

PEACH

Written by

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INT. COLLEGE DORM - AFTERNOON

We see ANTHONY JENKINS (45), he's your typical working class black man. He's unpacking boxes in a college dorm bedroom. He's a proud father in this moment. His only daughter has made it to college.

We see his daughter DESTINY JENKINS (18) decorating her bedroom area. She's a beautiful girl, her smile lights up the room as she continues to decorate. She couldn't be more excited.

Anthony continues to dig through the boxes. He opens a box, it has lamps, books, and miscellaneous items. He picks up one of the lamps and hands it to Destiny.

ANTHONY

Here you go sweetheart.

Destiny walks over to Anthony and grabs the lamp.

DESTINY

Thanks dad.

She places the lamp on top of one of her dressers, still smiling.

Anthony continues rummaging through the box, handing the rest of the materials to Destiny. She grabs them from him and she places them in their rightful places.

Anthony continues to look through the items in the box. He comes across a framed photo. The photo is a family photo from about 5 years ago.

It's a photo of him and Destiny. There is a woman in the photo as well.

MONA JENKINS (early 30's) her stomach pokes out, she is clearly pregnant.

They are smiling like the perfect family. The photo catches Anthony off guard.

He stares at it, reminiscing, a slow forming tear rolls down his face. The photo has completely changed his mood. He stares at it with intensity.

DESTINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Dad?

Anthony's mind is back in the dorm room now. He quickly wipes his tear. He turns to her.

ANTHONY
Yeah?

DESTINY
You okay?

ANTHONY
Yeah, I'm good.

He references the photo.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I just wish she was here to see it.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I wish they were both here.

Destiny shows sympathy for her father. She opens her arms to hug him. He accepts her hug and holds her tightly, not wanting to let go. Then Destiny's face turns solemn.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

A beat.

DESTINY
To be honest, I've been feeling kind of guilty.

Anthony is confused.

ANTHONY
Guilty about what?

DESTINY
Leaving you...by yourself...

ANTHONY
Oh, no honey.

Anthony hugs Destiny again, tighter.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
This is a golden opportunity...I will be alright...

He gives a slight smile. A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Let's continue unpacking...

Destiny grabs the framed photo and places it gently on her dresser. She smiles back at it.

EXT. COLLEGE DORM - AFTERNOON/ MOMENTS LATER

Anthony is staring at Destiny, his eyes are full. His daughter is all grown up. He hugs her with love one last time and she hugs him back tightly.

ANTHONY

You be safe out here Peach.

Destiny chuckles lightly. Anthony looks confused.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

What?

DESTINY

Dad, I'm eighteen and in college now...

ANTHONY

I know.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

But no matter how old you get, you will always be my little peach.

Destiny smiles again.

DESTINY

You're so corny.

They laugh together. He takes one more look at her.

ANTHONY

I'll call you when I make it back home. Congrats again, I'm proud of you and you be safe out here.

DESTINY

Thank you. You drive safe.

ANTHONY

I will Peach...

They chuckle together.

DESTINY

(playfully)
Stop it dad.

ANTHONY

I will see you during the holidays.

Anthony walks towards his car and opens the door. Destiny stares back at him lovingly.

INT. ANTHONY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Anthony is in his car driving. He looks back at his rearview mirror and sees Destiny waving back. He watches her, worried for her, shedding another tear...

FADE OUT

TITLE CARD: 3 MONTHS LATER...

DING DONG!

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ HALLWAY - EVENING

Anthony hurries to the front door and opens it. He sees Destiny there smiling from cheek to cheek, carrying luggage.

She has a huge winter coat on and a pair of earmuffs. It's snowing outside.

DESTINY

Hey dad!

Anthony is excited, he hugs her tightly.

ANTHONY

You made it safely.

DESTINY

Of course, you don't have to worry about me.

ANTHONY

How was the drive?

DESTINY

Four hours too long.

They both laugh together.

ANTHONY

Well at least you made it safe, you could have easily slid off the road in weather like this. Glad to see you in one piece.

A woman walks towards the door, AVA WILLIAMS. She's a gorgeous woman in her early 40's. She walks towards Anthony concerned -

AVA
Honey, who is - ?

The woman looks at Destiny.

AVA (CONT'D)
Oh, welcome Destiny!

Destiny looks at her father, she is confused but slightly happy. Anthony smiles, almost embarrassed.

DESTINY
Dad? Who is this?

Anthony gives in, his secret is revealed.

ANTHONY
Destiny this is Ava and Ava as you know this is Destiny...

Ava smiles.

AVA
So nice to meet you Destiny!

Destiny smiles back.

DESTINY
Same to you!

Ava opens up her arms and Destiny accepts it and hugs her.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOUSE/ DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Anthony, Destiny, and Ava are all at the table eating dinner.

ANTHONY
So, how is school going?

DESTINY
It's good. I'm so glad this semester is over. I was so swamped! But I did make the Dean's List!

AVA
Congrats!

ANTHONY
My girl!

AVA
What are you majoring in again?

DESTINY
Nursing.

AVA
Oh wow!

ANTHONY
Yep, my baby girl is a first
generation!

Destiny smiles at Anthony.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Your mom would be proud.

DESTINY
Thanks.

Destiny takes in Anthony and Ava, she smiles at them
playfully.

Anthony notices her gaze.

ANTHONY
What?

DESTINY
So...how long has this thing been
going on?

Anthony and Ava looks at each other, like teenagers in love.
They chuckle together.

ANTHONY
Two months...

AVA
And a half...

ANTHONY
Really?

Ava scorns at Anthony.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
You know what? She's right.

Destiny laughs.

DESTINY

You two are so cute. Why didn't you tell me about her before dad?

ANTHONY

I just wanted to give it time. I didn't want to mention her to you unless I thought it was serious.

Anthony reaches for Ava's hand and Ava accepts it, grasping her hands with his.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I think now is the perfect time.

DESTINY

Awwwww.

Everyone laughs and continues eating. Anthony looks directly at Destiny. A beat.

ANTHONY

So, how about you?

Destiny notices that Anthony is looking directly at her, it's kind of intense, she's confused.

DESTINY

What?

A beat.

ANTHONY

Seeing anybody?

Destiny blushes.

AVA

You're at a campus full of educated brothas, I understand girl.

Everyone chuckles together.

AVA (CONT'D)

So, who is he?

A beat.

DESTINY

Malik.

Anthony's eyes widen.

ANTHONY

Malik?

DESTINY

Malik. Yeah, he was in my Algebra class.

AVA

What do you like about him?

DESTINY

I don't know...he has a nice smile, he's educated, very well put together. We're not dating though, I just like him.

AVA

What's holding you up from asking him out?

DESTINY

He has a girlfriend.

Ava is disappointed.

AVA

I'm sorry...

A beat.

ANTHONY

Well...I'm glad to hear it.

Everyone laughs.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Anthony and Ava are cuddling together in his bed. They are intimate, neither one is asleep, just embracing each other.

AVA

I love Destiny. You did a great job raising her.

ANTHONY

Thanks, I can't take full credit though.

A thought comes to Ava's mind.

AVA

Babe?

ANTHONY

Yeah?

A beat.

AVA

You never told me what happened to
your wife...and your son...

Anthony's eyebrows furrow. He's caught off guard.

ANTHONY

Yeah, I'm still processing it.

A beat.

AVA

I'm sorry, I don't mean to intrude.

ANTHONY

You're not.

Anthony takes a deep breath and sighs heavily.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

When Mona had Devin, his birth
caused some complications. She was
losing a lot of blood at the time.
He was born prematurely.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

She was slowly getting better, with
medication and rest. Then one day,
all of a sudden, she passed and so
did my son.

AVA

I'm so sorry.

ANTHONY

They died the same day. What are
the chances?

Anthony eyes water. He slightly breaks down.

AVA

It's okay honey.

Ava kisses him to calm him, it works. He wipes his tears.

ANTHONY
It's like I'm cursed, I lose
everyone...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
We even had a dog that ran away.

Anthony tries to lighten the mood a bit, they both laugh
lightly. A beat.

AVA
How did Destiny take all of this?

ANTHONY
She's a champ, much stronger than I
am.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
This is why I worry about her out
there, you know? I just hope she's
safe.

AVA
Yeah, I know.

Ava's face is sympathetic towards Anthony.

AVA (CONT'D)
Let's get some rest.

TIME CARD: TWO WEEKS LATER

INT. DINER - MORNING

Anthony and Destiny are seated at a diner looking through the
menu. Anthony stares at Destiny as she looks through it. He
looks worried for her.

Destiny looks up and notices her father's gaze. Her eyebrows
frown.

DESTINY
What?

ANTHONY
It's nothing.

Anthony attempts a smile.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Did you have a good holiday break?

DESTINY
Of course, I loved spending time
with you and Ava. I really like
her, she's a good fit for you.

ANTHONY
Thanks, yeah she keeps me sane.

They chuckle together. A beat.

DESTINY
Is she coming?

ANTHONY
No, I just wanted to spend time
with you alone. Ava understands.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Honey, I want to talk to you about
something.

DESTINY
Yes?

Another beat.

ANTHONY
I'm proud of you. I really am but -

DESTINY
But what?

A beat.

ANTHONY
If it gets too hard, if the
pressure gets to you. You can
always come back home.

Destiny looks confused.

DESTINY
Everything is fine dad, where is
this coming from?

ANTHONY
It's just college is a lot of hard
work.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I don't want you to feel pressured just because you're the first to go off.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

And plus we never really talk about your mother and brother passing. I just want to make sure you're okay mentally...

Destiny appears slightly offended.

DESTINY

Dad, aren't you projecting a little bit?

ANTHONY

What?

DESTINY

I'm fine, okay? I'm not a little kid.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Ever since mom and Devin died you've been so...so...

ANTHONY

Overbearing...

Anthony nods his head.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I get it, I'll back off. I'm sorry.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I just don't want to lose you, that's all...

Tears fall out of his eyes. Destiny has sympathy. Anthony wipes his tears and looks back at the menu.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Come on and let's order, so you can get going.

A beat.

DESTINY
Dad?

ANTHONY
Yeah?

DESTINY
Don't take this the wrong way
but...

ANTHONY
But what?

A beat.

DESTINY
Are you seeing a therapist?

Anthony is stoic but you can tell he's ashamed.

ANTHONY
No, I'm not...

A beat.

DESTINY
Maybe it's time to...

Anthony has nothing to say as he continues to scan the menu.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Please don't feel offended, I just
want you to be okay.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
I love you dad.

Anthony is a little embarrassed, he doesn't look up from the menu.

ANTHONY
I love you too.

He quickly tries to change the subject.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I think I'm getting the breakfast
platter with extra bacon. What
about you?

Destiny looks sad for her father, then she directs her attention back to the menu.

FADE OUT

TITLE CARD: ONE MONTH LATER

Anthony and Ava are lying down in bed. Anthony hears his phone ringing. He wakes up immediately and is confused.

