

PAYDAY

SCREENPLAY BY

CHARLES HARDING

216 ACKLEN ST.
985-991-2103

FADE IN

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT.

The sun slowly rises up above the horizon. Traffic moves to a steady pace on the highways. School buses transport noisy kids down residential streets. Houses that look expensive and very well kept are drizzled lightly from the sprinkler systems. Storekeepers lift up iron gates to open their business. We are witnessing the awakening of a small town. Everything and everybody seems tranquil and normal.

Except not today.

INT. KITCHEN MORNING

A small kitchen that is in the center of this apartment shared by a young couple and their daughter. The sink has a few dishes left in it from last night's dinner. The refrigerator is covered with crudely drawn pictures of flowers, animals and hearts with crooked arrows going through them and the words "I love you daddy" written in crayon.

CHRIS JONES 22 enters the kitchen wearing a T shirt and boxers. He's a good looking chap with a few tattoos and a nice build. He has a street smart swagger about himself. He opens the cupboard and pulls down a box of Fruity Pebbles cereal as well as milk, bowl and spoon.

ANGEL ROBINSON 21 Chris's girlfriend enters the kitchen. She is a young woman with lots of natural beauty that's both simple and inviting. Their three year old daughter ASHLEY follows behind carrying a Sponge bob doll.

ANGEL

(Dryly)

Morning.

CHRIS

(Equally drying)

Morning.

Something is not right with these two.

ASHLEY

(Excitedly)

Morning daddy!!!

Ashley jumps up into his lap and gives him a tight hug.

CHRIS

Hey baby! Good morning! How's my little girl?

You want some cereal?

ASHLEY

Oh yeah!! I want a big ole bowl daddy! I want a lot of cereal
and milk!

Chris puts her in an adjoining chair and pours a bowl.

ASHLEY

Daddy can we go to the zoo today?

CHRIS

Not today baby. Daddy got to work. I'll take you next time.
Angel has her back towards them the whole time making coffee.

ASHLEY

Aww daddy!! I wanted to go today!

CHRIS

We can go tomorrow. I promise.

ANGEL

(Serious Voice)

You told her that yesterday.

Chris glares at her back slightly but quickly regains his
face for his child.

CHRIS

I promise we can go tomorrow. I have the day off and we can
stay all day and even get some ice cream later on.

ASHLEY

(Excited)

Yeah!!

CHRIS

Okay now you go find us some cartoons to watch and I'll bring our cereal out. Me and you are going to eat cereal and watch television together. Cool beans?

Ashley gets down from the chair.

ASHLEY

Okay daddy. I'm ready when you are!!! Just hurry up!

She leaves the room. An intense moment of silence between the two parents ensues.

Angel finally breaks it.

ANGEL

Why do you keep lying to her?

CHRIS

Who says I'm lying?

ANGEL

You are always promising her things and not coming through. I'm tired of my baby being disappointed all the time Chris.

CHRIS

First of all she's my baby too and second I always come through. I'm working double shifts and going in on my off days to make sure the damn bills stay paid around here!

Angel turns around to face him.

ANGEL

I don't want to hear that shit Chris!! You come and go as you please and sometimes I feel like I'm raising that little girl by myself. You only see her for so many hours of the week.

CHRIS

I'm working my ass off to support my child! Who the hell are you to tell me I'm not a good father?! Most dudes would try to break up with you and act like the kid ain't theirs.

ANGEL

I didn't say all of that! And yes! You do work hard to provide but it would be nice for her to see you a little more-

Angel turns back around to pour her coffee.

ANGEL

(Cont'd)

---And fuck your girlfriend more than once a week.

Chris looks surprised.

CHRIS

So I guess I'm not satisfying you too huh? Is that what this is all about? Is that why you are all over my ass today. Well let's hear it Angel. Get it all out.

ANGEL

Must be hard on a man when he's fucking two women. You have a hard time concentrating don't you? Make sure you don't call out the wrong name.

Chris picks up the two bowls but upon hearing that statement he sets them back down.

CHRIS

Okay so here we go with this shit again! You feel like getting into it this morning?!

ANGEL

There's nothing to get into Chris! I have my reasons to think you are screwing around on me.

CHRIS

Why?

ANGEL

You're a dishwasher at a restaurant surrounded by flirtatious girls. I know how you can be because that's how me met. God!! You made sure you came into that clothing store every day after school!! Remember that?! You and your friends came in there and you would flirt with me right into my pants. At some point I got pregnant and by that time we were in love. I wanted you all to myself. I wanted you to be everything I knew you had the potential to be. But deep down I always knew you had a wandering eye. I just had a feeling you did but I ignored it because I love you.

She turns to face him.

ANGEL

(Cont'd)

So last night at around eleven I called your phone but it went straight to your voice mail. So now I'm wondering where you are because your daughter is asking for you and by the time you got home forty five minutes later she was asleep. I'm just curious as to who the bitch is that you are fucking.

Chris laughs out loud nervously.

CHRIS

Are you serious right now? You think I'm messing around. I had to close last night. We had a lot of shit to clean up. It's the not first time that's happened Angel.

Angel sips from her coffee. The hot steam from the cup wafts in the air.

ANGEL

Chris I'm not stupid. That place closes at ten and you got home at damn near twelve. Explain that if you have the balls to find the words.

CHRIS

You know what? I'm not even in the mood to hear all this. I'm going to watch cartoons with my baby if that's cool with you.

Angel sets her cup down and looks at him.

ANGEL

I don't want to get hurt. You are a young guy and you been with me for a minute so if you got something on the side be man enough to admit it to me.

CHRIS

You just won't quit. I'm here as much as I can be. What you want me sitting around here all day playing video games and not doing shit?!

ANGEL

At least I would know where your dick was at night.

CHRIS

You need to chill with all that bull shit! For real!

ANGEL

Until you prove me otherwise I will call it like I feel it.
Chris sighs.

ASHLEY

(Calling from the other room)

Hurry up daddy!!

Chris picks up the two bowls and leaves the kitchen. Tears begin to form in Angel's eyes. She sits at the table and wipes them away as she sips her hot coffee.

Every so often she looks over into the living room at Chris and Ashley laughing at cartoons and gobbling cereal.

INT. BEDROOM

Chris and Angel are getting dressed for work. He puts on some black casual pants and a crisp white shirt.

Angel puts on her Wal-Mart uniform.

ANGEL

Don't forget to pay the light bill today when you get off.
I'll catch the cable bill on Monday.

CHRIS

I got it.

ANGEL

I know today is your pay day and Ashley wanted to go see that new Karate Kangaroo movie tonight. So you can spend a whole weekend with her.

CHRIS

Sounds good to me.

ANGEL

Or are you going drinking with you co workers again?

CHRIS

Angel what is wrong with you today?! Why are you all on my ass?! I said I'll spend time with my daughter and that's that. Man leave me alone with that other bull shit for real!

ANGEL

Sorry to get on your nerves so much. I'm just wondering if spending time with me is part of your plans this weekend too.

Chris looks at her. They make eye contact.

CHRIS

I love you Angel. That's all that matters.

ANGEL

Prove it.

CHRIS

Let's go.

EXT. FREDERICO'S RESTAURANT PARKING LOT

An Italian based eatery that is quite popular around lunch time. The parking lot is empty except for a few cars belonging to some of the employees inside. A man OTIS WALKER 53 is cleaning up some leftover trash with a broom and garbage can. Otis is a big man who was muscular in his youth yet now his face holds a hardened expression due to life experiences. He performs his job looking disappointed about something.

A car pulls up alongside of him and a portly woman with a child like face sticks her head out to ask a question.

LADY

Excuse me sir but do you know if you all have clam sauce today? I came by yesterday and you were all out.

OTIS

(Grumbling)

I'm not sure.

The lady looks at her watch.

LADY

Oh Lord! It's only nine twenty. What time do you all open up again?

OTIS

Eleven.

LADY

Oh that's right!

(A little too friendly)

Guess I'll have to wait for my clam sauce and Penne. You know it's my favorite thing over here...

OTIS

(Not really paying attention)

Yeah..

LADY

...I mean my husband tells me I get it too much but I just love it. They always give me enough to keep me full and the servers over here are the best! They all love me!! They call me mom sometimes. Isn't that sweet?

Otis continues to pick up trash and ignoring her. It's obvious he's getting agitated yet the lady keeps talking.

LADY

(Cont'd)

Oh my goodness my husband likes to tease me but I don't care. When you like something you just crave it ya know. You can't really explain why you like it so much and why would you even want to. As long as you like it and you're not hurting anyone then go for it. I come here at least twice a week and I know that's bad but I like being bad..

(Chuckles to herself)

And so I've decided to come by myself today. My husband is working and I figured I could try one of those new spicy sausages you have. I saw the commercial the other night on television and my mouth was just watering. Don't you just hate it when they put food commercials on late night when you got cravings? They know all the places advertising are closed so they want it to be the last thing you think about at night and the first thing you think about in the morning. Anyway my doctor says I should watch what I eat but I really think...

OTIS

(Snaps)

Look woman I don't give a damn!!

The lady looks shocked and slightly hurt. She rolls her window up and drives off. Otis sneers to himself.

A different car pulls up and parks.

INT. CAR

Angel Chris and Ashley have arrived to drop daddy off. Ashley is in the back seat coloring a picture.

The radio is playing a soft song. Angel turns it down.

ANGEL

I'm not happy Chris.

CHRIS

Why? You don't love anymore?

ANGEL

That's not it. The problem is that I love you too much. Maybe that's why it's hurting me so much to not know what is going on with you.

CHRIS

I still love you. That's never going to change. I still feel the same way I did when I used to come in the store after school.

A tear drips from her eyes. Ashley notices this.

ASHLEY

Mama what's wrong?

ANGEL

Nothing baby. Mama just had something in her eye. You okay back there? You good?

ASHLEY

Yeah.

ANGEL

You ready to go to day care?

ASHLEY

Yeah! We get to draw pictures today!!

ANGEL

That's nice. I bet my baby is going to draw the prettiest one!

ASHLEY

Daddy are we going to go see Kangaroo Kid tonight? I wanna go see Kangaroo Kid tonight. That's what I want.

Chris turns around in his seat to face her.

CHRIS

Yeah baby we going. You better be ready too!

ASHLEY

Oh I am daddy! I'm ready to get my swag on!

Her parents bust out laughing.

ANGEL

Why do you teach my baby all that mess?

CHRIS

I want my little girl to stay on point. When she gets older I want her to know how to survive. She has to be hip.

(To Ashley)

Love you.

ASHLEY

Love you too daddy!

CHRIS

(To Angel)

Love you.

Angel looks at him through tear filled eyes.

ANGEL

You too.

He kisses her on the lips and exits the car. He sighs as he watches them drive away.

He turns to enter the store and notices Otis standing off a little ways looking at him. They make eye contact. Chris seems a little uneasy about this.

CHRIS

What's happening O dog?

OTIS

Something is not right.

CHRIS

What are you talking about?

OTIS

Something is not right with you. I can see it in your eyes.

Chris sighs again and walks over to where Otis is so he can sit on a bench.

CHRIS

My girl is stressing me again. She thinks I'm cheating.

OTIS

Well you are ain't ya? You been messing with that other gal who works here. What's her name?

CHRIS

Gabrielle? Yeah I know. It's just a little something on the side Otis. Just somebody else to talk to. It's not a big deal. Me and Gabby get along and she is just different... for the right reasons. Sometimes that is appealing.

Otis pulls out a pack of Newport cigarettes. He offers Chris one and they light up together.

OTIS

I don't know what's wrong with you young boys today. You got these girls that want to stand by your side but you can't keep your dicks in your pants. Now this girl thinks you're messing around. Okay it's obvious you've given her a reason to think that. She's not stupid. You the stupid one.

CHRIS

Man Otis I love Angel. I really do. You just need a little something on the side when your woman is tripping.

It's like when you and your lady just don't seem to be vibing. You get lonely in a sense. You never had any other women?

OTIS

I was young once. I had my share of ass. One woman was not enough for me or at least that's what I used to tell myself. I remember Friday nights at Lucille's. Boy I used to walk up in there fresh like corn bread. You hit that bar and sooner or later some woman is going to make her way over to you.

CHRIS

So you were a player too huh?

OTIS

I wouldn't say playa. Just more like I knew what I was doing. It was like Billy Dee Williams in "Mahogany".

Chris laughs.

OTIS

Oh you don't believe me? You think I'm making this up?

CHRIS

I didn't say anything. As far as I'm concerned you could probably school me. But damn Billy Dee Williams? You went old school like a mug with that one.

OTIS

You couldn't keep up with me boy! Man I remember this one night I had just got paid and was decked out. Clean shiny black shoes. Red shirt. Black jeans. I went over to Lucille's and got me a Miller Lite. That's what I was drinking back then.

CHRIS

Oh hell no!! Miller Lite. My grandpa used to drink that shit! He gave me a sip once when I was thirteen and I almost gagged. It tasted like something that didn't have all the ingredients mixed in. Never had that again.

OTIS

You don't know good drinking son. That's the beer you drink when you want the women. Anyway I had just bought my beer and was looking around the room when I saw her.

CHRIS

Who?

OTIS

Jiggly Jackie.

Chris laughs out loud.

CHRIS

Who the hell is Jiggly Jackie?!

OTIS

Jiggly Jackie was one of the finest women in the neighborhood. Down south lady for real. She could cook her ass off too. We called her jiggly because her titties were so big wherever she walked they were literally jiggling like Jello. So I'm standing there feeling lucky like I just hit the lotto. I see her from across the room and we make eye contact. Now I had spoken to her before but it was just small talk ya know! How you doing? Stuff like that. So she starts to walk over to me and Jackie was known to be a flirt boy! She was known to get you all riled up and ready to go. So she comes up to me smelling good and looking like a model. We had real women back then not all this fake implant shit you young boys got today. Jiggly Jackie puts her hand on my chest and whispers "I want you now". Well let's just say Jackie was jiggling all night long. That was something I'll never forget.

Chris laughs and shakes his head.

CHRIS

So you got your freak on like any other man?

