

OVERSEAS JUSTICE

By Nadine.

Written on Google Docs / Chromebook.

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FADE IN:

MANCHESTER, UK.

A LARGE COUNCIL ESTATE SKYLINE.

There is a SHOOTOUT.

Late 20 year old black men SHOOTING at each other.

We see two late 20 year old black men, hunched down behind a wall. They have two guns each. They are shooting and people are shooting at them. One of them is out of bullets.

NELSON

I'm out.

ROME

Stay low.

Rome continues to shoot. He is in his late 20s, with a mid-fade hairstyle, Goatee Beard, his attire is black combat trousers and a black sweater.

Nelson is HIT!

NELSON

AAAAHHH

He yells in pain.

There is a shooter above them on the building.

They see the shooter. Rome drags Nelson to a car to get cover.

Blood is pouring out of Nelson's chest.

ROME

Bro, hold on.

Nelson struggles to breathe, he is wriggling in pain, his eyes start to close.

NELSON

Bro, the moment mum and dad left us. You've been a parent to me as well as my big brother.

Nelson is struggling to breathe. He struggles and manages to get his words out.

NELSON

I love...I love you, bro.

Nelson's eyes are starting to close.

ROME

Nels, you're gonna be okay. Just stay awake.

Nelson closes his eyes. He stops breathing. Nelson is DEAD!

ROME

NELSON! NO! NO! NO! WAKE UP, MAN!

Rome looks at his brother's lifeless body. Sadness fills Rome's face. Rome cries as he hugs his brother's dead body.

CROSSFADE:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Rome is in the living room talking to an older black man (Joseph). Joseph is in his mid 50s, beard, afro hair. His living room is full of african art statues and a few african paintings on the wall. Rome is looking at all of the art.

JOSEPH

I see you're interested in my art.

(Beat)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I got it straight from Kenya. Where my parents are from.

(Beat)

JOSEPH

Where are your parents from, Brudda?

ROME

From the Caribbean.

JOSEPH

Aaahhhh Jamaica. Known for its sun, sea and sand.

ROME

Why is it that when the Caribbean is mentioned, Jamaica is the first place people think of?!

JOSEPH

Hey, hey, I'm sorry I offended you, Brudda.

ROME

You're damn right I'm offended!

(Beat)

Joseph picks up a bottle of alcohol from the table and pours some of the drink into a glass. He takes a sip.

JOSEPH

So, where are your parents from?

ROME

Trinidad.

JOSEPH

A proud British-Trinidadian huh?!

ROME

Yes, sir.

(Beat)

JOSEPH

So, why did your parents name you Rome?

ROME

I was born in Rome. They were on holiday.

Joseph laughs.

JOSEPH

Help yourself to some drink here.

ROME

Thanks.

Rome pours himself a glass and takes a sip.

JOSEPH

I'm sorry about your Brudda.

ROME

Thank you.

JOSEPH

I found the guys you are looking for.

Joseph picks up a large envelope on the table. He hands it to Rome.

Rome puts his drink on the table and opens the envelope. There are five photos of black men going about their everyday lives.

ROME

I want the person who pulled that trigger and put those bullets in my brother's chest.

Joseph walks up to Rome, Joseph takes the envelope and photos off of him...he shows him this one photo...a black man walking out of a cafe with coffee, late 20s, waves + low fade haircut, medium beard, slim build, tall, wearing skinny jeans, t-shirt and a jacket.

JOSEPH

This is the man who killed your brother.

ROME

Are you sure? How do you know it's him?

JOSEPH

Some of my people live on that estate...one of them filmed the shootout on his phone.

(Beat)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

This is the man!

Rome nods his head, accepting the information. He stares hard at the photo of his brother's murderer. Rome's eyes are filled with anger.

JOSEPH

His family lives twenty minutes away from here. He has a mother and a younger sister.

ROME

I'm not a chupid (Trinidadian slang for "stupid") idiot that goes after families. I'm a one-on-one type of person.

Joseph chuckles.

JOSEPH

I'm impressed!

(Beat)

JOSEPH

You're thinking properly!

(Beat)

JOSEPH

His name is Damien Smith. 29, from Manchester. It might be difficult to get to him though.

ROME

What do you mean?

