

UNDOUBTED

Written by

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BLACKNESS

The sounds of drugged, labored breaths.

FADE IN:

INT. LUXURIOUS HOTEL - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

FROM JANAЕ'S POV...a blurred vision of an upscale hotel room. She's on her back on the bed. She slowly blinks a few times, but her vision remains out of focus.

JANAЕ UGOCHUKWU'S (18/African American) is revealed to be on the bed in lingerie. She's been clearly drugged and her motor skills have been diminished to just eye movement and some twitches of fingers and toes here and there.

Realization comes over her as she looks down at her body. She trembles and her breaths become more fast-paced.

Then, the door to the room opens and a MAN wearing a mascaraed mask and dressed in a tuxedo enters.

He slowly approaches the bed as Janae's eyes widen in fear. She breathes heavily.

MAN

My, my. What a fine specimen you  
turned out to be.

The Man slowly moves to the side of the bed and gently runs his fingers along her legs, torso, and arms.

He then leans down and gently kisses her.

MAN (CONT'D)

You taste better than I  
anticipated.

Janae trembles and tears fall from her eyes.

MAN (CONT'D)

Don't cry. You'll ruin the moment.

Janae turns her gaze up to the ceiling.

FOCUS ON HER...as the sounds of the Man undressing are heard.

Then, the Man lays on top of her and she tightly closes her eyes as he kisses her from her neck and moves down.

CUT TO BLACK.

The sounds of Janae's muffled moans of agony mixed with the satisfied grunts and heavy breaths of the Man.

Then...SILENCE

FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH - MORNING

CHURCH MEMBERS make their way into the building from the parking lot and pass by a bulletin board with a mixture of old tattered flyers and freshly printed ones. It's banner ironically reads, *Our Blessed Community*.

FOCUS ON...three missing girl flyers that include their name, age, height, weight, and last known location. One of the girls is Janae. The other two are MYA BRIDGES (early 20s/African American) and SARAH CREIGHTON (early 20s/African American).

LISA (early 60s/African American) and MARCUS (mid 20s/African American) make their way towards the entrance. Lisa is a woman who puts family above all else, while Marcus a level-headed, hard-working young man with abandonment issues.

Marcus stops in front of the bulletin board and examine the missing girl posters. Lisa notices.

MARCUS

There's another one.

Lisa slowly makes her way over to the bulletin board and lightly places her hand on Sarah's.

LISA

Do you know her?

Marcus shakes his head.

Lisa waits a moment longer and encouragingly rubs his back.

LISA (CONT'D)

Come on, baby. We don't want to lose our seats.

She ushers Marcus into the church.

INT. CHURCH - SANCTUARY - MOMENTS LATER

The church is small but opulent. Church Members fill in the unoccupied seats. Lisa and Marcus take their seats in the front left pew.

Marcus glances behind him to see KARLA (early 20s/African American), a stunning, big natural hair beauty with conservative attire. She's seated next to her PARENTS.

She winks at him and he winks back.

JAMES (early 60s/African American), a tall, imposing, clean-cut, pastor takes center stage behind a podium.

He waits a moment, then...

JAMES  
(booming)  
What a mighty God we serve. Amen.

A few Church Members mumble an "Amen".

James shakes his head and adjusts the microphone. He leans in close to it and...

JAMES (CONT'D)  
(louder)  
What a mighty God we serve! Amen?!

CHURCH MEMBERS  
Amen!

James breathes a satisfied breath.

JAMES  
Brothers and sisters, we serve the Father of miracles. We serve the Father of love. The Father of peace.  
(beat)  
In the present, our community is being tested as love and peace have seemingly been snatched from our grasps. But I do not fear. No. For the God we serve will show us His miracles and bring peace and love back to our community when those three girls return to their families in perfect health!

Lisa slightly glances around as various Church Members raise their hands in praise while others silently beg with their hands clasped and eyes tightly closed.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
If I may, I'd like to delay the beginning of our service and work as one as a community in prayer.

James motions to DIANE (early 60s/African American) to approach the podium. She encompasses a posture of superiority and smiles with equal smugness.

Diane stands and walks to the podium.

DIANE

You all know their names. Mya Bridges. Janae Ugochukwu. And now, Sarah Creighton.

(beat)

Each of these young women are shining lights in our communities. Though I didn't have the pleasure of knowing them on a more personal level, I have had the honor to meet their parents and learn more about them. I'd like to invite them up at this time.

Lisa tightens her grip on her purse handle; wringing it out like a towel.

Marcus notices and gently places his hand on hers to calm her down.

She quickly and softly smiles and turns her attention back to Diane.

A group of six PARENTS (ages 45-60) make their way up to the podium. One set of the Parents hold baby ISAAC in their arms.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Mya is working towards her Masters in theology. Janae is about to graduate from high school in the top twenty percent of her class. Sarah is a new mother to her son, Isaac.

Diane takes Isaac's little hand in hers with a sympathetic gaze.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Let us all lay our hands over these men and women who are praying every moment of ever day that their daughters will come home.

Church Members all raise their hands towards the group of Parents as James moves back to the podium.

JAMES

Brothers and sisters, let us bow  
our heads in prayer.

The Church Members bow their heads.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Lord God, in your son's mighty  
name, we ask that you bring peace  
for these missing girls and their  
families, oh God.

(beat)

We ask you to cover our daughters  
with your blanket of protection,  
for we know, no weapon formed  
against them shall prosper...

James' voice slowly falls into the background as the FOCUS  
MOVES TO LISA. Her head is bowed but her eyes are wide open  
with distress.

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, IN THE CHURCH...a YOUNGER DIANE (early 40s)  
stands at the podium and holds up a photo of a YOUNG WOMAN.

IN THE FRONT ROW...a YOUNGER LISA (late 30s) stares at the  
photo with tears coming down her face. She holds a BABY in  
her arms and anxiously bounces him up and down on her knee.

FLASH CUT

BACK IN REALITY...Lisa's lips tremble and she fights the urge  
to cry.

SMASH CUT

AFTER SERVICE HAS CONCLUDED...church organ music plays as  
Church Members make their way to the exit.

Lisa remains in her seat and glares at Diane as she embraces  
one of the sobbing Parents.

Marcus gently taps her on the shoulder.

MARCUS

Grandma...

Lisa snaps out of her intense stare and looks back at him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I'm gonna bring the car up front.

She nods with a slight smile.

Marcus glances over at Diane, back at Lisa, and then walks down the aisle.

Lisa's gaze turns back to Diane who eventually glances over at her.

With that, Lisa stands and walks down the aisle towards the exit.

EXT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus drives the car near the front and puts it into park.

He sighs and glances over at the bulletin board for a moment.

Suddenly, Karla jumps into his view.

KARLA

Boo!

Marcus jumps in fright as Karla laughs. He puts his hand on his chest and deeply exhales.

MARCUS

Shit, Karla, are you trying to kill me?

KARLA

You free to stop by tomorrow?

MARCUS

I got a job but I think I can make some time.

KARLA

Oh, you think?

MARCUS

I'll be there.

KARLA

Good. It's a date.

Karla blows him a kiss and walks back towards the church.

Marcus, clearly lost in lust, watches her but then turns to see Lisa exit the church with Diane tailing her.

DIANE

Lisa...

Lisa ignores her and keeps walking towards the parking lot.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I know you can hear me.

Lisa stops and turns back with a forced smile.

LISA

Diane. Sorry. My hearing isn't what it used to be.

DIANE

Someone told me that this is your last week at the mall. Are the rumors true?

LISA

They are.

DIANE

That's so disappointing to hear. I thought you love your job?

LISA

I did, but my manager was giving me far too many additional responsibilities that are better suited for someone...more in-tune with their goals.

DIANE

I figured you'd be there forever. Everyone will be so sad to see you go.

LISA

What do you want, Diane?

DIANE

(surprised)

I just simply wanted to wish you well on your retirement. Best of luck.

Diane flashes a fake smile and turns on her heel to walk back towards the church.

Lisa grabs Diane's wrist with authority and yanks Diane closer to her.

Diane nervously chuckles and looks around to see if anyone is watching.

LISA

Don't you ever speak to me again. Is that understood?



Diane glares at her and Lisa releases her grip on her wrist.

Lisa walks towards the car as Diane rubs her wrist and quickly walks back to the church.

MARCUS  
(to himself)  
What in the world...

Diane notices Karla and quickly flashes a smile and a wave.

DIANE  
Karla! Can we chat?

Karla nods and follows Diane into the church.

Marcus quickly turns on the radio and looks off in the other direction as Lisa gets in the car.

LISA  
Let's go.

Marcus puts the car in drive and slowly pulls away.

INT. MARCUS' CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus and Lisa drive in silence while the radio plays torturous smooth jazz music.

MARCUS  
So...that was a bit more than  
usual.

Lisa raises an eyebrow and looks over at him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
With Diane. Did she cut you out of  
the prayer group or something?

Lisa snickers and shakes her head.

LISA  
She is the snake that slithers in  
the Garden of Eden. I finally had  
enough of it. That's all.

MARCUS  
She cheating on Pastor James?

LISA  
Boy, get your mind out of the  
gutter.

MARCUS

It wouldn't be there if someone  
didn't always leave me in the dark.

Lisa sighs and rubs her forehead.

LISA

Some things are better left unsaid.  
Trust me.

Marcus takes this in and sits in silence for a moment.

MARCUS

So is this the same thing like how  
you never tell me about my parents?

LISA

I've told you there's nothing to  
tell. Your Father was a drug addict  
who's probably dead in a ditch  
somewhere and your mother...

Lisa struggles a bit but keeps her emotions bottled up.

LISA (CONT'D)

...Your mother was a good person  
who got the raw end of the stick.

MARCUS

Same ol' same...

(beat)

I barely even know what she looked  
like. You just shut down every time  
I ask.

LISA

Because she's gone. She's been gone  
since the moment you were born and  
there's nothing we can do about it.  
Now drop the damn thing.

Marcus shakes his head in frustration.

Lisa sighs and looks over at Marcus with a concerned gaze.

LISA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, baby. I don't mean to  
get upset, it's just...hard for me  
to talk about is all.

(beat)

I promise, one day, I'll be ready  
to tell you everything you wanna  
know, but you have to patient.

MARCUS

Been patient for twenty-five  
years...

LISA

Then that means you can wait a  
little longer.

Lisa takes one of Marcus' hands and looks at him with a soft smile only a Grandmother can give.

Marcus reluctantly nods.

MARCUS

Okay.

Satisfied, Lisa turns her gaze to the window as the mall comes into view.

FOCUS ON THE MALL

FADE TO:

INT. LISA'S HOME - BASEMENT - MORNING

Marcus, dressed in a repair maintenance jumpsuit, walks down the steps and heads to the boiler.

He looks back towards the stairs as he reaches into his suit and pulls out a wad of cash.

He then reaches behind the boiler, feeling around for a moment, until he pulls out a large paper bag.

He dumps the wad of cash into the paper bag where several other wads already are placed.

He rolls up the bag and quickly puts it back in its hiding place.

He stands there for a moment, clearly torn about something, then turns, grabs a toolbox and heads for the stairs.

EXT. LISA'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus exits the home and walks towards his car. He glances across the street to see a *Motivated Movers* truck parked there. It seemingly doesn't have anyone in it.

Marcus then gets in his car.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Marcus parks his car and gets out. He checks his reflection in the rearview mirror, smoothing out his eyebrows, and then heads towards the entrance of the building.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus walks up to an apartment and knocks on the door. A few moments later...

KARLA (O.S.)  
Who is it?

MARCUS  
Maintenance, ma'am.

The door opens to reveal Karla seductively biting her lip.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
I heard you had a leaky faucet?

Karla giggles, wraps her arms around him, kisses him and pulls him in as he kicks the door shut behind him.

INT. KARLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATER

Marcus and Karla are in bed under the sheets. She gently runs her finger on his bare chest and traces it around in circles. Marcus stares off with a pondering gaze.

KARLA  
What's on your mind? You seem...out of it.

MARCUS  
Was I not good enough for you?

She lightly laughs and kisses him.

KARLA  
Don't try and fool me. I know when something is swirling around in that big head of yours.

Marcus takes a moment.

MARCUS  
Your parents ever hide something from you? I mean, like, family-wise.

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Like they didn't tell you about an uncle who died and what he was all about?

KARLA

No...why?

MARCUS

Every time I try to talk my Grandma about my Mom, she just avoids telling me anything more than, she died giving birth to me. Got the raw end of the stick or some shit like that.

KARLA

Give her time. A woman's mind is complicated.

MARCUS

That I know.

Karla playfully slaps him.

KARLA

Well now I'm not gonna offer to help.

MARCUS

How would you help?

KARLA

I could talk to her at work. I'm in the same department, just a few kiosks over.

MARCUS

Good luck with that. One, she's done after this week and two, if she won't tell her loving grandson the truth, she's not gonna tell some random girl.

KARLA

Oh, so I'm just some random girl? Got it.

Karla gets up from the bed.

MARCUS

Karla, baby! I didn't mean it like that!

Karla playfully flips him off and walks into the bathroom.

Marcus sighs and lays his head on the pillow as the sound of air brakes from a truck are heard outside.

He turns and glances out of the window to see a moving truck parked right in front of the building. On the side of the truck reads, *Motivated Movers*.

KARLA (O.S.)

I made us reservations at  
Angelina's this weekend by the way!

Marcus turns away from the window and furrows his brow.

MARCUS

Angelina's? Isn't that the fancy  
Italian joint? The one that charges  
twenty bucks just for a basket of  
bread?