OTIS

It was just sex boy. Jackie got around in those days. When you're young and wild you're going to meet women who will stop you in your tracks. Empty your damn wallets. Make you lose your mind. You got to have brains to deal with women. But unless you're looking for the love of your life then all it is and will ever be is sex.

CHRIS

Best experience of your life huh?

Otis grows silent for a second. Chris notices this.

OTIS

No. Betty was the best! That was the most amazing experience ever.

Otis looks off for a bit. His brow wrinkles slightly and it's as if he's angered.

A long sigh escapes his lips and he rubs his eyes.

CHRIS

You good Otis?

OTIS

Not really.

CHRIS

(Trying change the subject)

Tell me more about Jiggly Jackie. What else was she known for?

OTIS

Why did God take Betty away from me? Why? I lost my wife of thirty years from cancer. My kids keep telling me to move in with them but I can't leave that house. Me and Betty spent too much time there.

CHRIS

Man Otis I'm really sorry about that. I remember you telling me that once before.

OTIS

You see the problem with people today is that they don't respect nothing. They don't value nothing. They spend too much time worrying about the wrong things and complaining. They don't value their families or themselves. They just live inside their own heads and never realize they are hurting other people when they do.

CHRIS

Come on man it's not that bad.

OTIS

That's how I see it. Nobody cares about anything anymore.

CHRIS

Otis chill out playa. You getting yourself worked up. You already need blood pressure pills.

Otis faces Chris.

OTIS

Even you. You don't value nothing. You got a good looking girl and daughter and you too busy thinking about your goddamn self!!

CHRIS

How you figure I don't value life or my family?

OTIS

You're going to end up losing your family over some extra ass and is that how you want to live your damn life? That's how you pay back your child and her mother.

Chris stands up to his feet almost defensively.

CHRIS

Say Otis! I don't need to be preached to. My daddy is dead and I live my life the way I want. I can do what the hell I want.

OTIS

I'm not preaching I'm speaking. And if your daddy was alive he would tell you the same thing. You forget I knew your pops. He was a damn good man. I bet he would be upset to see you acting like this.

CHRIS

Well let's just get off me!!

OTIS

Why? You don't wanna hear the truth do you? You jeopardize your relationship and your daughter over one of these little tramps you messing with. No ass is that good boy. I wish I could get back what you got with Angel with what I had with Betty.

CHRIS

Do you hear me judging you for messing around?

OTIS

That was years before Betty!! I never cheated on her because I knew I had all the woman I needed. That girl gave you a baby and is still with your ass even now. Is this how you repay her?

CHRIS

Look Otis you schooled me on the job and how to deal with certain kinds of people but when it comes to that you don't need to get all in my business.

OTIS

Why are you so damn hard headed?!

Chris blows up!

CHRIS

Because I'm tired of people telling me how to live my life!! My mother!! Angel!! You!! I can make my own damn decisions!

OTIS

Have any of your decisions worked out for you?! I've been where you are boy! When I met Betty all of that stopped because a real man knows what he has at home is special and worth more than any random ass in the street. You could be doing more if you got back in school!! This shit ain't for you.

CHRIS

What makes you think I'm planning on doing this forever? I already told you once I get some money saved up I'm going to get a truck drivers license.

OTIS

You need to make plans boy. Life does not last forever. You mess around and get old and look back and wonder why you not where you could've been. Trust me a lot of people do that all the time.

CHRIS

This is just another speech right? Just another excuse for you to be on my back?

Otis glares at him and takes a seat on the bench. He rubs his temples.

CHRIS

Look Otis man I hear ya loud and clear playa. Let's just go in and get to work.

OTIS

I'm not in no hurry. Andrew is in there with a damn note pad making a list of extra shit for us to do.

CHRIS

What you got against that dude so much?

OTIS

I just don't like the idea of somebody who wasn't even alive when I was in high school telling me what to do. Punk bastard.

CHRIS

Well I'm going in.

Chris heads into the building. Otis shakes his head and continues his work.

A stray dog wanders in the parking lot looking starved and desperate.

It sniffs around the bushes looking for any morsel of food it can find. It wanders towards the back garbage area.

Otis notices this and follows.

The dog has pulled down a bag of some leftover food.

Slippery noodles and hard meat lie on the concrete as it starts eating.

Otis rounds the corner and grips the broom in his hand.

OTIS

Sneaky ass little bastard!! I'll fix you!!

Otis looks around to make sure he's not being watched and then proceeds to whack the dog with the broom handle.

The poor starved thing cries out in pain. Otis keeps hitting it over and over. The animal cries out more and more.

He breaks the broom in half and stabs it through the neck. The animal gurgles on it's own blood and dies.

INT. FREDERICO'S RESTAURANT

A few early morning employees are dispersed about prepping the food for the oncoming business day. A mixture of young and old work here simply trying to make a living. The crew laugh and talk amongst themselves about various things just to make the time go by.

Chris and Otis have made it back inside and are both at the dish washing machine cleaning out some drains.

Chris sticks his hand down a dirty drain and pulls out a slimy group of straws paper and food.

CHRIS

Aw man! Look at this shit!

OTIS

Those boys at night ain't taking their time when they get outta here. Every morning I find shit left over from last night. The manager says it's time to go and they just drop everything and haul ass.

CHRIS

Well they need their asses kicked for this! Damn! Man ain't no telling how long that's been sitting down there!

Otis is staring at the floor. Chris notices this.

CHRIS

Yo Otis. You good man?

OTIS

Yeah I'm just getting a little tired of all this.

A pretty young woman comes over carrying a stack of dirty pans. This is STACY.

She sets them on the counter.

STACY

Good morning guys.

CHRIS

What's up Stacy? What you up to? Making more mess for me to clean up.

STACY

(Playfully)

I clean my own messes baby thank you!

Chris laughs.

CHRIS

Girl you love to give me a hard time!

STACY

Chris you just like it when you get on our nerves in here!

(To Otis)

How you doing Mr. Otis?

OTIS

(Tightly)

Fine.

STACY

You okay Mr. Otis? Looks like something is on your mind.

OTIS

I'm just thinking sweetheart.

STACY

Well I'm glad somebody is. Did you know they just hired four new people to start tomorrow?

CHRIS

What's wrong with that? A job never hurt nobody.

STACY

It means that some people are going to get their hours cut. They just don't seem to care about things like that. The people who work this job need hours too. It's like we're being used around here.

OTIS

Nobody cares about nothing.

STACY

It's like as long as they get their product out the door why bother with the formalities. I'm getting so sick of this place.

CHRIS

So what are you going to do? Quit?

STACY

I need to. School starts back up next month so I'm going to have to either work more nights or take a cut in hours. Chris why you not going back to school? I know you don't want to do this forever.

Otis looks at Chris awaiting his answer.

CHRIS

Not right now. Maybe next year.

Otis just shakes his head.

OTIS

(To Stacy)

Don't quit this job until you find something else.

STACY

Mr. Otis the way this job stresses me out I might take a break from working.

OTIS

And then what? Huh? You going to live off your parents' money?! Is that what you going to do?! What the hell kind of life is that?!

Otis suddenly bangs his hand against the wall startling both Chris and Stacy. He walks away mumbling something incoherent to himself. Chris looks after him with growing concern.

STACY

What's wrong with Mr. Otis?

CHRIS

He's just got a lot on his mind that's all. Don't trip.

STACY

Well anyway. I was talking to Gabrielle last night. You still kicking it with her?

CHRIS

Why is that any of your business?

Chris resumes cleaning out the nasty drain.

STACY

She's my friend that's why. I'm just looking out for her. Just making sure she is happy and not being used s a pawn in the chess game of men who have egos a little too big for their own selves.

CHRIS

We're friends. That's it.

STACY

Oh God Chris! You fucking her just admit it! It's not hard to tell.

CHRIS

And if I was? Hold up! Is she telling you this?

STACY

No but it's not hard to figure out. I'm good at figuring stuff out just like Sandra Brown.

CHRIS

Stacy get your nosy ass away from me!

STACY

(Sucking her teeth)

Well forget you then. Don't ever say I wasn't concerned. Live your life the way you want grasshopper.

Stacy walks away leaving Chris shaking his head at the audacity of her asking such a question. He resumes cleaning the drain of it's slimy mess.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM

Otis is sitting on the toilet yet he's not taking a dump. He is pounding his left fist into his right hand repeatedly. He stands up and leans his head against the wall.

OTIS

(To himself)

Nobody values life anymore. Nobody values life. Nobody values life. They don't care about nothing.

Otis steps out of the stall. One of the lights above has burned out leaving the room with a creepy half lit look. Otis begins to pace while talking to himself.

OTIS

I don't know. I just don't know anymore. I can't seem to hold on Betty! Why didn't I die with you?! Why?! Why didn't God take me too?! I have nothing else down here! Nothing else at all. I feel like I can't go on any more Betty! This can be too much sometimes!! God knows I miss you so much! You should be back down here with me and the lids. At least I can come home to you and feel better.

Otis sits on the floor racked with pain.

OTIS

I don't want to be here anymore Betty!! I don't want to be here anymore!! I can't take it! I can't stand it! What am I supposed to do?! What am I supposed to do without you?

INT. DINING AREA

Chris is in the dining area vacuuming the floor. GABRIELLE ANDERSON 22 tall regal young woman with a sweet way about herself enters looking through her purse. She sees Chris and smiles. She slowly walks up to him looking over his body admiring what she sees.

A soft tap on the shoulder brings him out of his zone.

CHRIS

Hey baby girl! How you doing?!

They hug and Chris lightly touches her ass. She playfully slaps his hands away.

GABRIELLE

Behave! We are at work!

CHRIS

According to Stacy everybody knows what we do anyway!

GABRIELLE

Stacy couldn't hold water on her tongue if it was the only thing to save her life. Besides Chris if they do suspect anything it started that night at the party we went to after work three months ago. We were kissing on the sofa remember?

CHRIS

Yeah I remember that. I finally tasted your lips.

GABRIELLE

Yes you did. It's a good thing you don't know what I'm thinking about right now.

CHRIS

I can imagine with your freaky butt. Mind always in the gutter.

GABRIELLE

Never that baby. I just know how to keep it spicy. And anyway even if they know they still need to stay out of our business.

CHRIS

Angel is sweating me. She thinks I'm cheating.

GABRIELLE

You are cheating. With me. Duh!

CHRIS

I don't like to be chastised.

GABRIELLE

Well look at it from her point of view. You have a three year old daughter together. We just have good chemistry. You can't find that with everybody else. Don't let your girl stress you out.

CHRIS

Even for a dude that got kicked out of school got his GED and washes dishes for a living.

GABRIELLE

Yes. You are going to be a great man one day Chris. You just need to believe in yourself. Look I don't see myself as a home wrecker or nothing like that. You and your girl were having problems and I had just got out of that relationship with Renny so we were there to comfort each other. It's not a crime. I'm human. You're human. I ain't tripping.

CHRIS

Maybe we should take a break.

Gabrielle is taken aback by this.

GABRIELLE

Why?

CHRIS

Because Angel is stressing me out.

GABRIELLE

Oh so now you care about how she feels? You wasn't thinking like that when we smoked weed and fucked all those other times.

CHRIS

I just don't want to put you in the middle of anything that's all.

GABRIELLE

In the middle of what? She doesn't know me. All she's going by is assumptions.

CHRIS

It's just too risky.

GABRIELLE

So you want to shut me out now!!

Chris sits at a nearby booth. Gabrielle sits across from him. Chris reaches out and takes her hand.

CHRIS

I like everything about you. Your eyes. Your smile. The way you make me laugh. The way you fixed my sandwich.

GABRIELLE

(Smiling)

You remember that?

CHRIS

Yeah I remember. Just like I remember the first time we talked. I remembered the way you looked at me.

Gabrielle gently takes her hand away.

GABRIELLE

But you still love Angel. I'm just second place.

CHRIS

You're not second place. You're just....

GABRIELLE

Look Chris. I'm not trying to make things hard on you. I just like being with you. I'm sorry if your girl is sweating you right now. I never wanted to mess things up between you and her. I never wanted to cause you any pain. I mean I honestly get where she is coming from.

CHRIS

I never want to cause you any pain either.

GABRIELLE

So if you want to take a break I'm cool with that.

CHRIS

It's just until I can calm her down.

GABRIELLE

You don't have to explain anything to me. I get it. Loud and clear. If that's how you want to play the game then let it flow like that. You might have withdrawals from not seeing me.

Chris smiles.

INT. BATHROOM

Otis is drying his eyes as he gets up from the floor. He looks at himself in the mirror. He looks disgruntled. He breathes hard and fast trying to steel himself.

OTIS

(Talking to himself)

Betty I can fix this. I can fix it. I know I can. Or is there something else you want me to do? Just tell me what you want me to do and I'll do it. I don't give a damn what it is. Just tell me. Teach me the way.

He pauses for a minute tilting his head in the air as if the answer is going to pop from the sky. He suddenly begins shaking his head furiously.

OTIS

No! No! No!

He turns the cold water knob on the sink and douses his face. He hangs his head down as the water drips into the bowl. He grips the edges of the sink firmly as veins begin to pulsate from his hands.

OTIS

Are you sure Betty? I'm almost surprised to hear you say that. I never in a million years would've thought you would say that. If that's what it takes then so be it.

Otis dries his face with a paper towel. He smiles slightly to himself.

OTIS

You always did have a sick sense of humor. It just might work Betty. It just might work.

Otis looks at himself in the mirror and smiles. It doesn't look like Andy Griffith. It looks sinister.

INT. DINING AREA

GABRIELLE

Look all I'm saying is don't do something you're probably going to regret.

CHRIS

So if I cut it loose I'm going to regret it.

GABRIELLE

(Teasingly)

You know you will.

CHRIS

Girl you are too much.

GABRIELLE

I'm just enough for you to handle am I right?

CHRIS

I've done good so far haven't I?

GABRIELLE

(Licking her bottom lip)

Yes sir.

CHRIS

I mean I'm pretty sure you got some other dudes trying to get with you.

GABRIELLE

Chris are you trying to blow me off or something?

CHRIS

No I'm just saying I don't want you to be lonely.

GABRIELLE

Last time I checked I still had your number.

