OUTSIDE THE BOX

LaChanda M. Gray

Original Screenplay

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EXT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - DAY

MORNING RISERS walk by. Some, despite the slow wake of the sun, cling to their steamy coffee cups.

Among them, DAVID, 33, looks clean-cut and attractive in his business casual attire. He heads to the building.

INT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - FIRST FLOOR - DAY

A small GROUP wait for the elevators.

DAVID

Morning.

GROUP

Morning/ Hi.

David enters the stairwell and trots up.

INT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - SECOND FLOOR - DAY

Clickety clicks on keyboards.

Professional chatter sound off through the workspace.

David heads to his cubicle style desk.

It matches every other desk on the work floor.

On the other side of the room a wooden door with the name "SCHWARTZ" plastered on it opens.

A slightly over weight, but decent looking guy: ETHAN,34, with a manila file in his hand turns back to the room.

ETHAN

Thank you sir.

As Ethan heads to David's desk he passes two of his co-workers.

An irritated BRYAN, 33, and a tensed and serious STEPHENS, 36.

Unlike everyone else Stephens sports a suit with a red tie.

He marches off. Bryan makes his way to David's desk.

Can you believe this? Once again I get stuck with Stephens. Man, I swear it's a black thing.

Ethan and David roll their eyes.

DAVID

Calm down Bryan. He's not that bad.

BRYAN

Then you work with him. Let me work with Ethan.

DAVID

No, I think we're good.

BRYAN

I'm not joking. Come on man switch with me?

(to Ethan)

Why don't you ever ask if we could work together?

Ethan shoves his hands in his pockets.

ETHAN

Never crossed my mind. Plus, David and I work well together.

BRYAN

You can tell me the truth. It's because I'm black huh?

ETHAN

(scuffs)

Yeah, that's it.

Bryan mean mugs his two coworkers.

Before turning around, he sweeps his hand across David's desk. A few papers fall to the floor.

A picture of David, and a blonde female flaps face down on the desk. Bryan walks off.

DAVID

(to Bryan)

You still meeting us at Joe's?

Bryan twirls around. His eyes on David, but he points to Ethan.

He's buying.

INT. "JOE'S" BAR - NIGHT

A cue stick hits a rack of pool balls hard. The balls scatter across the green surface.

Ethan, David, and Bryan are at the bar. Bryan rambles on about his day.

A young black female BARTENDER, wearing a funky black tank top, places three beers in front of the guys.

Bryan smiles and winks at her.

BRYAN

Thank you.

She smiles back and continues working.

ETHAN

You have to talk to every girl you see don't you?

BRYAN

No, not girls... women. Now back to what I was saying. What was I saying?

DAVID

Stephens. What exactly did he do?

BRYAN

What hasn't he done? We are suppose to be working together, but he acts like he's my boss.

ETHAN

That's it?

BRYAN

That's it? The boss man don't even breath down my back like he does. Then, he had the nerve to ask me to work through lunch and stay later.

DAVID

Why didn't you just stay?

Would you?

ETHAN AND DAVID

Yes.

DAVID

Just an hour or two after work.

ETHAN

Unless of course it's Friday.

BRYAN

Man, you're both crazy as hell. I signed up for a 9 to 5 and no later.

ETHAN

Probably why we don't ever work together.

BRYAN

Did anyone ask your racist ass?

ETHAN

Actually yeah, back at the office.

BRYAN

Man, that's over... the past and speaking of the past

(to David)

what's up with that picture of you and Amy.

ETHAN

Bryan, let it go. Leave it alone.

BRYAN

David is the one who should be letting it go. It's been about six months since she left.

ETHAN

Bryan?

BRYAN

Ethan? Look, if I let it go then I wouldn't be a good friend and honestly, I didn't like her anyway. Her ass was crazy.

She's not crazy.

BRYAN

Then tell me this, where is your car?

EXT. STREET (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

A street light shines on a damaged Ford Mustang. Windows busted. Tires flattened. Water drips out from the inside.

INT. "JOE'S" BAR - NIGHT

ETHAN

He got you on that one.

DAVID

Things were a little complica-

BRYAN

So, I don't care how complicated things get, messin' up a brother's car is unforgivable.

ETHAN

But he's not a brother.

BRYAN

Close enough.

ETHAN

I didn't know you see us like that.

BRYAN

Him, I see him like that. Nothing remotely black about you.

(to David)

That's why I don't date white women.

DAVID

Bryan, you'll date any woman.

BRYAN

(thinks it over)

True, but only if she's hot and only for a limited time. No attachments and definitely no breaking my shit. No way I'll be stuck riding in that ad car.

There's nothing wrong with that car.

BRYAN

Two things. The big ad's on the side and it's not yours.

ETHAN

It's better than nothing.

BRYAN

Anyway, say D-Mack, I could hook you up with a few of my female friends?

DAVID

I told you never call me that, and no I'm fine.

ETHAN

(goofy chuckle)

Yeah, he'd rather not catch any S - T - D's.

Bryan flips Ethan off then looks back at David.

BRYAN

The problem with your way is your thinking

(slaps his hand on David's back)

outside the box.

David looks at Byran's hand then to Bryan.

DAVID

I think you should keep your comments and your hand to yourself.

Bryan looks at his hand and jerks it back.

BRYAN

I didn't say... the box represents race.

ETHAN

You sure about that?

BRYAN

Shut tha hell up.

ETHAN

I mean, you could be one of those down low brothers.

BRYAN

Say another word and I will knock the-

DAVID

It doesn't matter. I'm not ready.

ETHAN

Oh you're ready.

BRYAN

I got a few black female friends I can hook you up with?

DAVID

No, I-

ETHAN

(to Bryan)

Look who's racist now.

BRYAN

What? Not me, I'm the most open minded person you will ever meet.

ETHAN

Then why only black females? You think they are better or something?

BRYAN

It's a choice factor you idiot not a race one. He's only dated white females. I'm just sayin' do something different.

ETHAN

Then he should have a variety to choose from. Balance out the racial equality.

BRYAN

Balance out the racial eq-?

DAVID

Guys I told you I'm good.

BRYAN

No.

ETHAN

(overlapping)

Far from it.

BRYAN

This is happening so embrace it.

INT. DAVID'S CAR - NIGHT

David skims the street signs as he drives.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(voice mail,filtered)

Hey D-Mack, I got the perfect girl for you. I know you'd say no so I went ahead and set up a dinner date for the two of you. I'll text you the address.

EXT. THUG HOUSE - NIGHT

Rap music blasts from a house on the street. Two THUGGISH LOOKING GUYS sit in the yard.

A CRACKHEAD walks up and makes an exchange.

INT. DAVID'S CAR - NIGHT

David pulls up to a house not far from the thug house.

G.P.S

You have arrived at your destination.

David grabs his phone and compares the address with Byran's text message.

He surveys the street again then presses the call button.

BRYAN(V.O.)

Don't tell me you're not going?

DAVID

Bryan what the hell! You didn't tell me I needed a bullet proof jacket.

BRYAN(V.O.)

Okay, I can tell you are mad but I think you're exaggerating.

EXT. THUG HOUSE - NIGHT

A group of THUGS pour out of the house.

They head for a car parked in the driveway.

One hands another a gun.

He checks the clip.

INT. DAVID'S CAR - NIGHT

David's eyes grow big. He slouches down in his seat.

DAVID

Fuuuc-, I hate you! If I survive this I'm going to kill you.

BRYAN(V.O.)

I've never heard you crack under pressure before. Man up D-Mack you got this.

David hangs up and tosses the phone to the passenger seat.

A beam of lights shine in his face.

David exhales when the car passes. He looks cautiously behind him. Then slides up in his seat.

DAVID

This girl better be hot.

He opens his door slowly. Checks both directions.

David creeps out the car and cautiously races to the front door.

He knocks impatiently and then turns back to browse the scene.

TONYA,36, wearing a nice but not too fancy dress, opens the door with a smile.

David doesn't notice her. Her smile begins to fade.

TONYA

D-Mack?

David spins around and takes a step back.

Wow, you are hot. I mean beautiful.

TONYA

Thanks.

DAVID

And please call me David.

David extends his hand for Tonya to pass.

She strolls by. David walks along side of her.

He gently place his hand on her back. He picks up the pace.

TONYA

Ooh, you're eager aren't you?

DAVID

Think any guy would be in your company.

David opens the door for Tonya.

TONYA

Awe, you're too sweet.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Tonya picks food off of her plate as she listens to David ramble.

DAVID

... And although I would love to have my car back, I'm okay with driving the company's car. Enough about my boring life, tell me about you.

TONYA

Me?

DAVID

Yeah, what do you do? Why are you single? Anything.

TONYA

I work for an insurance company. It's really just as boring as what you do, so we won't get into that, but about being single. Well, I was dating this one guy for a minute.

What happened with that?

TONYA

Him and my brother just wouldn't stop fighting.

DAVID

Should I be concerned about your brother?

TONYA

No, there's nothing wrong with my brother. I'ma let that slide because B told me you never been with a black girl before.

DAVID

(sips his drink)
Um,okay, you ever dated outside
your race?

TONYA

Of course, it's 2014. You know people actually do that now a days?

David grabs his drink and finishes it off.

TONYA (cont'd)

I'm sure our date is no different than any other date you've been on. Well, except I'm the best company you'll every have.

She raises her glass as if doing a toast.

EXT. TONYA'S STREET (FLASHBACK) - NIGHT

The gun's clip opens and then clicks as it closes.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

David stares blankly. Smiles uneasily.

DAVID

One of a kind.

