

Ride or Die

By Nadine

FADE IN

Aerial Shot of snow, trees - DAY

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

People are walking in and out of the coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP

A black man and a white lady are sitting opposite each other at a table. Both are in their mid-30s, the man (Maxwell) is dark-skinned/blue black, he is bald, good looking, slim, medium height, stubble beard - not too much facial hair, wearing stud earrings on both ears, he is wearing a casual shirt and trousers. The lady (Lizette) is slim, short-medium height, beautiful, slightly shorter than Maxwell, she has a dark hair, pixie bob haircut with purple highlights, she is wearing a t-shirt, winter cape, and leggings.

Maxwell is drinking a cup of coffee, Lizette is eating a muffin, there is a cup of tea next to her food. She finishes chewing, wipes her mouth with a napkin, takes a sip of her tea.

LIZETTE

So, how about it?

MAXWELL

Hmmm (Playfully)

Lizette giggles.

MAXWELL

Let me think about it.

They both lean towards each other and kiss each other on the lips.

MAXWELL

You ready to leave?

LIZETTE

Yeah, let's go.

They both get up and get ready to leave.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT

The apartment is an open-plan minimalist one bedroom. Maxwell and Lizette are both in the living room, he has his cellphone in his hand.

MAXWELL

Trey won't get off my back. We gotta get him out of our lives.

Lizette sighs.

LIZETTE

Just go meet him tonight, listen to his crap and then leave.

MAXWELL

Humoring him won't work, Liz.

Lizette sighs.

LIZETTE

Tell you what, let's just forget that punk for a few minutes.

She walks towards Maxwell, they both kiss each other passionately.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. BEDROOM

Lizette and Michael are sitting up in bed, he is shirtless, she is wearing one of his shirts, the quilt is covering their lower extremities. She is smoking a cigarette, she puts the cigarette out on a glass ashtray on the small table next to the bed.

LIZETTE

We need to do that more.

They both giggle.

Maxwell's cell phone on the table next to his side of bed starts to ring.

MAXWELL

Oh, Damn...Trey.

LIZETTE

Max, forget him..

Maxwell picks up his cell phone and answers it.

MAXWELL

Yeah.

(Beat)

MAXWELL

okay...well, I...huh?....look, dude...(sighs) okay, well, I was busy.

(Beat)

...none of your business, man!....I'll be there...give me an hour...okay,

(Beat)

yeah, later.

Maxwell hangs up the phone.

MAXWELL

Babe, I gotta meet Trey. He's pissed.

LIZETTE

Yeah, well, now I'm pissed!

MAXWELL

Let me get rid of this fool and then the sooner I can get back here, I...

LIZETTE

Oh, no no no, I'm not sitting here waiting for you. I'm going out.

MAXWELL

(Sighs) Okay...but I want us to spend the night in, together.

LIZETTE

I'll see you tonight.

Lizette grabs a pack of cigarettes from her table.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. BAR - EVENING

Maxwell is sitting at the bar with a black man (Trey) Trey has shoulder length dreadlocks, they both are wearing casual shirts and trousers.

MAXWELL

I don't appreciate you keep blowing up my cell like this, I was with my lady..

TREY

Nigga, you think I'm tryna be your friend?!

TREY (CONT'D)

You owe us.

MAXWELL

First of all, I'm not a Nigga. And second of all, that was your choice.

TREY

Yeah, well I ain't a snitch! I did time for you, the least you can do is do me one little favor!

MAXWELL

But, it doesn't stop there though does it?!

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

I'll always owe you.

TREY (CONT'D)

It isn't just me that you owe! My boss, Brayton, lost one of his best men for a short time which resulted in him losing money.

MAXWELL

Well why didn't your boss just get someone else to take your place while you were inside?!

TREY

He doesn't trust that easily. I'm one of the very few people that he does trust.

(Beat)

TREY (CONT'D)

Brayton will call you in a couple of days.

TREY (CONT'D)

Make sure you answer on time (sarcastically).

Trey takes a shot of his drink, gets his wallet out of his trouser pocket and puts some cash on the bar, he leaves the bar.

Maxwell looks worried, he takes a shot of his drink.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

The key turns into the keyhole, the door opens, Maxwell walks into the dark apartment, Maxwell flicks the light switch on.

MAXWELL

(Yells out) YO, LIZ.

No answer.

Maxwell takes his cell phone out of his trouser pocket and dials a number.

V.O. ANSWERING MACHINE

Hey, this is Lizette Fairmont, I'm unable to take your call right now, but please leave a message after the beep.