JOSEPH

He's heading to America tomorrow...to live!

Rome sighs in frustration.

JOSEPH

He's got family out there.

(Beat)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I presume he's becoming afraid of the police drawing closer to him.

(Beat)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

In the United States...the UK Police can't touch him!

Rome sits down. Joseph sits down on the couch opposite him.

ROME

Can you help me track him down out there?

JOSEPH

Yes. But it's gonna cost you.

ROME

I got the money.

JOSEPH

I'll call some of my guys tonight.

ROME

Thank you.

CROSSFADE:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Rome's apartment. We know it's his apartment, the moment we see the photo of him and his brother on a shelf in the living room, at some event...maybe a concert.
Joseph is in the living room with Rome.

JOSEPH

You still wanna follow through with this?

(Beat)

ROME

Yes.

JOSEPH

Okay. Well you have all the new information. He's been in the U.S. for a week, he ain't going anywhere. Why don't you sleep on it some more?

ROME

I've had a week to sleep on it.

(Beat)

ROME (CONT'D)

This nigga is dead! He killed my brother...my brother is never coming back, and this fool gets to just walk around?!

Joseph nods his head as though he understands.

CROSSFADE:

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Rome leaves the airport. He waits for a cab with his luggage. A cab pulls up. The cab driver helps him with his luggage.

INT. CAB - DAY

CAB DRIVER

Where to, Sir?

ROME

The Hilton. The nearest one.

CAB DRIVER

The Hilton it is.

The cab driver starts driving.

CAB DRIVER

I noticed your accent...

ROME

Yeah, I'm from Manchester, England.

CAB DRIVER

Oh I see.

(Beat)

CAB DRIVER

I want to go to England eventually.

(Beat)

CAB DRIVER

So what brings you to Nevada?

ROME

Holiday.

EXT. STREET / HOTEL - DAY

Rome gets out of the cab. He looks up at the posh hotel. He walks into the hotel.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

DAMIEN is walking out of a bar, he is looking at his smartphone. Rome is sitting in his car across the way from the bar. He puts a small pair of binoculars to his eyes. There is a clear view of Damien. Rome puts the binoculars in the seat next to him, he stares angrily at Damien. Damien does not see him.

CROSSFADE:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

We are in a third floor two bedroom apartment. A big exotic plant sits in one of the corners. The living room decor has pink walls, a brown carpet, a big flat screen TV sits on a low desk opposite a plastic covered black sofa. There are guns and drugs on the coffee table. We see Damien sitting on the sofa sorting out the drugs and guns. Two other men are with him. They are sitting on the other sofas. These men, African-American, both in their early 30s. THUG 1 is tall, trimmed beard, slightly overweight, with stylish twists hairstyle that looks like it needs a redo. THUG 2 is medium size build, bald high fade flat top hairstyle, short beard. His physical appearance and attire is sharper compared to his thug colleague.

THUG 1 (To Damien)

Nice decor (sarcastic)

DAMIEN (To Thug 1)

Yeah well it's my aunt's place.

THUG 2 (To Damien)

Does she know about all of this?

DAMIEN (To Thug 2)

Nope. She's on holiday visiting extended family. She won't be back for 2 weeks. I told her I'll be gone before she gets back.

(Beat)

DAMIEN (CONT'D)

With the money we're making, I'll be able to get my own place within a week!

THUG 1 (To Damien)

So, D, you wanna check out some clubs tonight?

DAMIEN (To Thug 1)

Nah...I'm more a bar type of guy. You guys go ahead. Just be ready if I call you. You guys work for me! When I call, you drop everything else!

THUG 2 (To Damien)

We got you.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Rome is talking on his cell phone.

ROME (Talking on cell phone)

Yeah. Thanks Joseph. I know his address. Gonna tail him for a while before I make my move.

(Beat)

ROME (Talking on cell phone)

Yeah. I'll be careful. Later.

Rome hangs up the phone. He dials another number, he puts the phone to his ear.

ROME (Talking on cell phone)

Hello, I'd like a cab please. I'm at the Hilton in Northwest.

(Beat)

ROME (Talking on cell phone)

Thank you.