EXT. TONYA'S STREET - NIGHT

Tonya and David, who is still nervously observes the street, strolls up to the front door.

TONYA

Thanks for dinner.

DAVID

Oh, no problem. It was nice meeting you.

Tonya turns around.

She takes her keys out.

Hesitates, spins back around.

TONYA

I would love to go out again.

David flashes that uneasy smile again and nods.

TONYA (cont'd)

Are you busy tomorrow we can catch a movie or something?

DAVID

Uh, I have to work tomorrow.

TONYA

Really? I thought you and Bryan worked Monday through Friday?

DAVID

Yeah, yeah at AEON but sometimes I freelance. Like tomorrow I'll be freelancing pretty much all day. You know morning till night.

Tony looks skeptical but nods. She spins around and unlocks her door.

DAVID (cont'd)

Uh, I'll... uh call you.

Tonya waves goodbye and closes the door.

David sprints to his car, jumps in and speeds off.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

David grunts as half of his body raises off the floor. He lowers himself down from the sit-up.

His phone is on the floor next to him.

The display on the phone reads: "Speakerphone Bryan"

DAVID

The date it self was okay, but at the end of the day I was just hoping to make it out of her neighborhood alive.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)
You're starting to sound like
Ethan. Stop being a punk. You are
not dating her neighborhood.

DAVID

You weren't there. You didn't see what I saw.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)
Man, I see what you saw all the
time.

DAVID

Then you need to move.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)
You gonna let me stay with you?
Cause unless they start paying me
more money I gotta stay put.

DAVID

Then I'll be praying for you. Bryan, if dating the girls you hook me up with is going to put my life in danger then I'm done.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)
Well, you're in luck because Ethan
and I decided that we are going to
throw, well really he and
Christina, are going to throw you a
singles' party.

But Ethan and Christina are together why-?

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

It's either that or he doesn't go at all. Which I of course would be okay with but I don't want to hear his whining at work.

David's phone beeps. He picks it up and reads it.

DAVID

Hey Bryan this is my mom on the other line.

David sits up.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Ight, call me back.

David clicks over and eases back to lean on the wall.

DAVID

Hello?

DARLENE (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

David Matthews where have you been? I've been trying to reach you.

DAVID

Oh, I'm sorry ma I had my phone on silent when you called last night.

DARLENE (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

Are you coming home anytime soon?

DAVID

Is something wrong? I mean besides-

DARLENE (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Of course the usual, but the doctors say things are really not looking good.

DAVID

I can call my boss. Catch the next flight out.

DARLENE (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

No, no, no I know how busy you are.

DAVID

If it's bad I'll just come.

DARLENE (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

I'm pretty sure you can finish up the week.

DAVID

Okay ma, then I'll be there this weekend.

David hangs up. He rest his head on the wall and stares off in deep thought.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A red head in her mid thirties, CHRISTINA, opens the door. She greets a tall Korean female, ROSE, 32.

Christina hands her an index card as she lets her in.

A pop song plays for the small CROWD of singles.

David chats with a BRUNET who pretends to listen as she gazes at a guy across the room.

David, takes the hint. He points towards the kitchen.

DAVID

I'm just going to go and... yeah.

David walks off.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bryan loads a plate with food when David enters.

BRYAN

How's it going out there?

DAVID

I knew I shouldn't have come.

David scoops out punch into a cup.

The party just started. Besides it beats sitting at home worried about your pops.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Stephens walks in. Christina goes to the middle of the room, picks up a bell and rings it.

Bryan nudges David and nods towards Stephens.

CHRISTINA

Good evening everyone thanks for coming. We are here to have fun so I'll be quick. In order to (quotes in the air) break the ice, we are going to play a little game.

With an index card in his hand, Ethan walks over to Bryan and David.

CHRISTINA (cont'd)

Each of you were given a note card with half a proverb on it.

BRYAN

(to Ethan)

What's Stephens doing here?

ETHAN

I'm cool with Stephens.

CHRISTINA

So now we are going to go around the room-

There's a knock at the door. Christina motions for Ethan to get it.

It's Tonya. Ethan hands her the card and heads back towards $\ensuremath{\mathsf{Bryan}}$ and $\ensuremath{\mathsf{David}}$.

DAVID

What tha ff...

CHRISTINA

Now I think we are all here, so we'll go around the room, make sure you say hi to everyone but find the person who has the other half of your proverb.

Everyone starts to mingle except for Ethan, David and Bryan.

DAVID

(to Bryan)

What was her proverb?

ETHAN

Her who?

DAVID

Tonya. The one you just let in.

ETHAN

That's Tonya? She's hot.

BRYAN

I know right?

DAVID

What was on her card Ethan?

ETHAN

Oh, seize the day.

David looks at his card: "Carpe Diem". He snatches Byran's card and tosses him his.

BRYAN

Seriously man? Tell me when it's over.

Bryan heads back to the kitchen.

Small conversations start around the room as everyone search for their proverb.

David tries to avoid Tonya, who continues to try to head his way. OLIVIA ,34, an attractive black women approaches David.

OLIVIA

Please tell me you have the other half of this proverb cause I think I've practically met everyone here.

DAVID

No promises but let me hear it.

OLIVIA

All's well.

David smiles.

That ends well.

(extends his hand)

I'm David.

Olivia shakes David's hand.

TONYA (O.S.)

Better known as D-Mack.

Olivia and David turn their attention towards Tonya.

DAVID

Tonya, nice to see you again.

Tonya looks at Olivia and then rolls her eyes to David.

TONYA

What happened to freelancing all weekend?

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bryan eats his last chip as he jams to the beat. He grabs his drink off the counter and exits the kitchen.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bryan enters the living room. He freezes.

Across the room, Tonya stands in front of David and Olivia with her arms folded, lips stuck out.

BRYAN

Shit!

Bryan pushes through a few people. He walks up to Tonya with his arms out.

BRYAN (cont'd)

Hey girl! Look at you.

Tonya flashes Bryan a fake smile then looks back at David. Bryan steps in between David and Tonya.

BRYAN (cont'd)

Y'all know I just can't find the other half of Carpe Diem. Tonya what you got?

He barley looks at her card.

BRYAN (cont'd)

Girl that's us! Let's go talk.

He leads Tonya across the room. Olivia and David are still looking in their direction.

OLIVIA

Wow, What an intro.

DAVID

I'm sorry about that.

OLIVIA

Old girlfriend?

DAVID

No, actually we just met yesterday. We went to dinner.

OLIVIA

Date was that bad?

DAVID

Uh, it was different.

Olivia and David walk over to the small decorative but empty dinning room table and sit.

OLIVIA

What was so different about it?

DAVID

I- I'd rather not say. Now that I think about it Bryan may be right about me over exaggerating anyway.

OLIVIA

I haven't known Bryan that long but I don't think he's always right. So tell me and let me be the judge.

DAVID

Well, I'm just not use to driving down a street where I see guys gear up for a drive by.

Olivia bursts out in laughter. David smiles sheepishly.

DAVID (cont'd)

That funny huh?

OLIVIA

I'm sorry. Oh my God. What does that have to do with her?

DAVID

Nothing it's just scary.

OLIVIA

Well, judging from what I just saw you should be scared.

DAVID

Well then lets talk about something not as scary; like you. What's your name?

OLIVIA

I'm Olivia.

They continue talking. Across the room Ethan stands by the wall. He talks to Stephens.

TWO WOMEN approach the guys and flash the guys a smile.

WOMEN #1

(to Stephens)

Hi.

Christina walks up behind Ethan as he's about to say something to the other women.

CHRISTINA

What are you doing?

Ethan whirls around.

ETHAN

Heeey honey, I was just being cordial to our guest.

Christina looks at Women #2 and flashes a fake smile.

CHRISTINA

This ones already taken.

ETHAN

Chris, she was just saying hi.

CHRISTINA

(to Woman #2 and Ethan)
Did you hear my welcome speech?

Woman #2 nods at Christina.

CHRISTINA (cont'd)

That was us saying hi.

Woman #2 frowns at Christina and then struts away.

ETHAN

Please tell me you're not going to be jealous of every women who says hi?

CHRISTINA

I saw them drooling before they approached you.

ETHAN

Drooling, really?

Christina nudges Ethan.

Ethan gives her a hug and kiss.

CHRISTINA

Looks like David is hitting it off with someone. Told you my icebreaker would bring people together.

Ethan looks at David and Olivia.

ETHAN

What are you doing to me?

CHRISTINA

What did I do?

Bryan stands with Tonya across the room. He looks away and groans as she talks to him.

TONYA

I don't understand why you invited me? David is over there chatting it up with Ms. Prefect.

BRYAN

You do know the icebreaker is over right? You can go talk to other guys.

TONYA

I don't know them.

That's the point of a singles' party.

Ethan walks over to Rose and whispers in her ear. She nods then follows him to the dinning room table.

ETHAN

Excuse me David? This is Rose.

DAVID

Nice to meet you Rose and this is Olivia.

ETHAN

Great.

(to Olivia)

You mind if I steal him away for a sec?

Rose and Olivia say hi. Ethan flashes her a quick smile.

DAVID

Ethan?

OLIVIA

No, it's okay David. It's a party.

ETHAN

See she gets it. It's a party.

Olivia gets up.

OLIVIA

If we don't talk again tonight I'll just get your number from Bry.

ETHAN

Oh, no that's not necessary.

DAVID

Ethan what are you doing? Olivia that's actually a great idea.

Olivia walks off and Rose sits down.

Bryan tries to make his way across the room.

TONYA

Bryan, slow down.

Bryan spins around.

Why are you still following me?

TONYA

You're the one who pulled me away from David.