MAXWELL

Liz, it's Max. Look, I'm sorry about earlier. I gotta do something about those thugs. I don't want them affecting us, babe. I'll holla at you later.

He hangs up the phone.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT

Lizette is in a lady's apartment, the lady (Shirley) is around the same age, African-American, slightly taller than Lizette. They are drinking some wine in the kitchen.

SHIRLEY

Girl, you wanna crash here, tonight?

LIZETTE

Yeah, I think I will.

SHIRLEY

You know that I don't dislike Maxwell, right?!
I mean, I don't know him that well, but if you want to remain with him, you know I'll always be here for you...

(Beat)

If he hit you, then I will...

Lizette interrupts.

LIZETTE

No, no, no, never would he do that, he's just making wrong decisions about some guys.

SHIRLEY

(Sighs) Well, let's watch some chick flicks and enjoy this wine.

Shirley puts her arm around Lizette in a best friend style manner, with a bottle of wine in her other hand as they walk into the living room.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Maxwell is waking up in his bed, he is wearing a tank top and shorts, he gets out of the bed and walks to the bathroom which is adjacent to the bedroom, and shuts the door. We hear the shower running.

The key turns in the front door, Lizette walks in, she walks to the bedroom and puts her bag on her table next to the bed. Maxwell peaks his head out of the bathroom.

MAXWELL

Oh, hey, babe.

LIZETTE

Hey.

MAXWELL

Give me five minutes for my shower.

LIZETTE

Yeah, no problem.

MAXWELL

Okay.

Lizette leaves the room, Maxwell closes the bathroom door,
Lizette walks into the kitchen and puts on coffee.

INT. HOUSE

Trey is talking to a man (Brayton) he is tall, African-American,
afro hairstyle.

TREY

Don't worry about Maxwell, he'll fall in line. Think I spooked him, that nigga is scared! I don't think we'll have a problem.

BRAYTON

You sure?

TREY

Yeah.

BRAYTON

For your sake, I hope you're right, because it won't be just his ass that will be dead.

TREY

I get it.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT

Maxwell enters the kitchen, he is wearing a t-shirt, zip hoodie and joggers, Lizette is wearing a cardigan and leggings. Maxwell walks over to Lizette.

MAXWELL

Hey, babe.

They give each other a quick kiss on the lips.

LIZETTE

We gotta talk about this Trey issue.

MAXWELL

Yeah.

LIZETTE

He...

MAXWELL

Baby, there's something I haven't told you.

Lizette looks concerned.

MAXWELL

Trey and this other guy, Brayton, I owe them, they looked out for me at one point in my life, I owe them and they're threatening me, If I don't do a favor for them, it isn't gonna be a good outcome.

Lizette shakes her head in disappointment.

LIZETTE

Go on.

MAXWELL

I was in prison once for...

LIZETTE

Woah, woah, woah...you were in prison?!?!?

MAXWELL

Yeah, I...

LIZETTE

And you didn't think to tell me that little detail the moment we began to get serious?!

MAXWELL

I was in a dark place in my life. I was in prison for Robbery, it was a place of business, no one got hurt...

LIZETTE

Oh, well I guess that's okay then! (Sarcastically)

MAXWELL

It isn't something that I'm proud of.

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

They want me to do a favor for them, I don't want to do it, but I have no choice.

LIZETTE

And you think it's just gonna be this one favor?!

MAXWELL

(Sighs) I know.

MAXWELL

Trey is gonna call me in a couple of days, I guess I'll find out then what they want me to do for them.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Trey and Brayton are in Brayton's living room.

BRAYTON

Here's the plan, Maxwell is gonna drive to the prison...once my sister is out, Max is gonna drive her to the Tarmac, and meet me and my wife there, then we're getting on that private plane and we outta here!

Trey nods his head.

TREY

Got it.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Maxwell and Lizette are sitting up in bed, he has his arm around her.

MAXWELL

You know I love you right?

You know I'll do anything for you, and I hope you would do anything for me.

LIZETTE

What are you saying, Max?

(Beat)

LIZETTE

You want to involve me in this chaos with these people?!

Maxwell doesn't answer.

LIZETTE

I'll take that as a 'yes'.

LIZETTE (CONT'D)

If you love me, you wouldn't put me in danger, you would keep me out of it!

MAXWELL

I do love you. Don't do that.

LIZETTE

Don't do what?! (Slightly angrily and frustrated).