He wipes his eyes, sits up, and grabs his phone that is lying on a nearby dresser. He looks at the caller ID and does not recognize the number. He's confused but answers it anyway.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Hello?

VOICE (O.S.)

Yes, is this Anthony Jenkins?

ANTHONY

Yes, who is this?

VOICE (O.S.)

My name is Detective Lawrence. I'm calling from the NYPD.

Anthony is bamboozled.

ANTHONY

Wh - what's the issue?

DETECTIVE LAWERANCE

Your daughter is Destiny Jenkins correct?

Anthony's eyes widen and he immediately rises off the bed.

ANTHONY

What happened to her!?

Ava slowly wakes up and is confused.

AVA

Honey, what is it?

Anthony pays her no mind. All of his attention is on the phone.

DETECTIVE LAWERANCE (O.S.)

There has been a murder.

Anthony's face drops.

ANTHONY

A WHAT!?

AVA

Anthony!?

DETECTIVE LAWERANCE (O.S.)

Don't worry, your daughter is still
alive...

Anthony is relieved and sighs happily, almost in tears.

DETECTIVE LAWERANCE (CONT'D)

But she committed the murder.

Anthony's face drops in terror, he's totally aghast.

DETECTIVE LAWERANCE (CONT'D)

She claims it was self defense.
She's been incarcerated, until we
have further investigated
everything.

A beat.

ANTHONY

I'm coming up there! Where is she
located!?

DETECTIVE LAWERANCE

3851 Franklin Street, New York, NY.

ANTHONY

I'm coming down there now!

Anthony smashes the hang up button and immediately runs to
his dresser and pulls out some jeans. He puts them on in a
rush, he's in hysterics.

AVA

What's going on?

ANTHONY

It's Destiny, she's been involved
in some kind of murder!

Ava gasps and immediately gets out of bed.

AVA

Are you serious!?

ANTHONY

There's got to be some kind of
misunderstanding!

He then pulls out a regular black t-shirt.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I'm going up there tonight!

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
You can come or stay!

He grabs his keys, wallet, phone and places them in his pockets and heads towards the bedroom door.

INT. ANTHONY'S CAR/ HIGHWAY - MIDNIGHT

Anthony zooms down the highway, keeping his eyes focused like a hawk on the GPS system and the road ahead.

Ava is in the passenger's seat. She looks over to Anthony. She's never seen him so provoked. She's concerned for him but doesn't say anything.

INT. JAILHOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Anthony bursts into the jailhouse. He runs to the security guard's desk. Ava follows behind.

ANTHONY
Where is she!? I need to see
Destiny Jenkins now!

The SECURITY GUARD looks terrified.

SECURITY GUARD
Okay, just calm down, first you
have to sign in.

AVA
Do you want me to come with you?

Anthony turns to her angrily.

ANTHONY
NO!

Ava is taken aback. Anthony catches himself.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry.

He kisses her quickly.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I just need to be with her alone
right now.

Anthony signs the clipboard on the front desk.

AVA
Okay, I understand.

SECURITY GUARD
Follow me.

The security guard walks towards the metal detector. Anthony follows. He takes his wallet, keys, phone, belt and places them in the items bin and then walks through the metal detector.

Ava stares back at him shedding a tear.

INT. JAILHOUSE/ VISITATION ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Anthony is waiting impatiently. He looks almost deranged, tapping his fingers.

A guard opens a door across the room. Anthony looks through the glass in front of him. Destiny walks in, she is totally distraught.

Anthony rises from his seat.

ANTHONY
Destiny!?

Destiny slowly sits down, the weight of the world is on her. She is silent. Anthony doesn't want to see her like this.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
What the hell is going on!?

Destiny is silent.

DESTINY
I...I was trying to protect
myself...

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
She attacked me...

ANTHONY
Who?

A beat.

DESTINY
Do you remember when I told you
about Malik?

ANTHONY
Yes?

DESTINY
Malik and I started dating. His ex-
girlfriend Ashley got jealous...

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
When she found out. She broke
inside of his apartment and she
attacked me. She started punching
me over and over again, in my face,
stomach. So, I grabbed the closest
thing to me...a knife...

Anthony is taken aback.

ANTHONY
What were you doing at his
apartment?

Destiny looks embarrassed and shrugs her shoulders.

DESTINY
Just hanging out.

Anthony gives her the "yeah right" look. A beat.

ANTHONY
So, she's definitely dead?

A beat.

DESTINY
Yeah...

This makes Anthony flinch.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
She was just so much stronger than
me. I didn't mean to kill her, I
was just trying to protect
myself...

Destiny cries harshly. Anthony shed tears with her.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
I didn't mean to do it...

A beat.

ANTHONY
I know you didn't...

This is a lot for Anthony to take in, he's shell shocked.

DESTINY
What am I going to do? I have to go
to trial in a couple of days.

Anthony's anxiety is kicking in.

ANTHONY
Do-do-don't worry Peach, I'll
figure something out.

Anthony smiles at Destiny lightly. Destiny smiles back but it's weak, she's trying to see the light in this situation.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I got you.

INT. AIRBNB - MORNING

Anthony and Ava are in an Airbnb. Ava sits on the bed. All of her attention is geared towards Anthony as he paces back and forth.

AVA
So, the girl is definitely dead?

ANTHONY
Yes!

AVA
What happened?

ANTHONY
She was Malik's ex-girlfriend.

AVA
What!?

Ava is confused, and then she remembers the name.

AVA (CONT'D)
Oh, her crush.

ANTHONY

Yeah, sounds like Destiny and Malik started dating...supposedly the ex-girlfriend got jealous and attacked her...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Destiny was just protecting herself.

AVA

I've never heard of anything like this before...

ANTHONY

You're telling me.

A beat.

AVA

What are we going to do?

Anthony is thinking hard.

ANTHONY

I'm going to have to get her a defense attorney.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

We have a case, self-defense. She's going to trial in a couple of days so I have to hurry. I have to stay up here and find an attorney in the area.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I have to contact my job too, to let them know what's going on.

Ava notices Anthony's racing mind.

AVA

Wait a minute slow down and breathe. She just committed a murder. Proving it as self-defense can be tricky.

Anthony is irritated.

ANTHONY
Well I have to try Ava!

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
What other choice do I have?

Anthony sighs, he's shaking a bit. He places his hand on his head. Ava slowly walks towards him and holds him. He accepts.

AVA
Just breathe Anthony. You will get through this...we will get through this...

A beat.

AVA (CONT'D)
Now please sleep, we've been up all morning.

Anthony's eyes are startled from anxiety. He nods his head and takes a huge breath.

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Anthony sits at a desk, across from him is ATTORNEY WILKINS (40's). Anthony stares intently as Attorney Wilkins reviews files.

Attorney Williams look apprehensive.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
So...you came here because you wanted me to defend your daughter... who committed murder...

ANTHONY
Correct.

Attorney Wilkins sighs.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
I never took a case like this before, I have no idea how to tackle it...

ANTHONY
Well, here's an opportunity to learn. There's a first time for everything.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

It's really hard to plea self defense in a case. Especially when a murder occurred.

ANTHONY

I came to you because you're one of the best in this town. Are you going to do your job or not?

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Listen, for me to win this case. I have to prove one of these three things...

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

I have to either prove that she was in immediate danger when this occurred or prove that she did everything that she could to protect herself before the murder occurred or I have to prove that the force behind the attack was justified.

ANTHONY

Fine, what's the problem?

Attorney Wilkins sighs.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Do you know of any possible arguments or evidence that may be stacked against her?

ANTHONY

What evidence does she need? She was attacked!

Attorney Wilkins has made his decision.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

I can't take this case.

ANTHONY

What!?

ATTORNEY WILKINS
If you at least knew where the
prosecutor may be attacking, I
could help you but I think this is
a lost cost...

A beat.

ANTHONY
Listen, I know that but I have no
choice. I have to defend my
daughter!

Anthony gets teary eyes. A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
She's all I have left...

Attorney Wilkins notices Anthony's pain and feels guilty.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
Listen, I can tell you love your
daughter dearly. I'm just trying to
tell you the facts.

Anthony sheds a tear.

ANTHONY
Thank you for your time.

Anthony rises from his chair and head towards the front door.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
Wait!

Anthony turns around. Attorney Wilkins sighs deeply.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
My services aren't cheap and this
isn't going to be easy.

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
If you can understand that I can
see what I can do...

Anthony looks grateful. He smiles slightly, shedding tears.

ANTHONY
Thank you. You don't know what this
means to me.

Attorney Wilkins nods his head, happy to help him out.

INT. JAILHOUSE/ VISITATION ROOM - DAY

Anthony is seated, talking to Destiny through the glass.

ANTHONY
Hey, baby girl.

DESTINY
Hey dad...

ANTHONY
How have you been?

DESTINY
I've been...here...

Destiny sulks.

ANTHONY
Hey, keep your head up.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I have good news.

DESTINY
What?

Anthony smiles, rises to his feet, and heads towards the door. Destiny is confused. Anthony opens it and beckons someone to come in.

Anthony walks back into the room and he is followed by Attorney Wilkins. Attorney Wilkins smiles at Destiny.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
Hello Destiny. I'm your defense attorney, Attorney Wilkins.

A beat.

DESTINY
Nice to meet you.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
I'm here to help defend your case, so we can get you out of here.

ANTHONY
Attorney Wilkins needs some place to start his research to defend you.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

So, I will need to just ask you a few questions and help you win this case.

DESTINY

Okay?

Attorney Wilkins continues to smile, expecting her to smile back...nothing. Attorney Wilkins is confused.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Are you okay?

A beat.

DESTINY

Yes, there's just a lot on my mind.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

I know but there's some hope to get you out of here.

DESTINY

Can you restore my reputation? Can you take away the guilt? For the rest of my life I have to live with the fact that I murdered someone...

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

You were just protecting yourself. Don't beat yourself up. Okay?

Destiny nods her head slowly. A beat.

Attorney Wilkins sits down and pulls out a notepad and pen, from his bag.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)

So? Back to those questions?

DESTINY

Sure.

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

So, tell me exactly how the attack happened?

Destiny pauses.

DESTINY

I was hanging out at Malik's apartment and all of a sudden, we heard a window bust open...

Destiny begins to tear up, the memory is haunting her...

DESTINY (CONT'D)

She came towards me, attacking me with her fists...so I grab the knife to protect myself....

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Was the knife the only weapon around?

DESTINY

Well, I wasn't going to use a fork.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

The deadly force you used to defend yourself, was it meant to kill her?

DESTINY

No, I don't know anything about using weapons. I just wanted her to stop attacking me.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

You said you were with Malik. Did he witness the murder?

DESTINY

No, he left to go to the grocery store then she attacked me.

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Do you know what the prosecutor may use against you to win?

Destiny is thinking hard.

DESTINY

I really couldn't tell you...

Destiny continues to think, something comes to mind...she seems ashamed.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

What's on your mind?

Destiny looks nervous and slowly turns her head towards Anthony.

ANTHONY
What honey?

Destiny turns towards Attorney Wilkins. A beat.