BRYAN

You still on that?

He glances across the room.

BRYAN (cont'd)

I know the perfect guy for you.

TONYA

Who?

Moments later Bryan stands in front of Stephens who chats with Women #1. He turns his attention to Bryan.

BRYAN

What up Stephens?

Stephens' smile fades.

STEPHENS

What do you want? Tell me you actually know what to do with a women or do you need help with that too?

Bryan scuffs, turns around, looks at Tonya and twirls back around.

BRYAN

No help needed, I just came to introduce you to her.

He pulls Tonya forward.

STEPHENS

Can't you see I'm already in a conversation?

BRYAN

Oh my bad.

He turns to Woman #1.

BRYAN (cont'd)

Hi, I'm Bryan and your name must be beautiful.

He takes Woman #1's hand and leads her away.

Back at the dining room area David smiles oddly at Ethan.

DAVID

What's up Ethan?

ETHAN

Christina wants to make sure everyone meets everyone. Plus you and Rose have a few things in common.

ROSE

Oh really like what?

ETHAN

Uh like you're a R - N and his mother is a-

DAVTD

A retired school teacher.

ETHAN

Yup, yeah, they both help out the world one patient and student at a time.

Ethan walks quickly away.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Used leftover plastic plates and cups are scattered around the room along with traces of last nights crumbs.

Bryan is asleep on one couch. David is curled up sleep on the other.

Christina, who's dressed in a paints suit, walks out from the kitchen carrying a plastic bag.

She flings trash into the bag. Halfway across the room she tosses the bag down. Walks to the closed bedroom.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Christina walks in. Looks at Ethan who snores softly in the bed. Christina walks over towards him.

CHRISTINA

Ethan.

Ethan doesn't budge. She moves closer.

CHRISTINA

Ethan!

Ethan stirs awake. Christina sits on the edge of the bed.

CHRISTINA (cont'd)

Ethan get up.

Ethan rubs his face and whines.

ETHAN

Why? I don't have to work.

CHRISTINA

No, but I do and you and your boys can finish cleaning up the mess in there.

ETHAN

Or you can just come back and finish after you get off.

CHRISTINA

No, this is your place.

ETHAN

Well, one day it may be our place.

Christina rises off the bed and shakes her head.

CHRISTINA

Oh, no, no, no, this will never be our anything. You'll have to come up with something better than this. You know how hard it was to fix this place up for a party in just a day.

Christina heads to the bathroom. Ethan sighs.

ETHAN

It wasn't that bad.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ethan staggers in yawning. Christina follows closely behind with her purse on her shoulder.

She kisses Ethan then heads for the front door. Ethan slowly survey's the mess.

ETHAN

Never again. I have to clean all of this by myself?

Christina turns to him.

CHRISTINA

Of course not.

She slams the door behind her. Ethan jumps.

David darts up. Bryan hits the floor hard. He curses.

They both look up at Ethan. Ethan holds up the bag and whelps.

ETHAN

Help.

A little later the three guys, who are now in different clothes, sit lazily on the couch.

They slowly toss garbage in the bag in front of them. Bryan stops and sits back.

BRYAN

This is fun and all but I'd rather be doing something else.

DAVID

Yeah, me too.

ETHAN

David, this party was for you. You can't leave.

DAVID

Actually if the party was for me then I shouldn't be cleaning up my own party. The host should.

BRYAN

I say we hit them gym.

(stands)

Sounds good. Thanks for everything Ethan.

BRYAN

Later.

Ethan and Bryan both head to the door.

Ethan groans. He flings the bag down and darts up.

ETHAN

Hold up guys. I'm coming.

INT. GYM - LOCKER ROOM - DAY

David faces an open locker with the phone to his ear. Ethan and David listens in as they lace up their shoes.

DAVID

(into phone)

We could grab something to eat or something. Okay, that sounds good.

Bryan and Ethan look at each other, then at David.

DAVID

Okay, see you at three.

David smirks as he hangs up the phone.

BRYAN

Huh oh heeee's baaaack.

ETHAN

That was Rose huh? I knew there was a connection.

DAVID

No, Olivia.

BRYAN

(to Ethan)

Aah, oh yeah.

Bryan sings and does a little dance.

BRYAN (cont'd)

He's steppin' out tha box, oh yeah oh yeah.

ETHAN

Well, go and have your fun but tomorrow we have a lot of work to do. We'll probably be working after hours.

DAVID

I'll come in early and work through lunch. I have a date with Rose tomorrow.

ETHAN

That's what I'm talkin' bout.

BRYAN

Oh this girl named Rachel saw you and asked about you. She was hot so I gave her your number.

ETHAN

You're really trying hard aren't you?

BRYAN

Hey I'm just lookin' out for my boy.

ETHAN

Please stop, the last thing we need is another you.

BRYAN

D-Mack could never be me. He was born with a conscience.

INT. DAVID'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The living room is silent. David is on his couch. He flips through the open photo album on his lap.

He stares at an old family photo of him as a little boy with his parents. He slowly turns the page to the last photo.

It's him and his dad standing side by side smiling towards the camera.

Behind them a banner hangs : "Congratulations David! We will Miss you!!! 2010".

David's phone rings and dances on the end table. David sits the book down next to him and grabs his phone.

(into the phone)
Hello? Uh, hi Olivia. We're still
on for tonight right?
(beat)Something else? Oookay, what
do you have in mind? (beat) A
surprise? I'm not too good with
surprises. (beat) Bullet proof
jacket fun? (beat) It's not that
funny? (beat) So that's a no on the
jacket right? Hello?

David hangs up looking concerned.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

David's eyes are wide open as he nervously looks at the miniature golf center.

OLIVIA (O.S.)

I told you you can trust me.
I thought our first date could be different.

INT. MINIATURE GOLF COURSE - NIGHT

David and Olivia walk into the not too crowded building.

DAVID

I've never played golf and really don't know any thing about it.

OLIVIA

Whhhat, a white boy with no golf skills or knowledge of the game.

DAVID

Now I see why you and Bryan are friends.

Olivia hops in front of David playfully and walks backwards.

OLIVIA

Aw, it's going to be okay. You'll have fun just wait and see.

After getting their putters and balls they walk up to the first hole. David points around him.

DAVTD

Is this because I'm white?

OLIVIA

No, you'll have fun. I promise it's not that hard. Just keep your head down, eye on the ball and swing the bat.

DAVID

Okay, I know the difference between baseball and golf.

OLIVIA

Okay, okay just seeing if you're paying attention.

DAVID

Pretty sure it's hard for any guy to not pay attention to you.

Olivia smile and blushes a little.

OLIVIA

Just for that you can go first.

David steps onto the flat green area and places his ball in position.

He takes a deep breath, shakes his arms out and aligns the end of the club to the ball. He lefts the club and swings.

The ball whooshes through the air and is inches away from hitting a MAN who's with his FAMILY.

Olivia covers her mouth. David lowers his head as if he's hiding. The family turns around. David points to Olivia.

DAVID

She is so so sorry.

Still obviously irritated the family turns around.

OLIVIA

Oh, no you didn't.

DAVID

Whew, I never knew golf could be so dangerous.

Olivia steps up to the carpet. Taps her ball in. David throws his hands up as the ball passes by his.

It drops in the hole.

Olivia does a victory dance towards the hole to retrieve her ball.

It takes David two more swings to put the ball in the hole.

As Olivia shows how good she is David decides to even the playing field by doing whatever it takes to cheat.

He'll stop at nothing as he pokes, and nudges her.

On David's last hole he swings his putter. His ball falls into the hole.

David jumps up, and acts as if he's won a million dollar. Olivia shakes her head.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Olivia is on the sidewalk on her phone. David waits by her car. Olivia hangs up the phone and joins David.

OLIVIA

Sorry about that. I swear children will drive you completely crazy.

Olivia notices the dazed look on David's face.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

I guess I didn't get around to mentioning that, huh?

David slowly shakes his head.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

She usually stays with her father Friday through Monday.

DAVID

Oh, uh-

OLIVIA

That doesn't bother you does it?

David takes a moment to open her car for her.

DAVID

No, it's... it's cool.

Olivia gets into her car.

OLIVIA

Good.

DAVID

I must admit I had a lot of fun.

OLIVIA

See golf isn't that bad. I know it's late but if you want we can hang out a little while longer at my house.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

David sits on the couch. He observes the tidy and traditional living room decor.

Olivia comes in from the kitchen with two glasses of water. She hands one to David and sits hers on the coffee table.

DAVID

Thanks.

Olivia heads for the hallway.

Before she cuts the corner she looks at David.

OLIVIA

Make yourself comfortable. I'll be right back.

David eyes all the pictures hanging on the wall.

He picks up a portrait on the end table.

Olivia, her daughter and a bright bald guy looks back at him smiling.

Olivia walks back in and sits down.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

This is my daughter's favorite picture. (beat) David, dating someone with a child is a big responsibility. It's important to me that you are okay with everything.

DAVID

If you don't mind me asking, what happened with you and your ex?

OLIVIA

Honestly, we fell out of love with each other. We were both truly in love with each other when we got married but over the years we changed into two totally different people.

Olivia takes the picture from him and hunches her shoulders.

OLIVIA

I still love him and want the best for him but I'm not in love with him. Kayla doesn't understand it.

Olivia puts the picture on the coffee table.

OLIVIA

One day she'll fall in love with the wrong person and she'll get it. (beat)It has to be right or what's the point?

David looks at her. Their eyes connect. David leans in closer to her.

He pauses for a second. Then slowly kisses her. His hand glides over her leg.

Her hands finds the sides of his abs. He begins to kiss her neck. Olivia begins to lift up his shirt.