Maxwell gets out of bed, he is wearing a vest and shorts. He grabs his clothes at the end of the bed, grabs a bag out of the closet and puts some clothes in it.

MAXWELL

I'm gonna head to the gym for an hour.

LIZETTE

What? No, we need to talk about this.

Maxwell puts his clothes on.

MAXWELL

I gotta go, I love you.

He leaves the bedroom and leaves the apartment.

INT. GYM

Maxwell is wearing a baggy T-Shirt and Tracksuit trousers. He is boxing on a punching bag, he is intense. He stops boxing and walks to the watercooler.

EXT. GYM

Maxwell is walking to his car, his sports bag is on his shoulder, his car is an expensive dark blue Mercedes-Maybach. His cell phone rings, he takes the phone out of his trouser pocket.

MAXWELL

Hello?

INT. HOUSE

Trey is on his cell phone.

TREY

Yeah, it's Trey.

INTERCUT. MAXWELL/TREY

MAXWELL

You said you'll call in a couple of days.

TREY

Yeah, well, my Boss is kinda impatient.

MAXWELL

So, when do you want to meet?

TREY

Tomorrow...my place.

MAXWELL

Fine.

Maxwell hangs up the phone.

EXT. APARTMENT

Maxwell puts his key in the keyhole and enters the apartment.

INT. APARTMENT

Lizette is on the sofa in the living room, watching TV, she is drinking a glass of wine.

Maxwell walks over to her.

MAXWELL

Hey, baby.

They both kiss each other.

LIZETTE

Hey.

Maxwell picks up the TV remote from the table and turns off the TV.

LIZETTE

(Chuckles) Hey, I was watching that.

MAXWELL

Honey, we gotta talk. It's important.

He sits on the sofa next to Lizette, they both turn and face each other.

MAXWELL

This thing with Trey...they want me to do something for them, something extremely risky.

(Beat)

MAXWELL

They want me to break a woman out of prison.

LIZETTE

What?!

MAXWELL

I have to do it, I mean, these are bad guys, I can't play with them. They're not the type of people...

Lizette interrupts.

LIZETTE

They want you to break someone out of prison?! And you are willing to commit this crime?! Because that's what it is, Max, it's a crime! (angrily and annoyed)

(beat)

LIZETTE

You're the one who will end up in prison, and you're worried about them?! (angrily). How about you worry about yourself! About your own freedom.

MAXWELL

I've thought about that, Liz, believe me, and with their threats...they are not playing around, I gotta do this.

LIZETTE

And who is this bitch that you're risking your freedom for?!
Hmm?! (angrily)

MAXWELL

Babe, the less you know, the better.

LIZETTE

No, don't treat me like a child, you're telling me this, you may
as well tell me everything.

MAXWELL

The woman is Trey's boss's sister.

(beat)

MAXWELL

I don't give a damn about her, I'm more worried about their
threats, they have no problem coming after me.

LIZETTE

So, when are you supposed to do this?

MAXWELL

I don't know, I'm gonna meet with them tomorrow, I guess I'll
know then.

(Beat)

MAXWELL

Are you gonna leave me?

(Beat)

LIZETTE

No, baby, I'm not gonna leave you. I love you, you know that.

(Beat)

LIZETTE (CONT'D)

We've been together for three years. I love you and I know you love me.

Maxwell gives Lizette a warm smile.
They hug.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Maxwell, Trey and Brayton, are in Brayton's living room.

BRAYTON

You made the right choice, my man.

MAXWELL

Yeah, whatever, just tell me what the plan is.

BRAYTON

In four days, we're gonna break my lil sister out of prison. I have some guys who have been scoping the place for months. Their final yard time is six pm, good old Michigan has seasons, so we know it will be dark by that time. You will be driving a black SUV, one of my guys will be with you, there's sat nav, but you know I don't fully trust you (chuckles). You will arrive at the tarmac, me and my lady will be waiting. Me, my wife and my sis will take off on our private jet, you drive away, your debt is paid, end of story.

MAXWELL

How do I know that's the end?! How do I know you'll leave me alone after this?!

BRAYTON

I guess you don't.

(Beat)

BRAYTON

But one thing about me is that I always keep my word, keeping my word is like not snitching, it's an important rule.

DISSOLVE TO

OUTDOOR BASKETBALL COURT - EVENING

Maxwell is playing basketball with five other men, they are all different races, same age as Maxwell.

BASKETBALL BUDDY 1

So, how's it going wit you and your lady?

MAXWELL

None of your business! That's how it's going!