CHRIS

You what I mean Gabby. A fine ass sista like you probably got dudes all over her. It's unfair that you sharing.

GABRIELLE

Yeah they on me but it takes certain kinds of men to get my attention.

CHRIS

I guess I fit the model right?

GABRIELLE

Yes you do. I bought this cute outfit last night when I got off. I was hoping to show it to you but since we taking a break then maybe not.

CHRIS

Just send me a picture.

GABRIELLE

If that's what you wish sir. It's too bad you can't see it in person. I hope today goes by fast. I got a million and one things to do today. Fridays can be hectic around here.

She gets up from the table and blows him a kiss.

INT. BACK STORAGE ROOM

Otis has left the bathroom and is now in the storage area stacking up boxes. He still looks a little upset yet he is determined to complete his duties. ANDREW 37, slim cocky guy with the aura of an ass hole in a managerial position strolls in carrying a clipboard.

ANDREW

Otis do you think it's possible for you to work this weekend?

Otis is in the middle of stacking a box of plastic cups. Upon hearing this inquiry he drops the box down with a blast of thunder. Andrew seems oblivious to this and continues writing in his note pad awaiting an answer. Otis is breathing a little heavier than normal.

OTIS

I don't know.

ANDREW

Well I'm going to need you for the weekend. We got a new guy starting Saturday morning and I would like for somebody to show him the ropes on the truck.

OTIS

What about Ben? Can't he do it?

ANDREW

Ben left for a family reunion this weekend.

OTIS

Look man I don't know.

ANDREW

Look Otis you gotta help me out. Whatever you got planned is just going to have to take a back seat. It's more money in your pockets anyway. You would be doing the store a huge favor.

OTIS

Let me think about it.

ANDREW

What is there to think about? Either you do or you don't. I don't see what you could possibly have to do that is so important at your age anyway. Are you out there chasing ass? I mean it's not like you work for NASA or something. Just do me this one solid.

Otis begins to grow irritated. The nerves in his right hand begin to jumble.

OTIS

I guess so.

ANDREW

Okay good. Tomorrow morning at five am. Please don't be late. I know those old bones ain't what they used to be. Just show him where everything is and how to stack it up. God knows the people who work here just take shit and don't care how it looks when it's done.

Otis begins to have a vision.

INSERT

Otis sees himself smashing a hammer into Andrew's face. Blood is everywhere and Otis laughs a maniacal glee. He continues to pummel the man viciously without any remorse.

BACK TO REALITY

Andrew's voice brings him back.

ANDREW

Otis!! Are you okay?! Are you listening to me?!

Otis rubs his temples.

OTIS

Yeah. What did you say?

ANDREW

I said I need you and Chris to stay an hour later today.

OTIS

(Rubbing his head)

Why?

ANDREW

Robert Lawson our District Manager is coming by today and it would be nice if I had my best people working. I want him to see how we run things around here. You guys in the kitchen are up for raises so make sure you follow procedures down to the tee. Understand?

OTIS

Um yeah I guess so. Do you have any headache pills?

ANDREW

Yeah in the office. I'll get them for you. Just remember Otis you're the guy that can hold it all together for me. I'm going to need you front and center. Okay?

OTIS

(Still rubbing his head)

Yeah. Okay.

Andrew walks away. Otis looks bewildered.

INT. FREDERICO'S

RANDY DENNIS TARA AND LEONARD all servers at the restaurant and none of them over twenty five arrive together. The banter amongst them is very colorful.

RANDY

Man last night was off the chain!! That girl Daisy! You know the one with the black Corolla who lives on Isaac Street. She came out bowling with us last night after work.

LEONARD

Really?

DENNIS

Yeah man! She was with her cousin. What was that chick's name?

(Starts snapping his fingers to remember)

RANDY

Ricki.

DENNIS

Yeah Ricki. They were two lanes over and I could barely focus because Ricki was wearing these tight shorts and damn she had some sexy ass legs.

TARA

You guys are such fucking pigs!

DENNIS

Why am I a pig?

TARA

Because you are. It's like that's all that matters to any of you. How a chick looks! How her ass looks. Damn! I know you got sisters! Disgusting.

She begins to tie her hair in a ponytail. The guys sigh and shake their heads.

LEONARD

(Ignoring her outburst)

So what happened man?

RANDY

Well you know me. I had to play pimp of the year.

TARA

Randy get the fuck out of here! Pimp my ass. I remember when we were in high school that one time at the party we were playing spin the bottle and you had to kiss Tina. Remember that?

LEONARD

Tina who?

TARA

Tina Wallace.

LEONARD

Oh damn! Her?!

TARA

Oh don't trip! It didn't go down the way you think. Randy got so nervous that when the girl leaned in to kiss him he let off one of those loud smelly ass farts that cleared the whole damn room!

Dennis and Leonard bust out laughing. Tara smiles a triumphant look. Randy seethes.

RANDY

Look I told you I was eating nachos that day and my stomach was upset!!

TARA

Yeah right. What about the time Melissa caught you jerking off in her bathroom?

The guys laugh again much to the chagrin of Randy.

RANDY

(Looking embarrassed)

Well see what had happened was...

TARA

(Holds up her hand)

Yeah whatever.

RANDY

Look I'm trying to tell a story. Why don't you go PMS somewhere else.

LEONARD

Okay so what happened?

RANDY

Well Daisy was giving me the eye...

TARA

She was probably telling you to get the crust away from your mouth.

RANDY

(Ignoring her)

So I stepped to her and we started talking.

LEONARD

What was she wearing?

RANDY

She was wearing this little yellow top that was tight and these black shorts that were hugging her ass.

TARA

Oh my God!! Are you kidding me?! Is that all you guys notice?! The stuff that women wear!!

DENNIS

What else is there?

TARA

What about what she has to say? What about what she thinks about? Fixate on her mind instead of what's between her legs all the damn time.

DENNIS

Does it matter? We never actually listen to what women say anyway.

The guys laugh.

Tara sighs.

TARA

Okay I'm gone.

She walks away leaving the guys to resume the conversation.

RANDY

So anyway she tells me she got some good ass weed in her car and that she and her cousin wanna smoke with me and Dennis.

DENNIS

Yes sir!

RANDY

It didn't take long to convince this fool. Anyway so we all bowl our last game and head out to her car.

(He points at Dennis)

This fool and Ricki were in the front seat and me and Daisy were in the back. Man I can't lie she had some good shit too!! I mean we all was getting fucked up!! So at some point Daisy starts to feel up on me. Making her way towards my dick. She pulls it out...

LEONARD

No way dude!

RANDY

She pulls it out and gives me a hand job right there.

LEONARD

(Excitedly)

I knew she was a damn freak!

RANDY

So I just let her go at it. I'm just laying back enjoying the show.

LEONARD

That's what I'm talking about!!

RANDY

Anyway she's going at it and I feel like I'm about blast off when

(He points at Dennis)

This fool interrupts.

LEONARD

How?

DENNIS

Ricki was in the front seat giving me a blow job and I stuck my knee out and accidentally put the car in reverse.

Leonard busts out laughing.

LEONARD

Are you serious?

RANDY

Hell yeah!! Fucked up my night! So there was my skinny ass going backwards with my dick in the air.

LEONARD

Wait! Wait! So y'all going backwards in the car?

RANDY

Yup. We hit a bunch of bushes. Some people were leaving the bowling alley with their kids and thank God we didn't hit them. They just started screaming out an shit. Daisy's car got a few marks on it but she and Ricki were laughing the whole time. I'm just mad I didn't get a chance to bust off. Ruined my mood after that. I could hardly look at anybody.

Leonard looks at them as if they are the biggest idiots in the world and cracks up.

LEONARD

I'm so glad I didn't hang out with you two fools last night. If Laurel and Hardy were still alive you two would definitely give them a run for their money. Who does mess like that?
Dumb asses!

Leonard shakes his head and walks away. Tara comes back over looking concerned.

TARA

What's wrong with Otis?

RANDY

What you talking bout?

TARA

I just saw him in the back mumbling something to himself. By the way Andrew is on today. I guess Diane closed last night.

DENNIS

Oh shit that means I got to hear his punk ass all day.
He walks away.

RANDY

I don't know. Otis is a gangsta like that. He knows a lot about life. He'll be cool.

TARA

He's just been acting different lately. One day last week I say him leaning against the wall after taking out some trash and all of a sudden he just started punching the wall. It was surreal because I thought I was the only one who noticed this.

RANDY

(Brushing it off)

Aw that ain't no big deal. The man has a lot on his mind that's all. He's just blowing off steam. Nothing to trip about.

TARA

I don't know. It looked like something major to me.

RANDY

Well what you don't know could fill up a damn arena.
Randy chuckles. Tara narrows her eyes at him.

TARA

I heard about what happened last night with that girl. Serves your ass right for chasing trash like that.

Tara pulls out her cell phone answering back a text.

RANDY

You know you always got something to say about my dime pieces.

TARA

Please!! Those whores ain't worth a dead mule's ass!

RANDY

Damn!! That's harsh! You run your mouth too much.

Tara closes her cell phone and looks him dead in the eyes almost confrontational.

TARA

So? What you gonna do about it?!

She walks away. Randy just shakes his head.

INT. DINING AREA

Two Bussers JOSH and STEVEN both 19 and still pimply faced are laying out wrapped silverware on the tables.

JOSH

Man I'm telling you Call Of Duty is way better than those dumb zombie games you like to play.

STEVEN

No way. No game has got the kind of graphics and realism that the zombie games have. Dude it's like you are in a movie shooting at the monsters.

JOSH

But it's not real. Call Of Duty is the type of stuff you see on a documentary about war. They have special ops and everything. Do you ever see the shit they pack? There's no way you can lose in a zombie war.

STEVEN

There's no way you can convince me they will always have the upper hand. Zombies can just pop out of nowhere and attack. They can jump out at you from the dark. No matter how fancy your weapons are a agent can still get his ass killed.

Josh nods his head as the theory sinks in.

JOSH

I guess you're right.

The two boys resume setting up the tables.

INT. KITCHEN LATER

Frederico's has opened it's doors for the day. A few early morning customers have already started milling about engaged in conversation. A few more servers have arrived. MARTE' a college aged Hispanic woman JANICE a middle aged mother and BOB an ex high school football coach working part time.

Upon entering the establishment these servers along with Leonard Randy Dennis and Tara are encouraged by an exuberant Andrew to showcase warmth compassion and a driving need to satisfy the wishes of the guests.

ANDREW

Today is Friday and I need you guys to be one hundred percent. Greet your guests with enthusiasm. Make them feel like they are at home and wanted around here. Trust me we need them here or none of us would have jobs. Make sure their food is top quality. Make sure their glasses are always filled. Make sure you try to up sell the wine. Don't leave them at their tables alone for too long. Charm your guests.
We can do it team! Let's go!

INT. KITCHEN

Orders start to come in and employees hustle about to guarantee the utmost service.

The prep team in the back bag up the food and stir thick sauces.

INT. KITCHEN FOOD LINE

The cooks, GEORGE, VAUGHAN, and WILLIE are busy chatting while prepping the dishes. They are an interesting bunch of guys with views on everything.

The restaurant has all types of items. Sauces of different flavors. Chicken, fish, sausages, pasta, lasagna, fish, vegetables, salads, desserts, and many other delicacies.

Andrew tries his best to motivate and organize the crew by implementing his gung ho style. The kitchen seems to come alive and it moves like a well organized machine.

GEORGE

(Complaining)

Aw God!

Vaughan comes over.

VAUGHAN

What's the problem?

GEORGE

(Points to his screen)

They want two different pasta dishes with two different sauces, meatballs and a bowl of chicken bites.

WILLIE

Well give them what they want Top Chef.

He flips some meat on the grill. Vaughan laughs.

George looks perturbed.

INT. DINING AREA

Tara walks up to a table brightly.

TARA

Hello I'm Tara. I'll be your server today. Can I get you some drinks?

INT. DINING AREA

Leonard walks up to a table

LEONARD

Hello I'm Leonard I'll be your server today. That's a nice necklace. Can I get you something to drink?

INT. DINING AREA

Janice comes up to her table smiling brightly.

JANICE

Hey you! Back again I see! You always put a smile on my face. What can I get you?

INT. DINING AREA

The servers all approach their tables with professionalism and the hopes to make some tips. Tara greets her table and it's a couple who don't seem to like each other. She pulls out a pen and pad ready to jot down the orders.

TARA

Okay and what would you like your entrees to be?

MAN

You heard her! Tell her what you want!

WOMAN

Don't yell at me! I haven't decided yet!

The man throws his hands in the air.

MAN

That's just you! You can never make up your mind about anything.

WOMAN

I've made up my mind that you're an ass hole.

MAN

Oh so now I'm an ass hole!? Well you're a big baby.

(He flails his arms around)

Wahhh!! Wahhh!! Wahhh!!

WOMAN

(With sarcasm)

You are so manly you know that?

MAN

I have a toy to prove how manly I am.

WOMAN

Oh please! It hasn't had batteries in a long time.

MAN

Oh so now I don't have batteries. Okay that's cool. You just mad cause your mama is ugly.

The woman recoils at this.

WOMAN

Don't talk about my damn mama!! She's a beauty queen!

MAN

Yeah the queen of all vampires! And I think she might be a lesbian.

WOMAN

Well if she is she's getting more pussy than you.

MAN

You would definitely know about that.

WOMAN

Well if you lasted longer than a damn commercial maybe you would get more.

Tara just sighs.

INT. KITCHEN

Leonard is asking the cooks about an order.

LEONARD

So how long is that going to take fellas?

VAUGHAN

How long will what take?

LEONARD

I need a stuffed sausage and macaroni.

Vaughan is slicing up a piece of salmon and is somewhat oblivious to Leonard's protest.

VAUGHAN

I don't know.

LEONARD

What do you mean you don't know? I need it as soon as possible!! I've told you that at least three times.

Vaughan places the salmon on a tray and tosses it into the oven. He is already splotted with sauces and grease upon his apron.

VAUGHAN

Well you're not the only person here who is waiting on food. If I told you I would have to tell everybody else and I can't do that because I would seem like a fortune teller and I'm not. I work here making food.