DESTINY
Well...

Destiny sighs heavily.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
I was with Malik...while he was
still seeing Ashley...

Anthony is totally stunned, dumbfounded.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
He broke up with her to be with
me...

ANTHONY
(disappointedly)
Honey?

Destiny sulks, she's ashamed. A beat.

DESTINY
I know...I just loved him so much,
I would've done anything to be with
him...

Anthony continues to stare at Destiny disappointedly. It's a lot for him to take in. He can't comfort her this time.

Attorney Wilkins takes in the information.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
I can see them using that as a
motive to tarnish your character.
We're going to have to be sharp
with our rebuttals.

Attorney Wilkins jot down some more notes. A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
I need to do some research on this
Ashley Mosley to see if she had a
criminal record or a history of
mental illness. If I can prove
either one, we're on to something.

Attorney Wilkins looks over to Anthony smiling. He notices his despondent face.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

ANTHONY
Nothing. Nothing at all.

Anthony looks back at Destiny disappointedly. She notices and she sulks her head again.

INT. AIRBNB - NIGHT

Anthony and Ava are eating dinner silently...too silently. Ava notices the look on Anthony's face, he's still despondent.

AVA
Everything will be okay Anthony.

Anthony is silent and stoic. Ava stares at Anthony concernedly. Anthony notices, he finally speaks.

ANTHONY
I found out something today...

AVA
What?

Anthony takes a deep breath.

ANTHONY
I found out Destiny was with Malik while he was still seeing Ashley...

Ava is shocked.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I just thought she would know better than that, you know?

A beat.

AVA
Yeah I get it...but she's young and was dumb in love.

ANTHONY
It's still no excuse.

AVA

We can only teach our children our values. When they become adults they make their own decisions and there's nothing we can do about it.

A beat.

ANTHONY

What do you know? You don't have any children.

AVA

True but I've definitely disappointed my parents in past.

Ava giggles lightly, but Anthony can't smile right now. Ava notices and is serious again.

ANTHONY

Attorney Wilkins said they will probably use that against her in court to attack her character. To make my baby girl look bad...

Another beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

This whole thing is just too stressful for me.

He puts down his fork, his hands shake a little.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Her trial is coming up. The other side is gathering witnesses and evidence as we speak. How are we going to know if we are prepared for what they are going to bring and say?

He quietly breaks down.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I can't lose her!

Ava slowly walks towards Anthony and comforts him with her arms. Anthony constricts her body for support.

EXT. COURTROOM - MORNING

Outside the courtroom is crowded and boisterous. There is a horde of NEWS CREWS outside waiting to get the scoop on the case.

Anthony and Ava pushes through the crowd. They are avoiding the questions and the cameras.

They have become local celebrities overnight. They strenuously push through the reporters but the reporters are stubborn, forcing cameras and microphones in their faces.

REPORTER #1

Mr. Jenkins! Mr. Jenkins! How do you feel about today's trial!?

REPORTER #2

Excuse me sir! Do you think your daughter is telling the whole truth!

REPORTER #3

If your daughter is found guilty, she could possibly face life in prison! Does that scare you!?

This question strikes him in the heart but he remains stoic as he enters the courthouse.

The reporters and camera crew clamor around the doors of the courthouse.

INT. COURTROOM/ RESTROOM - MORNING

Anthony steps out of a bathroom stall, long-faced. He walks towards one of the sinks. He turns the faucet on and the water runs seamlessly. He pushes the soap dispenser, the pink liquid drops unto his hands, he rubs them together, cleaning them under the sink as the water rinses his hand.

He turns to the left and there is a MAN standing at the faucet next to him.

He's sullen as well, you can tell he's got something on his mind. Anthony notices.

The MAN looks over to his right and scans Anthony. Anthony looks familiar to him, he's flabbergasted.

MAN

Anthony Jenkins?

Anthony is confused.

ANTHONY
Yeah, that's me.

MAN
I'm Clyde Mosely...

Anthony catches the last name. He knows who this man is now.

CLYDE
Your daughter murdered my
daughter...

A long beat.

ANTHONY
I'm so sorry...I know what it's
like to lose a child...

Another beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
But your daughter attacked her
first, my daughter only defended
herself...

Clyde has nothing else to say, he turns the faucet off, grabs a paper towel and dries his hand.

He then storms off, walk towards the door, and slams the bathroom door shut.

SLAM!

Anthony flinches, second guessing his immediate response. He dries his hands as well with paper towels.

INT. COURTROOM - MORNING

The courtroom is full of people. The jury waits patiently, ready for the trial to begin. Anthony sits next to Ava in the jury.

We see the two opposing parties. Destiny and Attorney Wilkins sit next to each other to the right of the room. On the other side sits ATTORNEY WHITE, a woman in her late 40's. Sitting behind her is Clyde and YOLANDA MOSLEY (mid 40's), they look distraught and ready for this to be over.

JUDGE KRAMER (mid 50's) enters the room and heads directly to his seat, he's a serious man and exudes authority.

The BAILIFF stands in front of the room.

BAILIFF

All rise!

Everyone in the court rises to their feet.

BAILIFF (CONT'D)

The People VS Destiny Jenkins!

Judge Kramer takes his seat, looking through files, researching thoroughly. A beat.

Then he looks straight at ATTORNEY WHITE.

JUDGE KRAMER

Counselor are you ready for your opening statement?

Attorney White immediately rises up.

ATTORNEY WHITE

Yes your Honor!

Attorney White walks up to the front of the court room. She clears her throat and begins her preamble. She's ready and prepared.

ATTORNEY WHITE

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. I stand before you today to tell you a story. A story about a girl with big dreams. You see everyone, Ashley Mosely was only in college when her life was taken from her senselessly.

Anthony looks guilty.

ATTORNEY WHITE (CONT'D)

I keep asking myself. How, could this happen to someone so innocent? How could a girl in her prime, ready to take on the world be murdered so mercilessly...

A beat.

ATTORNEY WHITE

I can tell you why jury. It's because of monsters...

Anthony appears heated but he keeps his composure.

ATTORNEY WHITE

You see jury Ashley Mosely and Destiny Jenkins are not that different. They are both bright girls, went off to a great university, both fell for the same guy...

A beat.

ATTRONEY WHITE

But one girl's jealously went a little too far. I will prove that here to you all today.

Attorney White looks towards Judge Kramer.

ATTORNEY WHITE

That is all your Honor.

Attorney White walks towards her table and takes a seat. Judge Kramer seems impressed with the opening statement. Judge Kramer redirects his attention to Attorney Wilkins.

JUDGE KRAMER

Counselor are you ready for your statements?

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Yes your Honor.

Attorney Wilkins walk towards the jury, not sure how he can beat Attorney White's opening statement.

He stands in front of the jury, there's a long pause. He's thinking on what to say, he has to change some things on the spot.

Anthony looks concerned and then Attorney Wilkins begins to speak.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)

Good morning jury!

JURY

Good morning!

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

I'm not here to convince you that Destiny Jenkins is a perfect human being because she's not. None of us are.

(MORE)

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)

I'm not here to slander the name of the victim Ashley Moseley, may she rest in peace. I can only convince to you that Destiny Jenkins was in danger, danger for her life. She did what any of us would do when faced with a life threatening situation. We protect ourselves.

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

When you're driving your car and another car pulls up in front of you, what do you do? You slam on the breaks out of instinct to protect yourself.

Another beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Imagine a police officer, stopping a robbery and one of the robbers points his gun at him. What is that police officer going to do to protect himself?

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

So jury, what I am asking you to do today is not to choose who is a hero, a victim, or villain. I'm asking you to imagine yourself at an apartment and someone breaks in. Not only did they break in but they attack you. You're overpowered and there is a knife at arm's reach. What would you do?

The jury thinks deeply on his question. Judge Kramer is impressed with him too.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

That is all your Honor.

Attorney Wilkins walks towards his table. He's pleased with his statement. Anthony is too.

Judge Kramer gears his attention to Attorney White.

JUDGE KRAMER

Counselor White, you have a witness correct?

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Yes, Mr. Malik Harris.

Anthony is stunned. He stares at Attoreny Wilkins, hoping to get his attention but Attoreny Wilkins never returns the gaze, he's focused on the trial. He looks nervous.

JUDGE KRAMER

Bring him to the front please.

MALIK HARRIS, 19, walks towards the witness stand. He is how Destiny described him before. He's handsome, kind eyes, looks educated.

Malik reaches the witness stand and takes a seat, he raises his right hand.

BAILIFF

You do solemnly state that the testimony you may give in the case now pending before this court shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

MALIK

Yes, sir.

JUDGE KRAMER

Continue with your claim.

Malik looks nervous, his palms are sweating. He's thinking hard. Anthony eyes him like hawk, in fear.

We keep the frame of Anthony's worried face.

MALIK (V.0)

It all happened after Christmas break. It was the beginning of the semester. Destiny and I had Algebra 2, our second class together...

FADE OUT

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Malik is taking some notes as a PROFESSOR lectures. He's being very attentive and jotting down notes rapidly.

He accidentally drops one of his pencils after moving his elbow. It falls to the floor. He leans over to pick it up but a hand already picked it up for him.

He looks up and Destiny is smiling at him, handing the pencil to him. She's allured by him.

DESTINY
Here you go.

MALIK
Thanks.

Malik grabs the pencil and directs his attention towards the lecture again.

DESTINY
(whispering)
My name is Destiny by the way...

MALIK
I know, we've met before...

He continues to write notes, being the studious person he is. Destiny is thinking of a way to get his attention.

DESTINY
Hey, do you get any of this? I don't get it?

Malik seems irritated.

MALIK
Listen, no disrespect but I'm trying to pay attention.

Destiny gets the message and backs off.

INT. COLLEGE HALLWAY - DAY

Malik is walking out of class and heads down the hallway. Destiny follows behind.

DESTINY
Hey...

Malik turns around, Destiny is annoying him.

MALIK
Yes?

DESTINY
Sorry...for bothering you during class...

Malik feels guilty.

MALIK

You weren't.

DESTINY

It's just, you seem so on it.

MALIK

It's because my parents had me learning astrophysics when I was five.

They both laugh.

MALIK (CONT'D)

No, not really but I was in private school since I was a kid. My parents were always huge on education.

Destiny smiles, happy to finally get a conversation from him.

DESTINY

Oh really?

MALIK

Yeah, my dad is a neurosurgeon and my mother is a psychiatrist.

DESTINY

Dang.

MALIK

What about your parents?

A beat.

DESTINY

Well, my mom was a CNA but she is no longer alive...

Malik shows sympathy.

MALIK

I'm sorry about that.

DESTINY

It's okay...and my father is an electrician. I'm the first to go off to college...

MALIK

Congrats, that's dope! I'm sure they're proud. Even your mom.

Destiny smiles at him and Malik gives her a genuine smile back.

MALIK (CONT'D)
And I'm sorry...

Destiny is confused.

DESTINY
Sorry about what?

MALIK
For being a dick.