KARLA (O.S.)

You can afford to take me out to a  
fancy place once in a blue moon,  
mister!

MARCUS

(to himself)  
Shit...

He rubs his forehead in stress.

Suddenly, his cellphone buzzes with a text. He leans over to the nightstand and grabs it.

ON SCREEN TEXT FROM DARIUS: *Got another drop. You in?*

Marcus shakes his head and contemplates for a moment.

ON SCREEN TEXT TO DARIUS: *Bet.*

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Babe, gotta another job. I gotta  
head out.

Marcus gets out of bed as Karla comes out of the bathroom with a makeup brush in hand.

KARLA

I have a shift too.

MARCUS

Oh good, so you can pay for dinner  
then?

KARLA

Ha. Ha.

They kiss and Marcus quickly grabs his clothes.

CUT TO:

INT. MALL DEPARTMENT STORE - MAKEUP - AFTERNOON

Lisa applies makeup to a YOUNG GIRL (17) while she's seated in a beauty chair before a vanity mirror.

LISA

Tell me how that looks, beautiful.

The Young Girl looks into the mirror with a bright smile.

YOUNG GIRL

I love it!

Lisa smiles and reaches over the counter to grab a curling wand. As she glances up, she catches a glimpse of a MAN in a *Motivated Movers* t-shirt looking at the clothing section.

Her smile quickly fades and turns to a solemn gaze.

BEHIND THE COUNTER...she grabs the curling wand and then feels around for a stack of pamphlets. Once she finds it, she grabs one.

OVER AT ANOTHER KIOSK...Karla helps a CUSTOMER but glances over and watches/listens to Lisa's interaction with the Young Girl.

Lisa hands the Young Girl the pamphlet that has a group photo of smiling YOUNG GIRLS with a Christian cross in the corner. At the top it reads, *Glory Youth Retreat*.

As Lisa curls the Young Girl's hair...

LISA

I only give that to my favorite customers. It's a youth retreat sponsored by my church, but don't let that fool you. You'll have more fun than you ever had in your life.

YOUNG GIRL

Really?

LISA

Mhm. It's a cleanse from all the distractions from the outside world. You can finally focus on just you...and of course your relationship with God.

YOUNG GIRL

Can I bring friends?

Lisa hesitates a moment and forces a smile.

LISA

Absolutely.

Lisa finishes curling the Young Girl's hair and takes a step back.

LISA (CONT'D)

Viola. Your a new woman.

The Young Girl stares in awe at the mirror.

YOUNG GIRL

Wow! I love it! I look...amazing!  
Thank you!

LISA

Anytime, honey.

YOUNG GIRL

(holding up the pamphlet)  
And thanks for this too. I think  
I'll definitely go.

LISA

That's great...I hope you have fun.

The Young Girl gets up from the chair and waves goodbye as Lisa begins to clean up the station.

Karla walks over as Lisa sighs in defeat with a grim expression on her face.

KARLA

Need help?

LISA

Huh...? Oh, hi Karla. No. I can  
handle this.

KARLA

Are you excited about retiring?



LISA  
You have no idea.  
(beat)  
Excuse me...I need to use the  
lady's room.

Karla nods as Lisa walks off. She looks in the direction where the Man in the moving t-shirt was, but he's no longer there.

Karla turns back and goes to her station as Diane approaches with an overly friendly smile.

DIANE  
Karla! I thought I'd run into you  
here. Did you have a chance to  
think about the job?

KARLA  
Hi Diane...Yeah...I think it sounds  
really great.

DIANE  
Wonderful. There's just a formality  
interview required, but you  
definitely have the job if you want  
it.

KARLA  
Okay. That's fine.

DIANE  
Perfect. Do you have a pen? I can  
write down the time and address.

Karla goes behind her station and grabs a pen and paper. She hands it to Diane and she writes down the information.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
We're really excited to have you on  
board.

KARLA  
Thanks. I'm excited too.

DIANE  
Let me know how it goes.

Diane brightly smiles and walks off as Karla looks down at the paper.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - PARKING LOT - LATE AFTERNOON

DARIUS (mid 20s/African American) leans up against his car and mindlessly scrolls through his phone. He's in an all-black tracksuit hoodie and has a handsome bad-boy look to him.

Marcus drives up in his car and parks next to him.

DARIUS

My dude! I thought you were gonna flake.

Marcus gets out of the car daps Darius.

MARCUS

In and out. Right?

DARIUS

Bro, why you so nervous all the time? You want a gummy?

MARCUS

I don't want a damn gummy.

Darius chuckles and moves to his trunk. He pops it and removes a duffle bag.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

This is the last job. I'm done after this.

DARIUS

Yo...are we in a re-run episode or something? Cause I could swear I've seen this scene before...

MARCUS

I mean it, Darius. I got enough money saved from this bullshit. I wanna go fully clean.

DARIUS

Man, here you go again on your righteous horse, like you ain't been running these blocks with me since we were kids.

MARCUS

That doesn't make it right.

Darius throws up a hand and shakes his head.

DARIUS  
Pshhh. Give me a break.

Darius slams the trunk shut and walks towards the building as Marcus follows.

MARCUS  
What's the deal here?

DARIUS  
Just some strapped gang bangers  
finna trying to score. Not sketchy  
at all.

Marcus grabs Darius' arm and stops him.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Chill, bro. I'm kidding. You sure  
you don't want that gummy? On the  
house.

MARCUS  
Fuck you, man...

Darius chuckles as Marcus releases his grip and they continue walking towards the building.

DARIUS  
It's just some chick who's sitting  
on a pile of daddy's money looking  
to buy pills for a party she's  
hosting. Easy shit.

Darius opens the door leading into the lobby.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
After you.

Marcus rolls his eyes and snickers as the two head inside.

STAYING OUTSIDE FOR A MOMENT...a *Motivated Movers* moving truck turns into the parking lot.

INT. LAUREN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

LAUREN (mid 20s/Latina), dressed in a tank top and boy shorts, opens the door to reveal Darius and Marcus standing in the hallway.

LAUREN  
What took ya'll so long?

DARIUS

You ever try driving around this  
city in the middle of the day?

Lauren rolls her eyes.

LAUREN

Whatever. Come in and lock the door  
behind you.

Marcus and Darius enter the apartment. Marcus closes the door  
and locks it.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S HOME - KITCHEN - SIMULTANEOUS

A vintage vibe; an old blue refrigerator, black and white  
checkered tiles. An old song plays on the radio that sits on  
the kitchen island. A colander of washed vegetables is in the  
sink next to some chopped peppers on a cutting board on the  
counter.

Lisa stares out of the window with a mixture of anger and  
regret as she holds her cellphone to her ear.

LISA

No. I'm done. I told you today was  
my last.

She listens for a moment as her rage builds.

LISA (CONT'D)

Because she's gone.

Another moment and then her anger finally boils over.

LISA (CONT'D)

I said I'm done!

She ends the call and slams her phone down on the counter.  
She trembles in anger and deeply breathes in and out to calm  
herself.

She walks back to the sink and continues washing the  
vegetables.

She glances up and does a double-take out of the window to  
see a *Motivated Movers* truck parked outside.

A look of confusion/fear overcomes her.

Then, in the reflection of the window, a FIGURE slowly approaches her.

Lisa's eyes widen in horror. She turns and...

WHACK!

Lisa is brutally hit across the face and knocked to the floor.

The same Man from the mall, now wearing a ski mask and gloves, towers over her.

He moves to the counter and grabs a knife from the knife block as Lisa reaches for her bruised eye in pain.

The Man stands over her and she screams for her life.

LISA (CONT'D)  
No! No! No! Please! Please!

The Man attempts to stab her but she turns her shoulder just in time as the knife chips the tiled floor.

Lisa kicks and attempts to throw punches.

The Man finally finds an opening and stabs her in her lower arm. She screams in agonizing pain.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Please don't kill me! Let me live  
and I'll do what you want!

The Man isn't trying to negotiate and goes to stab her again. In a last ditch effort, Lisa holds up her hand and the Man stabs right through it.

She screams in agony as the Man rips it from her and thrusts the knife into her shoulder and another into her chest.

Lisa coughs up blood. More seeps out of her wounds and creates a small pool of it below her body. She pleads with her dying eyes.

LISA (CONT'D)  
(choking)  
P-please...

The Man drives the knife into her stomach and leaves it there. He then leaves the room.

Lisa reaches for the knife with a shaking and bloody hand. She slowly pulls it from her stomach and drops it on the floor with a clang.

She twitches and blood gurgles out of her mouth. Her eyes are wide with shock and fear.

CUT TO:

INT. LAUREN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lauren leads Marcus and Darius into a clothes littered room. She walks over to a desk where money is neatly stacked.

LAUREN  
Here's the money. Let's see what  
I'm buying.

Darius places the duffle bag on the bed and unzips it to reveal multiple Ziploc bags of various pills, weed, and syrups.

Lauren looks through it with wide eyes and a smile.

LAUREN (CONT'D)  
Jackpot.

DARIUS  
You think I'd let you down, girl?  
Come on now.

Marcus anxiously crosses his arms, tapping his fingers against his arm, as he looks back into the hallway.

LAUREN  
Go on. Cash is yours.

Darius rubs his hands together and licks his lips as he approaches the desk.

He grabs a few stacks and whistles over at Marcus before tossing them to him.

DARIUS  
Bag it.

Marcus grabs a paper bag and begins placing all of the cash in it as he counts.

Suddenly, there's a knock at the front door. Marcus and Darius freeze.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
You expecting somebody else?

LAUREN  
Uber Eats, bro. Chill.

Lauren walks out of the room and closes the door behind her, leaving it slightly cracked.

Marcus shoots Darius a look and he shrugs.

INT. LAUREN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lauren opens the door to reveal two MOVERS in polo uniforms with *Motivated Movers* on their chest and sleeved tattoos. A large cardboard box on a hand-trolley is beside them. Mover 1 has a clipboard in his hand.

LAUREN  
Can I help you?

MOVER 1  
Got a delivery for a Latisha  
Robinson.

LAUREN  
Wrong address. Ain't no Latisha  
Robinson living here.

MOVER 1  
You sure? Our paperwork says this  
is the address...I think.

He looks down at the clipboard as Mover 2 glances down the hallway.

MOVER 1 (CONT'D)  
You mind looking this over just to  
confirm?

Mover 1 goes to hand her the clipboard but allows it to drop on the ground.

MOVER 1 (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry...

He leans down to get it. As he comes back up, he swiftly grabs a cloth from his back pocket and smothers Lauren with it.

Lauren's screams are muffled as she flails her arms. Mover 1 hushes her as he slowly steps inside with her and lays her on the ground.

MOVER 1 (CONT'D)  
Nighty night.

Lauren's eyes slowly roll into the back of her head and she passes out.

Mover 2 enters with the box and closes the door behind him.

INT. LAUREN'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marcus looks out of the cracked door as the Movers tape Lauren's mouth shut and her arms and legs together.

MARCUS  
(whispers)  
Yo...what the fuck...

Darius moves to the door and his eyes widen.

DARIUS  
(whispers)  
Oh shit...

He quickly takes out his phone and records a video.

The Movers places Lauren in the box.

MARCUS  
(whispers)  
We can't just let them take her.

DARIUS  
(whispers)  
What are you gonna do, white knight? They'll kill us.

MARCUS  
(whispers)  
Stop recording and call the cops!

DARIUS  
(whispers)  
And tell them what? We're here dealing drugs?

Marcus anxiously turns back to watch.

INT. LAUREN'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Mover 2 takes a picture of Lauren with a small digital camera.

MOVER 1  
Who the hell uses those things anymore?



MOVER 2

Shit takes better pics than any phone.

Mover 2 leans down and rips Lauren's shirt open, exposing her breasts. He takes another picture.

MOVER 1

Enough with the photoshoot!

MOVER 2

Damn nigga, relax.

Mover 1 shoves Mover 2.

MOVER 1

Ain't not time to relax. We got ten minutes to deliver. These people don't fuck around.

MOVER 2

Aight...chill, chill.

The Movers tape the box shut and slap a fragile sticker on the front of it.

Mover 1 takes out a marker from his pocket and writes #2 on the box while Mover 2 grabs her cellphone from the coffee table and pockets it.

Then, they lift the box up and place it back on the hand-trolley.

MOVER 1

Let's get the fuck outta here.

Mover 1 opens the door, checks the hallway and then motions for Mover 2 to follow.

Mover 2 wheels the box out of the apartment and Mover 1 closes the door behind him.

AFTER A FEW MOMENTS...Marcus and Darius come out of the room.

DARIUS

Bro! What the fuck?!

MARCUS

What the hell was that?! They just took her!

DARIUS

I got it all on video, bro. We just gotta figure out our story...

(MORE)

DARIUS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Cops ain't gonna believe two dudes like us just happened to be in a kidnapped girl's apartment at the same time.

Marcus goes to the window to see the Movers loading the box into the back of the truck.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Shit...the drugs!

MARCUS

Huh?

Darius runs back into the bedroom and comes back out with the duffle bag.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Seriously?

DARIUS

She ain't gonna use them anymore. Double our profit.

MARCUS

I hope you're fucking with me...

Suddenly, the sound of the moving van's engine starting up is heard and they look back to the window. The van pulls away.

DARIUS

Shit...

(beat)

We should...we should wipe down the scene. You know? So cops don't find our prints.

BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ

Marcus quickly takes out his cellphone to see that *Rush Hospital* is calling. He furrows his brow in confusion and quickly answers.

MARCUS

Hello?

He listens and his eyes grow wide in disbelief.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I'll...I'll be right there.