Rome hangs up the phone and puts it on the bed. He picks up a lightweight jacket that is on the bed and puts it on. He opens a small black case that is on the bed. The case has a GUN in it. He loads the gun with bullets. And puts it in a shoulder crossbody bag.

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Rome gets out of the cab. He looks up at the apartment building. He is wearing a lightweight jacket and tracksuit trousers, with that shoulder crossbody bag that has the gun inside. He walks towards the apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Rome is walking up the stairs. There is inaudible talking further up the stairs. Rome looks up, we don't see the people. Rome stops, he quietly gets his gun out of his bag. He proceeds to slowly walk up the stairs. Thug 1 is outside Damien's apartment. Thug 1 is talking on the cellphone. Rome is slowly walking towards him. He doesn't see Rome. Thug 1 hangs up the phone. This is Rome's chance to get the jump on this guy before he sees him. Rome points his gun at Thug 1. Ready to shoot. Thug 1 turns around and sees Rome. He LUNGES at Rome. They struggle with the gun. Thug 1 GRABS the GUN out of Rome's hand. He hits Rome with the gun twice. Thug 1 DROPS the gun. Rome attempts to grab the gun. Thug 1 grabs Rome's jacket collar. Thug 1 starts to PUNCH Rome in the FACE three times. Rome falls to the floor. Rome runs down the stairs.

EXT. STREET / APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Rome bursts out of the apartment building. His eyes wide, blood coming out of his forehead, a bruised forehead and a black eye. He breathes heavily as he runs. A couple of passersby watched Rome zoom past them. Rome keeps running.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Rome walks into his hotel room. He walks straight into the bathroom and cleans his face. He gets some ice from the kitchen, wraps it in a cloth and holds it to his head. He sits on the bed.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Damien, Thug 1, and Thug 2 are in the living room. They have Rome's gun which is sitting on the table.

DAMIEN (To Thug 1)

Why the fuck didn't you shoot him?

THUG 1 (To Damien)

And bring the police to the door?!

(Beat)

THUG 1 (To Damien) (CONT'D)

We wouldn't have had enough time to pack up all our shit and get outta here.

(Beat)

THUG 1 (To Damien) (CONT'D)

Trust me. I know what I'm doing. You pay me to have your back.
This is the best move right now.

(Beat)

THUG 1 (To Damien) (CONT')

We'll get this nigga. Don't worry about that.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Rome is channel surfing. He stops at a Christian channel. The African-American preacher displays confidence and urgency in what he is preaching.

PREACHER (On TV)

The Word of God says that revenge should be left to God!

(Beat)

PREACHER (On TV)

Romans 12:19...Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." My brothers and sisters, revenge may feel great and justified, but you'll hurt others who your are not targeting and you'll hurt yourselves.

(Beat)

PREACHER (On TV) (CONT'D)

So leave revenge to the Lord. Believe that He will avenge you.

Rome switches off the TV. He stares at the blank screen for a few seconds. He grabs a small case from the bed...an identical one that we saw earlier. He opens the case, it has ANOTHER gun in it, with bullets in a separate part. He stares at the gun for a few seconds.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Damien is with Thug 1 and Thug 2...there is also a new person who we haven't seen before. THUG 3, African-American, early 40s, bald, slim, chin strap beard. He is looking at his cell phone as he is talking to Damien.

THUG 3 (To Damien)

His name is Rome Hamilton. He's your rival!...The gangs...

Damien interrupts.

DAMIEN (To Thug 3)

I'm not in no gang!...My line of work is guns and drugs, not this area code bullshit.

(Beat)

DAMIEN (To Thug 3) (CONT'D)

The last shootout I was in back in the UK was because of a deal gone bad.

THUG 3 (To Damien)

Yeah, well, one of the niggas killed in the shootout was Nelson Hamilton...Rome's brother.

DAMIEN

Shit. This is all that I need.

THUG 3 (To Damien)

You were the one who killed his brother.

(Beat)

THUG 3 (To Damien)

This nigga followed you all the way out here...he's serious!...You better get extra-protection.

DAMIEN (To Thug 3)

I got my protection. My man here (pointing to Thug 1) whooped his arse. Rome took off running like the little bitch that he is.

THUG 3 (To Damien)

After all the trouble he went to to get to you...I got a feeling he'll be back!