They are talking as they are playing.

BASKETBALL BUDDY 1

Just trying to make conversation, you don't gotta trip.

Basketball Buddy 1 trips Maxwell up, he falls over. Three of the five guys laugh. Maxwell is in pain holding his ankle, he attempts to get up.

MAXWELL

Imma whoop yo ass!

Maxwell falls back down.

Basketball Buddy 2/James tries to help Maxwell get up.

JAMES

Why don't you guys grow up, huh?!

(Beat)

JAMES

Game over.

The other basketball buddies are talking, as they are packing up their things. Their words are inaudible.

JAMES (To Maxwell)

Let me help you to your car.

MAXWELL (To James)

Thanks, James.

James helps Maxwell walk to his car.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT

Lizette is on her cell phone.

LIZETTE

Girl, you know he's my favorite actor...

(Beat)

...yeah, (laughs) yeah, we should go see that movie next week or something.

The keys turns in the door, the door opens, Maxwell and James enter the apartment. Maxwell is in pain, and is hopping to the sofa as James is helping him get to the sofa.

LIZETTE

Oh my God, what happened?

JAMES (To Lizette)

Some idiot who we were playing basketball with was running his mouth about you and then tripped Maxwell up.

MAXWELL

That moron is lucky my ankle snapped.

LIZETTE

Max, stop it.

LIZETTE (To James)

Thank you for helping him.

JAMES (To Lizette)

No problem.

Look, I'm gonna take off.

JAMES

Take care, Max.

MAXWELL

Okay, thank you.

JAMES

Welcome.
See you guys.

James leaves the apartment.

LIZETTE

I'll get some ice.

Lizette gets an ice pack from the kitchen, she returns and hands it to Maxwell.

MAXWELL

Thanks.

He puts the ice pack on his swollen ankle.

MAXWELL

I'm gonna have to tell Brayton that I'm out. I can't do the job like this, even if I can still drive with this ankle, it won't be acceptable and I don't know what Brayton will do.

LIZETTE

But, you're injured, won't they give you a pass?

MAXWELL

No, Liz, they won't.

Liz sighs in frustration.

(Beat)

LIZETTE

This is ridiculous...They can get someone else.

MAXWELL

Brayton likes to keep his circle very small, I don't wanna be a part of that circle, but right now I am.

LIZETTE

Okay, I have an idea. How about I drive.

MAXWELL

What? No, no way. I'm not putting my woman at risk.

LIZETTE

Listen, you keep telling me that they won't let you go until this job is done.

(Beat)

LIZETTE

I love you, I want to do this for you, so that these people can leave you alone...so that they can leave us alone.

MAXWELL

Are you sure?

LIZETTE

Yes, I'm sure.

MAXWELL

I don't even know if Brayton will allow this, he wants me to...

Lizette interrupts.

LIZETTE

But, if he does allow this, I will do it.

(Beat)

Maxwell sighs.

MAXWELL

Okay, I will call them tomorrow.

Lizette leans towards Maxwell to kiss him, they both kiss each other.

LIZETTE

I love you.

MAXWELL

I love you too.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. SUV CAR - NIGHT

Maxwell, Gangster Thug, and Lizette are in the car. Lizette is in the driver's seat, Maxwell is in the front passenger seat, Gangster Thug is in the back passenger seat. The car is outside Brayton's house.

GANGSTER THUG

Y'all know how to get there. Let's get moving.

Lizette starts the car.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. WOMEN'S PRISON - NIGHT

INT. SUV CAR

LIZETTE

So, this woman is gonna be here within 20 minutes?!

(Beat)

LIZETTE

What is she in for?

GANGSTER THUG

Don't worry about what she in there for, just do yo job!

MAXWELL (To Gangster Thug)

Nigga, you better watch your mouth, talking to my girlfriend like that!

GANGSTER THUG (To Maxwell)

(Chuckles) What you gonna do, Nigga?!
Your woman needs a real man.

Maxwell angrily takes off his seatbelt and attempts to exit the car to fight Gangster Thug. But Maxwell displays a bit of pain from his ankle.

LIZETTE (To Maxwell)

Baby, it's not worth it. Put your seatbelt back on.

Maxwell puts his seatbelt back on.

GANGSTER THUG (To Lizette)

Honey, how about I give you my number?!

LIZETTE (To Gangster Thug)

How about you stop talking to me! We all know you don't even like white women, I saw your girlfriend back at your boss's house, she is as black as my boyfriend. So, stop being weird and shut the fuck up.