Marcus ends the call and stares ahead as if in a trance.

DARIUS  
Marcus? You good?

MARCUS  
I gotta go. I gotta go.

Marcus quickly moves to the door.

DARIUS  
What about our prints, man?!  
Marcus!

Marcus leaves the apartment.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Shit!

Darius quickly hurries after him and closes the door.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - EVENING

Marcus blankly stares ahead as everything around him moves in SLOW MOTION and sounds are WARPED.

Then...

EVERYTHING RETURNS TO NORMAL as Darius stands before Marcus with a cup of coffee in hand.

DARIUS  
Here man...

Marcus takes it.

MARCUS  
Thanks...

Darius takes a seat next to him.

DARIUS  
Crazy fucking day, huh?

Marcus ignores him and perks up as MAGGIE CAMPBELL (late 20s/African American), a doctor, approaches them.

Marcus quickly stands.

MARCUS  
Where is she? Is she...?

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
She's stable.

Marcus breathes a sigh of relief.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
She's suffered from multiple stab wounds and lost a good amount of blood. We had to put her in an induced coma to quicken her healing process.

MARCUS  
A coma...?  
(beat)  
Did she say anything before that?  
Did she say who attacked her?

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
(shaking her head)  
I'm sorry. She was in shock and we had to work fast. There was no time for that.

MARCUS  
Can I see her?

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Just for a minute. We're technically not allowed to have any guests past this hour. She's room 108.

Marcus nods and walks by her as Darius stands and approaches Maggie.

DARIUS  
Give it to me straight, doc. She gonna live?

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
That's Doctor Campbell.

DARIUS  
(smirks)  
Excuse me, Miss...or Missus...

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Again. Doctor.  
(beat)  
But, outside of here, it's Miss.

Darius smirks.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Are you family?

DARIUS  
Might as well be. Marcus and I have  
been bros since we was in diapers.  
Lisa is like family to me.

Maggie lightly nods.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
She'll live, but she'll need time  
to recover. It's good that he has a  
friend like you to be by his side.  
(beat)  
Excuse me. I have other patients...

DARIUS  
Of course, Miss...I mean, Doctor  
Campbell.

She smirks and walks off as Darius shakes his head and checks  
her out as she goes.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
I gotta come to the hospital more  
often...

He turns and walks down the hallway.

CUT TO:

EXT. LUXURY HOUSING TOWER - SIMULTANEOUS

Karla walks up to the entrance and pauses just outside of it  
as she makes a call on her cellphone.

MARCUS (ON PHONE)  
You reached Marcus. Leave a  
message.

After the beep...

KARLA  
Hey baby, it's me. I would've  
called earlier but I got wrapped  
up. I ran into Diane and she  
offered me a job as a youth retreat  
counselor. I'm heading to an  
interview with the CEO. Figured I  
could use a free vacation since my  
man doesn't take me on any...  
(beat)  
(MORE)

KARLA (CONT'D)

I'm just playing, but, money is money and it's for a good cause. I'll call you after I'm done. Love you.

She ends the call and walks into the building.

INT. LUXURY HOUSING TOWER - LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Karla enters the lobby and approaches the reception desk.

The RECEPTIONIST looks up and smiles warmly when they see Karla.

RECEPTIONIST

Hello. What can I do for you?

KARLA

Hi. I'm here to interview for a position with Glory Youth Retreat?

The Receptionist nods and hands Karla a pass.

RECEPTIONIST

Clip this to your blouse. Elevator is right there. You're gonna go up to the penthouse floor. Go left down the hallway, and the doors are on the right.

Karla nods.

KARLA

Thank you.

She heads to the elevator.

INT. LUXURY HOUSING TOWER - ELEVATOR - MOMENTS LATER

Karla nervously bites her lip and looks around the elevator. She watches as the numbers tick upward until it finally reaches the penthouse level.

DING!

INT. LUXURY HOUSING TOWER - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Karla exits the elevator and walks down the hallway until she comes to a set of large doors.

She takes a deep breath and knocks.

After a few moments, the doors open to reveal MISS X (early 40s/Caucasian) with a warm smile.

MISS X  
You must be Karla.

KARLA  
Yes, ma'am.

MISS X  
Follow me.

Miss X turns on her heel and heads into the apartment. Karla follows closely behind and closes the door.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - LISA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lisa lies in a coma with multiple tubes connected to her body and a large one inside her mouth to help with breathing.

Marcus angrily glares while anxiously shaking one of his legs. Darius is next to him sampling some of the hospital food with a grotesque look.

DARIUS  
Bro...how do they expect people to eat this shit? You'd think they'd give dying people five-star meals...

Marcus slightly glances over at him with an irritated gaze.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Not that Lisa is dying...

Marcus shakes his head.

MARCUS  
Do you still have that spare gun?

DARIUS  
Nah, and you ain't shooting nobody.

Marcus turns his gaze back to Lisa.

MARCUS  
Who the fuck would do this to her?

DARIUS  
Lot of messed up people in this city.

Marcus takes out his cellphone and sees that Karla called and left a voicemail. He calls her back.

Straight to voicemail. Marcus furrows his brow in slight confusion.

KARLA (ON PHONE)

Hey you've reached Karla. Sorry I missed your call but leave a message and I'll get back to you later. Bye!

A prolonged BEEP.

MARCUS

Baby...call me when you can. Something bad happened to my Grandma.

He ends the call, lowers his head, and closes his eyes in frustration.

CUT TO:

EXT. LISA'S HOME - LATER

Forensic and investigative vehicles are parked out front. Yellow tape surrounds the perimeter. An INVESTIGATOR carries out the bloody knife in an evidence bag.

Darius and Marcus approach.

DARIUS

Damn man, it's like real life CSI up in here.

Marcus looks around for a moment and then ducks under the yellow tape.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Yo! What are you doing?!

DETECTIVE THOMPSON (mid 40s/African American) notices Marcus walking towards the home. A POLICE OFFICER attempts to stop him.

MARCUS

This is my house! I have a right to be here!

Detective Thompson walks over and places his hand on the Police Officer's shoulder.



DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
It's alright. I got this.

The Police Officer walks off.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
And you are...?

MARCUS  
Marcus Wilson. My Grandma was the  
one attacked.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
I'm sorry, Mr. Wilson. I'm  
Detective Thompson. I hear that  
you're Grandmother is stable.

MARCUS  
Yeah. What do you know? Who did  
this?

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
I assure you we'll be doing  
everything we can to find who did  
this.

(beat)  
That being said, would you be open  
to coming to the station for some  
questioning?

MARCUS  
Me? Why the hell would I have to do  
that?

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
Formality. Just need to ask a few  
question about your Grandmother's  
life. If she had any enemies...

MARCUS  
She's an old woman who works at a  
makeup stand and goes to church.  
Who would be her enemy?

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
It could be random, but I don't see  
it that way as of now.

MARCUS  
Why?

Detective Thompson lightly smiles.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
Like I said, we can talk more down  
at the station...

MARCUS  
No. We can talk more now.

Detective Thompson takes a moment and folds his arms.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
Okay. Has your Grandmother ever  
discussed anything concerning her  
past?

MARCUS  
She doesn't talk about her past  
much.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
That's interesting, because we're  
lead to believe that her attacker  
is part of a group and that she was  
targeted specifically.

Marcus furrows his brow in confusion.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Even church-going grandma's have  
secrets, Mr. Wilson.

MARCUS  
Yeah, but...

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
I know this is hard, but anything  
you can think of would be a huge  
help in this case. Your Grandmother  
wasn't the first and she won't be  
the last.

Marcus shakes his head in disbelief.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Are you aware of any organizations  
or businesses that she was  
associated with that might be  
attracting young women?

Marcus contemplates.

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, OUTSIDE OF THE HOME...Marcus sees a *Motivated Movers* truck parked across the street.

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, IN LARUEN'S APARTMENT...the Movers putting Lauren in the box.

FLASH CUT

BACK IN REALITY...Marcus slowly softens into angered realization.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON (CONT'D)  
Mr. Wilson?

MARCUS  
I should go. Let you do your thing.  
I'll try and think of anything, but  
like I said, she didn't have any  
enemies.

Marcus turns and walks off as Detective Thompson watches with intrigue.

Suddenly, Marcus' phone rings and he quickly takes it out of his pocket to see that Karla is calling. He answers.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Karla, baby...you're not gonna  
believe this...

A loud static noise coming from the phone stops him from continuing and a look of confusion comes over him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Karla?

Panicked breathing can be heard, then, a knocking sound as if the phone had fallen.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Hello? Karla!

Then, the call ends. Marcus slowly lowers his phone and looks at the screen in confusion. He quickly attempts to call back but it goes straight to voicemail.

Panicked, he quickly makes his way to Darius and the two walk off towards his car.

DARIUS  
What happened? What'd he say?

MARCUS  
I gotta get to Karla's. Can you  
drop me off?

DARIUS  
Yeah, for sure...

Darius looks back at the house with concern while Marcus gets in the car. He then quickly gets in.

CUT TO:

INT. KARLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus enters the apartment and closes the door behind him.

MARCUS  
Karla?

He quickly moves towards the bedroom.

INT. KARLA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus enters to see that the bed is still perfectly made.

MARCUS  
Babe?

He walks over to the bathroom and turns on the light, but no one is there.

He takes out his cellphone and calls her again but it goes straight to voicemail.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
What the fuck...?

He looks around in confusion.

INT. KARLA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus slowly walks over to the couch as he deeply ponders. He takes a seat and blankly stares ahead.

He takes his phone out and finally notices the voicemail from Karla. He quickly plays it on speaker.

KARLA (ON PHONE)  
Hey baby, it's me. I would've called earlier but I got wrapped up. I ran into Diane and she offered me a job as a youth retreat counselor.

His gaze lowers to the coffee table where he sees the same pamphlet Lisa was handing out. Curious, he picks it up and examines the photo on the front.

KARLA (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

I'm heading to an interview with the CEO. Figured I could use a free vacation since my man doesn't take me on any...

(beat)

I'm just playing, but, money is money and it's for a good cause. I'll call you after I'm done. Love you.

FOCUS ON THE PHOTO...that features a group of YOUNG GIRLS (late teens/early 20s) standing in front of a row of MEN and WOMEN ranging in age from 40-60, including James and Diane proudly smiling. James has his hand on the shoulder of VICTORIA (late teens/African American).

Marcus looks up and ponders with a confused gaze.

He then calls Darius.

MARCUS

Darius...I think I might have found something. You down to skip work tomorrow?

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Karla is on a California king bed with velvet sheets. She's dressed in a dusty pink satin nightie.

A GUARD enters the room and adjusts Karla's body so that one of her arms is up behind her head on the pillow, one leg up and both slightly apart.

He walks over to a tripod with a camera setup on it and snaps a few pictures with a bright flash.

FOCUS ON KARLA'S SLEEPING FACE...as the camera continues to flash.

FADE TO:

I/E. DARIUS' CAR/CHURCH - DAY

Marcus and Darius are seated in the car and watch as James speaks with Mover 1 & 2 off to the side.

DARIUS

Yo...as much as I like being Scooby  
Doo and the gang, we should  
probably let that Detective know  
about this...

MARCUS

Not yet. I need undeniable  
evidence.

DARIUS

The only undeniable evidence is out  
prints in Lauren's crib. Once she's  
reported missing...

MARCUS

If I'm right, they won't give a  
shit we were there selling her weed  
and that video will be our saving  
grace.

Darius sighs and nervously looks back at the Movers and James.

DARIUS

Maybe they're asking for  
forgiveness for their sins?

MARCUS

Doubt it.

Marcus pulls out the pamphlet and shows Darius. He points to Victoria.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I think this is my Mom...

DARIUS

Wait...you think this shit goes  
that far back?

MARCUS

That's what we're gonna find out.

The Movers walk off and get in their truck. Marcus goes to leave the car but Darius holds him back.

DARIUS

Hold up! If you think the church had anything to do with what happened to Lauren, your Grandma and potentially nabbing Karla, we gotta best these assholes at their own game.

(beat)

They can't suspect a thing.

MARCUS

And if they don't take the bait?

DARIUS

They will. They gots to. We don't have any other choice.

The moving truck drives off and James heads back for the church.

MARCUS

Follow my lead.

Marcus and Darius get out of the car and jog over towards the church.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Pastor!

James turns around and brightly smiles as Marcus and Darius approach.

JAMES

Gentlemen! So nice to see you on a day other than the Lord's. What can I do for you?

MARCUS

I'm not sure if you heard, but my Grandmother is in the hospital.

James' smile quickly fades into worry.

JAMES

Good heavens...no I haven't. Is she alright?

MARCUS

It wasn't looking good for a minute there. She was attacked. Stabbed several times with a kitchen knife.

James shakes his head in disbelief.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Doctors say she'll live, but I wanted to say an extra prayer or two for her. Plus, if a man of God such as yourself was praying for her, I know she'll pull through.

JAMES

Of course. I'd be happy to. In fact, I'll have the whole congregation say a prayer for her this coming Sunday.

MARCUS

I appreciate that, Pastor.

JAMES

I hope you don't mind me asking, but, did they catch whoever did this?

MARCUS

No. It's hard to trust cops too, so, Darius and I are asking around to see if anyone knew anything.

JAMES

I'm afraid I won't be much help. I don't know too much about Lisa outside of church. Anything I can do to help...

MARCUS

Appreciate that, Pastor.

Marcus takes out the pamphlet and shows it to him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Can you tell me who these people are in this photo?

James takes a look with a bit of unease. He then forces a smile.