Tara comes over carrying a tray.

VAUGHAN

(Cont'd)

So you see I can't tell you when your food is going to be done because I'm just a lowly cook and I can't predict the future. So it looks like you are just going to have to wait and see what happens after the commercial break. Now I know you all work for tips and everything but we got a job to do back here as well so you just have to wait your turn buddy.

All the other cooks crack up laughing.

TARA

Why do you guys insist on being jackasses?!

VAUGHAN

We get paid to do so. Just like you get paid to be up in those people's faces smiling an shit acting like you care if they get hot meatballs.

TARA

That's our job. Your job is to cook the food so why do we get attitude when we ask for our times?! We have to deal with these people face to face while you all get to sit back here goofing off all the damn time! You guys don't know what we have to put up with around here. I don't get why you guys make it hard for us everyday.

VAUGHAN

Well Tara you see we are on a time table just like you and some stuff back here takes a little while to cook. You all got this idea that as soon as you put an order in then boom! It's right there but it don't happen like that.

TARA

I just don't see what takes this stuff so long to cook. You all been working here since forever so you should be able to just whip it up no problem.

VAUGHAN

Now Tara if we just whipped it up then you would be pissed that it wasn't done right. You would get mad thinking we were just trying to give you anything to get you out of our faces.

Now when we are really busy then yes that's true. We just want you out of our faces but right now we just trying to give you what you need to make your day go by smoothly. Isn't that worth the sacrifice of waiting a little longer?

Tara sucks her teeth and storms off. The other cooks all laugh.

INT. KITCHEN DISH MACHINE

Chris and Otis are busy stacking up plates dripping with half eaten pieces of meat and sauces.

CHRIS

Remember when you told me to get a system?

OTIS

What?

CHRIS

A system remember? My first day on the job you told me to learn a system to get through a rush. I remember that time I worked on a Saturday night and we got slammed all night. If it wasn't for what you told me I would've been under.

OTIS

Yeah well I say a lot of things.

Chris looks over at his partner.

CHRIS

Otis! You sure you okay man?! You been tripping all day. This is payday. The day we get our money for doing all of this bull shit. You should be feeling like TD JAKES right now.

OTIS

Just another day to me.

CHRIS

Aw come on Otis!

He places a few dishes in the machine.

This is the day to get fucked up! I got to bring my little girl to the movies tonight but afterwards we can get a couple of six packs and just chill.

OTIS

Don't you have personal business boy?!

The servers continue to line up the dirty dishes. The face of Otis looks weary and somewhat flinching at the thoughts that are embedded in his mind.

CHRIS

Like what?

OTIS

Like your daughter and her mama.

CHRIS

Aw damn! You back on that?! I told you that was taken care of. After I bring my little girl to the movies me and you can go kick it.

OTIS

(Shaking his head)

You just don't appreciate life.

CHRIS

What?

OTIS

(Still muttering)

You just don't get it. You just don't get it. Just don't.

CHRIS

What are you mumbling about bruh?!

OTIS

Nothing. Nothing.

INT. DINING AREA

Andrew makes his way past the table greeting guests and making sure the needs of people are being taken care of. He smiles like the opening of a 1950's sitcom.

Tara is still at her table trying to bring a brief moment of peace to her guests.

MAN

Are you sure about that?

WOMAN

If I said it then I believe it.

MAN

So you think I'm afraid to get married?

WOMAN

(Holds up a finger)

I don't have a ring yet do I?

MAN

Well maybe I'm just waiting for the right moment. Maybe I just wanna take my time. Maybe I just wanna make sure everything is in order before I take such a big step.

WOMAN

I just think you're afraid.

TARA

Um your order will be out in a few minutes.

Tara walks away shaking her head. Andre walks alongside her.

ANDREW

Remember the guests are always right.

TARA

If you say so.

ANDREW

No Tara. I mean it. The guests are always right. They spend their hard earned money in here so they get the benefit of the doubt.

TARA

Those two fools have been going at it since they got in here.

ANDREW

I realize that but just make sure they are well taken care of. I want them to come back even if they are mad at each other. They are the ones who decide if this place continues to go on or shut down. They are paying our salaries Tara.

He walks away greeting more guests.

INT. KITCHEN

Tara charges in looking very beleaguered.

TARA

Oh my fucking God!! What is wrong with these people?!

Gabrielle comes up to her.

GABRIELLE

Girl what is wrong with you?

TARA

It's these people at my table. They are so fucking crazy! They are arguing about who doesn't do what for each other and what they could do without each other. He called her mother gay and she said he's scared to get married. I had to be the one to get the fucking Bundys.

Gabrielle fills up two glasses full of coke.

GABRIELLE

Did they order yet?

TARA

Yeah after listening to them go at it for ten minutes I was finally able to convince them to make a decision on what to eat. God this place is irritating!!

GABRIELLE

Damn girl don't go loco. Besides they're too busy arguing with each other so they might leave you a big tip.

Marte' comes over holding a tray.

MARTE

You never know. I had a guest one day who spent the whole time he was here gobbling up pasta and arguing with somebody on the phone. That's all he did but I guarantee you he left me a big ass tip. Never said anything to me except what he wanted to eat next. We got some weird ass people in this town.

Marte takes a stack of dirty plates over to Otis. He quickly jerks them out of her hand!

MARTE'

Ai papi! You trying to rip my arms out of their sockets.

Otis gives her a glare that could melt ice. Marte' senses something is amiss. She rubs the small crucifix hanging around her neck.

MARTE'

You should smile Otis. Today is payday for you guys right? You should be in a good mood. Thank God for being healthy and employed.

Otis ignores her and continues washing the dishes with a grim reproach. Marte' walks away uneasily.

Tara loads up a tray of smoking hot entrees. She lifts them up on her shoulders.

TARA

They'll probably argue about who's paying the fucking bill!
She walks out with Gabrielle following behind laughing.

Marte' is still transfixed by what just happened with Otis. She looks back in his direction.

Something is not right!!! She slowly rubs the crucifix again and exits.

Leonard, Randy, Dennis, and Joe enter the kitchen.

RANDY

Man I'm telling you none of you fools can see me in that new Madden.

LEONARD

Give me the Steelers and it's a wrap.

DENNIS

The Steelers?! Man they suck ass! Give me the Patriots any day.

The guys begin to fix various drinks.

JOE

Doesn't matter who any of you guys get nobody can mess with me and the Buffalo Bills.

RANDY

I can destroy them with a specialty team.

JOE

There is no way you can mess with me and the Bills.

RANDY

So is that a challenge?

LEONARD

It sounds like one.

JOE

Yeah! It's a challenge. I'll whip your sorry ass Patriots with the Bills.

RANDY

Okay if that's a challenge then I'm calling a tournament and when I win don't come back crying like a little bitch!

JOE

I see you're a cocky bastard!!

RANDY

I can back my shit up!

JOE

Okay! We'll do it tonight.

DENNIS

I'm there.

LEONARD

Let's put fifty dollars on it. Everybody get your teams and we go against Joe.

JOE

Let's do it?

Gabrielle comes into the kitchen carrying dirty dishes to the back. She sets them on the counter and gives Chris a smile.

CHRIS

Sexy. Very sexy.

GABRIELLE

Don't you forget it.

She blows him a kiss. Otis is behind shaking his head.

INT. DINING AREA

Marte' is at her table waiting on a group of women all in their thirties. One of them is being extra bitchy.

LADY

Okay before you take my order please make sure I have light ice in my drink. I don't want my glass to look like a bunch of glaciers are floating around. We would like to try some appetizers and we would like those to come out before the meal and I don't want my food runny. I would appreciate it if we had prompt service and our food is hot. Also we would like fresh bread and not that dried up mess we had last time. It's not fun eating something that clogs up your throat. If you wouldn't eat it then don't give it to me.

MARTE'

Everything will come out the way you wish ma'am.

The other ladies smile in embarrassment at their rude friend.

INT. OFFICE

Andrew is at his desk typing up forms.

ANDREW

Okay ladies and gentlemen. Who is going to be my bitch this week?!

He clicks the keys on the computer in a sporadic rhythm.
A knock comes at the door.

ANDREW

Come in!

Janice enters.

JANICE

Hey Andrew. Listen I know you wanted me to try and work tonight but I can't. My oldest son has an art show tonight and I would love to be there.

ANDREW

Oh you must be talking about Wayne right?

Janice nods.

ANDREW

Oh wow. Okay Janice that's fine. I'll get someone to cover it for you.

JANICE

(Smiling)

Thank you Andrew. I really appreciate it.

ANDREW

Tell him good luck for me.

JANICE

I will.

Janice leaves the room. Andrew shakes his head.

ANDREW

Damn kid couldn't draw a map right if he tried.

Andrew resumes typing at his break neck speed.

INT. KITCHEN

George, Vaughan and Willie are working up a storm but still in conversation. The food is coming out looking amazing. The three guys have a poetic flow to their work.

They move expertly through the kitchen.

GEORGE

I think I'm going to get another job.

Vaughan and Willie both exclaim "Yeah Right."

WILLIE

We've heard that before.

GEORGE

I'm serious. It's time for me to make my mark in the world.

VAUGHAN

First you should make your mark in the kitchen and stop burning up shit. Make the food look like the picture for once in your life.

George plates up a dish.

GEORGE

Man shut the hell up! Anyway I feel like I'm destined to do great things.

WILLIE

It would be good if you were destined to move your ass faster and make this food. We are trying to avoid long ticket times.

Willie slides a cold slice of fish over to George.

GEORGE

Are you guys going to tell me this is what you want to do forever? You can't possibly tell me that.

WILLIE

Hey man I got two kids. This is what I have to do. I'm not in the position to be unemployed. My family eats before my dreams.

VAUGHAN

Amen to that. Most people just can't pick up and leave without a solid plan. You got to have a plan in life otherwise you might end up right back where you started from and that would be humiliating.

GEORGE

I'm not saying I don't. I'm just saying this is my time you know. Get out there and do my thing. Explore the world without a care. You know a lot of men did this back in the thirties and forties. They just left and went out to make their fortunes in the world and never looked back. They just took on whatever came their way.

George seasons up the fish quickly and slides it into the oven.

WILLIE

So what's your plan? You going back to school?

GEORGE

Maybe.

WILLIE

That might not be such a bad idea for you. You seem like the type to be in a class taking notes.

GEORGE

I don't know man. I just have this desire to see the world.

VAUGHAN

You wanna see the world? Watch the Travel Channel.

Willie cracks up laughing. George doesn't think it's so funny.

GEORGE

Ha-ha muthafucka! I'm serious man. There is this huge luminous world out there.

WILLIE

Luminous?

GEORGE

Yeah luminous. I wanna go the distance. Travel and experience everything. I'm just trying to live life to the fullest.

VAUGHAN

You must be serious to use a big ass word like that. Well if that's what you wanna do man then do it.

Vaughan grabs a stack of plates and places them on the counter. He quickly empties steaming vats of pasta on them.

VAUGHAN

(Cont'd)

Nothing worse than a wasted life. You gotta go for what you want and appreciate every moment God gives you. A lot of people are working jobs and doing things they don't want to do and it kills them deep down inside. Don't be like that.

WILLIE

Man you don't need to be preaching to this fool. If he wanted to do it he would've done it by now.

GEORGE

So you don't think I'll do it. We got paid today so I got the money.

WILLIE

I think you talk a good game. Talking and doing are two different things. A man that always talks never does anything. A man that moves in silence gets more done. And besides with the bull shit money we get over here you'd be back by next Wednesday.

VAUGHAN

He's got a point.

The guys laugh. Even George.

INT. DINING AREA

The lady we saw earlier in the parking lot with Otis enters the building. She looks distressed.

Elsie the host greets her.

ELSIE

Hello ma'am. Would you like a table?

LADY

Yes I would like a table and also to see your manager.

INT. LINEN CLOSET

Chris and Gabrielle are making out amongst the back drop of towels, napkins, aprons, and bags.

Chris gently rubs her body.

GABRIELLE

Wow you feel frisky today don't you?

CHRIS

I'm always feeling frisky.

He tries to unbutton her shirt. She stops him.

GABRIELLE

Hold up baby! Hold up!

CHRIS

What's wrong?

GABRIELLE

Um we're at work for one thing.

CHRIS

Excuse me Miss Conservative. I wanted to make a fantasy right now.

Gabrielle buttons her shirt back up.

GABRIELLE

Tell you what. Tonight we can finish. How's that?

CHRIS

I can't make it tonight.

GABRIELLE

Why?

CHRIS

I'm taking my little girl to the movies. She's been bothering me forever about it. Don't want to disappoint her.

Gabrielle exhales slowly.

CHRIS

What's wrong with you?

GABRIELLE

Nothing. I'm cool.

CHRIS

Don't tell me you got a problem with this?

GABRIELLE

No. I was just hoping we could spend some time together but that's cool. Do what you got to do.

CHRIS

I thought we agreed from the beginning that you wouldn't trip about things like that.

GABRIELLE

Don't throw my words in my face. I just didn't know you had other plans tonight that's all. Just have fun with your daughter.

Gabrielle storms out of the room. Chris follows behind.

Chris takes her arm to try to talk but she pushes it away.

GABRIELLE

Chris don't!!! Look just go back to work okay! I'll holla at you later.

She walks away leaving Chris standing behind looking confused. He shakes his head.

Whack!! A sound from behind.

Chris turns around and sees Stacy using a butcher knife to chop up celery.

STACY

Trouble in Paradise.

CHRIS

No.

STACY

Are you sure? I'm pretty good at solving romantic dilemmas.

She slides the celery to the side and replaces them with a few carrot sticks.

CHRIS

It's not a romantic dilemma.

STACY

Looks that way to me.

CHRIS

Stacy mind your business.

Chris walks away. Stacy smiles.

STACY

You'll be back.

Whack!!

INT. DINING AREA

The lunch rush has dwindled down and the restaurant is pretty relaxed now. There are still a good number amount of customers but for the most part they've all been taken care of. Randy is leaning against a wall when Tara comes over.

TARA

I see you're working hard.

