

DEARLY BELOVED

Written by

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Based on True Events

HIGH ANGLE OF SAN DIEGO, CA. WIDE SHOT OF THE FRANKLIN HOUSE

The title, DEARLY BELOVED is shown as Sade's Cherish The Day is played in the background.

EXT. THE FRANKLIN HOUSE- REBECCA'S ROOM- SAN DIEGO, CA- NIGHT-
10:18 PM- SEPTEMBER 2017

WIDE SHOT OF THE FRANKLIN FAMILY AROUND REBECCA, POV ON REBECCA.

A lovely room with photographs of a young REBECCA FRANKLIN and her children, ADRIAN and JACKIE, an African American woman lying down in bed. Her name is Rebecca Franklin.

REBECCA

(touches her daughter face
while looking at her son
with concern)

I'm not going to be here forever. I
just wanted to say how much I've
been blessed to have an amazing
kids like you.

(kisses each of her
children's cheeks)

I wanna make sure I go out with a
smile on her face.

Jackie, the youngest child, speaks.

JACKIE

Mom, don't talk like that. You're
gonna beat this.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

(looks around, then looks
at Jackie)

I don't got much time left, but I'd
like for you guys to know that I
really love you guys.

Rebecca shuts her eyes and doesn't move, as Jackie panics. She attempts to revive her mother a few times, as Adrian doesn't do anything. She looks at her brother and cries as Adrian consoles her.

REVERSE SHOT ON ADRIAN AND JACKIE, MCU ON REBECCA'S DECEASED BODY

ADRIAN

(consoling Jackie)

She's gone, sis. Ain't nothing we can do bout it.

(looks at his sister and looks at his mother)

I'll dial the funeral home and you stay here and keep mom company.

Adrian leaves, as Jackie keeps her mother company. Jackie's stroking her mother's hair, as we see a lot of tears running through her.

JACKIE

(in tears, stroking her mother's hair)

Mom, you remember when we were kids and Adrian and I used to fight?

You'd always say 'You're brothers and sisters and you guys have each other in this world', you remember?

(looks around and then speaks again)

Well, you right. Adrian and I got each other left and I dunno if we could make it without ya.

She kisses her mother's forehead as Adrian returns. Jackie, too emotional, leaves as Adrian's alone with his mother's dead body. He looks at the body and doesn't show much emotion as he watches her sternly.

POV ON ADRIAN, MLS OF ADRIAN TOWERING OVER HIS MOTHER'S BODY

DISSOLVE TO:

LIVING ROOM

A few officers enter the house, as Jackie's seen crying on Adrian's shoulders.

Meanwhile, officers are escorting Rebecca's dead body out of the house, as an officer approaches Adrian and Jackie. The officer, OFFICER UKAMBE, an African officer in his mid thirties, speaks with them.

OFFICER UKAMBE

(in an African accent, but sincere tone)

(MORE)

OFFICER UKAMBE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for your loss. If you may, please tell me what happened?

ADRIAN

Our mom just died and it ain't easy losing a parent. Our pops left us when we were kids and--

JACKIE

(in an emotional tone)

Please just tell us what to do bout this! We can't go on without our mom!

(crying, latches onto Adrian)

She didn't deserve to die!

OFFICER UKAMBE (CONT'D)

I lost my mother a few years back and it hasn't been easy.

(writes down something on a sheet of paper)

You guys should see a therapist. This guy's really good at helping people deal with grief better.

He hands them a sheet of paper with the words, DR. IVANNA FLOWERS, PSYCHOLOGIST AND GRIEF COUNSELOR on it. Ukambe then leaves. Adrian shuts the door.

TWO SHOT OF ADRIAN AND JACKIE, MLS ON THE TWO SIBLINGS, POV OF ADRIAN

ADRIAN

(looks around, in a concerned tone)

So what you think we should do with the house? I'm sure mom wouldn't mind if we sold the joint.

Jackie looks at him and gets angry.

JACKIE

Mom just died and you already talking bout selling the place?

ADRIAN

I dunno why you tripping. Mom ain't here no more, so we should just sell the place and move on.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
 I didn't know you could be so damn
 heartless bro!

Jackie leaves, as Adrian tries to follow her. Alone in his mother's house, he looks around and notices some old family photos.

As he's going through the photos, he stops and comes across an old picture of a younger Adrian with his mother.

POV ON ADRIAN LOOKING AT THE PHOTOS

Adrian struggles to move past the picture, as he turns around and sees a note. He reads it.

ADRIAN
 (reading the note)
*To my son, Adrian. You've always
 been my pride and joy. You look so
 much like your father and I'm proud
 of you. I promise to love and
 protect you as long as I live. My
 son. My love. My world.*

-Rebecca Franklin

Adrian doesn't know what to do with it, as he rereads it to himself a few times. He then looks around and notices some of his mother's old books on the shelves. Going through each book, he comes across a few diaries.