JAMES

Church sponsors. Diane and I have partnered with them to run the youth retreat.

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, AT THE RETREAT SITE...a group of SPONSORS convene while the YOUNG GIRLS silently pray in a circle.



Diane walks up to James and takes his hand. She gently smiles and they both turn their gaze back towards the Young Girls.

Among the Young Girls, Victoria slightly glances back and makes eye contact with James.

The Sponsors walk over to the Young Girls and hand them all drinks. They murmur...

SPONSORS  
Blood of Christ...

Victoria hesitates for a moment but then drinks as all the other Young Girls do.

One by one, the Young Girls are lead away by a Sponsor.

Victoria grows a bit woozy as a Sponsor comes up to her.

FLASH CUT

BACK IN REALITY...James forces a smile.

JAMES  
I don't tell people often, but this group of sponsors are pivotal in helping to keep the lights on in the church.

Marcus points to Victoria.

MARCUS  
And what about her? She seems to be a friend...

Darius nervously stares at James as he hesitates.

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, AT THE RETREAT SITE...The Sponsor grabs Victoria by the arm and she slightly resists.

Then, James comes over and relieves the Sponsor. He holds out his hand with a gentle smile.

JAMES  
(echo)  
Come with me, Victoria...

Victoria sways a bit, fighting to stay awake. She then slowly takes James' hand.

FLASH CUT

BACK IN REALITY...James forces a smile.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Victoria. She was one of the participants. I was close friends with her parents.

(beat)

She was practically family.

James and Marcus stare in silence for a moment.

DARIUS

So how do these dudes keep the lights on at the church if they're only sponsors for a retreat?

JAMES

Financials can get complicated, boys...

DARIUS

We got time.

JAMES

I'm sorry, Darius, but that's not information I'm able to disclose to just anyone. What is this all about?

DARIUS

Just crossing our t's and dotting our i's, Pastor.

Marcus looks down at the pamphlet.

MARCUS

This Victoria...is she still around?

JAMES

I...I wouldn't know...

DARIUS

I thought you said you were family?

James awkwardly chuckles.

JAMES

Why do I feel like this is an interrogation of some sort? What does this have to do with finding out information on your Grandmother's attacker?

MARCUS

I saw this and thought I recognized her. I know Grandma helps out in some capacity with the retreat. Just wanted to get some more info on her.

James takes a moment.

JAMES

You can ask Lisa about Victoria when she's able to tell you. Now, if you'll excuse me. I'll see you in church on Sunday.

James walks off towards the church as Marcus and Darius eye him with suspicion.

MARCUS

Drive me to the police station.

DARIUS

But I thought you said you wanted to wait?

MARCUS

I can wait on this, but not Karla. I gotta report her missing.

DARIUS

Whoah, whoah, whoah. You can't do that, bro. A girl goes missing, the first suspect is the significant other.

MARCUS

I'm the one reporting it.

DARIUS

They might think it's a tactic to throw them off your case. Trust me, you do this and they'll have you locked up faster than I switch up girls.

Marcus sighs in frustration.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

You wanna bring these assholes down, you gotta stay clear of the cops as long as possible.

MARCUS

If she's in trouble...

DARIUS  
We'll find her too. Trust.

Marcus slowly nods. They then turn and walk off towards the car.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - LISA'S ROOM - DAY

Lisa is awake and seated up in her hospital bed. She's weak and tired.

Marcus quickly enters the room.

MARCUS  
Grandma...

Lisa weakly smiles as Marcus walks over to the bed and attempts to embrace her.

LISA  
Easy now...

Marcus looks down at her with a smile as Darius enters and leans up against the back wall.

MARCUS  
We came as soon as we heard you were awake. How are you feeling?

LISA  
I've been much better...

She lightly chuckles and then winces in a bit of pain.

LISA (CONT'D)  
I guess it's too soon to laugh.

Maggie enters with a smile.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Sorry to interrupt...I just wanted to formally introduce myself. I'm Dr. Campbell. I'm so glad to see you're recovering, Ms. Wilson.

LISA  
Yes...painfully slowly...

Maggie walks over to check Lisa's vitals as Marcus steps back and takes out his cellphone. He pulls up a text exchange with Karla to see that none of his texts have delivered.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL

Everything looks good. I'm sure you'll be in good hands with these two in the meantime. If you need anything, just press the call button.

LISA

I will. Thank you, Doctor.

Maggie glances over at Darius and the two smile at each other before she walks out. Marcus notices.

MARCUS

Seriously? You're hitting on my Grandma's doctor?

DARIUS

Who said she's off limits?

Marcus shakes his head with a smirk and walks back up to Lisa.

LISA

Did they find who did this?

MARCUS

Not yet. I was hoping you would remember.

She sighs.

LISA

It could've been anyone. He was wearing a mask.

Marcus takes a moment.

MARCUS

I know this might sound crazy, but, do you know anyone or any organization who would want to hurt you?

LISA

Why would you phrase it like that?

MARCUS

Just something the detective said...

Lisa looks away with a troubled gaze.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Does this have anything to do with  
my mother?

LISA  
(confused)  
You're mother?

Marcus takes out the pamphlet and shows it to her. He points  
to Victoria.

MARCUS  
This is her, isn't it? Victoria?

LISA  
Where did you get that...?

MARCUS  
Karla's place. She's missing.

Lisa sighs a troubled breath.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Grandma...I need to know what's  
going on. I know there's a  
connection but I need you to tell  
me the truth.

Lisa shakes her head and fights back tears.

LISA  
Up until recently, I had been  
helping to recruit young women to  
go on this retreat. Specifically,  
women who needed to be set on the  
right path.

MARCUS  
And my mother was one of them?

LISA  
After your granddad passed away  
I...I lost a large portion of  
myself. I became distant even to my  
own daughter.

(beat)  
Victoria fell in with the wrong  
crowd. She got pregnant with you  
only a little while after this  
photo was taken.

MARCUS  
What happened to her?

Lisa can't hold back her emotions any longer. She sobs and shakes her head.

LISA  
She disappeared...

MARCUS  
Disappeared where? Like Karla? Like  
the other girls in town?

LISA  
I...I...

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, IN A CABIN BEDROOM...Victoria is laying on a bed and is barely conscious.

Diane is seated next to her and gently runs her fingers along Victoria's face.

DIANE  
It's okay. Everything will be  
better soon.

She turns her gaze to James who stands at the foot of the bed.

James slowly removes the belt from his pants and climbs onto the bed.

Victoria groans and is barely able to move her legs as he advances.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
You are going to give us a gift,  
Victoria. A gift that God intended  
for us to have.

James hesitates and then looks over at Diane.

JAMES  
Are you sure...?

Diane nods.

James looks back at Victoria and moves on top of her.

Diane pats Victoria's hand as James thrusts his hips back and forth; he's raping Victoria.

Victoria groans and her tired eyes fall on Diane who lightly smiles and hushes her.

FOCUS ON VICTORIA'S FACE...as her eyes slowly close.

FLASH CUT

BACK IN REALITY...Lisa's breathing becomes heavier and Darius notices.

DARIUS  
Yo, Marcus...

MARCUS  
Are the people who attacked you the same people who are taking these girls? Where are they?

Lisa hyperventilates.

DARIUS  
Marcus!

Darius pulls Marcus back as Lisa's heart rate monitor wildly beeps. A moment later, Maggie comes rushing in.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
What happened?

MARCUS  
I...I don't know...

A NURSE rushes in next and they surround Lisa.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Everything's going to be okay, Ms. Wilson. Just deep breaths for me.

Maggie instructs Lisa on how to breath and Lisa attempts to mimic her.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Good...good.  
(to Nurse)  
Keep monitoring her.

Maggie walks over to Darius and Marcus.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
(to Darius)  
It would probably be best to let her rest awhile. She's been through a lot.

DARIUS  
Of course...I gotchu.



Darius puts his arm around Marcus.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Come on, bro. We'll come back.

Marcus keeps his anxious gaze on Lisa as she slowly closes her eyes to rest. He relents and let's Darius lead him out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Darius leads Marcus down the hallway and Marcus angrily pulls away.

DARIUS  
Dude...chill...

MARCUS  
How can I?! She knows something and isn't telling me!

DARIUS  
You gotta give her time, bro.

MARCUS  
Karla might not have time! That girl Lauren might not either!

Darius hushes him but Marcus angrily turns and walks off.

Maggie comes out of the room and approaches Darius.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
He's taking this pretty hard, huh?

Darius turns around with a bit of surprise.

DARIUS  
Uh, yeah...she's the only family he has left.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
He also has a really great best friend it seems like.

DARIUS  
(smirking)  
Yeah, he does have that too.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Just keep him levelheaded. She'll get through this but she needs rest.

DARIUS  
I'll do my best, Doctor.

Maggie nods with a smile and goes to walk off.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Hey...do you think I could get your  
number?

Maggie turns around with a raised eyebrow.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
You know...so you can update me on  
her progress.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Right. Of course.

She holds out her hand and Darius eagerly gives her his  
cellphone.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Karla is tied up in the corner of the bedroom and drifts in  
and out of consciousness. The Young Girl from the mall and  
one of her FRIENDS are made up in nighties on the bed. Their  
hair and makeup are done and are positioned in a provocative  
manner.

Karla blinks, trying to force herself to wake up.

She woozily looks around the room. The tripod is still setup  
but the camera is gone.

Karla attempts to free herself but the binds are too tight.

She falls over onto her side.

KARLA  
(loud whisper)  
Hey! Wake up!

Tears build up in her eyes and she groans in helplessness.

FADE TO:

I/E. MARCUS' CAR/JAMES & DIANE'S HOME - NIGHT

Marcus and Darius are seated in the car in front of the home. James and Diane can be seen through a window eating dinner in their dining room.

DARIUS

Dude...this is torture...

MARCUS

A stakeout is ninety-nine percent boring. You don't get to just cut to the exciting stuff.

DARIUS

You really think the Pastor and his wife are doing crooked shit?

MARCUS

He knows something. They both do.

(beat)

But...if it makes you happier, I'm down to switch it up.

DARIUS

Please.

Marcus turns the ignition and starts the car. He drives off.

CUT TO:

I/E. MARCUS' CAR/LAUREN'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus slowly pulls up and parks across the street. Darius leans over and his eyes widen in realization.

DARIUS

Seriously? Why the hell are we here?

MARCUS

The moving company is clearly a front and scum bags always return to the scene of the crime.

DARIUS

Not kidnapers...

MARCUS

We don't have anything else to go on. You wanted a change of scenery, you got it.

Darius sighs and leans back in the chair. After a few moments, three police cars and an unmarked car pull up and block off the entrance to the building.

DARIUS  
Oh shit...

COPS and Detective Thompson get out of the car.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Yo, they know. They know she's gone, bro.

Marcus keeps his gaze on Detective Thompson.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
We gotta go! Come on!

Reluctantly, Marcus starts the car and slowly pulls away.

Detective Thompson catches a glimpse of the car and lightly furrows his brow. He then brushes it off and heads towards the building entrance.

CUT TO:

INT. DARIUS' APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Darius and Marcus enter the apartment; Darius is clearly anxious as Marcus bolts for the couch on a mission.

DARIUS  
Bro, we're fucked. They're gonna find our prints...

Marcus grabs the laptop from the couch, opens it, and quickly does a search on a browser.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
I told you we shoulda wiped the place!

Darius turns to see Marcus isn't paying attention.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Are you hearing me?!

MARCUS  
(ignoring him)  
Come check this out.

Darius shakes his head in disbelief and walks over to the couch to see that Marcus is looking at the Glory Youth Retreat website.

Marcus clicks on the Pastors tab and a page opens up with a photo of James and Diane.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

The founders of the Glory Youth Retreat...

(beat)

We tragically lost our newborn son twenty-five years ago, and since God did not bless us with another child, we realized our mission was to guide His other children and set them on the right path...

DARIUS

Yeah, guide them to where?

Marcus takes a moment and thinks on this.

MARCUS

I never knew they had a kid. I wonder what happened to him.

DARIUS

One mystery at a time, bro.

Marcus scrolls up and reads further.

MARCUS

One of the greatest dangers plaguing our society is that of young women who do not have a clear path set before them. They do not hear God's voice guiding them. Many of the young women who come to us are from homes with no father figure or from homes riddled with drug and alcohol addiction.

Darius snickers and shakes his head.

DARIUS

Unless this place had some licensed therapists and doctors working for them, I doubt they'd be able to heal these troubled girls of anything.

MARCUS

Yeah...it's super shady.

He scrolls back up and stops on the photo of James and Diane.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Well, there's one more person we  
can ask.

FOCUS ON DIANE'S FACE

FADE TO:

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE - MORNING

Diane goes over some paperwork as a knock on the door  
interrupts her.

DIANE

Come in!

Marcus and Darius enter and a look of surprise comes over  
her.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Marcus...hi. What can I do for you?

Darius closes the door and Marcus takes a seat.

MARCUS

I wanted to thank you for keeping  
my Grandma in your prayers. It  
looks like she's going to survive.

DIANE

That's wonderful news. I was so  
devastated when I heard what  
happened to her. Such a senseless  
act of violence.

MARCUS

Yeah. Seems like we have a lot of  
that going on around here lately.

Marcus reaches into his pocket and pulls out the pamphlet. He  
places it on her desk.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I found out recently that Victoria,  
the girl in this photo in front of  
your husband, is my mother.

Diane takes a moment and glares at the pamphlet.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I thought she died while giving birth to me, but my Grandma told me she disappeared. I'm sure you can understand my curiosity, so since you and your husband clearly knew her, can you tell me anything about her?