RANDY

I'm pissed.

TARA

Why?

RANDY

These people had a eighty five dollar bill and they left me a tip of a dollar and thirty cents.

TARA

Wow that's fucked up.

RANDY

I know right. I should've pissed in their food.

Tara laughs.

TARA

I'm sure you have better things to do with your dick.

RANDY

If it wasn't for that tournament I'd call Daisy tonight.

TARA

You're pathetic you know that.

She stretches.

TARA

(Cont'd)

I gotta pay my cell phone bill. Buy some groceries. Do some laundry.

RANDY

You keep dissing the chicks I like. How come?

TARA

You have no taste that's why. You keep picking all these random ass skanks.

RANDY

Well who should I pick?

Tara smiles flirtatiously.

TARA

Pick something worth your speed.

RANDY

And what is my speed?

TARA

Open your eyes wider to all possibilities.

INT. KITCHEN

Otis is leaning against the wall with his eyes closed. Chris comes up.

CHRIS

Man I just don't get women. I just don't see the problem. She knows I got a girl and a baby and she's still tripping. Why can't she just play her position? You know what I'm saying Otis? Otis?

Otis keeps his eyes closed.

CHRIS

(Cont'd)

Hey man in less than three hours we are gone.

OTIS

Andrew wants us to stay an hour later today.

CHRIS

For what?

OTIS

Says some District Manager is coming by and he wants his best people here.

CHRIS

Aw damn! I told Angel to come get me at four. Fuck! Now I'm going to have to hear her mouth plus I got some bills to pay before they close later today.

OTIS

(Mumbling to himself)

You just don't appreciate life. You just don't get it. You Just don't get it.

Otis opens his eyes. The man looks morbidly transfixed. He has the look of a hunter in his gaze. His lips are curled into a snarl.

He looks around as if he is studying the room.

CHRIS

(Some what afraid)

Man Otis what is going on with you today? Talk to me bruh! Do you need some aspirin or something?

Otis suddenly hisses. Chris jumps back.

CHRIS

What the fuck!

Otis quickly gets his composure as if nothing happened.

OTIS

Don't worry about me. Worry about yourself.

Andrew comes over.

ANDREW

Good work today guys. You kept it flowing real good. By the way the District Manager cancelled his visit. He said he would drop in tomorrow. Otis can I see you for a minute?

Otis leaves with him. Chris looks after him completely taken aback.

INT. DINING AREA

Gabrielle is sitting down counting her tips. Marte' comes over.

MARTE'

Hey girl what's up.

GABRIELLE

(Sounding troubled)

Nothing.

MARTE'

What you wanna eat today? I'm thinking we can go get some Japanese food. I can't eat all this shit over here anymore. I need to leave this mess alone. My ass is getting thick as it is but my man likes it so I can't really complain.

GABRIELLE

He doesn't care?

MARTE'

Girl no. He just keeps his hands all over my ass. Especially when I'm trying to cook at the stove.

The girls laugh.

GABRIELLE

Oh God! I needed that laugh.

MARTE

What's wrong baby?

GABRIELLE

Nothing.

MARTE'

Girl don't lie to me. It's Chris isn't it?

Gabrielle just nods slowly.

MARTE'

Girl why are you getting yourself involved in something like that? Gabby you are a college student with a job. You are an Independent young lady. You deserve a man that is only for you. You don't need to be sharing.

GABRIELLE

There's just something about him.

MARTE'

What is it? He has a woman and a child. He has a dick like every other man that can't control his impulses. Gabby he has his own responsibilities. It's not worth it Mami.

Gabrielle leans back in the booth frustrated.

GABRIELLE

I know all of that. God I think I stayed up late thinking about this shit a hundred times. He just came along at a good time. I needed somebody I could lay next to.

Marte' reaches out and takes her hand.

MARTE'

But you also need somebody that's going to still be there when you wake up in the morning. You will always be sharing him and no woman should ever have just a piece of a man. I went down that road once and it was awful.

GABRIELLE

Yeah. I wanted him to come over tonight but he's taking out his daughter.

MARTE'

Well what do you expect? You knew he had a child from the start and you still got involved.

Gabrielle nods and looks out the window.

INT. OFFICE

Otis is seated on the opposite side of the manager's desk. Andrew is on the phone talking a mile a minute.

ANDREW

Yeah man! I got the figures right here! Well we got that meeting in Houston next month! I'm not sure! Richard didn't say anything to me about it. You know how that dick head works! Ha-ha! Well if everything turns out okay that new menu is going to definitely increase our sales. Okay man! Yeah. I'll let you know. Say hi to Patti for me. Okay. Later.

He hangs up with a jubilant look across his face. Otis is looking towards the ground.

ANDREW

Otis my friend we need to have a chat.

Otis looks up and his eyes meet Andrew's.

OTIS

About what?

ANDREW

A lady came in here today. Miss Mildred Evans. You know her?

OTIS

Can't say that I do.

ANDREW

Well she came in here today in a sour mood. Nice lady. Loves the hell out of this place. Always giving out compliments. Sure you never met her? It's possible you just forgot.

OTIS

No.

Andrew leans back in his chair.

ANDREW

Well Miss Mildred is one of our best customers. Christ the old bitch practically lives here. I think she has a tapeworm for this place. Anyway she told me that she pulled into the parking lot early this morning and saw you out there cleaning up....

Otis suddenly remembers who he is talking about.

ANDREW

(Cont'd)

... She said that you were very rude to her. That's how she said it too. "Rude". Now when I heard this I jumped to your side. However she was very adamant about this story.

OTIS

Look man I was working and she caught me at a bad time.

Otis suddenly feels his arm twitch. Andrew puts up his hand.

ANDREW

Otis that is not an excuse to insult our guests. That woman can talk I agree but she doesn't deserve to be insulted. She even described you. She said the fat ugly black man.

Otis balls his hands into fists.

ANDREW

Now I know she was going overboard but she was very distraught. Otis I can't have one of my cherished guests feeling unwelcome here. This place promotes warmth. Don't you think so?

Otis doesn't answer. He just lowers his head.

Andrew reaches into his desk and pulls out a stack of papers.

ANDREW

Otis I got a good mind to fire you. I mean it would be logical to do that. I don't want my guests thinking they will get insulted by our employees here no matter what kind of mood they are in.

OTIS

F-Fire me. I can't lose this job.

ANDREW

I'm not going to fire you. I just said I was thinking about it. To be honest I need you around here. Nobody except you is going to do the things I need done. However I got a job to do.

He pulls out a golden ink pen from his desk. The writing instrument illuminates in the light with a golden sparkle.

ANDREW

You see this Otis? This is my special weapon. Whenever I have to write up an employee I use this. This was given to me the day I became a manager. It's my way of enforcing power. This is a pen I don't like to see come out because when it does it means I have to do something I don't want to do with it.

Andrew pulls out a sheet of paper and places it on the desk. Otis's hands are still twitching.

Andrew is too involved in his moment of power to notice this.

ANDREW

This is just how I do things Otis. Don't get me wrong. I like you. I really do. That's why I hate having to do this. All I need you to do is sign on the bottom saying that you are aware of a write up and this little problem is all over with.

Andrew comes from around the desk and sit on the edge facing Otis.

ANDREW

Otis you are my main man. My ace in the hole. This company owes you for just being here. I feel bad having to do this but I have no choice.

He holds the pen out to Otis.

ANDREW

Just sign it.

Otis stares at the pen transfixed. He eyes it the way a man eyes something he's never seen before. Andrew notices Otis's hesitance.

He exhales in an impatient matter.

ANDREW

Otis? Otis? Otis?

Suddenly Otis leaps up snatches the pen from Andrew and starts to choke him.

The bodies of the two men slam on the desk. Andrew is choking and he grabs Otis's hands to try to get away.

It simply isn't working. Otis is too strong and powerful. He tries to mumble something but it's indecipherable.

Otis has Andrew pinned down with his left hand and raises the pen up with his right.

Andrew is struggling to get loose and he knocks papers and folders all over the floor. His eyes grow enlarged.

Otis slams the pen down right into his left eye. Blood squirts up profusely like a water fountain. Andrew's body is shaking and his feet kick at the desk.

The gurgling sounds are very disturbing. Otis leans back covered in blood.

INT. KITCHEN

Stacy is still chopping vegetables. She glances up at a clock on the wall.

STACY

Oh God! It's time for me to go.

She starts to pick up everything.

STACY

(Out loud)

Has anybody seen Andrew?

INT. FRONT LOBBY

Randy and Tara are standing by the front door.

TARA

So I heard you're having a video game tournament tonight.

RANDY

Yeah Joe trying to see me on some Madden.

TARA

So is that all you're doing tonight?

RANDY

Maybe. What else should I be doing?

TARA

Do you have female company coming by?

RANDY

No we'll probably be playing late.

TARA

I see.

RANDY

What? What are you trying to get at?

TARA

I'm just saying with all that time you're going to be spending with guys you could spend it with me.

Randy looks a little surprised by her statement.

RANDY

So you want some of this?

Tara sucks her teeth.

TARA

Don't make it seem like you are some kind of a pimp. I'm just saying if you're interested the offer is on the table.

RANDY

Damn I'm shocked. Didn't think you looked at me like that.

TARA

You're still a punk that gets on my nerves but I also think you are cute.

Randy smiles and actually blushes a little bit.

RANDY

So you're offering me a chance to get with you?

TARA

Yes if you want that chance. Look don't get all excited I was just throwing it out there.

RANDY

I'll cancel that tournament.

TARA

You don't have to do that. I know how much it means to you guys. Just see me later tonight.

RANDY

What if I can't wait until tonight?

Tara smiles.

INT. OFFICE

Andrew is dead. The pen is still lodged in his eye like a bloody statue. The blood from his wound spills out on the floor from the desk.

Otis is just standing there looking at the body.

OTIS

(To himself)

Well Betty. I did it. I'm going make my mark Betty. Today I'm going to show them to respect life. Respect life. They have to learn.

Otis pulls the pen from Andrew's face. It has a sickening sound.

OTIS

Looks like you don't have nothing else to worry about you power hungry muthafucka!!

INT. DINING AREA

Gabrielle and Marte' are still talking at their booth. Chris is wiping windows around the restaurant.

The restaurant still has a nice number of guests all engaged in eating and polite conversation. If only they knew.

INT. KITCHEN

Stacy is washing her hands at a sink. George walks by.

STACY

Hey! Have you seen Andrew?

GEORGE

I think he's in the office with Otis.

Stacy heads for the office. She knocks on the door but no answer. She opens it slowly...

STACY

Andrew it's time for me....

...and discovers a ghastly sight!!!

Andrew's body is sprawled out over the desk with Otis standing over it!! He turns around and she is taken aback by the horrid look on his face.

STACY

(Horrified)

Oh my....

Otis immediately pulls her in slamming the door. Some of the guys on the line hear this but quickly shrug it off.

"Probably having a meeting!"

Otis slings Stacy across the desk knocking Andrew's body to the floor.

Stacy gets to her feet fast.

STACY

Oh my God Otis!!! What the fuck are you doing?!!

Otis grabs her with brute force and slaps her across the face.

STACY

(Weakly)

Mr. Otis please stop!! Please!

Otis slaps her again! And again!! And again!! Stacy's face is getting bloody. She tries to scream out for help but Otis just punches her in the face.

OTIS

You need to respect life! You need to respect life!! You need to respect life!!!

Otis throws his big massive hands around her neck and starts to choke her.

Stacy struggles to get free but Otis is too strong for her.

She slaps wildly at his arms and even uses her small fingernails to dig into his hands in order to get free but to no avail.

Otis continues to squeeze even going so much as to lift the young girl off her feet.

OTIS

Die!! Die!! Die you little bitch!!

Stacy can barely hang on. Her body is dangling in the air. Finally she dies!

Otis throws her body to the side like a rag doll. She slumps next to Andrew.

Otis smiles triumphantly.

OTIS

Betty!! I'm doing it!!! I'm going to show them all!!

INT. DINING AREA

Chris comes over to Gabrielle and Marte's table.

CHRIS

Hey Gabby! Can I holla at you for a second?

GABRIELLE

About what Chris?

CHRIS

I just wanna talk.

Gabrielle sighs.

GABRIELLE

(To Marte')

I'll be right back.

She gets up and follows him to a nearby booth.

GABRIELLE

Chris what is this all about?

CHRIS

I need to make things right between us.

GABRIELLE

Chris I've been doing some thinking.

INT. OFFICE

Otis stares at the two dead bodies.

OTIS

They will respect life.

Otis throws open the door and slowly walks out.

Everyone is milling about doing their duties. He looks over and sees the butcher knife Stacy was working with.

It seems to beckon to him.

He picks it up and gently fingers the blade admiring it's sharpness. A trickle of blood ebbs from his finger and drips on the cutting board.

Willie turns the corner holding a bag of frozen grilled chicken.

WILLIE

Hey Otis! What's happening man?

Otis looks up at him as if seeing him for the first time. Willie notices this and stops.

WILLIE

Otis. You okay man?

Otis looks stupefied. Suddenly he brings the cleaver down into Willie's left shoulder. The blade sinks in with a ferocity that is eye opening.

WILLIE

(Screaming)

Ahhhh!!!! What the Fuck are you doing?! Oh Fuck!!

Willie's screams reverberate through the kitchen. Suddenly everyone turns around to see what is going on.

Willie grabs his shoulder as the blood gushes through his fingers.

Otis raises the blade again and slams it down into Willie's forearm.

Otis raises it again in quick succession this time hitting Willie's jawline.

The sounds of the blade and the flesh connecting is sickening.

People in the kitchen are ghostly white with shock and indecisiveness about what to do next.

George and Vaughan rush over to stop Otis. Vaughan jumps on his back while George grabs Otis by the wrist.

GEORGE

What the fuck are you doing Otis?! Jesus Christ!! Let go!

OTIS

No! No! No!

Otis is stronger than both men and he easily slings Vaughan off his back sending the guy crashing to the floor.

Willie is gurgling up blood as his body lies balled up in a fetal position.

He leans his head to the side and dies.

Otis punches George in the jaw with a crunching blow.