Bang, bang, bang.

They both jump.

KAYLA (O.S.)

Hey mom open up!

David quickly pulls back from Olivia.

OLIVIA

Shit!

She gets off the couch and straightens herself out.

She vanishes to the front door. David straightens up on the couch.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Olivia walks up to the door. Takes a deep breath and opens the door.

An older version of the skinny child in the photo stands with one hand on her hip.

The other hand holds the straps of a small duffel bag that dangles from her shoulder.

The buzz of the music can be heard as she enters.

OLIVIA

And hello to you too.

KAYLA

Ugh, hi mom.

Olivia closes the door and walks toward the living room. Kayla follows.

KAYTIA

I can't take one more day with dad.

OLIVIA

Kayla calm down he isn't that bad.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kayla and Olivia are still out of sight.

David darts up from the couch.

KAYLA(O.S.)

Hmp, must be you left--

She sees David and stops.

KAYTA

him.

Eyes still on David, she tosses her bags to the side.

OLIVIA

Kayla this is David. David... Kayla.

Kayla side eyes her mother. Olivia jerks her head at David, signaling her to be nice.

KAYLA

Umm, who are you?

OLIVIA

Kayla I just told you his name.

DAVID

(overlapping)

I'm David. A friend of your mothers.

KAYLA

I know all my mother's friends. Don't remember you.

OLIVIA

Kayla Owens that is way more than enough.

DAVID

I think I'm going to go.

Kayla nods at him with a fake smile. Then becomes serious again.

OLIVIA

Kayla go put your stuff up.

Kayla eyes David as she cross the living room. David walks to Olivia.

OLIVIA (cont'd)

I'm so sorry about this.

DAVID

No, it's okay.

OLIVIA

Maybe we can set something up for this weekend?.

DAVID

I'm going to New York this weekend..

OLIVIA

Oh, what's in New York?.

DAVID

My parents, I need to go see my father. He has lung cancer.

OLIVIA

Sorry to hear that. Well, during the week it's usually work and Kayla but maybe we can find time before you leave.

DAVID

Sounds good.

David gives her a hug. Pecks her on the cheek and heads to the door. Olivia looks up and sighs.

INT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - WORK FLOOR - DAY

With his briefcase in one hand and coffee cup in the other David strolls onto the empty work floor.

He works hard at his desk as people began to come in.

It's lunchtime.

Ethan works with David at his desk.

Ethan checks his watch, says a few words to David then gets up and leaves.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

David is in his bed with the phone to his ear.

He smiles as he talks into the phone.

INT. OLIVIA'S HOUSE (SPLIT SCREEN) - KITCHEN- NIGHT

Olivia stirs the steaming food with one hand and cradles the phone to her ear with the other.

Kayla is at the kitchen table. She balances her head in the palm of her hand as she stares at the open school book.

OLIVIA

No, tomorrow Kayla has a basketball game.(beat) Well, we'll figure something out.(beat) No, I'm not afraid of a rematch.(beat) Oh please, you didn't even win cheater.

Olivia bursts out in laughter.

Kayla turns her attention to her mother.

She rolls her eye back to her book.

INT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - WORK FLOOR- DAY

David sits at his desk typing.

His cell phone vibrates.

It's Rose. He answers, talks for a minute, jots down an address, hangs up, and continues his work.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

David rushes in the house, flops his briefcase and keys on the couch and starts to take his shirt off.

He heads to the bedroom. He comes back in jeans and a plain shirt, grabs his keys and leaves.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

David dresses for work.

His cellphone rings.

He picks it up and reads a message from Bryan:
"Date tonight with Evelyn. Tonya
says call her."

INT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - WORK FLOOR- DAY

Ethan walks up to David's desk.

ETHAN

Hey, we really need to finish this before you--.

David cellphone rings.

He holds up his finger as he answers.

DAVID

Hello?

Ethan darts his eyes at David.

He slowly turns around and walks off.

DAVID (cont'd)

(into phone)

I don't know about Karaoke. I mean, I'll go but I can't promise I'll get up there.(beat)Okay, bye.

David turns to the spot Ethan was in.

DAVID (cont'd)

Now what were--.

David eyes the room for Ethan.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

David drags through the front door and tosses his keys to the couch.

The keys hit his briefcase.

David stampers off to his bedroom.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

David alarm goes off.

He slowly awakes and slaps the off button.

He drags himself to the restroom.

INT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - WORK FLOOR - DAY

David drags into work. He's alone. He begins to work then puts his head down on his desk.

When Ethan walks in he jerks his head up.

Ethan looks at him and shakes his head.

ETHAN

Conference room ten minutes.

Ethan walks off.

INT. "AEON" ADVERTISING - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Ethan sits down behind the long table and takes out his laptop.

David drags himself in with papers in a disarray clenched to his chest.

He closes the door.

ETHAN

I swear if your phone so much as make a chirp--

David throws his hand up and waves Ethan off.

DAVID

It won't, it won't. I turned it off.

Ethan looks at him suspiciously.

David flops down in the seat next to him.

He offers Ethan the papers. Ethan looks at the papers then to David and reluctantly takes them.

The door flings open.

Stephens sticks his head in and scans the room.

STEPHENS

Have y'all seen Bryan?

ETHAN

No.

David shakes his head.

Stephens steps into the room and closes the door.

Ethan and David share a questioning look.

Stephens slowly looks under the table.

ETHAN (cont'd)

Uh, really, he's uh not there.

STEPHENS

(mocking Ethan)

Uh, really, uh?

If he's not here then I know that you know where he is.

We already said we don't.

ETHAN

You've already checked in the only place possible. So obviously he's not here. Unless he's standing behind that plant over there.

Stephens looks at the small desk plant and then back to Ethan.

DAVID

Stephens we do not know where Bryan is and unless you'd like to anonymously make an input on our client's behalf, it would help if you left us alone.

Stephens is about to say something.

Instead he turns around and walks out.

ETHAN

What a dick. I can't believe I invited him to my party.

Seconds later Bryan rushes in and closes the door.

He turns around, looks out the mini blinds that are hanging from the door and then turns around to David and Ethan.

BRYAN

(walks to table)

This guy is out of his damn mind. Everything, I mean everything that I've given him he turned down.

Bryan nudges David.

BRYAN (cont'd)

Tonya's been asking about you.

David rolls his eyes.

BRYAN (cont'd)

She say you think you're too good to call her.

DAVID

Too good? I never said that.

BRYAN

Well, she's been asking me why you haven't called.

DAVID

I can't do it Bryan.

BRYAN

Why not?

DAVID

The last thing I need is her brother hunting me down and doing a drive by at my house trying to put a cap in my-

BRYAN

A drive by?

DAVID

Do you think he's been to prison?

BRYAN

Man I knew you were racist.

ETHAN

Technically that's not racism. It's profiling.

BRYAN

Man whatever. Her brother is in the military.

David throws his head back and hands up.

ETHAN

Even worst. He's trained to put a cap in your-.

BRYAN

Racist asses.

DAVID

Everything is not about race. I like Olivia. There's little danger there.

ETHAN

You sure cause teenagers are a little dangerous and kinda scary.

BRYAN

Olivia is cool and all but you are not ready for a kid David.

DAVID

Then why did you give her my number?

BRYAN

I didn't know she had a kid. Who, by the way, has daddy issues.

DAVID

What about stepping outside the box and all of that?

BRYAN

The box was about race.

DAVID

No, then you said do something different.

BRYAN

This is too different David. You didn't even want to date. Hell, Amy wanted to get married and all of that and you wasn't ready. What makes you think you're ready for this?

David turns back to his papers.

BRYAN (cont'd)

Forget about Olivia. I can hook you up with someone else or at least give Tonya another chance.

DAVID

No, I'm good. Really.

Bryan tilts his and looks at David.

BRYAN

Maybe it's the dating that has made you racist?

David jerks his head up at Bryan.

DAVID

Look Tonya seems like a good person, but there is nothing there so can you back the hell off?

Ethan and Bryan look at each other with a blank stare.

DAVID (cont'd)

And that goes for the racist shit as well.

David returns his eyes to the papers.

BRYAN

Damn, dating has changed you.

Bryan walks off then turns back.

BRYAN (cont'd)

For the last few years you've put up with my shit.

He walks off again and turns back.

BRYAN (cont'd)

You've gotten soft.

He turns around and then turns back.

BRYAN (cont'd)

Dating has turned you into a little b-.

DAVID

Bryan!

BRYAN

Tonight you and Tonya.

He starts to walk away.

DAVID

I have a lot to do before I leave for New York.

Without turning around.

BRYAN

When you get back. I'll set it up. It's a date.

Bryan sticks his head out of the door to check for Stephens, then slowly walks out.

Ethan looks at David.

ETHAN

You have kinda changed.

David darts his eyes at Ethan who quickly fixes his eyes on the computer screen.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Half empty suitcases are open on the bed surrounded by clothing scattered about.

David can be heard rumbling through things in the bathroom.

DAVID (O.S.)

No, everything is fine.

A few toiletries fly out from the bathroom and land on the bed.

DAVID (O.S.) (cont'd)

Yeah, I know. I really meant to call.

David walks out the restroom with his phone to his ear and a bar of soap in his hand.

He tosses the small box next to the razors.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

(filtered)

For a minute there I thought you were avoiding me.

DAVID

No things just got crazy lately. There's so much going on in my head.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

(filtered)

Do you want to talk about it?

Knock, knock, knock.

DAVID

Someone's at the door. Can you hold on a sec?

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

With the phone still to his ear David opens the door.

His mouth drops.