He gently places the diaries in his bag and walks out of the house.

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- ADRIAN'S BEDROOM- NIGHT- SAN DIEGO,
 CA- 2:19 AM- LS ON ADRIAN LYING DOWN ON HIS BED

Adrian, going through some of his mother's things is stopped by a woman in dark lingerie. Tall, beautiful, and attractive, she begins kissing his neck passionately as he tries to push her away. The woman is GRACE FRANKLIN.

CU ON ADRIAN AND GRACE KISSING, POV ON ADRIAN AND GRACE
 LOOKING AT EACH OTHER

Grace, comforting her fiancé, has a smile on her face as Adrian shows her some of his mother's personal things.

GRACE

I'm shocked that your mother didn't show you any of this.

ADRIAN

I know right? Maybe this is a sign from her...maybe I'm suppose to do something with my life.

GRACE

You're fine, sweetie. Maybe you should read some of her mother's things. You know, get to know her better. You've been telling me about her that you probably didn't get the chance to understand her.

ADRIAN

I love my mom, but I dunno if I should be reading some of her things like that.

(looks around, in a sadder tone)

I mean look around. We live in a crappy apartment, got no kids, and have shitty jobs that ain't paying us well--

(kisses Grace on the cheek)

Mom wanted me to take care of you cause she saw you as good people.

With a smile on her face, Grace begins to blush.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Your mother just wanted what's best for you is all. Trust me, I think you should read some of the things she wrote. You think about it.

She turns off her light and goes to sleep, as Adrian's still going through some of Rebecca's things. Then, he comes another picture.

An infant Adrian and a much younger Rebecca is revealed as he turns the photo and sees another letter. He reads it.

ADRIAN

(lowering his voice, to himself, reading the letter)

To my son, Adrian. Just a few weeks ago, your father and I welcomed you into the world.

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

*I looked into your innocent eyes
and saw a world of love and
possibilities, but your father and
grandfather wanted me to give you
up so that you could have a better
life. You're my baby and I'll
always love you. The bond a mother
and a son has is unbreakable and I
refuse to let anyone separate you
and I.*

-Rebecca Franklin

He goes through many more pictures with other letters behind them. An old image of a toddler version of himself, an infant Jackie and his mother at a beach catches his attention. He notices something about the picture and watches it carefully.

MCU ON PICTURE, POV OF ADRIAN WATCHING THE PICTURE

His facial expression changes as he continues to investigate.

DISSOLVE TO:

A FEW HOURS LATER

Still going through his mother's things, he shows Grace some more of the pictures.

ADRIAN

Mom probably thought that I was a burden to have.

GRACE

Don't say that. Your mother loved you. You gotta get to know her better, sweetie.

ADRIAN

(drinking some coffee,
looking at Grace)

I just don't see why she doesn't like me. I mean all I done was love her and shit and it ain't been easy for me.

(looks away)

It's like she and Jackie always were close and when it came to me, it's like she didn't like me.

GRACE
You want me to help ya?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
(kisses Grace on the
cheek, looking through
some of his mother's
things)
I'd appreciate it.

Grace and Adrian goes through some of Rebecca's things as Grace comes across a few papers. She hands them over to Adrian, who eagerly goes through the papers.

ADRIAN
(hopeful)
Mom said that she used to leave me
years of her artwork. I hope this--
(in a depressive state,
struggling to speak)
I knew it!
(crumbles up the papers,
looks back at Grace)
She left everything to Jackie and
not me! I'm the first born. I
deserve to have some parts of my
mother.

Adrian storms out as Grace's alone with all of these
paperwork. She continues to relax and eat.

EXT. DR. IVANNA FLOWERS' PSYCHOLOGY CLINIC- MORNING- A FEW
WEEKS LATER- OCTOBER 2017

WIDE SHOT OF CLINIC, SHOTS OF PEOPLE ENTERING AND LEAVING THE
CLINIC.

A rainy day as a cab pulls over. Adrian emerges from the cab
and pays the driver. He looks at the clinic and takes a step
inside to

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS' OFFICE

Dr. Ivana, a well dressed woman, is doing some paperwork as
Adrian enters. She stops and greets him.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS
Hello, how may I help you?

ADRIAN

The name's Adrian Franklin. I'm here cause my mom died and I need help addressing certain things that she and I had.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

(curious, listens some more)

Were you and your mother close by any chance? Spend any time together?

ADRIAN

No. I...

(stops, but keeps speaking)

Maybe this was a mistake. I'm sorry I wasted your time, doc.