They both laugh together.

DESTINY
Nah, you're focused and ambitious.
I need to get like you.

They prolong their gaze. Malik comes back to reality.

MALIK
I have to get going to my next
class. See you tomorrow.

Malik walks away. Destiny look back.

DESTINY
See you!

Destiny smiles to herself and walks away.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

The professor is passing out tests to the students. Destiny receives her test and looks at the score on the paper. She sees a "63". Destiny is disappointed in herself.

Malik turns towards Destiny smiling, clearly happy with his grade.

MALIK
What did you get?

Malik notices the looks on Destiny's face. He sees the disappointment in her face.

DESTINY
I'm just wasting my father's money.

Malik shows sympathy for her.

MALIK
I can help you out.

DESTINY
Really?

MALIK
Yeah, my last class ends a 4pm. If you're free, you can come by my place.

DESTINY
Where do you live?

MALIK
Put my number in your phone.

Destiny pulls out her phone giddily.

MALIK (CONT'D)
My number is 555-987-3581.

Destiny types the number in and saves it.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Text me. Then, I'll text you the address.

Destiny and Malik smile at each other.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Malik is seated at his diner table glued to his laptop. The table is stacked with textbooks.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

Malik is alert and walks towards the front door. He opens it and he sees Destiny smiling at him.

DESTINY
(sheepishly)
Hey.

MALIK
Hey.

Malik smiles back.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Come in.

Destiny steps in sheepishly but still smiling. Malik closes the door behind her.

Destiny looks around the apartment, completely enamored by it. It's very upscale.

DESTINY

Wow...

Malik smiles.

MALIK

My parents didn't want me in the dorm rooms.

DESTINY

You're so lucky. The dorms are terrible!

They chuckle a little bit. A beat.

MALIK

Did you want some water, juice, anything?

DESTINY

No, I'm good.

MALIK

Alright, well let's get started.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT/ DINING ROOM TABLE - EVENING

Malik leers intently at his textbook. Destiny pays close attention.

MALIK

So, if you carry that, X would equal 36.

Destiny is impressed with his skills.

MALIK (CONT'D)

That's all you have to do. You're just thinking too hard.

DESTINY

Yeah, this is way easier than I thought.

MALIK

You're gonna make the next test your bitch right?

They laugh.

DESTINY
Of course.

They look at each other, there's attraction there.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
I have a question for, it's kind of
random.

MALIK
Yeah?

DESTINY
What are your goals? What are your
dreams?

Malik thinks hard on this.

MALIK
I want to be a neurosurgeon like my
pops. I want to open up my own
practice. I want a mansion, a wife,
and three kids. All boys!

They laugh together.

MALIK (CONT'D)
And you?

DESTINY
I just want a simple life. A career
as a nurse, marriage, kids...

MALIK
Three boys?

DESTINY
It doesn't matter to me...

Malik and Destiny stare at each other amorously. All of a sudden the front door opens.

Malik and Destiny are both caught off guard.

ASHLEY MOSELY (18) walks in and sees them both. Destiny and Malik both look like deer caught in head lights. Destiny is the most surprised.

Ashley looks at Malik smiling but suspicious.

ASHLEY
Hey babe.

MALIK

Hey.

Malik and Destiny exchange quick glances. Ashley notices.

ASHLEY

You didn't tell me you were going to have company.

MALIK

Sorry...she just needed some extra help in Algebra that's all...

A beat.

DESTINY

Nice to meet you.

Ashley eyes Destiny up and down. A beat.

ASHLEY

I'm going to go shower up.

Ashley walks away towards the bathroom. Destiny is hurt.

DESTINY

I have to go.

Destiny begins packing her books in her bag. She hurries towards the door. Malik feels guilty.

He follows her. Destiny exits out the front door, Malik exits out the door too and closes the door behind him.

EXT. MALIK'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Destiny is clearly upset and continues storming away.

MALIK

Destiny wait!

Destiny turns around, her eyes are full.

DESTINY

What!?

MALIK

Listen, I'm sorry okay...

Destiny takes a moment to calm down.

DESTINY

You don't owe me an apology.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Listen, I'm happy for you. She's
gorgeous.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
See you in class.

Destiny walks away. Malik is dumbfounded.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

The professor passes out tests again. Destiny receives her
test.

PROFESSOR
Great improvement!

Destiny looks at the grade on her test. She has an "89".
She's smiling from cheek to cheek.

She notices Malik looking back at her, smiling. She turns her
paper over so that he can see the "89".

He smiles back at her and claps silently.

INT. COLLEGE HALLWAY - DAY

Destiny walks out of the classroom. Malik catches up with
her.

MALIK
Destiny!

Destiny turns around.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Congrats on your test!

DESTINY
I appreciate it. Thank you. I
couldn't have done it without you.

MALIK
You're welcome.

An awkward beat.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Let's celebrate!

DESTINY
Malik, listen. I appreciate you. I do, I just can't continue with this...thing...

MALIK
I get it but I just want to celebrate my friend. Come over, we'll just chill, watch some movies...

Destiny rolls her eyes.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Pleasssee....

They both giggle.

DESTINY
What about Ashley?

MALIK
She's out of town for her mom's birthday...

Destiny smiles, she can't resist him.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Destiny and Malik are on the couch watching a movie, they are very close. On the coffee table are two wine glasses half full and a large bottle of merlot that is almost empty. They laugh together at the film.

Destiny looks over to Malik, his smile is irresistible to her. He notices, she quickly looks away.

MALIK
You alright?

Destiny looks back at him.

DESTINY
Yeah, I'm good...

Now Malik stares at Destiny irresistibly. Destiny notices. Malik leans in towards Destiny slowly. Destiny is confused.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Malik pauses.

MALIK
(seductively)
Aren't you feeling me?

A beat.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Come on...

He leans in and starts caressing her neck with his lips.

DESTINY
Stop it...stop it...

Malik continues, he knows she can't resist him. Destiny begins kissing his lips. Malik kisses her back passionately. They have been waiting for this moment, they are hot and heavy.

Malik pulls away for a moment.

MALIK
(panting)
Come on, let's go in my room.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT/ BEDROOM - EVENING

Malik forces Destiny down on his bed, she's on her back. He begins unbuttoning his pants and Destiny unbuttons her pants too. She takes them off with ease.

Malik is on top of her now and thrusts his body against hers repeatedly. She exclaims in pleasure.

Malik continues to stroke her vigorously. They moan and groan in unison.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT/ MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Destiny and Malik are lying in bed together, sweating and catching their breath. They are both in ecstasy.

Destiny turns towards Malik, he catches her eye and they both chuckle together.

MALIK
That's exactly what I needed.

DESTINY

It definitely hit the spot...pun
intended...

They chuckle together again. Destiny smiles lovingly at Malik, his smile attracts her again. She leans towards him and places her head on chest. She tries to cuddle with him.

Malik notices, he's as stiff as a board. Malik leers at her.

MALIK

Well...it is getting late...

Destiny furrows her eyebrows. She looks at him puzzled, Malik has a deadpan look on his face.

DESTINY

But Ashley won't be here tonight
right?

MALIK

What is that suppose to mean?

Destiny is hurt and embarrassed.

MALIK (CONT'D)

Listen...we both got what we
wanted...

Destiny wipes her tears.

DESTINY

No, we didn't...

She rises from the bed, grabs her clothes, and puts them on. She head towards the door.

Destiny slams the door shut. Malik feels a little guilty.

INT. COLLEGE CLASSROOM - DAY

Malik is paying attention to the lesson as the professor lectures.

BUZZ! BUZZ!

Malik feels his phone buzzing in his pants. He grabs his phone and opens it up. He sees he has 15 new text messages from Destiny. He turns to looks at her, she's smiling.

He shakes his head. He's curious about the messages and opens them up. His eyes pops out of his head.

There are photos of Destiny completely nude, posing in different positions. He scrolls down the photos and sees various images; she's bent over in a thong, her legs are wide open, there's a dildo in her mouth, and etc...

He's disturbed and gears his attention back to Destiny. She's laughing hard but silently. Malik is completely baffled.

INT. COLLEGE HALLWAY - DAY

Malik stands next to Destiny livid, Destiny isn't afraid and continues to smile like a child.

MALIK

What the fuck was that!?

DESTINY

What? I'm just trying to look sexy for my man.

Destiny leans in for a kiss. Malik pushes her away.

MALIK

Listen, it will never happen between us!

DESTINY

Why?

MALIK

Ashley and I are together, you know that!

DESTINY

Why can't you just leave her, what's so special about her?

Malik sighs.

MALIK

She went to private school like me. She's on her way to becoming an OBGYN. Her mother is an OBGYN too. Her father is the CEO of one of the top industrial plants in this state. We fit. You and I...we just come from different worlds...

Destiny shed tears.

DESTINY

So, I'm just trash to you!? Huh!?

Malik feels a guilty.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Why did you fuck me then?

MALIK
I was feeling lonely and you're
clearly desperate! It was easy!

Destiny is hurt and slaps him across the face. Malik
restrains himself from striking her back.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Don't you ever put your hands on me
again!

Malik storms away.

MALIK (CONT'D)
Crazy ass bitch!

Destiny eyes him, her eyes are different. They're sinister
and unhinged.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Malik and Ashley are eating together. Ashley notice that
Malik looks a little on edge.

ASHLEY
Everything's okay?

MALIK
Yeah...I'm good...

Malik feels the buzzing in his pants again.

BUZZ! BUZZ! He's alert.

MALIK (CONT'D)
I'll be right back.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT/ BATHROOM - EVENING

Malik looks at his phone. He has over 20 voice messages. He
plays one and puts the phone to his ear.

DESTINY (O.S.)
Malik please come back to me, I
miss you...

He click on the next one.

DESTINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Please! Please! I'll do anything to
be with you!

Next one.

DESTINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I love you! I love you!

Next one.

DESTINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I fucking hate you! Stupid bitch!

Next one.

DESTINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
YOU LOVE THAT BITCH MORE THAN ME
HUH!?

Next one.

DESTINY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
YOU WANT TO FUCK WITH ME!? I'LL
KILL THE BOTH OF YOU! I'LL KILL THE
BOTH OF YOU!

Next one.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
(singing)
One...two..Destiny's coming for
you. Three..four...better lock your
door...

Malik has heard enough, he's disturbed now and hangs up the
phone.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT/ HALLWAY - EVENING

He leaves the bathroom and opens the door. Ashley is standing
there. He yelps in terror. Ashley is confused and laughs a
little.

ASHLEY
Are you sure everything's okay?
You've been in there for awhile.

Malik's heart races, he's still startled and catches his
breath. A beat.

MALIK
Yeah, let's finish dinner.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT/ MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Malik and Destiny are lying in bed together sleeping and cuddling. Malik wakes up. He gets out of bed and walks towards the kitchen.

INT. MALIK'S APARTMENT/ KITCHEN - NIGHT

Malik is holding a glass under a running faucet. The water runs seamlessly into the glass. Malik stops the water.