GANGSTER THUG (To Lizette)

You really wanna know what Destiny is in prison for?...she beat a young lady really badly...put her in hospital...the girl gonna be okay, but it was a serious assault...the girl disrespected her over somethin stupid...Destiny was tryna impress Brayton or somethin....Bray practically raised her.

All of a SUDDEN, a person is climbing over the prison wall. Everyone in the car looks shocked and serious.

GANGSTER THUG

This is it.

MAXWELL

This is really happening.

GANGSTER THUG (To Lizette)

Yo, Lizette, start the car.

Lizette starts the car.

The escaped prisoner/Brayton's sister, Destiny, RUNS to the car, she is in her mid 20s, has a messy unkempt afro, wearing a standard prison sweater and jogging trousers. Gangster Thug opens the door, she runs in the passenger seat and shuts the car door.

GANGSTER THUG (To Lizette)

(Panicked) DRIVE! LET'S GO! LET'S GO!

Lizette drives the car out of there. We see the prison LIGHTS go on in the distance and we hear an extremely loud ALARM coming from the prison.

GANGSTER THUG (To Lizette)

(Panicked) PICK UP THE SPEED! WE GOTTA GO!

LIZETTE (To Gangster Thug)

(Annoyed) What do you think I'm doing?!

Lizette speeds the car up.

All of a sudden, there are POLICE CARS following them, the police cars have FLASHING LIGHTS and LOUD SIRENS.

POLICE VIA TANNOY

STOP! POLICE! STOP YOUR VEHICLE!

Lizette does NOT stop, she SPEEDS UP even more.

She drives through suburban streets until she comes out at a busy road, she NEARLY CRASHES into another car, the other car driver BEEPS his horn at her. Lizette drives straight down the busy road, running a RED light, a few cars ALMOST crash into each other, the POLICE are still behind them. She turns left, and then makes a sharp right, the police car is no longer behind them.

Maxwell laughs.

MAXWELL

We lost them! We lost them!

Maxwell laughs again.

MAXWELL (To Lizette)

You did good, baby.

Lizette continues driving straight.

PRIVATE TARMAC

Brayton and his wife are waiting with a private plane.
Brayton looks at his watch.

BRAYTON

They're fifteen minutes late. They better be here, or Maxwell is dead.

(Beat)

The SUV arrives. The passenger car door opens, Destiny is smiling and runs towards Brayton, Brayton smiles the moment she gets out of the car. Destiny runs straight into her brother's arms. They intensely hug each other.

DESTINY

Hey, big bro.

BRAYTON

Hey, little sis.

Gangster Thug, exits the car and walks towards them.

BRAYTON (To Gangster Thug)

Thanks, man.

GANGSTER THUG

You know I always got your back, Bray, but thank the white bitch over there. She's mouthy, but she's fine as hell and she got us out of a car chase with the police.

BRAYTON

(Concerned/slightly worried) A car chase?

GANGSTER THUG

Yeah.

BRAYTON

Alright, y'all get on the plane, I'll be there in a minute.

Brayton's wife, his sister and Gangster Thug walk towards the private plane.

Brayton walks towards the car.

INT. SUV CAR

Maxwell starts to get out of the car.

LIZETTE

Max, what are you doing?

MAXWELL

Just gonna talk to him for a sec.

Maxwell gets out of the car and walks/limps towards Brayton. They start talking, but the conversation is inaudible. Brayton starts to walk towards the plane, Maxwell starts walking back to the car. Maxwell gets into the passenger front seat.

MAXWELL

Me and him are square. He won't bother us anymore.

LIZETTE

Are you sure?

MAXWELL

Yeah.

(Beat)

MAXWELL

One thing about Niggas like that is they stick to their word, it's like not snitching on someone...you just don't do that.

Lizette nods her head.

LIZETTE

Alright, so, what the hell do we do now?! I mean, the cops are gonna be looking for us, we can't go back to our apartment, we can't go back to our jobs, I can't go back to my life. (Starts to get upset and teary).

MAXWELL

Liz, it's gonna be okay!

(Beat)

MAXWELL

You can be a chef anywhere, and I can survey at any company.

Lizette nods her head, while upset, tears rolling down her face. Maxwell puts his arms around her and pulls her to him and hugs her, she embraces the hug and is crying.

MAXWELL

We're gonna be okay, Lizzy.

The private plane is leaving the Tarmac in the distance.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Lizette and Maxwell are packing their bags. All of a sudden, there is an extremely loud BANG at the door, then ANOTHER, then ANOTHER.