Damien chuckles.

DAMIEN (To Thug 3)

Yeah, well, I'll be waiting for Mr. Terminator.

THUG 3 (To Damien)

I emailed you all the details. It's in code of course.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Rome is drinking, he is talking to a lady.

LADY AT THE BAR

So you came all the way here to get revenge on the man who killed your brother?

Rome nods his head.

ROME

Yep.

Rome is slurring his words.

ROME

I'm gonna kill him.

Rome takes another sip of his drink.

ROME

One of his boys beat me up...but I'm gonna be prepared next time.

Rome drinks some more.

The Lady At The Bar laughs.

We sense that she doesn't believe him. And him being drunk doesn't help.

LADY AT THE BAR

Sounds like something out of a movie.

(Beat)

ROME

It's not a movie..it's very real.

Rome can barely keep his eyes open as he continues to slur his words.

LADY AT THE BAR

Let me call you a cab.

Rome takes yet another sip of his drink.

ROME

Okay.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The door bleeps, the door opens. Lady At The Bar helps Rome onto his bed, he is half-unconscious.

LADY AT THE BAR

Sleep tight, action man.

She smiles at Rome as he falls unconscious.
Lady At The Bar leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Rome wakes up. Still wearing his clothes from the night before. He squints his eyes, he sits up, he puts his hands on his forehead.

EXT. STREET / DRUGSTORE - DAY

Rome walks out of the drug store with a bottle of water and some pills, he takes a pill and takes a sip of the water. He continues to walk. He turns the corner, he bumps straight into THUG 1..They both stop and stare at each other for a moment. Rome THROWS his bottle of water at Thug 1's face. Thug 1 PUNCHES Rome in the face. Rome punches Thug 1 in the stomach. Thug 1 GRABS Rome by his shirt collar and SHOVES Rome to the ground. Rome is on the floor. Thug 1 starts KICKING Rome on his side.

THUG 1

YOU WANT MORE, NIGGA?!

Thug 1 continues to kick Rome.
We hear police sirens. Thug 1 stops kicking Rome and looks around. Thug 1 runs away.

Rome is still on the ground. He lets out some grunts and some groans from the pain he is in. He gets up slowly, holding his side. He starts to walk away slowly.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Damien, Thug 1 and Thug 2 are in the living room.

DAMIEN

I'm getting fed up of this Nigga. If he wants me, he knows where I am.

The door knocks. They all look worried and shocked. They get their guns ready. Thug 1 slowly walks to the door. We stay in the living room with Damien and Thug 2. There is inaudible talking. The door shuts. Thug 1 walks in. Someone is walking behind him. It's ROME.

Damien and Thug 2 stand up and point their guns at Rome. Rome stands in front of Damien. His eyes fixed on Damien. Rome shows no fear.

ROME (To Damien)

You killed my brother.

(Beat)

DAMIEN (To Rome)

You're in this game. I'm in this game. Your brother was in this game. What do you expect?!

Rome shakes his head while looking to the ground. He rubs his hair back and forth. There is a KNIFE resting in the hood of his hoodie. Rome GRABS the knife in a quick fashion. He THROWS the knife straight towards Damien. The knife goes straight into Damien's neck. BLOOD immediately splashes out of his neck. Damien is struggling to BREATHE. He is gurgling. He falls down on the sofa. Damien is DEAD!

Thug 1, Thug 2, and Rome stare at Damien's dead lifeless body in shock.

THUG 1 (To Rome)

I want my money. Or...

Rome interrupts.

ROME (To Thug 1)

I'll wire it to you right now.

Rome takes his phone out of his pocket.

THUG 2

WHAT THE...

Thug 1 SHOOTS Thug 2 in between the eyes.

Thug 2 falls to the ground dead!

THUG 1 (To Rome)

You ain't leaving here until I get my money.

Thug 1 grabs his phone from the table.

ROME (To Thug 1)

Thanks for the knife.

(Beat)

ROME (To Thug 1)

Thought he was your boy.

THUG 1 (To Rome)

Damien's price wasn't as good as yours. I go where the money leads me.

THUG 1 (To Rome)

Thanks for the money. You can go. You were never here. We never met.

Rome nods his head. Rome leaves.