He lifts the glass up and begins drinking it. You can tell he's still stressed.

He finishes the glass of water and leaves it on the counter. He walks towards the hallway. All of a sudden he stops dead in his tracks. He sees Destiny standing there, looking like the devil himself. He is startled and jumps. He is terrified but tries to keep quiet.

MALIK

(quietly)

What the fuck are you doing here!?

Destiny laughs loudly.

MALIK

Get the fuck out here now!

DESTINY

I ain't going nowhere hubby.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Where's your girlfriend!? I want to have a talk with her!

MALIK

Get out! Get out now or I'm calling the cops!

DESTINY

Assshllleeeeyyy!!!

MALIK

Shut the fuck up!

Destiny is enjoying toying with him.

DESTINY

ASSSSSHLEEEEEEYYYYY!!!!!!

Ashley runs into the kitchen completely bamboozled.

ASHLEY
What in the -

Ashley jumps at the sight of Destiny standing there in all black. Ashley is bewildered.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
What are you doing in here!?

DESTINY
What? Malik didn't tell you? We're
fucking.

Ashley is stunned and gears her attention towards Malik, heartbroken.

ASHLEY
Is it true?

Malik is ashamed and puts his head down.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
I should've known...

MALIK
Listen...can we talk about it?

ASHLEY
Talk about what Malik!? How many
more time are you going to do this
to me!? Huh!?

Ashley breaks down. Destiny laughs.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
You son of a bitch!

Malik walks towards Ashley trying to comfort her.

MALIK
Listen, I'm sorry.

He tries to hug her but she pushes him away.

ASHLEY
Get off me!

He tries to hug her again. She slaps him hard. Malik holds his cheek in pain. Ashley then attacks him, hitting him multiple times.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
I'm tired of your shit! I'm tired
of your shit!

Destiny gets heated.

DESTINY
Get your hands off him!

She leans forward and snatches at Ashley's hair, pulling it
and slamming her to the ground.

THUD!

Ashley quickly rises up and attacks back viscously, punching
Destiny repeatedly in the face.

PUNCH!

PUNCH!

PUNCH!

Destiny's face is bleeding. Suddenly, Ashley grabs for
Destiny's larynx with her two hands. She puts all her might
into choking Destiny. Destiny desperately gasps for air. Her
eyes are wild, trying to found a way to defend herself.

Through her peripheral she sees a knife stand displaying
eight knives. As she gags, she struggles to reach for one of
them.

Her arms are stretched as far as she can, she struggles. She
finally grabs a handle and pulls out one of the knives.

She immediately stabs Ashley directly through the heart.
Ashely gasps and blood seeps through her night gown. Destiny
takes the knife out of her body, Ashley falls to the floor
weak.

Malik just stands there in complete shock, he doesn't know
what to do at the moment, he's completely paralyzed.

Destiny pounces on top of Ashley with the knife in her hand.
She stabs Ashley repeatedly with the knife, directly through
the heart.

STAB!

STAB!

STAB!

Blood is all over Ashley's chest, the floor, and Destiny's face.

Malik releases a guttural scream, he wants to check Ashley's pulse but is too afraid. He begins to run for his life out the front door.

Destiny notices.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Malik, wait!

She hears the front door slam. Destiny rises from the floor and runs down the hallway.

She then realizes she's covered in blood.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Dammit!

She runs towards the bathroom to clean herself up.

INT. COURTROOM - AFTERNOON

We are back in the court room and we are still focused on Anthony. This is the first he is hearing all of this, he's taking it all in at once. He sheds quiet, shocked, and bewildered tears. They fall out like waterfalls, he's completely melting inside, shaking.

Ava looks towards him. All she can do is try to grab his hand, he does not accept it. His mind is racing. Ava pulls back her hand, letting Anthony process this by himself.

We focus back on Malik at the witness stand. He is in tears as well, he's shaking, traumatized.

MALIK
I was so scared, so I just ran and called the police...

A beat.

MALIK (CONT'D)
I left her there...I left her there to die...

Malik begins to break down.

MALIK (CONT'D)
She didn't deserve that...none of it...

The jury is moved by his story, many people are wiping tears from their eyes. Attorney White is pleased with the reaction of the jury.

Judge Kramer looks towards Attoreny Wilkins.

JUDGE KRAMER
Any rebuttals?

Attorney Wilkins is thinking hard on a response. Attorney Wilkinson walks towards the witness stand. His mind is racing.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
Malik.

Malik looks up, still crying and sniffing.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry for your loss.

Malik nods his head.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
But I made an observation...

Malik is attentive.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
First you were dating Ashley Mosely, you two were even living together, it sounded pretty serious.

MALIK
Yes it was, I loved her. Wanted to marry her one day.

ATTORNEY WILKINS
Then you met Destiny. At first, you didn't pay too much attention to her. Then you noticed she liked you, so you slowly started getting closer to her, leading her on.

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)
You lead her on while still dating Ashley. You slept with her while still dating Ashley. You knew you would never love her. So why lead her on? For your own prowess!?

Malik looks guilty.

ATTORNEY WHITE

Objection you're honor! He's antagonizing my witness and this is completely irrelevant to Ashely Mosely's murder!

JUDGE KRAMER

Sustained.

Attorney Wilkins looks defeated.

JUDGE KRAMER (CONT'D)

What is your argument counselor?

Attorney Wilkins looks defeated.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

If what Malik is saying is true. Then, if he had not play mind games on both of these young women, Ashley Mosely would still be alive. He provoked this entire feud that lead to Ashley Mosely's tragic demise!

Everyone takes in the message. Judge Kramer accepts the rebuttal but still has a case to solve.

JUDGE KRAMER

Counselor, what you're saying is correct but when it comes to this particular case. We are solely trying to solve why Ashley Mosely died by the hands of Destiny Jenkins. Malik Harris here only serves as a witness to the crime. There is no evidence connecting him to the murder therefore your attempt to condemn him for moral reasons is ineffectual. Destiny Jenkins is an adult and should be responsible for her own actions.

Attorney Wilkins looks defeated.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Understood your Honor.

INT. COURTROOM/ HALLWAY - DAY

The trial is on recess. Anthony is talking to Attorney Wilkins lividly. His anxiety is kicking in again. Ava is by his side.

ANTHONY

How could you not tell me Malik was going to testify!?

Attorney Wilkins sighs.

ATTORNEY WILKINS

Listen...

A beat.

ATTORNEY WILKINS (CONT'D)

I wanted to keep your hope alive.

Anthony is confused.

ANTHONY

What!?

ATTORNEY WILKINS

I knew that once Malik decided to be a witness for the people. We wouldn't have a chance.

Anthony is defeated.

ANTHONY

But what he's saying can't be true!
That's not my daughter!?

Anthony doesn't even believe his own words anymore.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

The trial is not over yet!
You need to do your job and defend my daughter!

ATTORNEY WILKINS

I have tried my best! I took this on because I felt sorry for you. Now look at us, we're losing! Like I said we would!

ANTHONY

Because you're not doing your job!

ATTORNEY WILKINS

It's not my fault your daughter is
a fucking psychopath!

This enrages Anthony and he launches towards Attorney Wilkins about to attack him. Ava quickly steps in the way.

AVA

Anthony!?! Stop it right now!

Anthony does as he is told and simmers down. He's still in rage, his eyes are full. He turns arounds and punches a wall nearby him. He exclaims in rage.

People nearby watches in fear.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Everyone is back in court now. Judge Kramer is seated. The jury is quiet now as they wait for the sentence. The FOREPERSON stands up and is ready to announce their final decision.

FOREPERSON

We the jury found the defendant...

The whole jury is anticipating this.

FOREPERSON (CONT'D)

Guilty...

Some people gasp. Anthony clamps his eyelids together. Tears sneak past them.

FOREPERSON (CONT'D)

Of murder in the first degree as
charged.

Judge Kramer gears his attention to Destiny. Their eyes meet and he stares directly into her eyes.

JUDGE KRAMER

With the jury finding you guilty of
murder in the first degree. I will
adjudicate you guilty and sentence
you life in prison...

Anthony trembles.

ANTHONY

No...no...

JUDGE KRAMER
Without parole...

ANTHONY
NO!!! NO!!!

Judge Kramer notices Anthony's outbursts. Judge Kramer looks towards his guards.

JUDGE KRAMER
Please escort him out.

The two GUARDS walk towards Anthony. They forcefully grab him and push him away. Anthony puts up a good fight.

ANTHONY
GET OFF ME! GET OFF ME!

AVA
Anthony calm down!

Another guard rushes over and joins the rest of the guards in getting Anthony out of the courthouse. Anthony is no match now.

Ava is terrified as she follows them out. Everyone in court watches the madness.

ANTHONY
DESTINY!!!

EXT. ANTHONY'S CAR - DAY

Ava is in the driver's seat driving and Anthony is on the passenger's side. It's silent in the car. There is nothing for them to say, they are just processing everything...

Anthony is trying to hold it together as he looks outside the window. He looks calm but then he slowly begins melting again, he moans and groans in absolute despair.

Ava takes this in and begins shedding tears too.

TIME CARD: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. ANTHONY'S APARTMENT/ BEDROOM - EVENING

We are no longer in Anthony's house. He has downgraded to an apartment.

Anthony is lying in bed completely desolate and staring off into space, still shell shocked. Ava carefully walks into the room.

Ava directs her attention towards Anthony, he's still staring off. Ava sighs.

AVA
Anthony?

Anthony does not move.

AVA (CONT'D)
Anthony?

No response.

AVA (CONT'D)
I fixed some food. You have to eat eventually.

Ava walks towards the bed and caress's Anthony.

AVA (CONT'D)
It's been a month, Anthony. Come on get up...

Anthony slowly turns towards Ava, he looks at her and tears up.

ANTHONY
How - how?

Tears seep out.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
How could she lie to me? Deceive me? How can I forgive her?

Ava takes a deep breath.

AVA
Listen I get it...this whole situation is overwhelming but there is help out there Anthony...

ANTHONY
What are you suggesting?

A beat.

AVA
Professional help.

Anthony furrows his eyebrows, he's completely flabbergasted.

ANTHONY

Ava, I'm not crazy. I'm going through another loss!

AVA

I understand!

ANTHONY

Do you!?

Ava is quiet.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Do you know what it's like to lose your spouse, son, and now your daughter!? Huh!?

AVA

No I don't but I can tell when someone needs professional help!

Ava calms down.

AVA (CONT'D)

I just want you to get better.

Ava tears up.

AVA (CONT'D)

I care about you Anthony, I really do..

ANTHONY

Then act like it!

AVA

Excuse me!?

Ava has to catch herself; she takes a deep breath and then continues.

AVA

When this whole thing happened with Destiny, who was there with you!? Holding you, calming you down, trying to see the light in all of this shit! Who was trying to show your ass some love in a time of need!?

A beat.

AVA (CONT'D)
Did you ever think how exhausting
this can be for me!? But I said
nothing! Why!? Because I love you!

A beat.

AVA (CONT'D)
The question is Anthony, do you
love me?