George is rattled by the hit and lets go hitting the floor hard.

Vaughan is completely horrified.

George is temporarily unconscious from his punch.

VAUGHAN

This muthafucka has gone crazy!!

Otis kicks him in the face blasting his body back like a bullet from a gun.

OTIS

You motherfuckers!!! You will all respect life today!!

Joe comes around the corner taken aback by what he sees.

JOE

Oh good God in heaven!

VAUGHAN

(Muttering)

Joe. Get h-help.

Joe looks at Otis standing there breathing hard with eyes of hatred.

INT. DINING AREA

Marte' is at a table with a lady who doesn't seem to be having a good day. The woman holds up a wine glass examining whether it's clean or not.

WOMAN

So they wash these glasses in the proper temperature right? I mean this glass is fully cleaned right?

MARTE

Yes ma'am I'm sure they've been washed properly. Our dishwashers are very careful about things like that.

WOMAN

They better be. I'm an expert on dish washing. You see I just happen to be a manager at a restaurant and I know how to make a product glisten. You want your dishes to be fully clean so that your guests do not see any spots or stains.....

Marte looks off as the woman continues ranting.

INT. KITCHEN

George is slowly coming to. Through his clouded vision he sees Willie's dead body.

He can see Vaughan on the ground looking like he's trying to tell him something.

He can also see Otis dragging something. It looks like a body!

GEORGE

W-what happened?

VAUGHAN

George. We got to get out of here!

George looks around.

GEORGE

What?

INT. DINING AREA

Otis suddenly pops in from the kitchen dragging Joe's dead body.

The man's face has been hacked for sure with the butcher knife.

A woman from a nearby table sees this macabre sight and immediately screams.

This is where the pandemonium begins!!

People either jump up from their tables in awkward frightened ways or simply remain seated too scared to move.

Otis is bloody yet on a twisted mission to bring what he calls justice to the forefront. He looks around the room with the eyes of a deranged animal.

OTIS

You will all learn to respect life!!!! All of you!!!!

A man who is a lot closer to Otis than what he would like to be stands up from his table.

Otis throws a mighty punch to the guy's chest sending the man to the ground gasping.

Otis raises the butcher knife and whack!!!

This horrible sight sends people fleeing!!!

Chris and Gabrielle hear the screams!

GABRIELLE

What the hell is that?!

CHRIS

I don't know.

They both get up quickly to see what is happening. A woman at her table eating spaghetti is too afraid to move.

Otis comes up to her grinning.

OTIS

How's the food bitch!! Is it better than homemade?!

Before she can answer Otis grabs her by the hair and slams her face down very hard on to her plate.

It smashes beneath her as blood begins to flow off to the side.

Otis does this again and again until the woman is dead. He tosses her body to the side.

Otis begins to laugh softly to himself.

People cower from this deranged man who has finally snapped.

The manager from Marte's table is trying to calm Otis down.

She slowly walks up to him with her hands in the air.

LADY

Sir!! For God's sake!! What are you doing?!! Why are you doing this?!!

Otis looks at her like she's a dead president who has been resurrected. His eyes are wide and completely insane.

He slowly looks her up and down like a wolf examining prey.

He lowers the butcher knife to his side.

OTIS

What do you want?

LADY

Sir please!! I know things are probably not going well for you. You might be feeling some anger. You might think nobody cares. Well it's not true. I'm a restaurant manager and I care. I truly do care. What you're doing right now is wrong. These people don't deserve this. Please put that knife down. We can talk. You and me. We can sit here and talk about anything. I'll listen. How about it?

Otis smiles. The lady smiles back.

OTIS

You wanna talk to me?

LADY

Yes! Let's talk

OTIS

You want me to open my soul to you?

LADY

Let's just talk. You can tell me whatever you like.

Otis

You want to know why I'm doing this? Why it's my mission to teach people things they need to know? Is that what you want?

LADY

Yes please. Let's just talk.

With a quick and powerful lunge Otis plows the butcher knife into the woman's eyes.

Chris and Gabrielle show up just in time to see the lady's body fall like a red oak.

GABRIELLE

(Screaming)

Oh my God!!!

The woman's body hits the ground like a empty sack.

CHRIS

Jesus Christ!! Otis what the fuck man!!

Otis looks at him and Chris doesn't seem to recognize the anger on the man's face.

OTIS

Are you ready to learn?!!

Gabrielle is trembling like she has frost bite. Otis raises the butcher knife.

OTIS

And today!! Today you will learn to respect life!!

A man is quietly tiptoeing behind Otis like a panther about to strike.

There are people cowering underneath tables and behind chairs shocked full of terror.

CHRIS

Otis!!! What the fuck! Put that down man!! Put it down! Have you lost your fucking mind?!!

OTIS

I tried to talk to you this morning and you didn't want to listen! You're just selfish. All you care about is yourself. You got a girl and a baby and what do you do? You sleep around. What kind of man are you?

CHRIS

Me?!! Look at you! What kind of man kills innocent people?!

OTIS

The kind that has a mission!!!

Suddenly the man from behind lashes out and grabs Otis by the neck. They begin to struggle like two WWF wrestlers.

Otis tries to swing the man loose but the guy has a firm grip.

Chris intervenes by trying to snatch the butcher knife from Otis. As he does this the three men struggle and Chris accidentally slices his hand.

GABRIELLE

Oh God Chris!!

Chris jumps back looking at his injured hand. Blood trickles down!! Otis and the man continue to struggle violently.

Gabrielle grabs a towel from nearby and wraps his hand.

CHRIS

Gabby!! Go get the fucking police!!

Otis has now swung the man off his back and against a wall. He slams the man's head over and over again.

Our would be hero is unconscious as his body falls to the carpet.

GABRIELLE

Chris come with me please!!

CHRIS

Just go Gabrielle!

GABRIELLE

Chris please!!

Otis is violently kicking the man in the face.

Chris quickly grabs a chair and smashes Otis in the back sending him down with a resounding grunt.

The man's face looks terrible. He's bloody and gasping for air. Chris bends down to talk to him.

CHRIS

Sir are you okay?! Can you hear me?!

The man mumbles his reply. The whimpers and cries from devastated guests are heard throughout the restaurant.

Marte comes over cautiously with her hand over her mouth.

She looks about at the dead bodies.

MARTE'

Dear God! I knew something was not right about him today! I felt it deep down! I saw it in his eyes! He's not well. The man needs help! Oh God in heaven!

She fingers her crucifix. Chris turns around quickly.

CHRIS

Call the police!! Anybody!! Right now!! Call the damn
police!!

Gabrielle and Marte' hurry off.

Dennis and Leonard who up till this point have been hiding
under the tables rise to their feet.

They cringe when they see Joe's dead body.

LEONARD

I guess this means the tournament is off.

DENNIS

Chris! What's wrong with Otis man?!

CHRIS

Just get the police!!

DENNIS

I mean damn man what is the problem?! I know he was an old
ass dishwasher but why is he doing this? I mean today is
payday is it not? You guys get checks and we get tips! What's
the problem?

LEONARD

Will you shut the fuck up!

Dennis is too shocked to listen to this.

DENNIS

I'm saying man what is he trying to get? Workman's comp? This
shit is not going to work! You saw the way he killed those
people. What the fuck is really going on when some old ass
pot scrubber goes berserk? Huh?! Tell me this!

Otis suddenly snaps up and grabs Dennis by the neck. He wraps
his arm around the kid's throat and with one snap he breaks
it!!

Otis tosses his body to the side like nothing.

OTIS

Fuck you too punk!!

Leonard grabs a steak knife from a table and stabs Otis right in the shoulder.

OTIS

Ahhhhhhh!!!!!!!

With fury that could only match a wild animal he extracts the knife grabs Leonard by the shoulder and slams it right into his throat. His face shakes violently and his eyes bulge out in a Kermit the Frog fashion. Otis lets him go and watches him drop to the floor. Leonard's body shakes as he slowly dies.

A woman hiding behind a table screams out as Otis furiously throws the table off to the side and plunges the butcher knife into her body. He looks up at Chris with insanity all over his face.

OTIS

Hey Chris!! You wanna die like a man or a bitch!! Either way you're going to die today muthafucka!

Otis turns back to the woman slamming the knife repeatedly into her over and over. Chris is absolutely mortified by what he sees.

He begins to back up slowly out of the room too shocked and terrified to do anything.

EXT. PARKING LOT

The melee of people that spills from the doors is insane. People are screaming as they run frantically to their vehicles. A few older ladies have passed out. Josh and Steven run out as well.

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM

Randy and Tara are in a stall kissing. Tara suddenly stops.

TARA

Did you hear that?

RANDY

No

(He pulls her back closer)

Don't stop the music.

TARA

(Smiling)

Am I spoiling you right now?

RANDY

Yes you are.

INT. KITCHEN

Gabrielle is trying frantically to get in touch with the authorities. She's calling on a wall phone.

GABRIELLE

Yes! Hello! We need help at Frederico's on Slauson Avenue!!
Please hurry! There is a man here killing people!!

MARTE'

What are they saying?!!!

GABRIELLE

Yes he's killing people!! He's gone fucking crazy!!! Just
send a fucking Army down here!!

She hangs up. Gabrielle seems to be having a panic attack!

MARTE'

What did they say?

GABRIELLE

They're on the way.

Marte grabs hold of her shoulders.

MARTE

Gabby calm down!

GABRIELLE

I'm not gonna fucking calm down Marte!! Why is he doing
this?! What is the point of this?! That bastard is sick in
the fucking head!!

Suddenly Chris bursts in the kitchen.

The girls are startled by his interruption and taken aback even more by his appearance.

He looks disheveled.

CHRIS

(Transfixed)

He's killing those people! He's killing those people and he likes it.

Otis suddenly bursts in from another door. He is full of blood from head to toe. He looks at them and smiles like the devil on a amusement ride.

OTIS

Hiiiiiiiiiiii!!!!!!

He raises the butcher knife.

OTIS

Die you muthafuckas!!!!!!

He storms towards them.

Chris and Gabrielle duck to the left and Marte goes to the right. The butcher knife comes down and rams into a wooden board. Otis swings a powerful punch that smacks Marte across the face. She goes flying into a pile of dirty dishes.

GABRIELLE

Marte!!!!!!

OTIS

You wash em bitch!!!

Chris and Gabrielle make a run for it with Otis right behind.

INT. RESTAURANT

Chris and Gabrielle streak through like two Amtrak trains. There are still people here and there too shocked to move. As they try to escape they both trip on a few people down on the floor. Otis is right behind and raises his butcher knife to strike.

Whack!!!

The blade hits the floor! Otis maneuvers his body around covering the front entrance. He tries to stab them on the ground.

Whack!! Whack!! Whack!!

Chris and Gabrielle both twist and turn out of the way.

The knife leaves marks all over the floor.

Otis tries to hit them both in a blinding fury.

GABRIELLE

Oh God!

Chris kicks Otis's legs from underneath him sending the heavy built man to the ground. He jumps on top swinging punches. Otis laughs as he protects himself.

OTIS

That's all you got boy!!

He punches Chris right upside the head. The blow makes him blast to the left almost crashing into Gabby.

OTIS

Boy Jiggly Jackie hits harder than that. One time I made her so mad at me she gave me a slap they heard all the way on Saturn!!!

Otis gets to his feet. Chris looks groggy. Gabby studies Otis as she tries to get Chris up.

OTIS

Pretty girl you got here. Too bad she's going to die with you!! I'll chop her fucking head off and send it to your girlfriend so she can see the other woman!!

Gabrielle reaches into her back pocket and pulls out a small corkscrew.

Before Otis can pick up the blade she jams it right into his foot.

Otis screams out and crashes back to the floor clutching his wound.

Chris and Gabrielle make a dash for it. They try to run past Otis but he reaches out and grabs Gabby's foot.

He trips her to her knees and pulls the corkscrew from his foot. He raises it up to jam it into her eye when Chris takes a potted plant and smashes it into his face.

They make a run towards the bathrooms.

Chris pushes Gabby into the ladies room. He enters the men's.

Otis appears around the corner.

Now he's not only bloody but the potted plant has him looking dirty as well.

His age and smoking habit has caused him to perspire a little faster than expected. He takes a glance feeling that something is amiss. He looks around unsure of where they went.

INT. WOMEN'S BATHROOM

Gabrielle is right behind the door. She is in total panic mode and is completely frazzled. She hears a stall door close behind her. It's Tara and Randy. Tara takes one look at her and is confused.

TARA

Gabby what the hell happened to you?!

GABRIELLE

Shhhhh!!

TARA

Is that fucking blood?!!

GABRIELLE

Shhh!!!

Otis hears this. He smiles and stops by the bathroom door. Gabrielle is on the other side listening.

Chris peeks his head out from the Men's room. Otis has his back towards him.

OTIS

Lady lady! Where are you?! Lady lady where are you?! I want to see your fucking insides bitch!

Otis suddenly bursts in pushing Gabrielle against the far wall.

TARA

What the f----

Whack!! The butcher knife finds it's way right into her forehead. Blood sprays like a busted hydrant across the mirrors. Her body falls.

Gabrielle screams as some of Tara's blood covers her and runs to the last stall that has a huge door. Randy freezes and suddenly he looks like he is about to cry and lose it completely. Otis starts to laugh. Randy is shaking like a frigid puppy.

RANDY

MR. Otis. Don't kill me!!

Randy suddenly takes off running towards the stall Gabby is in.

RANDY

Gabby!! Gabby!! Let me in please!!

Gabrielle is on the floor near the toilet too scared to move. She covers her ears. Randy ducks into the nearest stall. Otis is right behind. Randy has backed up all the way to the wall by the toilet. His eyes are wide.

OTIS

Sorry about that Randy! I guess I fucked up some things for you didn't I? I don't mean to playa hate! I mean you take a girl you work with into the bathroom!! That takes some balls!! Not a lot of brains but balls!!

RANDY

Mr. Otis please!! I never did you nothing! You and me were always tight!

Chris slowly enters the rest room.

OTIS

Let me help a playa out!

Otis slices Randy's left ear off.

RANDY

Ahhhhhh!!!!!!

OTIS

Damn Randy! You sound worse than a female!!