DAVID

AMY?

AMY, 34, blonde female from the picture on his desk smiles back at him.

DAVID (cont'd)

What are you doing here?

Amy's smile fades.

AMY

Well, can I come in or what?

David lets her in and then closes the door behind him.

DAVID

Olivia, huh, can I call you back?

He hangs up the phone.

Amy strolls around the living room with her hands folded as she looks over the apartment.

She looks at David.

AMY

Wow, only six months and I've already been replaced.

DAVID

Olivia is a friend, besides you broke up with me.

AMY

Oh, so I was wrong for wanting more? For wanting to meet your parents, get married, having kids...being an adult?

David flops down on the couch and rubs his temples.

DAVID

Of course not.

AMY

It's not as easy for me to just start all over.

DAVID

You're assuming it's easy for me.

AMY

Sure looks that way. You've been dating a lot lately.

DAVID

How do you know what I've been doing? Have you been stalking me?

AMY

No, not stalking. Don't worry I haven't been hiding in bushes or anything. I was just looking at your Facebook page. Bryan tagged you in a few recent date photos and comments.

Amy's eyes start to tear up.

AMY (cont'd)

Damn Facebook doesn't have a dislike button.

David exhales and goes to Amy. She turns away from him.

He pulls her in his arms and caresses her hair.

AMY

I've missed you so much.

David closes his eyes.

DAVID

Amy--

Amy pulls away from him and shakes her head.

AMY

Oh, no David, I know that tone.

They stare at each other. He starts to look away but she leans forward and kisses him.

He kisses back. Their breathing gets heavy.

He picks her up and wraps her legs around his waist and heads to his room.

INT. DAVID'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

David eases Amy down to his bed. He knocks off anything in his way and continues to kiss her. He kisses her neck. She moans.

AMY

I want to be with you forever.

David freezes.

AMY (cont'd)

Why, why, why'd you stop?

David exhales and rolls over next to Amy. She sobs softly.

AMY (cont'd)

What's wrong with me?

He turns to her.

DAVID

Nothing, it's me.

AMY

Then talk to me David.

David stares off at the ceiling.

DAVID

I, I don't know.

AMY

You pretend like you don't want a family. Why?

David sits up on the bed.

AMY (cont'd)

David please talk to me.

DAVID

I don't want what you want. Not right now.

AMY

Then I'll wait.

DAVID

You shouldn't have to.

AMY

So that's it? It's really over?

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

David wedges his carry-on bag in the hole above his seat.

ROSE (V.O.)

(filtered)

Hey David this is Rose. I wondering if we could go get a drink or something.

TONYA (V.O.)

(filtered)

David, it's Tonya. Bryan said you didn't call because your phone was messed up. Can't wait to go out again. Oh yeah and sorry for the other day.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(filtered)

D-Mack what's up. I know your probably gone just call me when you get to New York.

ETHAN (V.O.)

(filtered)

Hey David, call me when you get settled. I just had to let you know the client loved the ad and everything. It was a stressful week with everything but it worked out great. See you when you get back.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

The plane takes off.

OLIVIA (V.O.)

(filtered)

Hey David, I just wanted to say that I hope every things okay with you. You know, even if nothing happens with us, you can still call if you need to talk. I'ma good listener and a friend. Have a safe trip, bye.

EXT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - FRONT - NIGHT

A cab pulls up and David gets out. He takes his bags from the trunk.

David stares at the house.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

MR. MATTHEWS is restlessly lying in the bed. He flicks through channels.

DARLENE (O.S.)

Matty look who decided to pay us a visit.

David walks in the room with his mother behind him. She holds his arms and guides him to the room.

Mr. Matthews looks at David and frowns.

MR. MATTHEWS

(Raspy breathing)

Darlene, who is this?

She waves him off and shakes her head.

David looks back at his mother confused.

He looks back to his father.

DAVID

Dad, it's me?

MR. MATTHEWS

Whoa, whoa we had a kid and you didn't even tell me?

DARLENE

Matthew, stop it. He came all the way from Chicago just to see us.

MR. MATTHEWS

(to David)

Hey, I'm just joking... kidding. It's good to see you son. It's been some years, huh? David walks over to the chair by his bedside and takes a seat.

Yea, too long.

DARLENE

She must be pretty special to keep you away from this place?

DAVID

No ma, I don't have a girlfriend.

MR. MATTHEWS

David, I'm not getting any younger here. Would be nice if you found a nice girl.

DAVID

I'm looking dad... I'm looking.

MR. MATTHEWS

I'm just sayin' if it wasn't for
your mother-

DAVID

I know dad, you'd probably go crazy or be dead already.

Mr. Matthews smiles to Darlene and nods his head.

MR. MATTHEWS

See, he does listen.

DARLENE

So when are you flying back?

DAVID

I dunno. Playing it by ear.

DARLENE

Well make sure you're decent in the morning, Matty's nurse comes at about 9.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

David is asleep. His phone vibrates on the night stand.

David slowly opens his eyes and looks over towards the phone. He takes it off the night stand.

Looks at the caller id, Rose's name flash across. He dismisses the call and groans as he tosses it to the bed.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Matthews and Darlene are on the couch. They watch old episodes of Tom& Jerry.

KIM, 37, warm brown face, playful cartoon character scrubs and her strands dangle from her pony tail.

Despite her appearance, she means business as she tries to take Mr. Matthews blood pressure.

MR. MATTHEWS Watch this, watch this...

He laughs hysterically.

KIM

Mr. Matty we've been through this. I can't get a good read if you're not quite. I'm not bringing you anymore D- V- D's if you don't cooperate.

Darlene notices David watching them.

She flashes him a smile. He smiles back as he slowly walks into the room.

Kim takes Mr. Matthews' pressure.

DARLENE

David this young lady over here is Kimberly your father's nurse.

Kim takes the cuff off Mr. Matthews. David walks over and shakes her hand.

DAVID

Nice to meet you.

KIM

You too.

(to Mr. Matthews)
You ready for lunch?

MR. MATTHEWS

Yeah, nothing much though.

(to David proudly)

I'm living the life...got two women waiting on me.

Kim shakes her head and walks towards the kitchen. Darlene and Mr. Matthews go back to watching Tom and Jerry.

David heads to the kitchen.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - KITCHEN -DAY

Kim fixes Mr. Matthews and Darlene a sandwich. David walks in, goes to the fridge and gets a bottle of orange juice.

DAVID

You need help with anything?

KIM

Oh, no. I've got it but thanks.

David leans against the counter.

DAVID

So how is he?

KIM

Dr. Randall says there's really nothing else that can be done besides making him comfortable as possible. I started here two year ago and things have changed for him. He's not really sleeping, probably won't even eat half of this sandwich.

DAVID

How's he handling it otherwise?

Kim takes a deep breath, walks over to the table, takes a seat, and signals for David to join her. David sits.

KIM

To be honest he is finally accepting what is happening. He knows that there's nothing he can do but think positive.

She takes a beat and stares off as if recalling past conversations.

KIM

He talks about you a lot(beat)says that you found out about his cancer after you left and you came back like every two weeks, then gradually decreased your visits-

It was complicated.

KIM

I'm not judging you. It's hard to watch someone you love suffer, but he sees that. He's afraid that you're not taking this well.

David looks at Kim and then looks off.

KIM (cont'd)

He wishes that you wouldn't be so afraid of losing him(beat)that maybe if you got over your fear he'd get to see more of you.

David continues to stare off while Kim gets up, grabs the plates and then exits out of the kitchen.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Darlene is on the couch watching television.

Kim slings her purse on her shoulders and starts to head out the living room to the front door.

She turns to Darlene.

KIM

Don't forget Friday Marlow will be coming in.

DARLENE

That's right it's your reunion.

KIM

And I don't know why I'm going.

DARLENE

Oh, I'm pretty sure it'll be great. Take pictures, we would love to see that dress of yours.

KIM

Shoot, I forgot to get a dress.

DARLENE

Well you have tonight to get it.

KIM

I have a meeting tonight and there's no way I'm waiting til Friday. Guess I'll have to go in the morning before I come here.

DARLENE

Good, then I can see the dress.

EXT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

David paces as he talks into the phone.

DAVID

Thank you Mr. Schwartz for understanding. (beat) Thank you sir.

David hangs up the phone. He turns around to the house. The door opens and Darlene sticks her head out.

DARLENE

I've been looking everywhere for you?

David rushes over to his mom.

DAVID

What... what is it?

DARLENE

Kim's car won't start.

David relaxes.

DAVID

(under his breath)
Maybe start with that first.

DARLENE

She was going to get Marlow to come out but I figured you can take the car and go help her out.

David exhales and nods. Darlene tosses him the keys.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Kim opens the door.

KIM

I'm so sorry to drag you all the way over here.

DAVID

It's okay, it didn't hurt.

KIM

I was on my way to get my dress and that damn thing just wouldn't start.

They walk toward his parents' car.

DAVID

Do you want me to look at it?

KIM

Yeah if you know anything about fixing cars?

DAVID

Actually I don't I was just being nice, but I guess it would be mean for me to make it worse uh?

KIM

Cruel.

They laugh.

INT. MATTHEWS' CAR - DAY

David starts up the car and pulls off. Kim looks out the window.

DAVID

Where to?

KIM

Your parents' house.

DAVID

The lest I can do is take you to get a dress.

KIM

No, I'll run and do it when I get off.

In what? Your car won't start.

KIM

Okay okay.

INT. FORMAL DRESS STORE - DAY

David is combing through a row of dresses. Kim is one rack away doing the same.

DAVID

So what are we looking for?

Kim stops and looks up at him.