Anthony is baffled.

ANTHONY
Of course, I do!

AVA
Oh really!? Because you treat me
more like your therapist!

Anthony looks confused.

AVA (CONT'D)
There's only but so much I can do
to comfort you Anthony! I want you
to get better, I do but you just
keep projecting all of your
emotions on me!

Ava's eyes are full of tears. She finally released herself. It hurts her but she's also relieved. She rushes towards her closet and pulls out a gym bag and begins throwing clothes in the bag.

ANTHONY
Where are you going?

Ava continues to pack her clothes in her a hurry.

AVA
For once, I'm going to take care of
myself.

ANTHONY
So you're going leave me at a time
like this!?

AVA
Anthony, you're an adult put on
your big boy pants and help
yourself!

Ava is finished packing her bag and storms out the room and slams the door.

Anthony is left dumbfounded and cries out loud, defenseless.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Anthony is teary eyed, completely distraught as he sits adjacent to DR. LANGFORD (50's). Anthony looks defeated, embarrassed to be sitting across from a psychiatrist.

Dr. Langford studies Anthony's face, he shows sympathy.

DR. LANGFORD
First time?

A beat.

ANTHONY
Yeah...

Dr. Langford jot down some notes.

DR. LANGFORD
What made you wait so long?

ANTHONY
Just now getting the courage...a lot
has been happening...

DR. LANGFORD
Like what?

ANTHONY
You sure you have time?

Anthony attempts to lighten up the mood a bit. They both giggle together.

DR. LANGFORD
Of course I do.

Anthony sighs.

ANTHONY
My girlfriend...well I'm not sure
what we are right now said
something to me...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
She told me I treat her more like a
therapist than a girlfriend...that
really hurt...

Anthony shed tears.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
It hurts because I know it's
true...so I'm here now, I need
help...

DR. LANGFORD
I'm glad you came to realize that.

ANTHONY
I can't lose her because of my
baggage. I just keep projecting it
on her. It's not fair to her.

DR. LANGFORD
What baggage?

ANTHONY
Well it all started with the death
of my wife and son five years ago.

DR. LANGFORD
I'm sorry to hear that..

ANTHONY
Yeah, my wife had complications
after giving birth and my son was
born prematurely.

Dr. Langford seems genuinely concerned as he watches the
tears roll down Anthony's face.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
After they passed, I was so scared
of anything happening to my
daughter. It caused a lot of
anxiety...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
And now she just got sentenced to
life in prison...

DR. LANGFORD
This is a lot..

Anthony begins to break down.

ANTHONY
She deceived me, she deceived me
the whole time...

Dr. Langford is confused.

DR. LANGFORD
What do you mean?

Anthony is in deep thought, he starts shivering.

ANTHONY
When she went off to college she
got into an altercation with a
girl. They were both seeing the
same guy.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
She told me she was defending
herself against the girl...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
We went to court, turns out my
daughter broke into her apartment
and stabbed her to death.

Anthony breaks down.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
How could my baby girl lie to me?
How could she deceive me like that?

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
My baby, a stone cold killer? It
just doesn't make sense to me.

Dr. Langford jots down more notes.

DR. LANGFORD
What was your relationship like
with her?

Anthony thinks on this question.

ANTHONY
It was great, I loved her so much.
She'll tell me everything...or so I
thought...

Anthony tears up again.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Now I don't know who she is...

DR. LANGFORD

There weren't any signs of her
being violent when she was a little
girl?

ANTHONY

No, she was just so happy, joyful,
angelic even...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

How can I trust my daughter again
knowing she may be a...

Anthony can finally say the word now.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Psychopath?

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

There are just so many questions I
have for her.

DR. LANGFORD

Have you talked to her since she's
been arrested?

ANTHONY

No, I'm not ready quite yet.

DR. LANGFORD

Well, you won't know until you talk
with her.

Anthony looks apprehensive. Dr. Langford scrutinizes his
facial expression.

A beat.

DR. LANGFORD (CONT'D)

I feel like, there's a question you
have for her. A question that
you're scared to ask. You need
closure on something...

Anthony sheds tears, Dr. Langford is speaking the truth.

DR. LANGFORD (CONT'D)

You don't have to tell me what the
question is.

(MORE)

DR. LANGFORD (CONT'D)
Just go and ask her yourself.
Please, release yourself from the
turmoil.

Anthony nods his head, wiping his tear.

INT. COUNTY PRISON/ VISITATION ROOM - DAY

Anthony sits quietly and somberly waits for Destiny. He has a water bottle near him.

A door opens up and a guard enters the room guiding Destiny to her seat.

Anthony looks at her, he's enraged and confused. Who is this girl?

Destiny slowly sits down. When she is fully seated she just stares at Anthony. She seems vacant, distant, gone.

Anthony decides to start the conversation.

ANTHONY
Hey.

DESTINY
Hey.

A beat.

ANTHONY
How has it been?

DESTINY
(sarcastically)
Wonderful.

He takes a closer look at Destiny and notices her belly is poking out a bit.

ANTHONY
They must be feeding you well in here.

A beat.

DESTINY
I'm pregnant.

Anthony flinches.

ANTHONY
Excuse me?

DESTINY
I'm pregnant.

Anthony takes a moment to let this sink in. He's not sure how to feel.

ANTHONY
Who's going to take care of the baby!?

DESTINY
Well, you know Malik don't want anything to do with it.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
I could give the baby up for adoption...but I was hoping you would take of it...

ANTHONY
So, just put it all om me!? Don't you think you put me through enough!?

DESTINY
Sorry, I thought you'd be happy to be a grandad...

Anthony begins to tremble a bit. He takes out a pill bottle from his pocket, opens it, and takes a swig from his water bottle. He takes a moment cool down.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
You're on pills now?

ANTHONY
Officially diagnosed with anxiety...thanks to you...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Des - Destiny, baby girl...

Destiny is attentive.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I came here to ask you, how could you lie to me this whole time?

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
How could you deceive me? Having me thinking you were innocent this whole time? I mean, I travelled all the way up here to visit you when you were first locked up, I got you an attorney, I rented a spot out here so I could be there for you...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Even though we lost the case, I still had to pay the attorney. He was way out of my price range but I got him for you. I had to move out of our house, the house we've been in since you were 3 years old. Now I'm in a shithole apartment...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Don't you care at all?

Silence.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Answer me!

Destiny continues to stare at him vacantly.

DESTINY
(coldly)
No.

Anthony is shocked and enraged.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
You were weak dad and easy to manipulate. That's not my fault.

ANTHONY
But I cared for you.

DESTINY
I know that...that's why I used you...

Anthony can't take it and cries.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
See...you're weak...

A beat.

ANTHONY
How could my baby girl murder
someone?

Anthony tries to get it together.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Ever since this happened...I've
been musing...musing over the
past...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Making connections...something just
doesn't add up...

Anthony is collecting his thought.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Your - your - mother and brother
died the same exact day...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
That just can't be a mere
coincidence...

Destiny looks at her father, she feels exposed.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
What happened to them...really?

DESTINY
Mom had complications after giving
birth and Devin was born
prematurely...

Anthony looks pissed.

ANTHONY
For once Destiny...I need the
truth...

Destiny stares directly into her father's eyes, it's intense.

FADE OUT

TIME CARD: FIVE YEARS AGO...

INT. HOSPITAL/ DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

We hear excruciating screams of a female.

Mona Jenkins is lying on a hospital bed, drenched from sweat. Her legs are wide open. She gasps harshly for breath.

DR. THOMPSON (50's) examines her vaginal area.

DR. THOMPSON (O.S.)
You're beginning to crown!

Mona looks to her right, she sees Anthony looking at her directly in the eyes. He's trying to stay calm but he is panicking inside.

ANTHONY
Come on honey! Keep pushing!

Mona grunts and lets out a horrid bellow. It exhausts her. We hear baby cries!

DR. THOMPSON (O.S.)
He is here! Little Devin is here!
I'll cut the umbilical cord.

Dr. Thompson grabs his tools and begins cutting. Anthony and Mona smiles to each other and give each other a kiss.

DR. THOMPSON (CONT'D)
Oh no...

Anthony and Mona looks towards Dr. Thompson confused.

ANTHONY
What is that supposed to mean?

A beat.

DR. THOMPSON
Nurse Chambers please take Devin to
our special care unit! Hurry!

NURSE CHAMBERS (40's) rushes towards Dr. Thompson. Dr. Thompson carefully hands the baby over to Nurse Chambers. She holds the newborn delicately. She wraps him with a towel in her hand and quickly exits the room.

ANTHONY
Where are you taking him? Where are
you taking my son!?

Anthony rushes towards the door but Dr. Thompson steps in front of him.

DR. THOMPSON
Your son will be fine. I'm more
concerned with your wife's internal
bleeding.

Anthony is shocked and runs back towards Mona. He looks at
her face. She looks dizzy and completely drained.

DR. THOMPSON (CONT'D)
I need you to step out for a second
so that we can examine her.

ANTHONY
I can't leave her!

DR. THOMPSON
Please Mr. Jenkins, I don't have
time to waste if you want me to
save your wife, please go!

Anthony is teary eyed. He kisses Mona on the forehead
passionately.

ANTHONY
I love you honey.

He then reluctantly walks out of the door.

INT. HOSPITAL/ WAITING ROOM - EVENING

Anthony sits and has his elbows on his legs. His hands cover
his face. He's freaking out.

THIRTEEN YEAR OLD DESTINY puts her hand on her father's back.
She pats him trying to make him feel better.

DESTINY
It's okay dad.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Is there something wrong with mom?

Anthony tries to get it together. He wipes his tears.

ANTHONY
I'm not sure yet honey. I'm just
hoping for the best.

Dr. Thompson walks in the waiting room. He doesn't look too
happy.

Anthony rises to his feet automatically.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Is everything okay!?

DR. THOMPSON
Your wife is fine but...

ANTHONY
But what?

DR. THOMPSON
The delivery caused her to have a
postpartum hemorrhage. We still
have to find where it is. We will
have to keep her here before it
becomes fatal...

Anthony is distraught.

ANTHONY
Fatal?

DR. THOMPSON
Don't worry. Your wife is in good
hands. We will find a way to stop
the bleeding.

A beat.

DR. THOMPSON
We will also have to keep your son
here.

ANTHONY
What?

DR. THOMPSON
Devin was born prematurely. He's
currently not breathing properly.

Anthony breaks down.

DR. THOMPSON (CONT'D)
Don't worry Mr. Jenkins everything
will be under control. I know this
is a lot. You go home and get some
rest. Just sleep this off. We will
do our due diligence to fix this.
You have my word.

Dr. Thompson smiles at Anthony. Anthony can't smile.

INT. ANTHONY'S CAR/ HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Anthony is driving his car, his mind is heavy. Destiny is in the driver's seat, not sure what to say.

DESTINY

Is mom and the baby going to die?

ANTHONY

NO!

Destiny recoils back. She seems scared. Anthony looks back at her and feels guilty.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry baby. I didn't mean to scream.