CROSSFADE:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Rome is talking on his cell phone.

ROME (Talking on cell phone)

Yeah. Thanks for helping me out, Joe. I did what I came to do. I'm coming home.

There is loud BANGING at the door. Rome looks at the door in shock at the sudden noise.

ROME (Talking on cell phone)

I've gotta go. I'll call you back.

Rome hangs up his phone and puts the phone on the bed. He walks to the door, he opens it. It's the COPS. They walk straight into his hotel room.

FEMALE COP (To Rome)

Rome Hamilton?

ROME (To Female Cop)

Yes?

FEMALE COP (To Rome)

I am arresting you for the murders of Damien Smith and Jermaine Mckenzie (Thug 2).

Female Cop puts the handcuffs on Rome's wrists as she continues to talk. The other three cops are thoroughly searching the hotel room. The cuffs are clearing, hurting Rome's wrists.

ROME

Ow. Look, this is...

Female Cop interrupts.

FEMALE COP (To Rome)

I suggest you listen before you talk. You have the right to remain silent. You have the right to an attorney.

Female Cop and the rest of the police walk out with Rome in custody. Female Cop continues to read him his rights as they're leaving the hotel. People come out of their rooms to watch what is happening.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Rome is with his LAWYER in the interrogation room. Female Cop enters the room. She sits down opposite them.

LAWYER (To Female Cop)

You have nothing to charge my client with! I suggest you let him go back to The UK immediately.

FEMALE COP (To Lawyer)

DNA evidence along with a witness implicates your client.

Roe is frowning with tears in his eyes. He shakes his head in denial at Female Cops words.

FEMALE COP (To Lawyer)

Paul Stevens (Thug 1) cooperated with us. He told us that your client shot and killed Damien Smith and Jermaine Mckenzie.

ROME (To Female Cop)

I DID NOT SHOOT THIS JERMAINE OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS. PAUL STEVENS IS THE ONE WHO SHOT HIM!

FEMALE COP (To Rome)

And what about Damien Smith? You're not denying killing him?

(Beat)

ROME (To Female Cop)

Okay, I did shoot Damien.

Lawyer interrupts.

LAWYER (To Rome)

Don't say another word.

LAWYER (To Female Cop)

I need a moment with my client.

FEMALE COP (To Lawyer)

Of course.

Female Cop leaves the room.

LAWYER (To Rome)

Now, before you say anything else to this cop. You need to tell me everything.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Rome is sitting with his lawyer. The prosecution lawyer is in the room with the judge.

ROME (To Lawyer)

Paul Smith, he...

Lawyer interrupts.

LAWYER (To Rome)

He's getting time. Other crimes, he won't be leaving prison again. We need to stand up.

Everyone stands up.

JUDGE (To Rome)

Rome Hamilton. You have been charged with the murder of Damien Smith. Even though you're a British citizen, you committed this crime in the United States, and with testimony, DNA and other witnesses who reside in the apartment building, there is undeniable proof that you committed this crime. You came to America to kill someone who killed your brother. Instead of getting justice the right way, you took the law into your own hands by taking someone's life. We take murder extremely seriously in the state of Nevada. Your crime was calculated and planned. You were in your right mind and had one goal in mind for being here in the United States.

(Beat)

JUDGE (To Rome) (CONT'D)

I'm sentencing you to life in prison.

ROME

No.

Rome's eyes water. He tries hard to stop himself from crying.

JUDGE (To Rome) (CONT'D)

You will serve your sentence immediately at Nevada men's penitentiary. You will be able to appeal in 2073 in which you will be 78 years of age.

(Beat)

JUDGE (To Rome) (CONT'D)

I hope it was worth it! You took someone's life and now you will lose many years of your own.

JUDGE (To Bailiff)

Bailiff, take him.

The bailiff leads Rome out of the courtroom.

CROSSFADE:

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY

Rome is talking to his new cellmate.

CELLMATE

So, revenge is why you're here.

ROME

Yes. And it was the biggest mistake I've ever made.

Cellmate picks up his magazine and reads it while lying on his bed.

Rome walks to the tiny window that has bars on it. His eyes full of despair realizing the freedom that he chose to give up.

FADE TO BLACK