KIM

Oh ,no, no, no we aren't looking for anything. I think there are some chairs over there by the fitting room.

DAVID

I can't just sit down and do nothing.

He pulls out an ugly looking dress.

DAVID (cont'd)

What about this one?

Kim scrunches up her face. David quickly places it back on the rack.

DAVID (cont'd)

I promise I'll do better.

INT. FORMAL DRESS STORE - FITTING ROOM AREA - DAY

David slouches in a chair aimlessly observing the store. He fumbles with his fingers.

Kim walks out the fitting room, but he doesn't notice.

KIM

Okay, what about this one?

David looks. He slides up in the chair.

Uh, wow, um-

She starts to walk away.

KIM

Well, blame yourself because you picked this one.

DAVID

I did a really good job.

Kim twirls around and squeals.

KIM

Really, you like it?

David smiles with a nod. Kim parades back to the fitting room.

INT. FORMAL DRESS STORE - LATER

David flings two long white plastic bags over his shoulders as they both walk through the exit. He stops.

DAVID

What about shoes?

KIM

Oh, I'm not buying shoes for just one night. It's bad enough I bought that dress.

DAVID

I thought women didn't need a shoe buying occasion?

KIM

How stereotypical.

DAVID

What if I bought them?

Kim quickly takes David's hand and pulls him along.

KIM

Shoe store is this way.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

It's empty and quite.

The low sound of chatter and laughter is followed by a door opening. The talking and laughing grows.

Darlene meets Kim and David in the living room.

DARLENE

I see you found a dress.

Kim takes it from David and shows it to Darlene.

KIM

Thanks, to your son.

DARLENE

Oh, that's just gorgeous.

KIM

David came to my rescue a couple times this morning. After he picked this dress out, I sent my friend Jeffery a picture of my dress and he text me back and said he couldn't make it.

DARLENE

Aw, but I bet he would have thought you were beautiful in it any how.

KIM

You don't know Jeffery. He would have been eying the dress more than me. Probably thought that I would look better than him.

DAVID

There's no way he would pay more attention to the dress.

KIM

Awe, you're such a charmer.

DAVID

I try. I was going to let you go alone wearing that. You'd have a hard time fighting guys off of you.

A satisfying grin sweeps across her face.

KIM

Oh, maybe I should go alone. The attention doesn't sound that bad.

DAVID

Oh no, I didn't rent this tux for nothing.

Darlene's eyes dances back and forth at the two as they talk. A slight grin appears on her face.

David takes the bags and goes to his room.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

David pulls up gets out. Corsage in his hand as he walks to Kim's front door and knocks.

KIM (O.S.)

Come in!

David cautiously opens the door and steps in.

KIM (O.S.) (cont'd)

Sorry, I'll be out in just a second.

David eyes the modern decor as he closes the door behind him. The living room is empty.

DAVID

You know I could have been a mass murder or something?

KIM (O.S.)

Well thank God you're not.

David starts to walk up the small stairway.

Kim comes through the doorway.

David fumbles over the step when he sees her.

The corsage falls to the floor.

Kim tries not to laugh.

KIM

Oh my God are you okay?

David gets up grabs the box and looks back at the small stairs.

Yea, your stairs was just in the way.

Kim smiles. David walks over and shows her the corsage.

DAVID (cont'd)

This wouldn't be a real prom reunion if you didn't have one of these.

Kim smiles and blushes.

INT. HOTEL - BALLROOM - NIGHT

A banner hangs over a stage.

It reads: "20Th Reunion Remembering Our Past: Dancing into the future."

Upbeat old school music plays.

Alumni and their quest dance, socialize and eat.

A women in a black sleeves dress waves at someone across the room.

Not too far from the waving woman, David and Kim dance to a fast song.

David dances poorly and offbeat to the music.

Kim tries to keep her composure.

She looks around to see who's watching.

KIM

I don't mean to be rude, but I don't think dancing is your strong suit.

David takes a step back.

DAVID

Not my, pff, I can dance, watch.

David waves his arms awkwardly as he shuffles his feet. Kim puts her hand on his shoulder.

KIM

No really, you have to stop.

They both laugh, but gets serious when a slow sound begins to play.

DAVID

Would you like to dance?

KIM

Don't know, you're a little scary on the dance floor.

David smiles and holds out his hand. Kim looks into his eyes and slowly takes his hand.

David's hand slides around her waist. She looks away.

They are both silent at first as they get closer and sway together.

DAVID

So, if you don't mind me asking, why are you single?

KIM

Most of the guys I've dated just wanted to play games. Every day I get a glimpse of how precious and short life is, the last thing want to do is waste it. What about you?

DAVID

Me?

KIM

Your parents haven't said anything about a long time girlfriend or anything.

DAVID

My parents haven't mentioned anything because there hasn't been anything to tell. I've been on a few dates but nothing came of it. I did date a girl for a while but we were looking for two different things.

KIM

What are you looking for?

DAVID

Someone that won't destroy my car when things get a little tough.

Kim looks at him.

Long story. I'm looking for someone special, someone that I can open up to comfortably. To be honest, I see what my mom and father have and I want that but with the right person.

The song ends, they stop dancing but their eyes are still locked on each other.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kim and David burst through the door kissing.

They both are pulling and trying to remove each others clothes.

KIM

Watch the steps.

DAVID

They are always in the way.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

David and Kim's clothes make a pathway to the other side of the room.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

David and Kim are lying in her bed kissing. Kim pulls back and David stops.

KIM

Wait, wait.

DAVID

What's wrong?

KIM

I don't know if we should...

DAVID

Ookay.

He looks down under the cover.

Great timing.

KIM

I just don't want us to have any regrets because this isn't just sex to me.

David looks at Kim. Leans in and begins to kiss her slowly and passionately. He stops. She opens her eyes, exhales and kisses him.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

David slowly opens the door and tries to quietly sneak in.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

David tiptoes into the living room.

Darlene and Mr. Matthews eyes him as comes in. He stops.

DARLENE

Must have been a good reunion?

DAVID

Uh, it was, yeah you could say it was, uh good.

Mr. Matthews looks at him with a stern look.

MR. MATTHEWS

You break her heart and I'll get my shot gun. You hear me son?

David frowns and points to himself.

DAVID

But I'm your...

David shakes his head then walks off.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kim, David, and his parents sit around a square table, each with a plate of food in front of them.

Everyone except for Mr. Matthews eats. He pokes at his food.

DARLENE

Kim, you know you didn't have to
cook dinner?

KIM

Oh don't worry, I had David doing most of the work.

Mr. Matthews' fork drops to his plate as he growls.

DARLENE

David... cooking?

DAVID

I do cook a little ma.

DARLENE

See what I miss when you're away so long?

Mr. Matthews and David glance at each other. David clears his throat.

DAVID

Dad you're not eating.

MR. MATTHEWS

Lunch was, uh kind of big.

KIM

Oh no it wasn't. You had half a sandwich and didn't even eat that.

Darlene reaches over and places the fork in Mr. Matthews' hand.

DARLENE

Each just a bit more.

Mr. Matthews eyes all of them.

MR. MATTHEWS

I don't like being ganged up on.

He starts to gather some food on the fork.

MR. MATTHEWS (cont'd)

Feels like I'm a toddler being bullied in the school yard.

DARLENE

Oh Matty don't exaggerate.

As Mr. Matthews lodges food in his mouth David's cellphone rings. He digs it out. It's Olivia.

DARLENE (cont'd)

David we are having dinner you know?

David silences the phone, then pushes it back in his pocket.

DAVID

Sorry, sorry.

DARLENE

(to Kim)

Is this how he treats you? My God.

Kim shakes her head no.

MR. MATTHEWS

Now look who's exaggerating. He does have a life away from here.

Kim glances at David then back to her plate.

DARLENE

Don't be insensitive.

MR. MATTHEWS

Insensitive to who? Kim? It's no secret that David's life is in Chicago.

Darlene looks over to Kim.

DARLENE

I'm so sorry dear. Please forgive him.

Mr. Matthews roll his eyes. David looks over at Kim confused. Mr. Matthews pushes his plate away.

MR. MATTHEWS

This whole crazy dialogue is tiring. Kim, thanks for cooking, but I need to lie down.

Mr. Matthews takes his time to balance himself up.

DARLENE

You want me to help?

MR. MATTHEWS

No stay with the kids. Talk... be merry... I'm going to take a nap.

Mr. Matthews shuffles away.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Kim strolls out the bathroom. She runs a comb though her hair.

David, who's sits on the edge of the bed, stretches his shirt over his body.

DAVID

You know you could have just slept over with me?

KIM

That would have been just too weird.

David walks over to Kim and gives her a kiss.

DAVID

I guess you're right.

KIM

Hey, when I get off do you want to go out? We've been invited on a double date.

DAVID

A double-date, really?

David strolls over to the bathroom.

KIM

Yeah, my best friend Jeffery invited us.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

David walks over to the sink and grabs his toothbrush out of the holder.

DAVID

Can I take a ran check?

He starts his tooth brushing routine.

KIM (O.S.)

You don't want to meet my friends?

DAVID

Of course I do. It's just that I have to start back working so-

KIM (O.S.)

You're going back to Chicago?

DAVID

No, I'm working with Ethan from here.

He swishes a cap full of mouthwash then spits.

DAVID

You do know that eventually I am going back right? We'll make it work.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Kim lodges her hair in a ponytail. She exhales.

KIM

Yeah... right.

EXT. PARK - DAY

David and Kim sit on a blanket with fruit inches away. Kim tosses a grape in the air.

She quickly catches it with her mouth. On her second attempt David gives her a nudge.