DIANE

Marcus...if you're hoping to find her, I would temper expectations.

(beat)

I'm not sure how much your Grandma told you...

MARCUS

Nothing at all. Just that.

DIANE

Victoria was a troubled girl. She was a criminal.

MARCUS

What do you mean? What did she do?

DIANE

It doesn't matter now, sweetheart. She was only your mother by blood but not in soul.

Marcus furrows his brow in confusion.

DARIUS

Look, my boy just needs to know about his moms. Can't you just tell him what happened to her?

DIANE

I wish I could, but sadly, after she gave birth to you, she disappeared. Gone without a trace. Trust me, we all tried searching for her.

MARCUS

But why did she leave?

Diane shakes her head with sorrow.

DIANE

Some women are not fit to be mothers. True mothers.

(beat)

(MORE)

DIANE (CONT'D)

I wish I could tell you more, but Victoria never let on to what she was thinking.

Marcus takes this in and slowly nods.

MARCUS

Thanks for telling me. It's not much but it's more than I knew.

DIANE

I'm so sorry about all of this.

MARCUS

Yeah...me too.

Marcus stands and walks towards Darius.

DIANE

If there's anything else I or James can do to help, please let us know.

Marcus stops and turns back.

MARCUS

Actually, there is.

(beat)

Karla, my girlfriend, she's been missing for a few days.

DIANE

Oh dear...I had no idea...

MARCUS

Cops are no help so I'm trying to figure out her last known locations. She said she was meeting with you about a job the night she disappeared.

DIANE

Meeting with me?

Diane furrows her brow in confusion and shakes her head.

DIANE (CONT'D)

No...I don't recall seeing her except for at church.

MARCUS

You didn't off her a job to be a youth retreat counselor?



DIANE

We may have discussed something of the nature but we didn't set up anything official.

Marcus lightly smiles and takes out his cellphone. He pulls up the voicemail and presses play.

KARLA (ON PHONE)

Hey baby, it's me. I would've called earlier but I got wrapped up. I ran into Diane and she offered me a job as a youth retreat counselor. I'm heading to an interview with the CEO.

Marcus ends the voicemail and glares at Diane whose lips lightly tremble.

MARCUS

Where is she, Diane?

Diane snaps her gaze to Marcus.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Did you make her disappear like my Mom? Like all the other girls who have gone missing lately?

DIANE

How dare you. How dare you insinuate I had anything to do with this!

MARCUS

Just tell me where she is and...

Diane angrily stands and points to the door.

DIANE

Out! Get out of my office!

Marcus slowly stands and collects his cellphone. They glare at each other for a moment and then Marcus turns and leaves the office with Darius.

Diane trembles and collapses into her seat, completely distraught.

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, IN THE CHURCH...a pregnant Victoria is seated in one of the pews and sobs while James consoles her.

Diane walks in and notice them seated there. She quickly steps aside behind a column and listens to their conversation.

JAMES

You mustn't continue to do this,  
Victoria.

VICTORIA

I don't know what else to do...  
(beat)  
I'm having second thoughts.

JAMES

Second thoughts?

VICTORIA

I...I wanna keep the baby.

James looks down with a troubled gaze.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)

We...we could still raise him  
together. You and I...

JAMES

Stop.

VICTORIA

We could leave. Go start a life  
together somewhere else...

JAMES

(stern)  
Stop.

James looks around to see that no one is listening.

JAMES (CONT'D)

That will never happen. Erase the  
possibility from your mind.

VICTORIA

It's my child...mine and yours. Not  
hers. She doesn't deserve...

JAMES

Diane is my wife.  
(beat)  
You signed the agreement. It's far  
too late to change your mind.

VICTORIA

Please...James...

Victoria grabs James' hand.

Just then, Diane reveals herself and walks towards them with a forced smile. James quickly pulls his hand away from her.

DIANE

Victoria...so nice to see you here.  
I hope everything is alright.

Victoria glares at her.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Only one more month to go. We're so  
excited. Right, James?

James takes a moment and then nods.

Devastated, Victoria stands and quickly walks off down the aisle as Diane glares.

FLASH CUT

BACK IN REALITY...Diane quickly grabs the desk phone and makes a call. After a few moments...

DIANE (CONT'D)

It's me. We have a problem.

She lowers her head into her unoccupied hand.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Karla gasps as she slowly comes to it. She had been knocked out again and now has one wrist tied to the bedpost.

She grabs her head and winces in pain as she looks around in confusion.

She looks up and over the bed to see that Lauren is there, her underwear down around her ankles and all four limbs tied to the bed.

Panicked, she pulls on the rope tying her to the bedpost but it won't give.

She lowers herself to the ground and drags her arm under as far as the rope allows. She lines it up with a sharp piece of metal that's part of the frame.

She saws the rope on it and slowly but surely it comes apart.

She grunts in pain and grabs her wrist.

She then slowly brings herself to her feet and nudges Lauren.

KARLA

Hey...can you hear me...?

Karla lightly slaps Lauren's face but there's no response.

She then turns her gaze to the door and slowly makes her way over to it. She softly tugs on the handle. It's locked.

She pulls a bobby pin from her hair, and she works on picking the lock.

When the lock clicks open, she silently pulls the handle and cracks the door open. She peeks out, squinting to see who is around.

IN THE HALLWAY...two GUARDS by the front door, relaxed and chatting, oblivious to Karla.

She looks across the foyer and sees a darkened office with the door cracked open.

With one last glance at the two Guards, she makes a break for it, hurriedly tip-toeing across the foyer and into the office.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Karla quickly enters and slightly closes the door behind her.

She then searches around the office as her breathing is stilted and frantic.

She heads to a double-door wardrobe along one wall and looks inside.

On the bottom of the wardrobe is a cardboard box, which she opens.

She pulls out a crisp, white movers' uniform with *Motivated Movers* embroidered on the front. She drops the uniform back into the box, uninterested.

Karla moves to the large picture window on the opposite side of the room. She cracks it open and looks down to see that's she's up several stories and no fire escape in sight.

Then...

GUARD 1 (O.S.)  
I gotta check something, hold the  
hell on...

Frantic, Karla dives under the large desk and hides herself beneath it. She holds her breath.

Guard 1 comes into the office and flicks the lights on.

Karla tries not to move or breathe too loudly. She keeps herself curled up tight under the desk.

Guard 1 walks over to the desk and opens a drawer. He sifts through it.

Karla covers her mouth with a trembling hand.

Her gaze turns towards the door where she can see across the hallway at a back exit door. On the door, a sign reads *Fire Exit - Alarm Will Sound* in big red letters.

She feels trapped, not sure what to do, as she glances back at Guard 1's feet as he still sifts through the desk drawer.

Guard 1 finally finds what he's looking for and closes the drawer.

Karla watches as he walks around the desk and leaves the room while shutting the lights.

She breathes a sigh of relief and quietly crawls out from underneath the desk.

She creeps up to the door and peeks out to see the Guards are no longer in the hallway.

She bites her lip in anticipation as she looks over at the emergency exit.

After another moment, she leaves the room and makes a break fro the door.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Karla reaches the door and sees a code box next to it.

KARLA  
Shit...

She frantically types in a number but it's denied. She tries another one, but it's denied again.

She looks over her shoulder to see the coast is still clear.

She tries another code and it still won't work.

Frustrated, she pushes on the release hatch and the door doesn't budge.

Suddenly, the alarm sounds off and she looks up in horror.

Frantic, she shoves on the door again but it's locked tight.

She quickly turns and runs back to the office just as the Guards round the corner and head for the door.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Karla rolls under the desk and looks back just as the Guards rush by and head to the emergency exit.

GUARD 1 (O.S.)  
Put the damn code in!

GUARD 2 (O.S.)  
I don't remember it!

GUARD 1 (O.S.)  
Out of the way!

Karla's eyes widen in realization and she quickly crawls back out from underneath the desk and hurries to the door.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Karla cautiously peeks out and watches as Guard 1 punches in the code. She silently repeats the numbers to herself.

Suddenly, the alarm ceases and the Guards breathe a sigh of relief.

GUARD 2  
What the hell triggered that?

GUARD 1  
I don't know. Go check on the girls.

Panicked, Karla quietly slips out of the office and rushes down the hallway and out of sight before Guard 2 turns and walks off in the same direction.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Karla rushes into the room and quietly closes the door behind her.

She hurries back to the bed, drops to the floor, and lays her arm behind her to hide the fact that the rope is cut.

She closes her eyes and calms her breathing.

A moment later, Guard 2 opens the door and enters the room.

He walks over to the bed and slaps Lauren across the face a few times. No response.

He then kneels down and glares at Karla for a moment.

Suddenly, he slaps her across the face and she allows her body to fall limp against the bed.

He waits a moment longer, stands, and heads out of the room.

Karla winces in pain and puts her hand to her face.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - LISA'S ROOM - DAY

Lisa is stable and awake. She looks out of the window from her bed with a contemplative gaze.

Diane enters the room and abruptly closes the door.

Lisa snaps her attention over to Diane who smiles and walks over to the bed.

Lisa stiffens up.

DIANE

Lisa. How are you feeling?

LISA

If you so much as take another step...I'll scream so loud...

DIANE

Now why on God's green earth would you do something as foolish as that?

Diane takes a step closer.

DIANE (CONT'D)

My long-lost son paid me a visit today.

LISA

He was never your son.

DIANE

The Lord...our God...He gave that boy to me. To my husband. He was our son.

LISA

You think God rewarded you with a son because your husband raped my underage daughter?

Diane's gaze turns to anger.

DIANE

Victoria knew what she was doing. She signed away her rights to us.

LISA

Marcus is not your son. There's a reason God kept you from having children, Diane.

A broken smile comes across Diane's face. She then slowly walks over to the storage area of the room and opens a drawer. Lisa cranes her neck to see but Diane is just out of sight.

She removes a scalpel that's in a protective sleeve and rips it open.

DIANE

In our hearts...he's always been our son.

LISA

My daughter never signed your damn contract. It's why you never tried to take him from me.

Diane walks back over with the scalpel held behind her back.

DIANE

Under the eyes of God, such a promise is a covenant. It's more powerful than any law.



LISA

No governing law would see it that way.

DIANE

Perhaps not...but a simple paternity test would have proven to the courts that James is Marcus' father. They love reuniting biological children with their real parents.

LISA

Marcus is a grown man. Any chance you had to get your wicked claws on him is long gone. There's nothing you can do.

Diane brings the scalpel forward and places it on Lisa's neck. Lisa stiffens up and her eyes widen.

DIANE

There's plenty I can still do. Remember...you and I are tied to it all.

She looks down and gently lowers the shoulder of the hospital gown to reveal a stitched up stab wound.

DIANE (CONT'D)

It's a real miracle you survived, Lisa. I hope you learned your lesson from trying to defy what God has already determined.

Suddenly, Maggie enters the room and abruptly stops.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL

Oh...I'm sorry. I didn't realize we had visitors.

Diane slowly moves the scalpel away from Lisa's neck and slips it into her purse without Maggie noticing.

Diane turns and smiles at Maggie

DIANE

I was just leaving.  
(turns back to Lisa)  
Get well soon. We all miss you at church.

Diane politely smiles and nods to Maggie as she leaves.

Lisa closes her eyes as a tear escapes and her breaths are rapid.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Is everything okay...?

LISA  
Hm? Oh...yes. Fine. I just get all  
emotional when friends visit.

Maggie walks over and checks her vitals and she steals a glance at Lisa who stares at the door with apprehension.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Maggie exits the room and takes out her cellphone.

CUT TO:

INT. DARIUS' APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Marcus searches on the laptop at the *Motivated Movers* website as Darius walks in with a bowl of cereal.

DARIUS  
You sure you don't want none, bro?  
Can't go wrong with the Captain.

Marcus lightly smiles and shakes his head.

MARCUS  
I'm good. I'd rather not have my  
teeth rot out of my head.

Darius walks over and checks out the website with him.

DARIUS  
It's gotta be a front, right? I  
mean we saw these fuckers take  
Lauren and talking with Pastor  
James.

MARCUS  
I saw a van outside of my Grandma's  
the morning she was attacked too.

DARIUS  
So they stealing these girls and  
forcing them into some sex  
trafficking ring or some shit. Your  
Grandma found out and was gonna  
expose them.

MARCUS

Explains her attitude towards Diane  
that morning after church.

Suddenly, a DING comes from Darius' cellphone. He takes it  
out of his pocket and reads the message.

DARIUS

Maggie texted me.

MARCUS

Maggie...?

DARIUS

The doctor.

MARCUS

(laughing)

You seriously got my Grandma's  
doctor's number?

DARIUS

Not for that. For updates on your g-  
ma's health. Come on, bro.

MARCUS

Sure...

(beat)

What did she say?

DARIUS

Oh shit...

(beat)

She said a woman named Diane came  
by to visit. Said she's a church  
friend but something seemed off...

Marcus rubs his forehead in stress.

MARCUS

I shouldn't have went to her. I  
took it too far...

DARIUS

Man fuck that noise. We can't let  
her intimidate us like that.

MARCUS

If we're right, the church  
orchestrated her attempted murder.  
Diane knew I would find out she  
paid her a little visit. It's a  
warning.

(beat)

(MORE)

MARCUS (CONT'D)

We gotta stop. At least until I know I can protect her.

DARIUS

We could. Or we can just be more stealth.

MARCUS

What do you have in mind?

DARIUS

You leave that to me.

Darius takes a seat on the couch and passes Marcus the bowl of cereal. He then quickly gets to work on the laptop.