O.S. POLICE OFFICER

(Shouting) THIS IS THE POLICE! OPEN THE DOOR!

Lizette and Maxwell looked worried and scared.

MAXWELL

Let's find another way to get out of here.

He walks towards one of the windows.

MAXWELL

Shit! The cops are down there. Can't even use the fire escape.

They both walk towards the other windows, there are cops on the ground looking up at the windows.

O.S. POLICE OFFICER

(Shouting) YOU'RE SURROUNDED! YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO GO! GIVE YOURSELVES UP! IT'S OVER!

(Beat)

MAXWELL (To Lizette)

We're gonna have to surrender.

The police are still banging on the door.

MAXWELL (To Lizette)

We're gonna get the best lawyers. Do not say anything to the cops.

There is more loud banging on the door.

MAXWELL (To Lizette)

We lawyer up immediately.

LIZETTE (To Maxwell)

Yeah.

Lizette looks worried.

(Beat)

MAXWELL (To Lizette)

Alright, let's let these motherfuckers in.

(Beat)

MAXWELL (To Lizette)

I love you.

LIZETTE (To Maxwell)

I love you too, baby.

They kiss passionately.

MAXWELL

Let's do this.

Lizette nods her head in agreement.

Maxwell walks towards the door and opens it.

The police rush in and aggressively handcuff both of them while reading their rights.

Some of the police dialogue is inaudible, until we hear...

POLICE OFFICER 1 (To Lizette)

Lizette Fairmont, We are arresting you for aiding and abetting an escaped prisoner. You do not have to say anything, you have a right to an attorney.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM

Lizette is sitting next to her lawyer, Mr Hill.

A male detective is sitting opposite them.

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

Miss Fairmont, your boyfriend Maxwell Brown, is in the next room talking to my colleague, and he is doing a lot more talking than you are!

(Beat)

LIZETTE (To Male Detective)

What do you mean?
I want to see him.

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

You can't see him right now.

Lizette's lawyer whispers something in her ear.

Lizette's Lawyer (To Male Detective)

Enough of these mind games.
Now, are you charging my client with something or not?!

Male Detective stands up.

MALE DETECTIVE

Sit tight.

Male Detective leaves the room.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM 2

Maxwell is sitting with his lawyer, Miss Kashon.

A female detective is sitting opposite them.

FEMALE DETECTIVE (To Maxwell)

Mr Brown, you want to tell me what happened? Because you're in a lot of trouble!

(Beat)

FEMALE DETECTIVE (To Maxwell)

Helping a prisoner escape from a penitentiary, and we still have not located Destiny Lewis, or her brother Brayton Lewis.

(Beat)

FEMALE DETECTIVE (To Maxwell)

The best thing you can do for yourself is to tell me everything.

(Beat)

Maxwell looks at his lawyer, she nods her head at him.
Maxwell looks at the female detective.

(Beat)

MAXWELL (To Female Detective)

(Sighs) Okay, this is what happened.

(Beat)

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

My girlfriend, Lizette Fairmont, this was her idea.

(Beat)

MAXWELL (CONT'D)

She owed Brayton Lewis money and she decided to help break his sister out of prison to settle the debt. It was a lot of money she owed him, money she could not afford to pay back.

Maxwell continues talking, the conversation becomes inaudible.
The female detective stands up and leaves the room.

EXT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM 2

The Male Detective who is questioning Lizette, is walking
towards police interrogation room 2.

FEMALE DETECTIVE

I've got a lot of information from Maxwell Brown, he says
Lizette Fairmont was in charge of the prison escape, he says she
owed Brayton Lewis money.

Male Detective has a puzzled look on his face.

MALE DETECTIVE

Really?! Well, Lizette Fairmont said that her and her boyfriend
are both not to blame, that Brayton Lewis threatened Mr Brown's
life, she admits she willingly took part in the escape, but for
her man as she put it.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM 1

Lizette is still with her lawyer, Lizette looks worried.
Male Detective enters the room and sits down.

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette and her lawyer)
I've just spoken to my colleague, she questioned Maxwell Brown,
and Maxwell says that Lizette is to blame for all of this.

Lizette looks shocked and upset.

LIZETTE (To Male Detective)

What?

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

Maxwell Brown says that you're the one who owes Brayton Lewis
money, and that you orchestrated the plan to break Mr Lewis's
sister out of prison.

(Beat)

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

Your boyfriend has turned on you.