The grape hits her in the face.

DAVID

Awe, I'm sorry... okay... okay,

David grabs a grape and holds his hand up in the air.

DAVID (cont'd)

Kim I am so sorry.

Kim, with the container in her hand, digs in, and starts flinging grapes at David.

He laughs and does his best to block the grape fire.

He rises and chases after Kim.

She laughs hysterically.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

The door is closed.

David is on the floor doing sit-ups. His phone is not too far away on speakerphone.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

Man, we haven't heard from you in so long we didn't know what to think.

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

What's been up David?

David comes down from doing a sit-up and pauses.

DAVID

Nothing really. It's been really really great being home.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

Really, really?

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

What's her name?

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Uh oh, look at D-Mack. You get back home and show those girls a good time huh?

DAVID

There is no, those girls, only one.

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

What's her name?

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Is she white?

Kim and no.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

So you're just not going to tell me huh?

DAVID

Does it matter?

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Can you just say who won me or Bryan?

DAVID

Won what?

David starts back doing sit-ups.

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

I thought Bryan told you?

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Uh, we kind of made a bet that if you ended up with a black chic Ethan would have to work with me on his next project.

DAVID

That's just so wrong, but Ethan you shouldn't have made that bet.

Bryan laughs and cheers through the phone.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

I knew it. I knew it. You know what they say about going black?

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Shut up Bryan.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

Oh, don't hate the playa.

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

When we work together leave the cliches out of your work please.

David stops doing sit-ups and stares at the ceiling. David doesn't see the door open.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Whatever, so David what about the other girls and Olivia?

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Yeah, seemed like you were really into Olivia.

DAVID

Yeah and to top it off Amy dropped by my house before I left.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Please tell me you are not getting back with her crazy ass?

DAVID

No, but I was really close to being stupid. And speaking of stupid, can you please stop tagging me in stuff on Facebook?

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

My fault, I just got a little excited that you were back in the game.

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

So when are you going to break the news?

DAVID

When I get back.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone,filtered)

Oh yeah D-Mack gotta get one last drop.

David sits up.

Kim stares at him coldly.

David jumps up off the floor.

DAVID

Kim!

Kim throws the clothes she's holding to the bed, turns around and storms out.

DAVID (cont'd)

Shit!

David follows her.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

Awe shit.

ETHAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

It's going to be so funny when he comes back and kicks your ass.

BRYAN (V.O.)

(over phone, filtered)

Naw, that's if he survives

this. Black women don't play.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Kim takes mayonnaise and lunch meat out of the refrigerator and slams the door shut.

David races in.

DAVID

Kim let me explain.

Kim picks up a knife off of the counter. David throws his hands up and jumps back.

Whoa!

She rolls her eyes, cuts the sandwich and tosses the knife in the sink.

KIM

I have work to do so keep your lies to yourself.

Kim storms pass him with the sandwich exits.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Matthews is on the couch. Kim marches in and gives Mr. Matthews his sandwich.

David comes into the room.

DAVID

Kim please?

Mr. Matthews gazes at Kim, then to David. He shakes his head in disappointment.

Kim turns around and heads back to the kitchen.

David catches her hand but she snatches away.

KIM

Don't you fuckin' touch me.

She looks pass David at Mr. Matthews.

KIM (cont'd)

I'm sorry Mr. Matthews.

Mr. Matthews waves her off and starts to eat his sandwich. Kim looks at David, rolls her eyes, and starts to walk away.

KIM (cont'd)

Just leave me alone.

David looks at his dad. Mr. Matthews avoids eye contact.

David exhales and walks back towards his room.

The door slams shut.

MR. MATTHEWS

Don't slam my fuckin' door.

EXT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Kim marches out with her purse in her hand. She walks towards her car. David rushes out the house.

DAVID

Kim! wait up, Kim!

Kim turns around with an attitude. David catches up with her.

DAVID (cont'd)

We need to talk about this.

KIM

What is there for you to say huh? Exactly what do we have to talk about. What, about the fact that you lied... nothing serious remember that's what you said. Sounded a little serious to me.

DAVID

Kim just let me explain.

KIM

Don't bother D-Mack fed your lies to those other females.

DAVID

It wasn't like-

Kim holds her hand up.

KIM

I told you I'm not into games and that's exactly what this looks like.

Kim turns around and walks away.

DAVID

No it's not-

Kim waves him off, gets in her car and leaves.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Mr. Matthews watches television. He hears the front door open and slam shut.

David enters the living room. He looks at his father and heads to his room.

MR. MATTHEWS

David?

David turns his head.

DAVID

Dad, please not now.

MR. MATTHEWS

David come and sit down.

David hesitates. Then stammers over to the couch and flops down.

MR. MATTHEWS (cont'd)

I understand why you stopped coming to visit.

DAVID

Dad, I--

Mr. Matthews waves his hand.

MR. MATTHEWS

No, you need to hear this.

David lowers his head and listens.

MR. MATTHEWS (cont'd)

Sometime people around you are going to suffer. I know you didn't want to watch me suffer.

David's eyes shifts to his dad and then away.

DAVID

Can we talk about this later?

MR. MATTHEWS

Who knows if there will be a later? (beat) Truth is that no matter if you were here or in Chicago, I'm still suffering.

Nothing changes but a little more suffering because I have little time left and I don't see you. Now whatever it is that's going on with you and Kim you need to fix it. You can't keep running from pain. Own up and fix it.

DAVID

I'm trying but she won't even let me explain.

MR. MATTHEWS

Give her a little time. Sometimes it's not about what you say.

Mr. Matthews begins a short coughing fit.

MR. MATTHEWS (cont'd) Give her a little time. Sometimes it's not about what you say.(beat)In order for words to hold value action must follow. Hell, I've been explaining to your mother for years about how healthy I want to be but look at me. It's what you do that matters.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

David is sandwiched between his parents as they watch television.

There is a knock at the front door. David shuffles quickly out of the bed.

DARLENE

Whoa, whoa, be careful.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

David swings the door open but slouches and flashes a fake smile as he lets Marlow in the house.

DAVID

Where's Kim?

MARLOW

She asked if we could switch patients, said the hours wasn't working for her anymore.

Marlow exits. He shakes his head and leans on the wall.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

David sits in the bed. He reaches for his phone and calls ${\rm Kim.}$

It rings once and is sent to her voicemail. David hangs up and tosses the phone to the side.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Marlow is taking Mr. Matthews' blood pressure. Darlene watches television with Mr. Matthews.

David passes to the front door. Mr. Matthews and Darlene glance at each other.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

David knocks and rings the doorbell.

A slightly beefy looking guy in a purple shirt, Jeffery, 31, swings the door open.

DAVID

Hi, can I speak with Kim?

JEFFERY

Who are you?

DAVID

(confused)

Does it matter?

JEFFERY

If you want to speak to Kim, yes it does matter.

DAVID

Um, I'm Mr. Matthews.

JEFFERY

As in David Matthews? Huh, no sorry not gonna happen.

DAVID

I don't know you, and you don't know me but I really like her and-

JEFFERY

I know a little about you playboy. You should have thought about how much you liked her before the damage was done.

Jeffery rolls his eyes and slams the door.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jeffery strolls into the living room. Flops down on the couch next to Kim.

Kim can't control her leg from bouncing. She stares at Jeffery.

KIM

What did he say?

JEFFERY

He wanted to talk to you. He said he really liked you but I put him on pause.

KIM

I can't believe I feel for lies again.

JEFFERY

Are you sure he is anything like your ex? I mean, if he is then you must attract the crazies.

KIM

(sighs)

I think I do.

Jeffery pokes at her leg.

JEFFERY

Hey, I was just kidding. Maybe you should talk to him.

KIM

I should have never got with him in the first place. I wasn't really ready.

JEFFERY

Oh no, I think it was meant for me not to come to your reunion so you could fall for him.

KIM

I'm still mad at you. Even more now.

JEFFERY

I don't know Kim. He keeps trying to talk to you, to explain. Tell me that's not different than before?

Yeah, but I'd rather not be lied to. I'd rather just-

JEFFERY

What? Be alone for the rest of your life? I can't play body guard forever. Matter of fact (gets off the couch)
I gotta date tonight so I'll call you later hun.

Jeffery gives Kim a hug. He walks out. Kim stares off thinking.

EXT. PARK - DAY

David is planted on the ground.

He tugs at the grass underneath him as he watches parents have fun with their children.

His phone vibrates. He digs it out. It reads: "2 Missed Voice mails". He listens.

BRYAN (V.O.)

I am so sorry man. Please don't kill me.

ETHAN (V.O.)

David, please call Bryan. He's keeps jumping at every little sound. I never knew he was such a punk.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

David is in bed. He grabs his phone and calls Kim. The phone rings.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE (SPLIT SCREEN) - DINNING AREA - NIGHT

Kim and Jeffery sit at the small dinning room table. Kim picks at her dinner.

Kim's phone vibrates on the table. She looks at it, pushes her plate away, gets up goes to her bedroom and shuts her door.

BRYAN (V.O.)

Say, uh, David. You never got back with me. We're trying to make sure you're still alive.

ETHAN (V.O.)

You really think she killed him?

BRYAN (V.O.)

He always chose the crazy ones.

Bryan laughs dryly.

I'm kidding of course. We still cool, right?

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

David walks out the steamy bathroom and collapses on the bed. There's light tapping at the door.

DARLENE

David, can I come in?

DAVID

Yea.

Darlene walks in, closes the door behind her and sits next to David.

DARLENE

Have you talked to Kim?

DAVID

Tried, she doesn't want to talk to me.

DARLENE

So what are you going to do?