DESTINY

It's okay...

ANTHONY

Let's just go home and sleep this off. Okay?

DESTINY

Okay.

TIME CARD: A COUPLE DAYS LATER

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - MORNING

Anthony is lying in bed, staring off. His mind is racing. He hears knocks at the door.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

ANTHONY

(solemnly)
Come in...

Destiny comes in smiling and holding a tray full of breakfast; pancakes, eggs, bacon, orange juice.

DESTINY

Good morning.

ANTHONY

Good morning princess.

DESTINY

I made you breakfast.

Anthony doesn't look enthused.

ANTHONY
(dismissively)
Thanks...but I'm not hungry...

Destiny looks disappointed. Destiny slumps her head and walks towards the dresser. She places the tray on top of the dresser. She runs out the room in tears. Anthony feels guilty.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Destiny!

Destiny closes the door.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ HALLWAY - MORNING

Anthony knocks on Destiny's door. He opens the door. Destiny is lying in bed crying.

Anthony notices and tears up. He walks up to her bed and slowly kneels down.

ANTHONY
Peach...

Destiny turns around, still sad.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry okay.

Destiny looks at him and nods her head.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Daddy is just going through a lot...

DESTINY
I know...Mom and Devin are sick...

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Do you still love me?

Anthony is hurt by this question.

ANTHONY
Of course, sweetie.

Anthony kisses Destiny on her forehead.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I don't want you to ever question
that. Okay?

Destiny is silent.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Okay?

DESTINY
Okay...

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Come on, get up. Let's split that
breakfast you fixed.

Destiny smiles.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ KITCHEN - MORNING

Anthony and Destiny are eating together quietly. Destiny looks over to her father eating, smiling at him amorously. Anthony notices.

ANTHONY
What?

DESTINY
Nothing, I'm just happy to see you
up.

ANTHONY
Thank you...the food is delicious
by the way.

Destiny is happy to please her father.

DESTINY
Thank you.

Anthony's phone begins to ring. He's alert and automatically pulls the phone from his pocket.

He puts the phone to his ear and rises to his feet. Destiny is a little perturbed.

ANTHONY
Hello...yes...

Anthony pauses as he listens to the phone.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Really!?

Anthony smiles jubilantly.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Oh thank God! I'm on the way to
pick them up now!

Anthony hangs up the phone excitedly.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Come on Peach!

DESTINY

What? What's happening?

ANTHONY

Your mom and Devin, they're ready
to come home!

Destiny smiles but it is forced.

DESTINY

Great!

ANTHONY

Come on let's go!

Destiny is a little annoyed.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ HALLWAY - DAY

Mona is in a wheelchair and Anthony struggles to roll her
through the front door.

Destiny is behind them, holding a car seat with Devin in it.

Anthony finally pushes Mona through the front door and
continues rolling her through the hallway.

Destiny walks into the home and closes the door behind her.
She follows behind.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Anthony helps Mona up to her feet, Mona struggles but she
succeeds. He then helps her lie down on the bed.

Destiny carefully places baby Devin in his crib. She looks at
him in his eyes. Her eyes are empty, no emotion behind them.

She then turns around. She sees Anthony helping Mona get comfortable in bed. He pulls the linen over her and kisses her passionately on the lips.

Destiny is disgusted. Anthony pulls his lips away from Mona's. He smiles at her and she smiles back.

ANTHONY

So glad to have you home baby.

MONA

Thank you. So glad to be alive.

ANTHONY

Go ahead and get some rest.

Anthony looks over to Destiny.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Destiny.

Destiny looks over to Anthony.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Come on let's go so your mother and brother can rest.

Destiny nods her head.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ LIVING ROOM - DAY

Anthony and Destiny are sitting down together watching TV. Anthony looks over to Destiny.

ANTHONY

Destiny.

Destiny turns around.

DESTINY

Yes?

ANTHONY

Your mother is still healing. So she'll be out of work for awhile on bedrest.

DESTINY

Okay.

ANTHONY

I'm going to have to start working overtime to keep up with the bills.

(MORE)

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I'm going to start coming home
later now.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I need you to take care of your mom
and brother until I get home.

Destiny thinks on this.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Do you think you can handle it?

Destiny looks at her father, she doesn't want to disappoint
him.

DESTINY
Of course.

ANTHONY
Great. It should only be for a
couple of weeks.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Thanks Peach.

He kisses her on the forehead. Destiny smiles at her father,
he smiles back.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ HALLWAY - DAY

Destiny walks through the front door with a backpack on, she
just returned from school. She closes the door behind her.
She then walks down the hallway.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Destiny walks inside the room and sees her mother lying down
sleeping.

Destiny then walks over to Devin's crib and sees that he is
sounds asleep as well.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Destiny is lying down on the couch napping, the TV is still
on.

Devin begins to cry quietly, then his cries escalates. It begins to wake Destiny. She slowly squirms on the couch. Devin screams becomes louder and louder. Destiny finally gets up, aggravated.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - EVENING

Destiny walks into room. Mona is awake too.

MONA

Honey, can you get Devin please?
His formula should be is in the
fridge.

DESTINY

Yeah, no problem.

Destiny walks over to the crib and carefully picks up Devin. She walks out of the bedroom door.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Destiny sits with Devin as she feeds him. Devin holds the bottle tightly. He is quiet now and slowly falling asleep again.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - EVENING

Destiny holds Devin as she walks towards his crib. She gently places him in the crib.

MONA

Did you burp him?

Destiny turns around confused.

DESTINY

No, was I supposed to?

MONA

Yes, after you feed a baby you
should burp them.

A beat.

MONA (CONT'D)

Your brother was born premature so
we have to take extra care of him.

Destiny looks back at Devin and picks him up carefully, agitated.

MONA (CONT'D)
Make sure you grab his towel in the
crib.

Destiny grabs the towel too. Destiny looks confused.

DESTINY
How do you burp him?

MONA
Come here, I'll show you.

Destiny walks towards her mother.

MONA (CONT'D)
Put the towel over your shoulder.

Destiny places the towel over her shoulder.

MONA (CONT'D)
Put him over your shoulder, make
sure his mouth is near the towel,
and pat his back softly.

Destiny begins patting Devin's back softly.

MOMENTS LATER...

Destiny continues patting Devin's back. Growing a little
impatient.

DESTINY
It's not working...

Destiny continues.

MONA
Just keep patting...

Destiny continues.

BURP!

Destiny is surprised. Mona is proud.

MONA (CONT'D)
Make sure you clean his mouth.

Destiny repositions Devin and begins wiping his mouth with
the bib attached to his neck. His mouth is all clean now and
Destiny walks towards the crib and puts him down.

She begins walking towards the door.

MONA (CONT'D)

Honey?

Destiny turns towards Mona.

DESTINY

Yes?

MONA

Can you please fix me some soup?

DESTINY

Yes, no problem.

Destiny heads out the door but Devin begins crying again. Destiny stops in her tracks.

MONA

Can you take him out there too? I'm tired of his racket.

Destiny rolls her eyes.

DESTINY

What else am I supposed to do? I just fed him.

MONA

I don't know honey. He's probably colic. Just try your best to figure something out.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ KITCHEN - NIGHT

Destiny is at the stove mixing up chicken noodle soup. Devin continues to cry manically. He's placed on top of the kitchen counter in his car seat.

Destiny continues to stir the pot of soup. Devin's cries are subtly getting to her. She tries to tune him out.

WAHHH! WAHHH! WAHHHH!

Destiny continues to ignore him.

WAHHH! WAHHH!

She's about to explode.

WAHHH! WAHHH!

She turns to him furiously.

DESTINY
MY GOD CAN YOU PLEASE SHUT UP!?

A beat.

ANTHONY (O.S.)
Peach?

Destiny turns around and sees Anthony staring at her, he's baffled. Destiny is embarrassed.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
You okay?

Destiny tries to pull it together.

DESTINY
Yeah, I'm fine.

She grabs the handle of the pot of soup and moves it on the counter but the handle is hotter than she expected.

She drops the whole pot on the floor. It creates a loud THUD. Destiny's reflexes kicks in and she moves out the way quickly.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Oh no!

Anthony runs over and kneels down, checking Destiny's legs.

ANTHONY
Are you burned!?

DESTINY
No I'm fine!

Devin continues to cry.

WAHHHHH!

Anthony is confused if he should help Destiny or attend to Devin. He rises up, walks towards Devin, and lifts Devin from the car seat.

ANTHONY
I'll calm him down and you clean up the mess okay?

DESTINY
Okay.

ANTHONY
You got it?

DESTINY
Yeah...I got it...

She looks ashamed.

ANTHONY
It's okay accidents happen. Just
make sure to make your mother
another batch.

Anthony walks away with Devin across his shoulder. He pats
him carefully as he walks away to check up on Mona.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Come on buddy, let's go check on
mommy.

Destiny looks back at them enraged.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ DESTINY' ROOM - NIGHT

Destiny is on her bed in night clothes with a textbook out
and a note pad. She's writes studiously.

KNOCK! KNOCK!

DESTINY
Come in!

Anthony opens the door.

ANTHONY
Hey Peach.

Destiny smiles at her dad.

DESTINY
Hey.

ANTHONY
Can I come in?

DESTINY
You pay the bills.

ANTHONY
Yeah, you're right about that.

They giggle together. He then walks inside of the room and
closes the door behind him.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
What are you up to?

DESTINY

Just doing some homework, I didn't have time to do it earlier.

Anthony feels guilty.

ANTHONY

Well your mother and Devin are sleeping now. There will be no more distractions.

Anthony sits on Destiny's bed.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Listen, I wanted to talk to you.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

You scared me earlier.

DESTINY

What? How?

ANTHONY

The way you screamed at Devin.

DESTINY

Oh, sorry I was just frustrated.

ANTHONY

I understand but he's a baby. He doesn't understand that. Don't do it again.

Destiny looks guilty.

DESTINY

I won't. I promise.

A beat.

ANTHONY

I have to be upfront with you. We don't have enough money for a stay at home nurse or a babysitter. So I still need you to help me with this. Are you sure it's not too much?

A beat.

DESTINY

Yeah, I'm sure. I think I was flustered because it was the first day. I think the more I do it, the more I will get used to it.

ANTHONY

Okay. Your mom should be out of bed rest in about two weeks. It'll pass before we know it.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

If it ever gets too hectic let me know. You can even call me while I'm working. I'll be here, okay?

DESTINY

Okay.

Anthony smiles and Destiny smiles back. Then Destiny notices something crawling on the floor. It's a cockroach. Her face automatically switches, she looks menacing.

She rises from the bed and grabs one of her slippers, then she attacks the cockroach. She smashes the roach continuously with the slipper.

SMASH!

SMASH!

SMASH!

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Die! Die! Die!

She continues...

SMASH!

SMASH!

SMASH!

Anthony notices her aggression and the hate in her eyes. He walks up to her.

ANTHONY

Woah, woah, woah...

He grabs the slipper from her.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Calm down honey.