Lizette looks confused, worried and shocked. Tears well up in
her eyes.

LIZETTE (To Male Detective)

You're lying.

(Beat)

LIZETTE (To Male Detective)

This is one of those police tactics that you guys play... well, I'm not buying it! (shaky voice / upset).

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

I'll get you some water...give you and your lawyer time to talk things over.

Male Detective gets up and leaves the room.

Lizette puts her head into her hands and starts crying. Her lawyer puts his hand on her shoulder.

LIZETTE'S LAWYER

Listen, stick to your story... whatever game this Detective is playing, stick to what you told them, to what you told me.

LIZETTE

We were talking about getting married next year, why would he do this to me?! (crying)

LIZETTE'S LAWYER

We don't know if he has turned on you. Like I said, stick to your story.

Male Detective returns with water and tissues, he puts them on the table.

LIZETTE (To Male Detective)

Thank you.

Lizette wipes her nose and her eyes with the tissues, and drinks some water.

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

So, Miss Fairmont, do you want to give me any more information?

LIZETTE (To Male Detective)

No. I'm sticking to my story.

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

Okay, well we're going to charge you, as we have evidence of you fleeing the scene and fleeing from our officers in the SUV, and you're also admitting that you participated in the crime.

LIZETTE (To Male Detective)

What about Maxwell? What's gonna happen to him?

MALE DETECTIVE (To Lizette)

He is being charged as well.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Lizette is sitting with her lawyer, and Maxwell is also sitting next to his lawyer.

BAILIFF

Will the defendants please stand.

Lizette and her lawyer, Maxwell and his lawyer stand up.

JUDGE

Lizette Fairmont, I am sentencing you to 2 years in prison.

Tears well up in Lizette's eyes.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Taking into consideration that you have no criminal record, as well as being a well-respected worker in the culinary industry, I'm giving you a chance. You will start serving your sentence immediately at Indianapolis Penitentiary for women.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Maxwell Brown, you are sentenced to a year in prison.

Lizette is shocked and interrupts.

LIZETTE

What?! He gets a year?!? And I get two years?!? These were his people...this is not fair...this son of a...

JUDGE (To Lizette's Lawyer)

Mr Hill, I suggest you calm your client.

LIZETTE'S LAWYER (To the Judge)

I apologize, your honor. My client is very upset.

Lizette's Lawyer whispers something inaudible in Lizette's ear.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Maxwell Brown, considering the deal you made with your lawyer, that you admit to participating in the crime and that Miss Fairmont knew the people and orchestrated the escape.

Lizette interrupts.

LIZETTE (TO the Judge)

THAT IS NOT TRUE! HE ORIGINALLY WAS GOING TO BE THE DRIVER...THIS IS...

The judge uses his gavel.

JUDGE (To Lizette)

Miss Fairmont...

LIZETTE'S LAWYER (To Lizette)

(Whispers) You can't have an outburst like this, it's done. Maxwell made the deal first. We cannot prove that you didn't know Mr Lewis.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Maxwell Brown, you will serve your sentence immediately at Indianapolis Men's Penitentiary.

The Judge signals to the Bailiffs to escort them to the jail cells.

As Lizette and Maxwell are being escorted out of the courtroom to their separate jail cells, Lizette looks at Maxwell, she has an expression of being heartbroken.

Maxwell looks at Lizette, he has a guilty look on his face, it's clear that he feels bad about turning against her to save himself.

2 YEARS LATER

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. WOMEN'S PRISON - DAY

Lizette exits the prison gates, she is holding a plastic bag with her jewelry in it, she is wearing trousers and a buttoned up denim shirt, she still has the short dark pixie haircut, the hairstyle is a little bit longer, but still short, and without the purple highlights. She stands still for a moment, and looks up towards the sky, she closes her eyes for a moment with a mouth-closed smile.

A car pulls up, the car door opens, it's her friend, Shirley.

SHIRLEY

Hey, girl. (smiles)

Get in.

Lizette smiles and chuckles at the same time.

She gets into the car. The car drives away from the prison.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. SHIRLEY'S APARTMENT

Lizette and Shirley are drinking tea in the kitchen.

LIZETTE

Wow, do I miss the simple things like this!

SHIRLEY

I've got something stronger if you want. Some wine?

LIZETTE

No, I'm good.

Lizette takes another sip of her tea.

(Beat)

LIZETTE

I'm glad I can wear my own clothes again.

SHIRLEY

They let you change into your clothes before you leave?

LIZETTE

Yep! Along with the belongings I came in with, which was just my watch and my earrings which was a present from...