DAVID

What do you mean? What else is there to do? She hates me because I wasn't straight with her.

DARLENE

Oh David, just because she's mad with you doesn't mean she hates you. She's just disappointed in you.

But she doesn't even know the full story.

DARLENE

Did she tell you she was engaged 18 months ago?

David's jerks his head towards his mother.

DAVID

Engaged? No.

DARLENE

Her and her ex dated for five years. The plan was for them to get married after she graduated because they lived in two different states. Well, she decided to go and surprise him one weekend. She said when she knocked on the door a women with a baby bump and a wedding ring opened the door.

DAVID

He was married?

DARLENE

He got married three years after they started dating.

DAVID

Wow that's... wow.

DARLENE

So, it's not because you're a bad guy. She's mad because your actions, to her, feel like deja vu.

Darlene gets up and heads for the door. She turns to David.

DARLENE (cont'd)

Don't give up on her. Show her you're not that guy.

EXT. MALL - DAY

David is aimlessly strolling through the mall. He stops by a shoe store and looks in.

His phone rings. He pulls it out of his pocket and looks at the caller id. He exhales and answers.

Kim, I'm so gla- Wait, wait, what
are you talking about Kim? I was
just there and-

David races off with the phone still to his ear.

DAVID

Okay, o-okay.

EXT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - DAY

David pulls up in his parents' car, jumps out and runs to the front door.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

David enters the living room. Marlow and Kim are comforting Darlene.

Kim sees David. She gets up and walks over to him as she wipe away tears.

KIM

Marlow called me and said he didn't wake up from his nap. I'm sorry David.

David looks pass her towards his parents' room. He slowly walks in that direction. Kim sadly watches as he vanishes from the living room.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

David walks in. Stops.

He looks at his peaceful father.

He walks to his bedside and sits.

Scoots the chair as close as possible to the bed.

DAVID

(softly)

Dad? Dad? They said you were gone.

David drops his head to the bed and tears begin to fall from his face. He sobs.

I need you.

EXT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - OUTSIDE DRIVEWAY - DAY

Cars are parked along the sidewalk.

David stands in the driveway in a simple black suit.

He exchanges greetings for condolences with the guest walk up to him.

DAVID

(to Christina)

Good to see you. Thanks for coming.

Christina gives David a warm smile.

DAVID (cont'd)

My mom is in the house. She'd love to finally meet you all.

David turns around to Olivia and gives her a long hug.

OLIVIA

I didn't know if me coming was okay
but Bryan said -

DAVID

No, it's okay. That Bryan sure knows how to help.

OLIVIA

How are you holding up?

David is about to answer.

A car pulls up. Olivia turns around.

Kim gets out the car.

Olivia and David's eyes meet.

DAVID

Olivia, this is not how I wanted to talk to you about this-

Kim walks away from her car.

OLIVIA

David, you don't have to explain. I told you we may never be an item, but we can be friends.

Olivia walks toward the house. Kim walks up to David.

KTM

Hi David.

DAVID

Hey.

KIM

How are you?

David looks at her for a minute, presses his lip, and shakes his head.

He looks away. Kim looks down.

DAVID

I really wish we can talk.

KIM

David, I need some time. Then maybe we can be friends.

David looks at her, scoffs and shakes his head.

DAVID

Kim?

Kim turns away and then walks off toward the house.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - DAY

David is on his bed. His hands holding his face. He can hear everyone talking in the living room.

Darlene enters the room. She walks over and sits next to David.

DARLENE

Hiding out?

DAVID

Don't want things to be uncomfortable.

DARLENE

You don't think it already is, maybe not for you because you're locking yourself in this room.

(sighs)

David, life is uncomfortable and it's not going to change just because you run away from it.

DAVID

You sound like dad.

DARLENE

Stay married to someone long enough and it's bound to happen.

Darlene walks out and leaves David there to think.

INT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

David is talking to his cousin, ROGER. Darlene is on the couch. She chats with Kim.

Every now and then David looks over at her.

ROGER

Before you leave town we should really get together it's been a minute.

DAVID

Yeah.

ROGER

Uncle Matty would want us to be closer.

David nods his head and watches as Kim gives Darlene a hug and then heads for the front door.

DAVID

Roger can you just give me one minute?

David follows after Kim.

EXT. MATTHEWS' HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY

Ethan and Bryan talk by the front door. They notice when Kim walks out. David follows behind her.

DAVID

Kim?

Kim rolls her eyes but keeps on walking. David calls out louder.

DAVID (cont'd)

Kim?

Kim turns around and stumps toward him. She's about to say something.

She jerks her eyes to Ethan and Bryan.

They quickly look away.

KIM

What David?

DAVID

At some point we need to talk.

KIM

David I told you it's not a good time.

Kim turns around to walk off.

DAVID

Then when is a good time?

Kim turns back around.

KIM

When you grow up.

BRYAN

Damn she just told him.

KIM

You just finished burying your father.

DAVID

I know that but it doesn't change what's going on between us.

There's nothing going on... not anymore.

David walks toward her.

DAVID

Kim, I love you. Yeah Olivia and I hit it off, but I want to be with you.

KIM

Yeah, for now. Until you line up your next selection of girls, sleep with them and then take your pick.

DAVID

I didn't sleep with any of the other girls.

BRYAN

His loss.

DAVID

Including Olivia.

Kim looks down and continues listening.

DAVID (cont'd)

I didn't lie when I said I was looking for someone special. Bryan just thought it'd be good if I took my time and look at all my options instead of settling.

Kim glances at Bryan.

BRYAN

Did he just blame this shit on me?

ETHAN

Man, you're exaggerating.

DAVID

Then Ethan started to help.

ETHAN

Damn, he is totally blaming this shit on us.

Bryan looks coldly at Ethan.

I know I agreed but not to just get with different women and play games.

BRYAN

That was just a perk.

DAVID

Every time I talked to my mother I could hear how much love she had for my father. Before my father got sick I wasn't really paying attention. They were just mom and dad, but when you realize that time is limited you focus more. If something ever happens to me I want someone to be there for me like my mom was for my dad.

ETHAN

That's deep.

BRYAN

She's black, she's not buying that shit.

DAVID

I was looking for someone I can be with forever.

Kim looks up at David.

KIM

It all sounds really good but I'm not stupid. Been there done that.

ETHAN

What! That was beautiful. If I was a female I'd totally go for it.

BRYAN

I told you, and don't ever say that again.

KIM

Before you meet me you already found the one.

DAVID

What?

I know what I heard. According to your homeboy over there and his sidekick-

BRYAN

Damn, now she's blaming us.

KIM

You found someone special and you didn't think to mention her. You lead me to believe that there was no one. I told you I don't do games and I sure as hell don't do lies.

DAVID

I told you I went out on a couple of dates. I didn't think you wanted to know the details.

KIM

So when you were in Chicago you and Olivia hit it off. Then you come here and all of a sudden Olivia isn't all that special. You don't even mention her.

DAVID

Like you mentioned to me you were engaged?

BRYAN

What?

KIM

That was the past. This is happening now and I'll be damned if you treat me any kind of way.

BRYAN

She's on an ego trip, for real.

DAVID

I'm not treating you any kind of way.

KIM

How long did it take for you to tell your homeboys about me?

David gazes off.

Exactly. David, I shouldn't be some big secret.

Kim turns around and starts walking towards her car.

DAVID

What if I moved back here?

BRYAN

Oh, hell naw.

ETHAN

Well I guess it is true about going black.

Kim turns around confused.

KIM

What?

DAVID

I mean either way here or Chicago you are that someone. I don't know what else to say or what to do to show you I'm serious.

KIM

Don't say thing you don't mean.

DAVID

Better yet, I just won't go back. I'll have Ethan and Bryan help me to get everything together.

Kim stares at David speechless. David waits for her answer. He throws his hands up after she doesn't respond.

DAVID (cont'd)

Okay, you think it over. I have to get back inside.

David turns around to walk away leaving Kim still confused and speechless.

KIM

No.

David turns around.

DAVID

No?

BRYAN

He's never dating black girls again.

ETHAN

Me either.

KIM

No, I don't need time to think about it.

David frowns and looks away. He begins to speak. Instead he turns around.

KIM (cont'd)

No, you don't have to move here. I'd never ask you to do that for me.

David stops and swings around looking hopeful.

DAVID

Kim you don't have to ask, Kim-

KIM

Let me finish.(beat)I don't know if I can trust you.I want to trust you. I know I love you, so if you are really really serious about us...

David starts to walk over to Kim.

KIM (cont'd)

and only if you are serious because
if you're not you need to let me
know right -

David pulls her close and kisses her.

INT. DAVID'S CAR (ONE YEAR LATER) - DAY

Bryan is in the drivers seat and Ethan on the passenger side. Bryan honks at other drivers.

BRYAN

Look at this dumb ass over here. Get out the way!

Bryan turns into a parking lot. Bryan and Ethan get out wearing tuxedos.

The sign on the door reads: "Matthews Advertising".

They rush into the building.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Guest are seated, talking amongst themselves.

Bryan and Ethan jog down the aisle to where David stands looking agitated.

Ethan points to Bryan.

Bryan swipes Ethan's hand away.

BRYAN

I'm so sorry there was a lot of traffic.

David takes a deep breath and exhales.

DAVID

Please tell me you didn't wreck the car again?

Bryan takes a step back looking insulted.

BRYAN

It's cause I'm black huh?

The front doors of the sanctuary open.

Kim and her FATHER stand with their arms locked.

They share a warm smile.

She looks at David.

Her smile grows.

"Here Comes The Bride" begins to play.

THE END