Otis begins killing the kid just to put him out of his misery. Chris sees Tara's dead body and winces.

He starts to tip toe past the stall. He takes a quick look to his right and can see Randy's lifeless body slumped across the toilet with Otis's violent blows striking over and over again.

Blood paints the walls and the grunts from Otis elicits satisfaction on his part.

Chris gently opens the main stall and sees Gabrielle on the floor looking a complete mess.

She's about to say something but with his finger signals her to get quiet.

He nods for her to follow and she does.

They walk easily hand in hand. As they pass the stall they can see Otis's vicious attack on full display.

It's obvious that Randy is dead but he is determined to keep going.

Suddenly Gabrielle's cell phone goes off with a booming "RIHANNA" ring tone.

Otis stops whacking and turns around with the speed and vigor of a lion.

CHRIS

Come on!!

They both race for the door. Otis reaches out and grabs Gabrielle by the hair.

He yanks her back like a lever crashing to the floor!!!

Gabrielle is on the ground pleading.

GABRIELLE

Oh God!! Please don't kill me Otis!!

OTIS

Hold up bitch!! I want to show you something new on the menu!!

CHRIS

Otis!!

Otis turns around. Gabrielle quickly gets to her feet.

Otis begins to snarl like a mountain lion.

CHRIS

Is this what Betty wants? Is this what she wants?!

Otis seems to relax upon hearing his wife's name.

OTIS

She wants me to show you how to respect life!!!

CHRIS

You sure bruh! Right now all you're doing is taking life! You think this is what Betty wanted?

OTIS

What the hell you know about it?! All you care about is your dick! Punk ass!! I tried to teach you something. Show you the right way and you still don't understand.

CHRIS

You sure about that? How bout you teach me now? Come on Otis. Show me the right way.

Gabrielle eases into a empty stall and removes the back lid from the toilet. It's a little too heavy for her but she manages just fine to get it up without making a sound.

She eases up behind Otis with Chris looking into her eyes. She raises the lid high above her head.

OTIS

Yes I'm sure! You damn right I'm sure! You don't think----

Bam!!!

Gabrielle gives him a damn good smack upside the head. Otis crashes to the floor. Gabrielle drops the toilet lid and bangs against the floor sounding like cement.

Chris takes her hand and they bolt from the rest room. They hear the faint sound of someone's voice coming from the kitchen. They stop running and head in.

INT. KITCHEN

The kitchen is a complete mess. Broken dishes are everywhere. Blood is on the floor in what looks like small red rivers. A few bodies are strewn about. It's very grisly. The body of Janice is in the middle of the floor with a knife in her chest.

GABRIELLE

Oh Jesus!!

JANICE

H--- H--- Help me please!!

Chris and Gabrielle drop to their knees to help this poor woman. The wound had left her white shirt soaked in blood. She's breathing heavily as life prepares to leave her forever.

CHRIS

Come on Janice! We're getting out of here!!

They try to get Janice to her feet but she suddenly slips from their grasps and falls back to the floor. They try to get her up again but she waves them off and shakes her head.

JANICE

T---- T----- Tell my son I---- I---- I love him! Please!

She breathes one last deep breath and her eyes close.

Chris and Gabrielle look down at her as her face seems to have a peaceful look on it. Gabrielle covers her face and cries in her hands. Chris looks lost. He gets Gabby to her feet and holds her as she cries in his chest.

The door to the manager's office is slightly ajar. Chris notices this and motions for her to follow him. They cautiously inch towards it and nearly jump from their skins when they see the dead bodies of Andrew and Stacy. Their bodies are sprawled out like cloth.

Chris covers his eyes.

CHRIS

Jesus! This can't be real! This can't be real!

Gabrielle suddenly grows very angry.

GABRIELLE

Fuck this!! Fuck this!! He's not going to kill me!!

She thrashes about in the kitchen looking for knives or anything else that might make a weapon. Chris is still staring at the bodies of Andrew and Stacy.

GABRIELLE

(Hysterical)

Fuck this!! He's not going to fucking kill me!! Not today or any other damn day!!! He's not going to kill me!!!

Chris realizes what she's doing and rushes over to stop her.

CHRIS

(Shaking her)

Gabrielle!! Gabrielle!

She stops ranting and looks at him. She starts crying and he consoles her.

GABRIELLE

Chris why is this happening?! Why is this man doing this?! He's killing these people for nothing! What have we done to deserve this?

CHRIS

Gabby we got to stay calm so we can think. The only reason we're not dead is pure luck but it won't last forever.

GABRIELLE

I--- know--- I

Her knees are tweaking. She falls down.

CHRIS

Whoa! Are you alright?

GABRIELLE

I'm scared Chris.

CHRIS

Me too.

Boom!! A crash comes from afar.

Chris and Gabrielle both look over and see Otis fumbling about in the kitchen.

Blood covers his face and he seems to be disoriented trying to find his way. Chris takes her hand.

CHRIS

Come on!

They move like the floor is made of eggshells. Chris leads her to the main cooler which holds the bulk of the store's product.

INT. MAIN COOLER

Chris and Gabrielle ease into the cold storage unit trying to be discreet. Boxes are stacked up against the wall with frozen cases on the insoles. The room is built big enough for at least three more rooms to fit. They crouch down behind a few boxes.

INT. KITCHEN

Otis is bloody and haggard looking. He leans against the wall and slides to the floor.

OTIS

(To himself)

Betty. Dear God. Is this enough? Have I accomplished what you desired? Oh wait! This is what I wanted! This is what I always wanted! Deep down I wanted to kill those motherfuckers!! Especially Andrew's bitch ass!

Otis tosses his head from side to side. He slaps the floor with his open palm.

OTIS

(Cont'd)

Some things just don't make sense to me Betty! Why do people not give a damn about each other?! Maybe I'm fooling myself. Maybe I'm not a hero after all. I just miss you Betty. I just miss the good old days! Good God almighty! What is happening to me?! I'm not worth living anymore Betty! But they had it coming. They treated me like a dead cockroach under their shoes. Fuck em! Fuck em all to hell!

Otis looks down at his hands covered in blood.

OTIS

(Cont'd)

It can't go back to what it used to be Betty! They will kill me once they catch me. I've crossed the line. But I had to!

One minute they're saying good morning to me and the next they're throwing dishes at me like a dog trying to catch a frisbee. Fuck that! They got what they deserved Betty! Since you died I've just been drifting. But no more! This is the resolution Betty! I've got to see this through to the end. This is the only way they can all learn Betty! The only way! One day I'll kiss your face again!

He blows a kiss upwards hoping it reaches heaven and begins laughing to himself. He tilts his head back in complete maniacal amusement and laughs to himself.

INT. MAIN COOLER

Chris and Gabrielle are not exactly freezing but they are cold.

CHRIS

This has been one fucked up day! I should've seen the signs this morning. Otis had been acting weird all day. I mean this nigga was straight tripping. He was flipping out about Betty. He was flipping out about the job. Something was off from the start but I just didn't put two and two together. You just don't think about things like that ya know? I mean how would I know this fool would start killing people. Damn! Damn! This muthafucka killed people. In front of us!! He looked like he loved doing that shit!

Gabrielle remains silent staring off into space.

CHRIS

(Cont'd)

I mean I don't know how I didn't see it. How could I have missed that? Honestly how can I have seen it? I didn't think Otis would kill people! He just didn't seem the type. He always had advice to give me ya know. I just didn't always listen. I just blew off some of the stuff he said because we grew up in different times but he was really serious about the stuff he was trying to tell me. I knew deep down he was telling me right but I never ever could've seen this. I mean I had this strange feeling about him this morning but I figured he was just in a rotten mood. You never want to imagine yourself in a situation like this. This dude went off-

--

GABRIELLE

(Snapping out of her stupor)

Okay Chris! Okay! It doesn't matter now! He's a fucking lunatic! Forget about this morning and all that other bull shit! It doesn't matter if you thought he would snap or not! It doesn't matter if you didn't read between the lines! It doesn't matter if you listened to him or not he's a murderer and unless we start thinking he's going to kill us too. He's killing people! People who have done him nothing! I'm grateful to God there were no children in here today or that sick fuck would've killed them. Did you see the looks in his eyes?! He doesn't give a damn!

Gabrielle is trembling. Chris puts his arm around her. She bites her bottom lip with her eyes searching. Chris holds her close.

CHRIS

Gabby. It's okay. I'm going to get us out of here! I'm going to make sure nothing happens to you.

GABRIELLE

Chris don't try to sell me some bull shit dream okay?! I can look out for myself.

She pushes away from him and stands to her feet rubbing her arms to stay warm.

CHRIS

If we start fighting each other we won't be thinking if we see that crazy ass dude.

GABRIELLE

Chris I don't want to face him again. He's killed people we worked with! He killed customers! I don't ever want to see what I've seen today ever again. I don't even want to be in this fucking building ever again!!

CHRIS

Gabby calm yo ass down girl!

GABRIELLE

Calm down?! Fuck you! How about that?!

She covers her face with her hands.

GABRIELLE

(Cont'd)

Oh God! I can still hear Randy screaming. He was screaming for his life.

Chris rubs his temples looking dejected.

CHRIS

I'm just not understanding this!

Gabrielle removes her hands from her face. Her eyes are tear stained but a defiance is now showing. She walks over to Chris and stands facing him.

He looks up at her.

GABRIELLE

Chris if we survive this. If we manage to walk out of this building alive today it's over between us.

CHRIS

What are you talking about?

GABRIELLE

(Emphasizing with her hands)

This between us! It's over!

CHRIS

Why?

GABRIELLE

(Exhaling)

Does it matter? At this point does it really matter?

CHRIS

It's a fucked up time to break up with me.

GABRIELLE

Chris I was doing some thinking. I realized that I don't want to be your other woman anymore. I care about you but I just don't want to be your side piece.

CHRIS

Girl you tripping. Shit was cool between us.

GABRIELLE

My life flashed before my eyes today. Having a crazy ass co worker trying to kill you will do that. All I'm saying is that everything has gotten more clear to me. You're content with having your cake and eating it too. But no more for me. If I die today it will be as another man's side piece and that's not how I want it to flow.

CHRIS

You knew the situation before you went into it.

GABRIELLE

You're right. I did. When we first got together I wanted it to be special. I wanted it to be something it wasn't destined to be. At one point I thought I could take you from Angel. But I can't. Even if I could I don't want to be that kind of woman. It's not right at all Chris. We are both just being selfish and stupid. I refuse to do this to that girl anymore.

CHRIS

So you don't love me?

Gabrielle turns to look at him.

GABRIELLE

I still care. And if you really think about it you're not in love with me either. You just like hanging out with me.

Chris nods realizing she's right.

GABRIELLE

Chris you know this is for the best right?

CHRIS

Yeah I know.

GABRIELLE

You have a beautiful woman and little girl. You need to do right by them. We both do and it starts by us ending this right here and now. They deserve better.

Chris nods his head.

CHRIS

I agree.

GABRIELLE

I just need to get my life together and grow up.

CHRIS

We both do.

Chris stands to his feet. He comes over and they hug. He kisses her on the cheek.

GABRIELLE

God I'm cold!

CHRIS

We need to get out of here.

GABRIELLE

Chris I'm scared. What if he's still out there?

CHRIS

We just gotta take that chance. Let's try to get out the back door. We just have to go around the corner and boom we are out.

They're both shaking and their breathing is producing small wafts of chilly air from their mouths. Chris takes her by the hand and leads them to the door. He stops by it and looks back at her.

CHRIS

Okay. We're going to take our time and ease out. Just keep your eyes open.

GABRIELLE

Okay.

Chris pushes the door open slightly. A small beam of light comes in and he winces. Gabrielle is right behind looking around making sure that the dish washing boogey man is nowhere around. They walk out.

INT. KITCHEN

An eerie mist has settled from the stove burners being left on. The kitchen is still dead quiet yet as they walk it feels like a set of eyes are on them. Chris keeps his eyes scanning left and right. They proceed forward like infantry on enemy ground. Sizzling pans and skillets murmur lowly through the kitchen. Chris and Gabrielle move carefully. They turn a corner leading to the back entrance.

CHRIS

(Whispering)

Just watch yourself. We're going to go through here real easy.....

Suddenly Otis jumps from out of nowhere and crashes into them!! He sends them all sprawling on the floor with a powerful thud. Chris and Gabrielle try to scramble away kicking at Otis to get loose.

A few of Gabrielle's kicks connect Otis in the mouth.

He has practically become a savage at this point. Chris gets to his feet and jumps on Otis's back!!

CHRIS

Gabby run!!!

Gabrielle gets up and snatches a small fire extinguisher off the wall.

With the force of a Kodiak bear Otis pushes Chris off slamming him into a wall.

Gabrielle swings the extinguisher and he ducks.

With a quick turn of his hand he sweeps her off her feet knocking her to the ground.

Otis spins around and stares at Chris with eyes of hate and spittle.

He pulls a long cutting knife from his pocket.

OTIS

You always did have to learn the hard way boy.

Chris is on his back trying to crawl away.

CHRIS

You punk bitch!! You coward muthafucka!!

Otis laughs and it sounds so evil.

OTIS

Look at you! You think I feel sorry for you.

CHRIS

Go to hell bitch!

OTIS

I been there boy and trust me everyday the devil is saying
fuck you to God!

CHRIS

Why don't you kill me then? Kill me muthafucka!

GABRIELLE

No!!!

OTIS

You hear that?! Your little whore cares about you after all.
Maybe you can live happily ever after.

CHRIS

I don't know what the fuck happened to you! We were boys
Otis! Padnas! What the hell you doing?! They're going to give
your ass the death penalty for this!!

Otis stops for a moment and ponders this. He shakes his head.

OTIS

Fuck it!

He attacks!!

Chris kicks out his leg and catches Otis in the knee. He
stumbles awkwardly to the ground.

Chris tries to make a go for it but Otis catches him by the
ankle and jerks him back to the ground.

He raises the knife and wham!!! It seeps deep into Chris's
left thigh. The guy screams out in pain as blood drizzles
from his wound. Otis twists the knife around in the bloody
red hole. Chris grabs a hold of his hand trying to pull it
out.