FOCUS ON THE LAPTOP...as Darius goes to a personal's website and begins making a post for *Movers Wanted*.

Marcus furrows his brow as Darius quickly makes a profile by the name of *Jordan* and uses a photo of a young attractive girl from an internet search.

MARCUS

You wanna bait them?

DARIUS

We gonna Chris Hansen the shit out of these assholes.

MARCUS

I thought you said under the radar?

DARIUS

We ain't gonna tell them to take a seat. We're gonna get them to go somewhere and then follow them without them knowing.

Marcus sighs as Darius finishes the post.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Now all we gotta do is wait.

He clicks to post it.

FADE TO:

INT. LISA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Marcus looks around the room and inspects the locked windows as Lisa is wheeled in by an AIDE.

He turns around and softly smiles.

MARCUS  
Hey, Grandma.

LISA  
Hi, baby.

Marcus walks over and gently hugs her.

MARCUS  
Feel good to be home?

Lisa looks over towards the kitchen.

LISA  
This place doesn't feel like home  
to me anymore.

Suddenly, Marcus' phone rings and he quickly takes it out to see that Darius is calling.

MARCUS  
Hey.

DARIUS (ON PHONE)  
We got a bite.

MARCUS  
You serious?

DARIUS (ON PHONE)  
I'm outside. It's go time, bro.

MARCUS  
I'll be right there.

Marcus ends the call.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
I gotta go. Got a gig I can't turn  
down. But I'll be back soon.

LISA  
We need to talk.

MARCUS  
We will. I promise.

Marcus kisses her on the cheek and looks up to the Aide.

AIDE

Don't worry, I'll take good care of her. If anything pops up I'll give you a call.

MARCUS

Thanks.

Marcus moves to the door, takes a look back at her, and then quickly leaves.

CUT TO:

I/E. DARIUS' CAR/APARTMENT UNIT - MOMENTS LATER

Darius and Marcus stakeout the unit from the car across the street.

After a few moments, the *Motivated Movers* truck pulls down the street and parks in front of the unit.

DARIUS

Hook, line, and sinker.

MOVERS 3 & 4 get out of the truck and walk to the back.

MARCUS

Those are different dudes than the ones who took Lauren.

DARIUS

Guess they got a whole roster of dirty bags.

The Movers grab a crate and a hand trolley from the back of the truck.

They make their way to the front door and knock.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Ain't nobody home, assholes.

Mover 3 looks at his phone while Mover 4 looks around with a bit of apprehension.

Mover 3 bangs harder on the door.

MOVER 4

I don't like this.

Mover 3 waits a moment longer.

MOVER 3

Let's go.

They walk back to the truck while looking around. Marcus and Darius slide lower and out of view.

The Movers put the crate and trolley back and then get into the truck. They drive away.

Marcus and Darius quickly sit up.

MARCUS

Go, go, go!

Darius starts up the car, pulls out of the spot, and does a three-point turn to go after them.

I/E. DARIUS' CAR/CITY STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Darius follows the truck but there's a car between them. Marcus' legs anxiously shake.

The truck gets over to the right lane and leaves its blinker on to make the next right.

Darius looks in his rearview and cuts off a car in order to stay behind. The car behind the honks their horn.

MARCUS

Try not be so obvious...

DARIUS

I got this...I played way to many hours of GTA not to.

They follow the truck as it makes a turn.

On the next street, the truck makes another left.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Shit...

Darius accelerates up to the turn and whips the wheel to make it before oncoming traffic. The wheels screech and they just narrowly make it.

MARCUS

Dude!

DARIUS

I'm not losing them!

Darius tightly grips the wheel.

INT. MOVING TRUCK - CONTINUOUS

Mover 3 is on his cellphone while Mover 4 drives.

MOVER 3

Hey...we got a bit of a situation.  
Got a call to a location but no one  
was there.

INTERCUT WITH THE OFFICE IN THE CHURCH...where Diane and James are seated behind the desk.

JAMES

Are you being followed?

Mover 3 looks in his rearview to see Darius' car behind them.

MOVER 3

We are.

DIANE

This is why I wanted to screen the  
girls to make sure everything was  
legit.

JAMES

We don't have those kind of  
resources, Diane.

DIANE

Well now look what it's costing us!

MOVER 3

I don't mean to interrupt but we're  
gonna need a plan here.

JAMES

Lose them. I don't care if you have  
to drive all night.

DIANE

No.

JAMES

No?

MOVER 3

No?

DIANE

You'll never lose them in a truck  
like that.

Diane takes a moment.



MOVER 3

I'm waiting for another solution...

DIANE

String them along. Kill them.

JAMES

Diane...

DIANE

Do it. Make it quick and clean.  
Call us back when it's done.

Diane ends the call as James stares at her in disbelief.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Don't stare at me like that. I  
won't risk everything we've built.

Diane angrily walks out of the office.

END OF INTERCUT

CUT TO:

I/E. DARIUS' CAR/CITY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Suddenly, the truck picks up pace and makes a sharp turn  
without using a turn signal.

DARIUS

Shit!

Darius slams on the breaks and screeches around the turn.

The Movers look in their sideview mirrors and catch Marcus'  
gaze.

MARCUS

Dude! They know we're following  
them!

DARIUS

I don't care.

The truck makes another sharp turn and Darius stays on them.

MARCUS

This isn't a fucking video game,  
Darius! Stop the car!

DARIUS

No!

The truck drives into the oncoming lane and stops traffic as drivers lay on their horns.

The truck makes a left and Darius cuts the traffic off to follow.

MARCUS

Darius!

DARIUS

I got this!

Marcus grabs the steering wheel and Darius slams on the brakes. The car skids towards the truck and comes to a stop just before slamming into the back of it.

Marcus and Darius both heavily breath in disbelief.

Then, Mover 3 gets out of the truck and cocks a gun as he walks towards Darius' car.

MARCUS

Shit, shit, shit! He's got a gun,  
dude! He's got a gun!

DARIUS

Oh shit...

Darius quickly flips the car in reverse and backs away from the truck as fast as possible.

Mover 3 fires the gun.

BANG! A bullet pierces the windshield and hit the back middle seat.

BANG! A bullet shatters the front left headlight.

BANG! A bullet penetrates the hood.

BANG! A bullet takes off the right rearview mirror.

BANG! A final bullet pierces the windshield again.

The car flips around and peels off down the street and out of sight.

Mover 3 stands there for a moment and then looks around for any witnesses. He then quickly turns and gets back into the truck.

INT. DARIUS' CAR - CONTINUOUS

Darius frantically looks in the rearview mirror as Marcus looks back through the window.

MARCUS  
Holy shit...are you okay...?

DARIUS  
Yeah...I think...I think...

Darius looks down and sees blood gushing out of his lower abdomen.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Fuck...

Marcus' eyes widen in horror.

MARCUS  
Pull over!

Darius winces in pain and quickly pulls off the road. The car comes to a stop and he leans back in the chair.

Marcus quickly grabs a sweatshirt from the backseat and applies it to Darius' wound. He groans in pain as Marcus presses on it.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
You gotta keep pressure on it.

Darius becomes weak.

DARIUS  
Bro...I...I don't feel so good...

MARCUS  
Okay...okay. I got you. I got you.

Marcus quickly gets out of the car, runs around the front, and then opens the back and driver's doors.

He grabs Darius and moves him to the back seat and lays him down.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Keep the pressure on it and don't fall asleep! I'm getting you to the hospital!

DARIUS  
 No...no hospital...cops...  
 (beat)  
 Call...call Maggie...

Marcus groans in frustration and closes the door. He quickly gets in the car and grabs Darius' phone from the center console.

He makes the call and quickly drives off.

MARCUS  
 Come on...come on...

The call goes to voicemail.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
 Shit!

DARIUS  
 It's all good...just get me  
 there...

Marcus looks in the rearview mirror with worry.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Darius' car pull up to the elevator and comes to a screeching halt.

Marcus gets out of the car and opens the back door. Darius' torso is soaked in blood and a good amount has leaked onto the seat.

DARIUS  
 No...

MARCUS  
 What do you mean no?! I gotta get  
 you in there!

DARIUS  
 Just get a first aid kit or  
 something...

MARCUS  
 Are you out of your mind?!

DARIUS  
 I'll be fine...go...

Marcus slams his hand on the hood of the car and then swings the door shut.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus walks through the hallway and glances into rooms as he goes. Most of them are occupied.

He rounds a corner and finds a crash cart pushed up against the wall.

He quickly makes his way to it and checks to see that no one is watching.

He opens the compartments and quickly stuffs his pockets with anything he can find; gloves, gauzes, gauze roll, band aids, rubbing alcohol, tweezers, etc.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (O.S.)

Marcus...?

Marcus freezes then snaps around to see Maggie standing there with a look of confusion.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)

What are you doing...?

MARCUS

Thank God...I tried calling you.  
It's Darius. He's not doing good.  
You gotta come with me.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL

What? Where? I can't just leave...

MARCUS

He's in the parking lot. Please.

Maggie contemplates for a moment.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL

How serious is this?

MARCUS

Very.

Maggie moves to the crash cart and grabs a few more things.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL

Okay. Let's go.

MARCUS

Thank you.

Marcus quickly leads Maggie down the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL - PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus rushes over to the car as Maggie follows behind.

He rips open the back door to find Darius laying there motionless and with his eyes closed.

MARCUS  
No, no, no! Darius!

Marcus leans in and shakes him.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Darius! Wake up!

Maggie reaches the car.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Let me through!

Marcus back away and Maggie gets a look at him.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Jesus...

She checks his pulse.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Still a pulse...still breathing...  
(beat)  
Darius?!

Darius stirs and slowly opens his eyes. He weakly smiles.

DARIUS  
Yo...I must be in heaven...

Maggie can't fight back a smile and she shakes her head.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
(to Marcus)  
You down to be my nurse for the  
day?

MARCUS  
Anything...

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Good. Gloves.

Marcus quickly gives her gloves and she puts them on. She removes the sweatshirt from the wound and lifts up Darius' shirt.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Gunshot wound...

She thinks for a moment.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Get me a gag for his mouth.

DARIUS  
Whoah...not on the first date...

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
Shut up...

Marcus rips off a piece of his shirt and balls it up. He hands it to her and she quickly stuffs it in his mouth.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Rubbing alcohol.

Marcus hands her the rubbing alcohol and she unscrews it.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
(to Darius)  
This is going to hurt. Bite down.

Darius whimpers and Maggie douses the wound with the rubbing alcohol.

Darius screams but they're muffled from the gag.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Tweezers.

Marcus hands her the tweezers and she hovers over the wound.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, Darius...

DARIUS  
(muffled)  
Just do it!

Maggie inserts the tweezers into the wound as Darius screams.

Marcus opens the driver's door, gets in, and quickly places his hand over Darius' mouth for extra sound proofing.

Then, Darius passes out.

MARCUS  
Oh shit...oh shit...

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
He's just passed out from the pain.

Maggie bites her lip as she continues to move the tweezers around.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Got it...

Maggie slowly pulls the bullet from the wound and drops it on the ground.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL (CONT'D)  
Suture kit.

MARCUS  
A what?

MAGGIE CAMPBELL  
The little black case!

Marcus quickly grabs the suture kit and hands it to her. She gets it prepped and begins stitching up the wound.

CUT TO:

INT. DARIUS' APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Darius is asleep on the couch with gauze wrapped around his torso. He slowly stirs and looks around in confusion.

DARIUS  
What in the hell...?

Marcus walks in from the kitchen with a glass of water.

MARCUS  
He finally rises.

Darius winces as he attempts to sit up.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
Not a good idea.

Marcus hands him the water and Darius chugs it.

DARIUS  
What happened? Where's my guardian angel?



MARCUS

Back at the hospital and lucky you didn't get her ass fired. Also double lucky that she saved yours.

DARIUS

I'll make it up to her for the rest of my life.

Marcus snickers and shakes his head.

MARCUS

Still can't believe those guys shot at us.

DARIUS

Means we're close. Someone gave him that order, bro. Ain't no way some random worker decides to grow balls like that on a whim.

MARCUS

This might be bigger than we can handle.

DARIUS

Nah, we got this. Those dumbass cops haven't even figured out the connection yet.

(beat)

Now, we just gotta figure out the next move.

MARCUS

We aren't doing anything. You need to rest.

DARIUS

I'm good, bro. It's just a scratch.

Marcus shakes his head. Then, Darius' cellphone rings.

Marcus picks it up and checks who's calling.

MARCUS

Tino?

DARIUS

Oh shit...answer that. Put it on speaker.

Marcus sighs and follows Darius' instructions.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Tino! My guy...what's up?

TINO (ON PHONE)  
I need a drop. Special request.

DARIUS  
You know I'm you're guy...

Marcus looks at Darius as if he has five heads and motions a "what are you doing" gesture.

Darius holds up his hand.

TINO (ON PHONE)  
You don't sound good.

DARIUS  
Ah...I'm just waking up from a nap.  
I'm all good. So what are the  
deets?

There's a long pause. Darius nervously looks at Marcus.

TINO (ON PHONE)  
Penthouse party. Downtown. I'll  
text you the address. They need  
everything you got.

DARIUS  
Everything? Shit...what kinda party  
is this?

TINO (ON PHONE)  
Are you good for it or no?

Darius looks over at Marcus and Marcus motions for him not to do it.

DARIUS  
Yeah. I'm good.

Marcus shakes his head in disbelief.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Can I bring a friend? I'll need  
help carrying all my shit. He's  
solid. No worries there.

