Oh what kidnapping BooCoo. Nigga you did me a favor. Only reason he stayed alive this long is because I got so much love for his moma. Honestly I hope you dropped his worthless ass in the bottom of Hudson Bay and got him off of my books.

There is a gunshot. Kotton has a confused look of surprise when he realized he is the one shot. He drops. BooCoo is standing besides Hoodeeny with a smoking gun in his hand. Quick gives Hoodeeny a piercing look of disapproval.

HOODEENY
Nigga just snatched the gun out of my hand and shot the shit out of his daddy.

BOOCOO
(eyes still fixed on Kotton’s lifeless body)
Wasn’t my daddy.

81 INT. CLUB - NIGHT

Everyone in on the heist is in Kitty’s Corner.

QUICK
(to Solomon)
Here you go brother. I couldn’t have done it without you.
(to Solomon’s crew)
You all too.
(to the trafic cop)
Especially you.

SOLOMON
Yeah I know. So You really leaving again, this time for good?

QUICK
Looks like it.

SOLOMON
Yeah right, you’ll be back.
(pauses then goes in for a hug)
Quick I’m going to miss you man, again.

Quick and Solomon embrace and afterwards Atlas hands him a duffel bag.

(CONTINUED)
QUICK
(addressing Heaven)
You know you one bad lady. I would tell you to be careful out here but I got a feeling that’s what I should be telling the city about you.

HEAVEN
(dabs her eyes)
I’ll never forget you Quick.

QUICK
I know you won’t. It’s only one me. Atlas gone take that big heavy ass bag to your car for you.
(turns to address Hoodeeny)
The magic man! You sure you don’t wanna come. Get away from this. Travel and find a new environment.

HOODEENY
I can’t leave Harlem man. I’d probably die if I breathed any other air.

KITTY
Or die because your ugly air scare all the air away.

QUICK
You sure?

HOODEENY
Yeah I’m sure man. Someone has to tell the story.

QUICK
I discovered, it’s always better when Harlem tells the story.

HOODEENY
I’ll tell you what though, make sure you let me know where you at. Never know, I might decide to take a vacation someday.

QUICK
Well I got something extra for you.

Quick hands Hoodeeny some keys.
HOODEENY
What’s this?

QUICK
Keys to the club. You make sure you
treat her right.

HOODEENY
Hell yeah. I always wanted to open
up a magic shop. Might put it out
front. Dig that.

Quick and Hoodeeny shake hands and embrace. Hoodeeny tries
to lift the big duffel bag of his, but it doesn’t budge.

HEAVEN
Looks like Atlas gone need to help
your weak ass too.

HOODEENY
Oh so what, I can afford to talk
you now?

HEAVEN
Still no!

Quick turns to Rose.

ROSE
Before you even give me that spiel.
I’m going with y’all. You think I’m
gone let my baby...
(slaps Atlas on the ass)
walk out of here and I’m not under
his arm.

Atlas attempts to scoot away but Rose grabs him and jerks
him close to her.

ROSE
Look, he can’t get enough of me.
Always all up on me.

QUICK
Well, this has definitely been one
for the ages wouldn’t you say. We
gotta a train to catch.

Everyone does their last little bit of fraternizing.
Quick is sitting in his seat, looking out of his window at the New York lights. The hurt is in his face. You hear the train horn blow as it kicks into gear and slowly starts to pull off. As Quick is looking out of his window he sees Lieutenant Daniels locate him and start to run alongside the train. As the train picks up speed Lieutenant Daniels tries to keep up. Quick salutes him. Lieutenant stops and bends over, with his hands on his knees, breathing hard. Quick has himself a hearty laugh at the sight of it all.

The train speeds off with the New York city skyline behind it.

The End