OTIS

(Mockingly)

Come on Chris!! Take it like a man!! Let's see how tough you really are boy!! Feel that pain in your body? Huh? That means you are going to die today! That little girl is going to lose her daddy and you know what? Who gives a damn?!!

Chris writhes in agony.

Gabrielle comes screaming from behind.

Otis sends an elbow to her stomach sending her back down. Otis gets to his feet. He's still wearing an apron and it's full of blood and flesh. The butcher knife is lodged between his back and the strap of the apron. He pulls it out slowly and expertly twirls the blade on his fingers.

OTIS

This is pathetic. You two young people couldn't take me down. It's a shame how you all waste your youth these days. All you wanna do is get on the damn internet and take naked pictures of yourselves! Sorry Chris but now you get to watch me kill your girlfriend. Don't worry I'll make it interesting. I'll cut this bitch open so you can see how much she cares about you.

Chris reaches for the knife in his leg and with as much power as he could muster tries to pull it out.

Gabrielle is on the floor coughing up spit from the blow she received to the stomach.

Otis walks slowly to her like a snake ready to strike it's prey. He grabs Gabrielle by the hair and lifts up her head. She is truly terrified.

Chris with a pained and grotesque lull pulls the knife free. It's covered in so much blood it's shiny.

He flips it to the tip and throws it at Otis. Smack!!!

The knife is firmly planted in the back of his right shoulder. Otis screams out and drops Gabrielle to the ground.

The minute she's released Gabrielle punches him between the legs with a piercing scream of anger.

He drops to his knees and pulls the knife from his back.

She reaches for the butcher knife but he pushes her away and grabs it.

She gets to her feet and takes off with Otis staggeringly following behind.

Gabrielle runs down the cooking line. She grabs containers of hot sauces and throws them at Otis. Some of the items he manages to duck from but a few splash on him.

Otis

Ahhh!!!! I'm gonna rip your fucking throat out you bitch!!!

Otis steps back from the advancement of her blows. She runs and grabs a broom. Otis follows her and now they are in the center of the kitchen. Gabrielle has grabbed a broom and swings at him.

OTIS

Gotta do better than that Gabbyyyyyyyyyyy!!!!!!!

She swings and knocks down dishes. Otis punches her in the arm and she drops her weapon. He swings the butcher knife at her face and she ducks and with an athletic swift kick to the ankles she takes him down to the floor.

Otis swings the knife again and this time it snips her on the ankle. A trickle of blood soon follows.

Gabrielle screams and grabs her leg. She hobbles slightly trying to get away.

Otis rises slowly watching her feeble attempt to escape. He laughs to himself.

OTIS

What's wrong Gabby?!! You need Chris to help you!!

Chris

(Calling out)

Otis!! Leave her alone you muthafucka!!!

He is still trying to get to his feet. Blood from his leg wound has left a pool around him. Otis laughs.

OTIS

You are a brave man when protecting your whore!! How do you protect your girl and your daughter?!!

Gabrielle turns to face him and hurls a plastic bin of shiny silverware at Otis. The knives, forks and spoons blast at his face and chest like the wind.

OTIS

Ahhhhh!!!!

Gabrielle runs with an enraged Otis following right behind.

EXT. FREDRICO'S PARKING LOT

Police cars pull up full force as they meet up with the frenzy of panicked people outside. A young cop is talking to a highly upset woman.

YOUNG COP

Are you okay ma'am?

WOMAN

My God!! That man!! He was killing people!!

YOUNG COP

I'm going check it out. The other officers will help you.

Before any of the other officers can assist him he takes off into the building.

INT. RESTAURANT DINING AREA

Otis has chased Gabrielle into the room. She swiftly jumps over a few dead bodies to find a way out fast. It's not happening.

OTIS

Where the fuck do you think you're going?

GABRIELLE

Fuck you!

OTIS

No you got it wrong! You the one who's fucked! I'm going to teach you about being another man's whore! Oh yes you will learn today Gabbyyyyyy!!

INT. KITCHEN

Chris gets to his feet staggering and wincing in pain. He props himself up against the wall and tries to lumber out.

He falls back down instead. He shakes it off and tries again.

INT. LOBBY

The young cop enters the room and looks around. His face goes white.

INT. DINING AREA

Gabrielle and Otis are facing off with a table between them. She is trying to escape and he is relentlessly trying to prevent that. He swings the butcher knife in the air just missing her face.

GABRIELLE

You sick muthafucka!! Move out of my way!!!

OTIS

(Taunting her)

Make me! Make me! Make me.

Gabrielle is bobbing from side to side with Otis practically mimicking her moves. He swings the knife again and Gabby manages to duck just in time to avoid being cut to pieces.

OTIS

Let's dance Gabby! Come on baby girl! Dance with me!!

Gabrielle quickly breaks right and only manages to get a half step ahead of Otis.

He swings at her with the knife but misses. She picks up a chair and throws at his chest.

The blow causes him to stumble back slightly as he continues to swing wildly like a pendulum.

Gabrielle manages to avoid his brutality yet in her haste she bumps into a table.

Otis regains his composure and leaps on top of her. She reaches out to grab his wrists trying like hell to keep him from stabbing her.

They fight furiously on top of the table. Gabrielle kicks and fights with all of her might. A few times Otis whacks the table with the knife leaving indentured marks.

She knocks the butcher knife from his hands. Otis pulls out a long kitchen knife that would make Michael Myers proud and raises it up to strike her. She grabs his wrist as he tries to plunge it down.

Otis seems to be over powering her.

The tip of the knife eases into her shoulder slightly. She screams out in pain. Otis smiles with a horribly crazed expression.

OTIS

Yes!!! Yes!!! Take it!! Learn how to respect life!!

The cop rushes in and pulls his gun.

COP

Get the fuck off her!! Now!!

Chris enters from behind limping and holding on to the wall for support. The cop hears this and quickly turns around with his gun aimed. Chris throws his hands up.

CHRIS

Hey wait!! Don't shoot man I work here!

Otis notices the diversion and quickly jumps off the table running head first into the cop with a ferocious growl!

Otis knocks everybody down.

He locks his hands around the cop's neck squeezing it like a Florida grapefruit.

Gabrielle rises from the table looking very distraught. Blood floods down her arm. She holds on to the end of the table for support. She falls to her knees in a hugely exhausted manner.

Chris crawls towards the gun.

The young cop fights Otis for his life but to no avail.

A sudden crack and it's all over. His limp arms fall to the side. Gabrielle staggers to get to the gun. Otis grabs Chris and punches him in the face. Chris punches him back in the jaw and Otis twists to the side. Chris goes for the gun again but Otis kicks him in the shoulder. He tries to kick again but Chris grabs his foot. Otis kicks free and reaches out to grab Chris's knife wound in the leg. He begins twisting the knuckle around in the wound once again. What is with this guy?

CHRIS

Ahhhhhh!!!

Chris pushes his hand away. He rolls out of Otis's grasp and grabs the gun. Chris has the gun and looks Otis in the eye as he pulls the trigger.

Pow!!

A bullet tears into Otis's left shoulder. He flies back with fury! Gabrielle runs over to Chris trying to help him up.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Upon hearing the gunshot more cops rush in with guns drawn.

INT. DINING AREA

Chris is on his feet with more of his weight on his good leg.

GABRIELLE

Chris you alright?

CHRIS

Yeah I---

Otis leaps up with the butcher knife in hand!!

OTIS

You will learn respect today!! You will learn!!!

He charges forward!!

Chris shoots!

Pow! Pow! Pow!

The bullets catch Otis in his chest! The butcher knife which has now been an instrument of death falls perfectly to the floor.

OTIS

Oh God Betty!

He drops to his knees and despite the injuries he's gotten so far in this story this one will definitely stop him.

Blood spews from his mouth. He looks up at the ceiling.

OTIS

Oh God Betty! Did I do good? Did I make you proud? Betty----

(He starts to cry softly)

Betty please! Tell me I did good! I taught them! I taught them! Oh God forgive me Betty! Please forgive me!

He's coughing up blood. Otis takes one deep breath and falls to the side.

The other cops turn the corner with their guns drawn. They see Chris holding the weapon.

COP

Drop that fucking gun!!

Chris complies and drops the pistol.

COP

What the fuck is going on here!

He looks around at the dead bodies. He notices his partner lifeless body.

COP

Oh Jesus!

CHRIS

Sir I already got him!

COP

Who?

CHRIS

(Pointing at Otis)

The man who did this.

Gabrielle rubs his arm. She looks like hell and is just as bloody as Chris.

The cop looks at Otis's massive body. He lowers his gun at the carnage he's seeing.

He beeps his shoulder scanner.

COP

Officer needs assistance at Frederico's Restaurant! Officer down! I repeat Officer down!!

We slowly fade away from this scene.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Chris and Gabrielle walk amongst the throngs of people. Police cars, ambulances, fire trucks, and coroners are everywhere. The police are still trying to calm citizens as well as keep back onlookers.

It's a circus outside!

Cars are driving past slowly to see what's going on. George and Vaughan are being taken care of outside by paramedics. So is Elsie. All three look dazed by the experience. Josh and Steven are talking to police officers and pointing at the building.

Gabrielle eyes Marte looking banged up being assisted by a paramedic on the sidewalk. She rushes over to her friend.

GABRIELLE

Hey girl! You okay?!

Marte gets up and they hug.

MARTE

(Weakly)

Yeah I'm good. My hair is still the bomb!

They laugh softly. Marte starts to cry slowly. Gabrielle rubs her arm.

GABRIELLE

I know. I know.

Marte rubs her crucifix. A medic brings out a body bag. The two girls look on with deep sadness in their eyes.

MARTE

Crazy isn't it?

GABRIELLE

Yeah. I can't get those people's faces out of my head.

MARTE

Me neither.

She looks over at Chris sitting on the sidewalk.

MARTE

(Cont'd)

What about him?

GABRIELLE

I'll be back.

A local news crew has been dispersed and they are conducting interviews.

Gabrielle sits next to him and for a minute they don't say anything just take in everything that is happening around them. People are obviously still disturbed by what has happened.

GABRIELLE

What made Otis snap like that? Why would he just all of a sudden do what he did?

CHRIS

Otis lost himself when he lost Betty. All this time since he's just been on auto pilot. The man felt like he was beneath the earth already. Nobody seemed to care about him anymore. I guess he felt he had nothing to lose. He did all that killing and for what?

Chris lowers his head and rubs the back of his neck with his hands. He exhales deeply and with much sadness. Gabrielle looks at him with concern.

CHRIS

He was my dog! I used to talk to him about everything. I just don't want to believe it.

GABRIELLE

Chris we were there. We saw it. We have no choice but to believe it. Just be thankful we lived. For a minute I didn't think we were.

She wipes a tear away.

CHRIS

Just another mass murder in America's history. The shit I saw today will be with me forever. We are about to get famous for the wrong reason. Everybody is going to want to know what happened. Why it happened?

GABRIELLE

It's one thing to read about something like this or see it on the news but once it's happened to you it's just----

(She sighs deeply)

---Horrible.

Chris raises his head. They look at each other.

CHRIS

Just take it one day at a time.

GABRIELLE

That's an everlasting punishment.

CHRIS

I just feel like I could've prevented this.

GABRIELLE

How? What could you have done? There was no way for you to know he would trip like this. Don't beat yourself up.

CHRIS

Damn. All those people gone.

GABRIELLE

Just get on your knees and thank God you made it.

CHRIS

I just want this nightmare to end but I know it won't.

Chris looks at her.

CHRIS

Gabby for what it's worth.

They exchange looks and without having to say it they both seem to understand.

GABRIELLE

(Softly)

Yeah I know. I feel the same way trust me.

Chris looks off into the crowd as if he recognizes something.

Gabrielle notices this and looks off in the same direction.

Angel and Ashley are standing in the midst of the crowd with their heads going from left to right as if in search of something. Gabrielle smiles and stands up. A medic rushes over to help Chris with his leg. Chris and Gabby take one last look at each other.

GABRIELLE

Goodbye Chris.

CHRIS

Goodbye Gabby.

She starts to walk away but suddenly turns around.

GABRIELLE

Hey. Thanks for saving my life.

CHRIS

Thanks for showing me mine.

Gabrielle walks off.

Angel and Ashley finally notice Chris and rush over.

ANGEL

Oh my God Chris!! Baby are you okay?

They both rush into his arms. Chris holds his family tight. He waves the medic away.

ANGEL

(Stroking his face)

Baby what happened?

ASHLEY

Daddy are you okay?

CHRIS

Yeah honey daddy just had an accident.

ASHLEY

Did you fall?

CHRIS

Yeah. I fell.

He looks at Angel.

CHRIS

Otis.

ANGEL

My friend Michelle called.... Um Ashley baby wait over there

(She points to a spot about a foot away)

So Mommy and Daddy can see you.

Ashley gets up and obeys her mother.

ANGEL

My friend Michelle said he started killing people. Why Chris?

CHRIS

We'll talk about it later.

He takes her face in his hands.

CHRIS

Do you love me?

ANGEL

Yes.

CHRIS

Will you always love me?

ANGEL

Yes

CHRIS

Because no matter what I will always love you. I know I've been acting like a...

ANGEL

...a bitch!

Chris laughs. He kisses her gently.

CHRIS

Yeah a bitch. I've been taking you for granted but not no more. You and that little girl mean everything to me. I made mistakes but after today no more. Ever!!

Angel smiles and kisses him. Ashley comes back over.

ASHLEY

Daddy are we going to go see Kangaroo Kid?

ANGEL

Baby daddy has to go to the hospital.

CHRIS

No I don't. I'm not missing this for anything.

He picks his daughter up. They all embrace.

ASHLEY

Daddy I want a big popcorn. And some candy and some---

We pull back slowly from Ashley inciting on what she wants. We follow along past the police and people all the way into the building. We move past dead bodies and more cops and ambulance workers as they discover more corpses. We rest on the body of Otis. He seems peaceful.

A slow smile begins to crawl across his face that is not noticed by anyone else around. We rest on his hand clenching into a fist.

CUT TO BLACK

THE END.