MARCUS  
(whispers)  
Dude! What the fuck...

TINO (ON PHONE)  
He's your responsibility. You know  
what that comes with.

DARIUS  
I gotchu. Thanks for hitting me up,  
bro.

TINO (ON PHONE)  
Texting you now. Ask for Miss X  
when you get there.

The call ends.

MARCUS  
Darius...what the actual fuck?!

DARIUS  
I can't pass that up, bro!  
Everything I got?! You know how  
much paper that is?!

MARCUS  
You just got shot!

DARIUS  
No one needs to know that but you  
and me. Besides, you'll do all the  
heavy lifting.

MARCUS  
I said I was done with this shit.

DARIUS  
Yeah, well I ain't. I need this.  
One more time and I won't bring you  
in ever again.

MARCUS  
This should be the last time  
period.

DARIUS  
So then you'll do it?

Marcus takes a moment and shakes his head.

Darius chuckles and then winces.

MARCUS  
You're a dumbass.

DARIUS  
And you're my boy.

Darius holds up his fist and Marcus reluctantly bumps it with his own.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - DETECTIVE THOMPSON'S OFFICE - EVENING

Detective Thompson goes over some reports as Police Officer 1 enters the room with a sense of urgency.

POLICE OFFICER 1

Detective...we got a match on some prints we found in Lauren Davidson's apartment. You won't believe one of them.

He tosses the report on Detective Thompson's desk and he opens it to see a photos of Marcus and Darius.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

The kid who's grandmother was nearly stabbed to death...

POLICE OFFICER 1

The other one is a small-time drug dealer. Might be all connected.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

Let's find out.

Detective Thompson quickly gets up and hurries out with Police Officer 1.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURY HOUSING TOWER - LOBBY - NIGHT

Marcus and Darius walk into the lobby with two tightly packed duffle bags.

They walk up to the reception area where a smiling RECEPTIONIST greets them.

DARIUS

Hey. We're here to see Miss X...

RECEPTIONIST

Of course. They'll be sending down someone to greet you shortly.

DARIUS

Oh...okay. Cool.

Darius shrugs to Marcus and they mosey over towards the elevators. They watch as the numbers slowly trickle down.

MARCUS  
I got a bad feeling about this...

DARIUS  
Chill and follow my lead.

DING!

The doors slowly open to reveal Guard 1.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Miss X...?

Guard 1 glares for a moment.

GUARD 1  
Only one of you.

DARIUS  
Ah, see we're a packaged duo. One don't go anywhere with out the other and...

GUARD 1  
(stern)  
One of you.

Darius glances over at Marcus.

DARIUS  
Cool. Sure. I gotchu.

Darius motions for Marcus to give him the other duffle bag. Marcus hesitates.

Darius grabs the duffle bag from Marcus, winces a bit, and throws it over his other shoulder.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
(to Guard 1)  
Let's do this.

Guard 1 steps aside as Darius walks into the elevator. Guard 1 follows after him, presses the button, and faces forward to glare at Marcus as the doors close.

MARCUS  
Dumbass...

Marcus shakes his head in frustration and heads towards the exit.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Darius steps out of the elevator as Guard 1 leads him. He looks around in awe.

DARIUS  
(to himself)  
Damn I wanna be rich...

GUARD 1  
Wait here.

Guard 1 walks off into the next room to the left. A moment later, Miss X walks out with a seductive smile.

MISS X  
You must be Darius.

DARIUS  
One and only.

MISS X  
You can call me Miss X. Tino has spoken very highly of you.

DARIUS  
I'm legit.

She looks him up and down.

MISS X  
I can tell. It's a breath of fresh air to have someone who catches the eye deliver our goods.

DARIUS  
Thanks...  
(beat)  
Where do you wanna do this?

MISS X  
And forward too. I like it.  
(beat)  
Follow me.

Miss X walks towards the room she came from and Darius follows.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Miss X leads Darius through the room that already appears to have been the center of a party; empty alcohol bottles, cups, and leftover drug paraphernalia.

He glances over at the couch where a half-naked Janae is passed out. He squints with slight recognition.

MISS X  
You'll have to excuse my friend.  
She always tends to overindulge.

DARIUS  
As long as she's alive...

MISS X  
Of course she is.

Miss X opens a door and steps aside.

MISS X (CONT'D)  
Right this way.

Darius enters the room.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Miss X follows behind Darius and closes the door. Darius waits in the middle of the room while Miss X walks by, gently brushes her fingers along his shoulders and moves to the desk.

She moves aside some things.

MISS X  
Let's do it right here.

DARIUS  
Okay...

Darius walks up and places the duffle bags on the desk. He unzips them and takes a step back.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Feel free to check it out. All the best shit.

MISS X  
There won't be a need for that. I trust you.

Miss X opens a drawer and pulls out a sack.

Keeping a seductive gaze on Darius, she walks to the back wall where there's a safe and opens it.

She drops wads of cash into the sack as Darius' eyes widen.

She walks back and offers him the sack. Just as he goes to grab it, she playfully pulls it away.

MISS X (CONT'D)  
I'll give it you, baby, but you  
gotta work for it. I put in a  
little extra.

She drops the sack on the desk and walks behind him. She gently rubs her hands along his chest and back.

Darius lightly chuckles with a smirk.

DARIUS  
And what exactly does the entail?

She moves her hands down towards his abdomen and he winces.

He grabs her hand guides it back up towards his chest. She giggles.

MISS X  
You tell me what you want. I like  
being obedient.

She walks around him and brushes her hand near his crotch.

DARIUS  
We don't gotta do this. You can  
just pay me...

Miss X grabs him by the shirt, pulls him towards her, and intensely kisses him.

Darius pulls away.

MISS X  
You sure you don't want the extra?  
It'll be the easiest money you've  
ever made.

DARIUS  
I'm sure it would be but...I'm  
kinda seeing someone right now.

Miss X chuckles.

MISS X  
When has that ever stopped a man  
before?

She moves close to him again and full on palms his crotch.



MISS X (CONT'D)  
Your moth is saying no but your  
friend...

Darius pushes her hand off and takes a step back.

DARIUS  
Can I just have my money?

Miss X glares for a moment.

MISS X  
Fine.

She grabs the sack and moves to a cabinet full of alcohol.

MISS X (CONT'D)  
After you take a shot with me.

She grabs a bottle and pours a shot into a glass.

DARIUS  
I'm good. Gotta drive.

MISS X  
It's one shot. I know you're not a  
lightweight.

She walks up to him.

MISS X (CONT'D)  
After this, I promise I'll let you  
go.

Darius hesitates for a moment and then snatches the glass  
from her. He quickly downs it.

DARIUS  
We good?

Darius' phone rings and he reaches into his pocket to see  
that Marcus is calling.

Miss X takes advantage of this and pours another shot into  
his glass.

MISS X  
Oops. One more.

She grabs his hand and forces the glass to his mouth. He  
reluctantly drinks it.

DARIUS  
What the hell...

Darius staggers back and puts his phone back in his pocket. He blinks heavily a few times.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
(stuttering)  
What is this shit...what did you...

Miss X hushes him and sensually walks up to him.

MISS X  
It's okay, baby. I'mma take good  
care of you.

She pushes him back onto a couch and dumps the sack of money into his arms.

She then grabs his belt, undoes it, and pulls down his pants as he helplessly lays there.

CUT TO:

INT. MARCUS' CAR - CONTINUOUS

Marcus lowers the phone from his ear and ends the call with Darius as he shakes his head in frustration.

Suddenly, a texts comes through from Darius.

ON SCREEN TEXT FROM DARIUS: *They want me to stick around for a bit before making the deal. I'm gonna be a little.*

Marcus sighs in frustration.

ON SCREEN TEXT TO DARIUS: *I'm gonna check up on my Grandma. Be back in a few.*

Marcus starts the car and drives off. As he drives by an alleyway, he passes a *Motivated Movers* truck.

SMASH CUT

FROM THE WINDOW OF THE TOP FLOOR OF THE BUILDING...Miss X watches as she holds two cellphones in her hand with a smirk.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lisa is seated in her wheelchair that's pulled up to a desk cluttered with papers. She sorts through them with a tired gaze.

She grabs a piece of paper and looks at it closely. *Contract for Ownership of Property.*

She glances down towards the middle of the page...*after giving birth, the child must be handed over to recipients within 12 hours.*

At the bottom of the page...*I enter into this covenant under the eyes of God...with Victoria's signature afterwards.*

Disgusted, she places the paper down and grabs another. It's Victoria's death certificate.

LISA  
(trembling)  
I'm sorry, baby...

Suddenly, the sound of the door unlocking is heard.

Lisa gasps and turns her wheelchair in the direction of the front door.

After another moment, it opens and reveals Marcus.

Lisa breathes a sigh of relief.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Marcus...you startled me.

MARCUS  
Sorry, Grandma. I wanted to swing by and check on you.

He glances over at the desk full of papers.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
What's all this?

Lisa takes a moment.

LISA  
I think it's time we finish the conversation we started in the hospital. I have secrets that I've kept for too long.

Marcus nods and slowly takes a seat on the couch.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SIMULTANEOUS

The door to the office opens and Darius stumbles out with the sack of money in hand.

Miss X follows him out with a look of satisfaction.

MISS X  
That wasn't so hard was it?

She gently kisses him and bites his lip.

MISS X (CONT'D)  
I always get what I want.

She slaps his ass and he stumbles forward a step.

MISS X (CONT'D)  
You can let yourself out. I need to  
freshen up for the night.  
(beat)  
See you again soon, Darius.

Darius grumbles and woozily walks out of the room.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Darius slowly walks towards the elevator but then looks down the hallway with a bit of curiosity.

Guard 2 exits a room where Karla is on the bed passed out.

DARIUS  
(to himself)  
Karla...?

Guard 2 closes the door and locks it, leaving the key in the door, and walks off towards the other end of the hallway.

Darius checks his surroundings and moves to the hallway.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Darius cautiously walks up to the door and twists the key to unlock it.

He steps inside and quietly closes the door behind him.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Darius rubs his eyes and shakes his head in an attempt to snap himself out of his daze.

He approaches the bed.

DARIUS  
Karla...?

He reaches out and shakes her. No response.

Darius takes out his phone and sees the text exchange with Marcus.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
That bitch...

He puts his phone away and attempts to lift Karla off of the bed but he winces in pain.

He takes a deep breath and guts it out, lifting her off the bed and cradling her in his arms.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
I gotchu...I gotchu...

He slowly moves to the door.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - FOYER - MOMENTS LATER

Darius carries Karla down the hallway and into the foyer. Just as he reaches the elevator...

DING!

The doors open and reveal Movers 1 & 2.

DARIUS  
Shit...

MOVER 1  
Who the hell are you?

DARIUS  
I'm uh...the drug dealer...?

The Movers glance at each other in confusion.

Then, Darius takes off towards the living room.

MOVER 2  
Hey!

The Movers take out their guns and race after him.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Darius grunts in pain as he races through the room and to another corridor leading to a hallway.

He just turns the corner and two bullets fire into the wall and splinter the wood.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Darius rushes into a room and slightly closes the door.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM 2 - CONTINUOUS

Darius winces in pain and looks down at Karla.

Karla stirs and slowly opens her eyes.

KARLA

Darius...?

DARIUS

Oh shit! Thank God! You gotta wake up, Karla!

Karla groans with fatigue.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lisa nervously fidgets with her hands. Marcus looks over the contract and slowly lowers it. He stares at her with a tense gaze.

LISA

Your mother ran away after she gave birth to you. She couldn't watch James and Diane raise you.

MARCUS

If she couldn't then why didn't she take me with her?

LISA

I tried. Believe me, I did.

FLASH CUT

IN A FLASHBACK, IN THE LIVING ROOM...a younger Lisa follows Victoria to the front door as the sounds of a BABY crying are heard somewhere else in the house.

LISA (CONT'D)  
Don't do this, Victoria!

Victoria attempts to open the door but Lisa quickly slams it shut.

VICTORIA  
Let me go!

LISA  
I can't! I can't just let you walk  
out on your own child!

Lisa looks down to see bruising from injections in her arm.

LISA (CONT'D)  
You're using again...

VICTORIA  
I'm not fit to be his mother. No  
one should have to be his mother.  
Not after how he was brought to  
be...

LISA  
He's an innocent child, Victoria.

VICTORIA  
Not to me.

LISA  
Then why all of this bullshit with  
James and Diane? Why run from them?  
Just give them what they want and  
be done with it if you don't love  
this child.

VICTORIA  
It has nothing to do with love. I  
just don't want them to get what  
they want. They deserve nothing.

Lisa shakes her head and Victoria opens the door.

LISA  
Where are you going? What am I  
supposed to do?

VICTORIA  
Are you kidding? You finally get to  
be a mother. Enjoy it.

Victoria angrily walks out of the home and slams the door  
shut behind her.

FLASH CUT

BACK IN REALITY...Lisa trembles from the memory.

LISA  
She was panicked...fearful...

Lisa lowers her gaze as she fights back tears.

LISA (CONT'D)  
She was an addict, Marcus. She was  
never fit to be a parent. It's the  
whole reason I sent her to the  
retreat in the first place.

MARCUS  
Was that before or after you knew  
something shady was going on?

LISA  
Before. I thought I was helping  
her. She was sixteen and shooting  
up heroin or meth every damn day.  
She did get sober through the  
retreat...but it didn't last long.  
(beat)  
James and Diane tried to convince  
her to become a surrogate mother  
because Diane couldn't have kids.  
But she refused.

MARCUS  
Then how...

A slight look of realization comes over him as Lisa wipes  
away tears.