Dr. Flowers stops him. He listens to her as she convinces him to tell her his story. He hesitates, but keeps talking.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I dunno...I always felt my mom didn't like me. Why do you think that is, doc?

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

Some parents aren't emotional to their children. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

ADRIAN

Have a younger brother in the army and a sister.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS (CONT'D)

Did your mother show them any affection growing up?

ADRIAN

I'm the eldest of three kids and it's like my mom ain't been interested in me. She use to love my lil bro, DARIUS and my lil sis, Jackie.

(sits down, in a content tone)

My mom always gave them everything I never had.

Dr. Flowers is writing down Adrian's words as she gives him her insight.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS
Are you married by any chance?

ADRIAN
Yeah, but what does that gotta do
with me and my mom?

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS (CONT'D)
All men marry someone who reminds
them of their mother. Do your wife
remind you of your mother in some
way?

ADRIAN
The way she'd ignore me reminds me
of my mother. She kinda looks like
my mom and talk like her too.

Adrian keeps talking as he's tapping his foot. Dr. Flowers
notices and confronts him.

ADRIAN
I used to do that when I was a kid.
My mom used to say it reminded her
of my pops, who wasn't really in my
life.
(curious, looks at the
doctor)
Lemme ask you a question. You sure
you know everything, doc?

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS
(laughs a bit)
I wouldn't say I know everything,
but let's just say that I've seen a
lot of cases like yours.
(hands him a paper)
I'm booked Mondays through
Thursdays, so is Friday good for
ya?

ADRIAN
I can do Friday.

They shake hands as Dr. Flowers hands him her card. Adrian
leaves.

INT. SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY- 3RD FLOOR- SAN DIEGO, CA-
CONTINUOUS- WIDE SHOT OF LIBRARY

Adrian is talking to a woman. The woman, an attractive woman
in her thirties shows Adrian around. As they're talking, she
introduces herself as CINDY HART.

She stops and heads into an aisle. Adrian waits patiently as she returns with a book of the FRANKLIN FAMILY TREE. He smiles, shaking her hand. Cindy informs him about the book.

POV ON CINDY AND ADRIAN, OVER THE SHOULDER ON ADRIAN, REVERSE SHOT ON BOTH

Adrian doesn't say a word.

CINDY

Your family has a long history here. As you can see, your distant ancestors worked here and--
 (looks around)
 A lot of the Franklin family members have donated a lot of their works to us over the years and it's an honor to have you here.

ADRIAN

Do you got any stories bout my mom, Rebecca?

Cindy looks around and searches. She asks workers and librarians, but to no avail. Adrian takes the book and goes to the

5TH FLOOR

A librarian greets Adrian, who asks her questions. She answers him to the best of her ability.

ADRIAN

(shows the librarian a picture of his mother)
 Do you have any records of this woman?

The librarian takes a quick look at Rebecca's photo and smiles. The librarian, EDYTHE WATERS, an elderly woman in her eighties shares some memories with Adrian.

EDYTHE

(looks at Adrian with a smile, holding the picture)
 I know her. She's Rebecca Franklin. The daughter of THEODORE and FRANCIS FRANKLIN.

ADRIAN

My mother...I just wanna know more bout her. You see, she and I never really got the chance to know each other and I just wanna know my mom.

EDYTHE

She was always a smart girl. Always loved to write and make art. Last time I saw her, she was talking to me about this girl name Jackie. Do you know her?

ADRIAN

(rolls his eyes, annoyed)
She's my lil sis. Mom always treated her better than me. I wanna know why she never liked me.

Edythe looks at Adrian and comforts him. Talking some more about Rebecca, she hands Adrian a few letters. He looks at it curiously. Edythe tells him more about Rebecca.

EDYTHE (CONT'D)

Your mother was always a good lady. I miss her. If you need any more information, please stop by.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Thanks for the help.

Adrian leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. AUNT CHARLENE'S CONDO- DINING ROOM- MORNING- NEXT DAY-
TWO SHOT OF CHARLENE AND ADRIAN, POV ON ADRIAN

Adrian talks to his great aunt, CHARLENE FRANKLIN. Charlene, a retired woman in her nineties is eating. She hands Adrian some food as they talk.

ADRIAN

Aunty, why you think Mom never liked me?

CHARLENE

(laughs a bit)
Your mother always talked about you when she'd stop by here.

Adrian's shocked. He asks Charlene some more questions.

ADRIAN

She never gave me the chance to know her. Was she always distant?

CHARLENE

(gets up and walks around, stops and looks out into the world)

Your mother never fully...

(stops and change the subject)

I promised her I wouldn't tell anyone of her secret and right now, you need to know that she tried her best with you.