Destiny is panting.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
It's okay, it's just a roach...

Anthony notices Destiny panting, she seems spaced out.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Destiny snaps out of it.

DESTINY
Yeah, I'm fine.

Anthony looks a little worried.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ DESTINY'S BEDROOM - NEXT DAY

Destiny is lying in bed doing her homework studiously. She hears something in the distance. It's Devin's whining. Destiny is agitated again.

She presses her pencil on her notebook. Devin's cries continues. Destiny's face is angered. She presses the pencil harder on the notepad - SNAP!

The pencil is in half now.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Destiny walks inside of the room, pissed but concealing it. She walks directly to the crib. Devin's cries makes her cringe.

MONA
Destiny...quiet him down...

DESTINY
Okay, mom.

Destiny stares at Devin, crying. Destiny has the look of the devil in her eyes.

She slowly grabs the pillow Devin is lying on. His body rolls off of the pillow.

She then forces the pillow on Devin's entire body. Devin screams louder.

MONA

What's happening? Why is he
screaming louder?

DESTINY

Don't worry, I'm fixing it!

Destiny continues to suffocate Devin savagely with the pillow. He cries painfully. Then, his cries slowly starts to fade away.

Destiny waits about five seconds before removing the pillow from his face. She lifts the pillow up and spots Devin's lifeless body. She stares at it, satisfied.

MONA

Thank you, what did you do?

DESTINY

I just gave him his pacifier.

Destiny walks towards her mother who is across the room. She smiles at her.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Do you need anything?

MONA

Yes baby, can you fix some more
soup? And make sure it's warmer
this time. The soup from last night
was a bit cold.

Destiny glares at her mother, then she quickly conceals it with a smile.

DESTINY

No problem mom.

A beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

You look uncomfortable.

Another beat.

DESTINY (CONT'D)

Let me fluff your pillow for you.

MONA

Oh, thank you.

Mona lifts her head up and Destiny grabs the pillow carefully pretending she's going to fluff it for her mother.

She suddenly snatches the pillow, and forces the pillow unto her mother's face and begins suffocating her.

Mona screams in terror. Her body tries to fight her daughter off but she's too weak. Destiny puts more force on the pillow.

Mona grabs for Destiny's neck and tries choking her. This only makes Destiny more aggressive. Destiny applies more pressure, she grunts. Mona continues to kick and scream. Her cries are muffled.

Her kicks and screams slowly begins to dwindle. She's still now, lifeless...

Destiny slowly raises the pillow from Mona's face. Her eyes and mouth are wide open. Destiny pushes Mona's chin up to close her mouth. She then uses her fingers to slowly close Mona's eye lids.

She stares back at her mother disturbingly.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ DESTINY'S ROOM - DAY

Destiny is dialing her cell phone. She puts the phone to her ear.

RING! RING!

ANTHONY (O.S.)

Hello?

All of a sudden, she begins to cry like she is panicking.

ANTHONY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Peach, what's wrong?

DESTINY

It's mom and Devin!
They're...they're dead!

ANTHONY (O.S.)

WHAT!?

DESTINY

When I came home from school, I found mom in her bed! I tapped her over and over again! She's not waking up! Devin won't wake up either!

ANTHONY

That can't be true! I'm coming home
now!

INT. ANTOHNY'S HOME/ HALLWAY - DAY

Anthony burst through front the door and slams the door
behind him panicked.

ANTHONY

Destiny!? Where are they!?

Destiny runs in the hallway panicked as well.

DESTINY

They are still in the room!

Anthony speeds across the hallway.

INT. ANTHONY'S HOME/ MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Anthony bursts inside of the room and races towards his
wife's corpse, completely shook.

He begins tapping her on her shoulder. She is has stiff as a
board.

ANTHONY

Baby...baby...come on wake up...

Her body is lifeless. Anthony begins to shake her vigorously.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

Come on baby I need you to wake up!
WAKE UP!

He waits for her to wake up - nothing.

Anthony breaks down to his knees and weeps vulnerably.

Destiny walks over to him holding Devin's corpse wrapped up
in a blanket. Crocodile tears fall out of her eyes.

DESTINY

He just won't wake up...

Anthony can't take it and has a meltdown.

ANTHONY

NO! NO! NO!

EXT. GRAVEYARD - AFTERNOON

We see two gravestones buried next to each other.

Anthony is next to them, on his knees, sobbing uncontrollably.

Destiny walks up to him and pats his back. He looks up to her. His eyes are red and his nose is running. He wipes his face off quickly, wanting to appear strong.

ANTHONY

Thank you. I appreciate it.

DESTINY

You're welcome.

Anthony looks up at her. Her face is as stoic as statue. Anthony is confused, inspired even.

ANTHONY

How do you do it? You haven't cried once. How do you stay so strong in a time like this?

DESTINY

I just know they're not suffering anymore and in a better place.

Anthony smiles slightly.

ANTHONY

You know what? That's a beautiful way to look at it.

Anthony rises to his feet and hugs his daughter tightly. Never wanting to let go.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I promise. I'll never let anything like this happen to you.

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)

I love you Peach.

DESTINY

I love you too Dad.

She hugs him back passionately.

ANTHONY

Come on...let's get out of here...

Anthony looks at the gravesites one more time, sheds one more tear, and then walks way with his arm around Destiny.

FADE OUT

INT. JAILHOUSE/ VISITATION ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Anthony's face is in complete awe, he's stunned. His eyes rattle back and forth, tears full out like water falls. He's speechless, looks like he's gone mad.

DESTINY
Dad? You still there?

He continues staring, flabbergasted. Destiny is quiet to let him process everything.

A beat.

ANTHONY
All this time...

Anthony laughs briefly, he's so angry and confused that's all he can do...

DESTINY
If I wasn't in here...Ava would've been next...

Anthony's eyes bulge out of his head.

ANTHONY
What is wrong with you!?

Anthony looks terrified of his daughter.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
So...why not me huh? How come you never tried to kill me?

A beat.

DESTINY
I don't kill people I love, only people who get in the way...

Anthony quickly rises up to his feet and rushes for the exit, he can't take it anymore.

DESTINY (CONT'D)
Dad!? DAD!?

Anthony continues to run away.

INT. COUNTY PRISON/ LOBBY - DAY

Anthony continues to run as if he is running in a race. A security guard sees him.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey, slow down!

Anthony continues to run, holding his heart. He exits out of the building.

EXT. COUNTY PRISON - DAY

Anthony is outside. His thoughts are racing. He's panicking and hyperventilating, gasping for air.

He continues to hold on to his heart, it's beating rapidly, it feels like it's about to jump out of his chest...

THUMP! THUMP!

THUMP! THUMP!

THUMP! THUMP!

He tries grabbing the pill bottle from his pocket but he drops it, he's too dizzy to try and pick it up. He then picks up his phone and begins dialing it manically.

RING! RING!

DR. LANGFORD (O.S.)
Hello, this is Dr. Langford.

Anthony continues to pant.

DR. LANGFORD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Hello?

A beat.

ANTHONY
Yeah, it's me...

DR. LANGFORD (O.S.)
Anthony?

ANTHONY
Yeah, my heart is beating fast, my head is spinning.

DR. LANGFORD
Where are you!?

ANTHONY
Cobb County Prison...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I think, I think I'm about to, I'm
about to...

All of a sudden, Anthony collapses on the ground. We hear Dr. Langford through the phone.

DR. LANGFORD (O.S.)
Anthony?...Anthony!?

FADE OUT

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

Anthony slowly wakes up from his long slumber. He processes where he is. He's in a simple hospital room lying in a bed. He's confused.

AVA
Anthony?

Ava walks up to him. He's even more confused.

ANTHONY
Ava? What are you doing here?
What's going on?

A beat.

AVA
Your therapist called me. He said I
was listed on your emergency
contact. He said you were at the
Cobb County Prison.

A beat.

AVA (CONT'D)
A security guard saw you passed out
outside and called the ambulance.
When I arrived they told me they
sent you here to the this hospital.
Now, here we are...

A beat.

AVA (CONT'D)
What made you pass out? Your therapist said it sounded like a panic attack.

ANTHONY
I don't want to talk about it right now.

His eyes are getting full.

AVA
Okay that's fine, you take your time.

Anthony trembles a little.

ANTHONY
I'm still processing it.

AVA
I understand, you tell me when you're ready.

She holds his hand, he calms down again. Ava's eyes begin to tear up.

ANTHONY
What?

AVA
I'm just happy to see you alive.

She breaks down.

AVA (CONT'D)
I'm sorry...I'm sorry I left you...

ANTHONY
It's okay Ava, I was dumping a lot on you. I went to a therapist and realized it...

A beat.

ANTHONY (CONT'D)
I took the next step and got the help I needed. I just need you to be patient with me...

Ava leans in and kisses him passionately, he accepts it. They let go of the kiss.

AVA
I'll wait a lifetime...

Anthony and Ava smile at each other and hug each other closely.

TIME CARD: 30 YEAR LATER

We see 48 YEAR OLD DESTINY in her jail cell. She sits on her bed, her facial expressions is solemn. She is holding a letter in an envelope.

She opens up the envelope and unfolds a letter. In the letter is a photo. In the photo is 75 YEAR OLD ANTHONY, 70 YEAR OLD AVA, and a 30 YEAR OLD MAN, a 28 YEAR OLD WOMAN, and she is holding an INFANT.

Destiny stares at the photo momentarily. She slightly smiles at the photo. She places the photo on the bed and gears her attention to the letter. She begins to read it.

70 YEAR OLD AVA (V.O.)
Dear Destiny, hello its me Ava. How have you been? It' been a long time. I'm writing this letter on behalf of your father. He has been struggling with stomach cancer for the past three years. He just passed...

Destiny's eyes tear up.

70 YEAR OLD AVA (V.O.)
He wanted me to write you to let you know. He wanted to apologize all this time for not keeping in contact with you. He's sorry for keeping Aaron away from you too. He told me having Aaron was like having second chance with Devin and he didn't want to jeopardize it...

Destiny continues to cry.

70 YEAR OLD AVA (V.O.)
As you can see he grew up to be a fine young man. He went off to college. Went all the way up to get his doctorate's degree and he became a neurosurgeon. As you can see, you're a grand mother...

Destiny smiles at this. She continues reading.

70 YEAR OLD AVA (V.O.)
While your father was dying he told
Aaron about you. He told Aaron why
you are in prison but he didn't
have the heart to tell him what you
did to his grandmother and uncle.
Aaron still wants to visit you
someday. Write me back so we can
set up a day and time, and one last
thing...

A beat.

70 YEAR OLD AVA (V.O.)
Your father wanted you to know that
he never stopped loving you. He
thought about you every single day.
He wishes he could've had a
relationship with you but he just
couldn't for his own stability.

A beat.

70 YEAR OLD AVA (V.O.)
He told me that you will always be
his little peach...

Tears drop from Destiny eyes as she places the letter on the
bed. She sobs mournfully.

FADE OUT

THE END