Lizette has a sad look on her face for a moment.
Shirley looks at Lizette with compassion.

SHIRLEY

Liz, let me give you a hug.

Shirley walks over to Lizette and puts her arms around her,
Lizette hugs Shirley back. They hug for a few seconds.

SHIRLEY

Do you have anywhere to stay? The apartment...I hope you're not going back there.

LIZETTE

My Mom went there and it's vacant.

SHIRLEY

You never told me you and your mom are on speaking terms again.

LIZETTE

Yeah, it's something I didn't want to delve into...Me and my mom stopped talking because she didn't like Maxwell...I may as well say his name.

(Beat)

LIZETTE (CONT'D)

Obviously she was right about him...that he would hurt me really badly eventually.

SHIRLEY

So, Maxwell never wrote to you? Or visited you, once he got out?

LIZETTE

No...He never did.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. BAR - NIGHT

MAXWELL is in a bar having a drink with a lady, she is white, slim, her dirty blonde hair is in a bun on top of her head.

MAXWELL'S ONLINE DATE

So, you said online that you're new to Los Angeles.
So, what brings you to this great place? (chuckles).

MAXWELL

I just wanted a change, you know, a change of scenery, a new life, a change of everything.

Maxwell's online date nods her head.

MAXWELL'S ONLINE DATE

I hear that.

Maxwell has a look on his face as though he is remembering Lizette, his facial expression is a mixture of warm feelings with slight sadness.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. SHIRLEY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Lizette is browsing on her laptop in the living room.
Shirley walks into the living room with two ice teas and puts them on the coffee table.

LIZETTE

Ooh, fantastic, thank you.

Lizette picks up a glass and starts drinking her ice tea.

SHIRLEY

Look, I know you keep telling me that you're focused on finding a job and a new place, but I have a guy that I think you would get along with....

Lizette puts her ice tea on the table.

LIZETTE

Shirley, didn't I already tell you that I'm not thinking about dating right now?!

SHIRLEY

I know, babe, but look, it's just a date, a double-date, I got a date too.

LIZETTE

I don't know, Shirl, I...

SHIRLEY

It's been a month...Maxwell hasn't tried to contact you, he hasn't reached out to you, he never went to visit you in prison, he threw you under the bus.

LIZETTE

I know, and I know I need to get over him, and I will...

SHIRLEY

Really?

LIZETTE

Yes.

It's over, it's been over ever since the sentencing, and...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. COURTROOM

Lizette and Maxwell look at each other while they are both being escorted out of the courtroom to the jail cells.

END FLASHBACK

LIZETTE

And I haven't been trying to find him, I haven't tried to reach out to him either, it's long over!

SHIRLEY

So??...how about that double-date? It could be the start of a friendship, and nothing more.

(Beat)

LIZETTE

(Sighs) Okay, okay.

Shirley smiles.

SHIRLEY

Yes!

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Lizette and her new date, and Shirley and her new date are walking out of the movie theater.

Shirley's date is a black guy, tall.

Lizette's date is a little bit taller than her, medium height, not dark skin, but not light skin, he has a nerdy and nice look and style, he is wearing nerd style glasses, afro taper fade waves haircut.

SHIRLEY'S DATE

Y'all wanna go get some ice cream or something?

LIZETTE

Yep. Sounds good to me.

SHIRLEY

There's a ice cream parlor that's open till late, just round the corner.

LIZETTE'S DATE

Okay, well let's go.

They all walk to the ice cream parlor.

INT. ICE CREAM PARLOR

They are all sitting at a table, with their ice creams.
Lizette and Shirley are sitting next to each other opposite their dates, Shirley is talking to her date, while Lizette is talking to her new date.
The conversations are inaudible.

FADE TO BLACK

NARRATOR. LIZETTE (V.O.)

I can move on from Maxwell, I can accept my part in the crime that I spent two years in prison for...

(Beat)

NARRATOR. LIZETTE (V.O.) CONT'D

I can accept that I didn't have to do it, I can accept that I could have left him long before the crime that changed my life...

(Beat)

NARRATOR. LIZETTE (V.O.) CONT'D

I loved him and I was loyal to him, but one of life's lessons is loyalty is not always reciprocated.

(Beat)

NARRATOR. LIZETTE (V.O.) CONT'D

I loved him, but I ultimately found out that he never loved me...

(Beat)

NARRATOR. LIZETTE (V.O.) CONT'D

...and that is something I can accept too.

THE END.