LISA  
She was raped, Marcus. Pastor James  
raped her. He did it until he and  
Diane got what they wanted.

MARCUS  
No...no that's not true.



LISA  
I'm sorry, baby...but it is. James  
is your father by blood.

Marcus stands in frustration and paces.

MARCUS  
Why didn't he get arrested? Why  
didn't you do anything?

LISA  
He's a pastor. An upstanding member  
of society. It was his word against  
a drug addict and her absent  
mother.

MARCUS  
All these girls. All the missing  
ones. They're somehow involved in  
this bullshit, aren't they? This  
isn't an actual retreat.

Lisa takes a moment and slowly shakes her head.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
They take advantage of girls with  
track records and addiction issues.  
So it'll always be his word against  
theirs.

LISA  
Yes...

MARCUS  
So does he just rape all of them  
and get rid of them?

LISA  
No...it's much bigger than that.

MARCUS  
How? How do you know all of this?

LISA  
Because I worked for them. I helped  
them recruit young women to go on  
the retreat so they wouldn't go  
after your mother or you.

Marcus is stunned and he nearly collapses onto the couch.

MARCUS  
Grandma...no...

LISA

It was the only way they'd let me  
keep you. I couldn't let a monster  
raise you.

Marcus snickers and shakes his head in disgust.

MARCUS

How ironic...

Lisa hangs her head in shame.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

So it's just one giant sex ring.  
They use these girls and then what?

LISA

I don't know. I truly don't.

MARCUS

I can imagine...you stopped helping  
them and they try to have you  
murdered. I'm sure once these girls  
become useless...same shit happens.

Marcus glares with anger and shakes his head.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Karla's missing...

Lisa furrows her brow in confusion.

LISA

What do you mean...?

MARCUS

Did you recruit her too?

LISA

No! I would never...

MARCUS

Seems like James and Diane aren't  
done punishing our family yet.

Marcus gets up and walks to the door. He stops and turns  
back.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Did she get away? My mother?

LISA

She did. For a short while.

(beat)

(MORE)

LISA (CONT'D)

I hired a private investigator to look into her whereabouts and I found out that she died last year.

(beat)

I was finally able to stop. She was dead and you were an adult.

MARCUS

You never should have started in the first place.

Marcus opens the door and heads out.

LISA

Marcus! Wait!

The door slams shut.

CUT TO:

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM 2 - SIMULTANEOUS

Darius places Karla down on the floor as she groans. Darius hushes her and peeks out to see Mover 2 going into the adjacent room.

He takes a step back and swallows hard.

Just as the door is pushed open...

WHAM!

Darius kicks it into Mover 1's face and knocks him back into the hallway.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mover 1 grabs onto his bleeding nose and screams in pain as Darius quickly snatches up the fallen gun.

He aims it at the next adjacent room as a confused Mover 2 comes out.

DARIUS

Drop it! I ain't playing!

Mover 2 slowly places the gun on the ground.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Kick it over!

MOVER 2  
You don't wanna do this kid...

DARIUS  
Kick that shit over now!

Mover 2 kicks his gun and Darius picks it up.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Walk your asses down the hallway  
and out of here.

Mover 2 helps Mover 1 up and they stand there for a moment.

Darius fires a shot that hits just above them on the ceiling.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Go!

The Movers quickly rush down the hallway and out of sight.

Darius darts back into the room and carries Karla out a moment later.

He moves towards the emergency exit door and pushes on it but it won't budge.

DARIUS (CONT'D)  
Shit!

KARLA  
(woozy)  
Five...one...

DARIUS  
What?

KARLA  
(woozy)  
The code...

Darius spots the keypad.

KARLA (CONT'D)  
(woozy)  
Five...one...se-yuh...thoo...

Darius punches in the number but fails.

DARIUS  
Five, one, what?!

Karla moans in discomfort.

Darius tries again but another fail.

Sounds of the Movers rushing back towards the hall are heard.

Darius desperately puts in another code and it works.

He laughs in triumph and quickly pushes open the door.

He drags Karla into the stairwell and closes the door just as the Movers rush back in with new guns and fire at the door.

INT. LUXURY HOUSING TOWER - STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Darius picks up Karla who is passed out again.

DARIUS  
Come on, Karla! Wake up!

He hurries down the stairs.

Suddenly, the door they came through slams open and causes Darius to look up in a panic.

He trips over himself and he and Karla fall down a flight of stairs.

Darius grabs his abdomen in agony as the Movers rush down with their guns pointed.

Darius leans his head back in defeat.

CUT TO:

EXT. JAMES & DIANE'S HOME - MOMENTS LATER

Marcus pulls up in his car and quickly gets out. He reaches behind his shirt and pulls out a gun from his waistband.

He cocks it and angrily makes his way to the front door.

Once there, he aggressively presses the doorbell and knocks.

Finally, Diane opens the door with a look of shock.

DIANE  
Marcus...

Marcus takes a moment and then aims the gun.

Diane raises her hands in surrender and takes a step back.

MARCUS

I know everything. She told me all of it.

DIANE

Calm down...I'm sure we can talk this out...

MARCUS

There's no talking. I'm gonna expose you and James for what you've done.

DIANE

Don't be so quick to decide our fate. Lisa's will be the same. She's an accomplice after all.

MARCUS

She has to live with the decisions she made.

James walks into view behind Diane and Marcus reaffirms his aim on Diane.

Diane slightly glances over her shoulder.

DIANE

Everything is fine, James. Marcus and I were just getting acquainted on family business.

James stops in his tracks and slowly raises his hand.

JAMES

Marcus...son...

MARCUS

Don't you dare call me that. I have no allegiance to you. If you try anything stupid, I'll kill her.

DIANE

We all know you're not capable of that.

MARCUS

Why not? Murder is in my DNA.

DIANE

Your father has never killed anyone...

MARCUS  
He's not my father!

JAMES  
Diane...

DIANE  
What is your plan, Marcus? Do you really think you can easily destroy everything we've built?

MARCUS  
Where is Karla?!

JAMES  
If we tell you...will you end this?

MARCUS  
I'm not promising you anything except for I will pull this trigger if you don't tell me where she is.

Diane glances back at James and smiles.

DIANE  
I think that's enough time.

MARCUS  
Enough time for what...?

Suddenly, police sirens are heard and lights illuminate the area.

Marcus turns around in shock as the home is surrounded by police cars. Several Police Officers get out of their car and aim their weapons.

POLICE OFFICER 1  
Drop your weapon!

Marcus stands there in disbelief.

DIANE  
Better listen to them. They won't hesitate to pull the trigger like you did.

POLICE OFFICER 1  
Drop it!

Marcus reluctantly drops it and Police Officers slowly move towards him. Detective Thompson is among them.

Police Officer 1 knocks Marcus down and cuffs him.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
Marcus Wilson. You're under the  
arrest for aggravated assault,  
conspiracy to murder, and so far  
the kidnapping of Lauren Davidson.

MARCUS  
What?! No! It's them! Arrest them!

The Police Officers yank Marcus to his feet and drag him  
away.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
You got the wrong guy! It's all  
them!

Detective Thompson walks up to Diane and James.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
Glad to see you two are fine.

JAMES  
Yes, thank you, Detective...

DIANE  
Poor boy. Just like his mother...a  
victim to such awful drugs.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
Is that right?

DIANE  
Heroin. Even after she abandoned  
him, he still couldn't escape  
falling into the same trap.

Detective Thompson turns and watches as a screaming Marcus is  
put into the back of a police car.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

Marcus is seated in the room with an angry gaze.

A moment later, Detective Thompson enters and takes a seat  
across from him.

They stare at each other in silence for a moment, until  
Detective Thompson sighs and leans forward.



DETECTIVE THOMPSON

I'm only going to tell you this once.

(beat)

If you tell me the truth, I can help you. I know it sounds like bullshit, but it's true.

(beat)

If you lie or try to lead me down some wild goose chase, I'll make sure you get what's coming. Understand?

MARCUS

Loud and clear.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

Good.

(beat)

So, you and Darius...you two always work together? Did someone hire you...?

MARCUS

What you're trying to pin on us wasn't us.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

Then why were your prints at the scene of the crime?

Marcus sighs and takes a moment.

MARCUS

The people behind this are running an entire human trafficking ring. They have Darius and my girlfriend Karla. I have no idea if they're dead, alive, or being used...

(beat)

...but if we don't get to them in time...

Marcus shakes his head.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON

And who are the people behind all of this?

MARCUS

I'll tell you everything. At least, everything I know for sure, but it'll be enough.

DETECTIVE THOMPSON  
I'm all ears.

Marcus nods and closes his eyes.

FADE TO:

INT. LUXURY HOUSING TOWER - HALLWAY - DAY

Several SWAT MEMBERS line up outside of the closed door. Detective Thompson waits at the end of the hall with his gun drawn.

The SWAT Members motion to each other and then...

BOOM!

They bust the door open and flood inside.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

SWAT Members tackle various Movers and Guards as the rest rush into the apartment.

INT. LUXURY HOUSING APARTMENT - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Miss X rushes out of the office and runs towards the emergency exit.

SWAT MEMBER 1  
Freeze!

She desperately attempts to put in the code to the door.

ZAP!

Miss X is shot with a tase gun, causing her body to convulse and then drop to the ground like a rag doll.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM 2 - CONTINUOUS

SWAT Members clear the room while others help the drugged Young Girls.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Detective Thompson leads SWAT Members into the room to find Darius and Karla tied up.

Darius slowly opens his eyes and softly smiles.

DARIUS  
(slurring)  
I never thought I'd be so happy to  
see you...

Detective Thompson puts his gun back in his holster.

SWAT MEMBER 2 (O.S.)  
Detective Thompson!

Detective Thompson turns and heads out of the room.

INT. LUXURIOUS APARTMENT - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Detective Thompson enters the room and walks over to the desk where there's a bunch of paperwork out.

SWAT MEMBER 2  
Thought you'd wanna see this.

Detective Thompson gazes down at the papers in shock.

CUT TO:

EXT. LISA'S HOME - DAY

NEWS CREWS clutter the street, front yard, and driveway.

Police vehicles are also in the mix, with several Police Officers standing watch.

The front door opens, and Lisa is escorted out by Detective Thompson who passes her off to a Police Officer.

Her expression is solemn and sorrowful. She accepts her fate, but she feels so much regret.

The Police Officer gently guides her into the back of a police car.

CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

James stands at the podium and addresses the Congregation as Diane proudly watches from the front pew.

JAMES

Brothers and sisters, our small piece of heaven has been struck with tragedy as of late. We are living in such uncertain times. But what I can say for certain, and what I truly know with all my heart, is that God will always stand by the innocent.

Suddenly, the doors burst open and several SWAT Members and Police Officers enter the church.

Diane whips around in shock as James takes a step back from the podium.

EXT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

James and Diane are lead out of the church; James is silent while Diane is rabid.

DIANE

He's a liar! A drug addict! How dare you treat us like this!

Marcus and Darius watch from the parking lot. Diane looks over at them with wild eyes.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Satan will smite you! You are no child of mine!

Marcus and Darius chuckle and wave to her as she and James are put in the back of separate police cars.

CUT TO:

INT. LISA'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Karla anxiously watches the news of the arrest as Marcus enters the home.

She stands and looks at him with hopeful eyes.

KARLA

Is it over?

Marcus walks over to her and holds her in his arms.

MARCUS

It's over. You're safe.

Karla nods with tears in her eyes and buries her face in to Marcus' chest. He wraps his arms around her tightly and closes his eyes.

FADE TO:

EXT. LISA'S HOME - DAY

Karla places a box into a Uhaul moving van.

Marcus comes out with an open box and places it in the van.

KARLA

Please tell me that's the last one.

MARCUS

It is.

Karla breathes a sigh of relief. Marcus chuckles and grabs a photo album from the open box.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

This was the last thing...

He opens it to show various pictures of himself, Lisa, and Victoria in different stages of their lives.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

I wasn't sure if I wanted to keep it or not.

Karla glances at the photos and then up at him with a look of concern.

KARLA

They can always be thrown away but you can't ever get them back.

Marcus closes the album and puts it back in the box.

MARCUS

Maybe some day...

DARIUS (O.S.)

Ayo!

Marcus and Karla turn to see Darius and Maggie approaching them.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Damn! Looks like you guys already packed everything!

MARCUS

What a convenient time to show up.

DARIUS

Hey bro, I'm still recovering. No heavy lifting. Doctor's orders.

MAGGIE CAMPBELL

He's perfectly fine and would love to help you guys move your things into the new place.

DARIUS

Yo! I thought you said you had my back...

MAGGIE CAMPBELL

I do. I'll be there for moral support.

(to Karla)

Come on, I'll drive you over so Darius has no choice but to help his best friend.

KARLA

Sounds good to me.

Karla and Marcus kiss and she heads off with Maggie.

MARCUS

Still don't get what she sees in you.

DARIUS

Come on, bro. I'm the full package.

MARCUS

You done with the shady stuff? No more drug deals and shit like that?

DARIUS

Yeah...crack is whack, right?

Marcus chuckles and nods.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

I'm clean, bro. It's not worth it. Losing Maggie over that shit would definitely not be worth it.

MARCUS

For the first time in your life you actually said something smart.

Darius playfully shoves Marcus.

DARIUS

Let's get this over with before I  
change my mind about helping you.

Darius walks around the van to the other side.

Marcus turns and looks at Lisa's house for a moment. He then  
nods to himself and gets in the van. Then, they slowly drive  
away.

CUT TO BLACK.

**THE END.**