ADRIAN

But she always gave Darius and Jackie love and affection.

CHARLENE

(sympathetic)

I know. You look so much like her and don't even realize how much you two have in common.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(confused)

What do ya mean?

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

Your mother was always looking for something and I see so much in her. I know you're looking for something too.

(whispers)

Trust me, you are your mother's son and she really enjoyed talked about you.

He shows Charlene some pictures of Rebecca and also of the family tree. Charlene thoroughly goes through the family album and family tree as she stops. A picture of FRANCIS FRANKLIN is revealed.

CHARLENE

Your grandmother and mother used to make your favorite--

ADRIAN

Chocolate Chip Cookie Pies with an ounce of love in it.

CHARLENE

(rolls her eyes)

Anyways, your grandmother and I use to see what went on between your mother and yourself...you gotta speak with your father about this. He'll probably know why your mother was hard on ya.

Jordan's taken a back as the mention of his father causes him to bite his fingernails.

ADRIAN

I haven't seen him since he left us.

(unsure, very doubtful)

But why would he know bout a thing like that?

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

Like I said, you are your mother's son. You'll find out the same way your mother found out years ago.

Adrian's confused as Charlene's guest arrives. Her caretaker shows him the door as Adrian thanks his great aunt.

EXT/INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- FRONT STEPS/HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM-
NIGHT- NOVEMBER 2017- A FEW WEEKS LATER

LONG SHOT OF ADRIAN SMOKING A CIGARETTE, WIDE SHOT OF
APARTMENT

Looking around, Adrian enjoys his cigarette. Many people are entering and leaving the FRONT STEPS. He finishes his cigarette, enters the apartment and walks through the

HALLWAY

As he sees Grace. They kiss as she opens the door. Excited, she talks to him as he sees a lot of documents in the

LIVING ROOM

And he looks at Grace, who tells him.

GRACE

Someone called earlier about wanting to see ya.

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

She sounded real strange, but she said that you gotta link up with her to know more about your mother.

She hands him a note, as he puts it in his pants pocket. He goes through more of his mother's letters. He opens one of them.

ADRIAN

(reading the letter)

Dear Adrian, you're more and more like your father each day. Just seeing your precious eyes blossom for knowledge reminds me of your father. I'm so proud to be your mother, but it's hard for me to accept the fact that you're growing up. You and I used to have this connection, but since I'm looking into the eyes of a complete stranger, it feels like I'm losing you. Just like your father, you'd have some of his traits and--I just hope that I'd be the best mother I can be to you.

-Rebecca Franklin

Adrian reads a few more letters. His demeanor changes. Grace enters and checks up on him. Adrian's very sad, showing Grace some of the letters. She reads it for herself.

GRACE

Your mother probably meant that in a concerned way. She just don't wanna loose you is all.

(rereading some parts of the letter)

It says "You and I used to have this connection, but since I'm looking into the eyes of a complete stranger, it feels like I'm losing you".

(interested, looks at Adrian)

I didn't know you two had a connection. Why didn't you tell me?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(confused, but shocked)

I didn't even know we even had a connection like that.

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I always thought it was just a hey
and by type deal.

(takes the letter and
analyzes it)

I guess because I look like my
pops, she just didn't wanna be my
mom no more.

Gracie consoles him. He's struggling to process all of this,
as he picks up the house phone and calls Jackie.

ADRIAN

Yo, you there?

JACKIE (O.S.)

I'm here. What you want?

ADRIAN

I've gone through almost everything
of Mom's shit and--

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

(annoyed, sucks her teeth)

Don't start that shit again, bro!
Mom wasn't the perfect parent, but
she loved all of us. Now, we gotta
plan her funeral.

ADRIAN

There ain't gonna be no funeral til
someone tell me why mom and I never
had that connection!

Adrian abruptly hangs up and Grace tries to get some answers
out of him.

GRACE

What was that about?

ADRIAN

(in an angry tone)

Jackie being Jackie as usual. She
dead to me!

GRACE (CONT'D)

She's your sister.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

The sister my mother adored so
much. She was always mom's
favorite.

Adrian stops talking, going to his ROOM, as the phone rings again. Hesitant, Grace looks around. The phone keeps ringing as she finally answers.

POV ON GRACE

GRACE
 (in a lower, but concerned
 tone)
 Hello?

JACKIE (O.S.)
 Hey, sis. Adrian there?

GRACE
 (looks around, still in a
 lower tone)
 Yeah, but he ain't in the mood to
 talk right now. Sis, what happened
 between y'all?

JACKIE (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 (in a calmer, but casual
 tone)
 Nothing. He just mad cause mom
 never liked him growing up.
 (laughing)
 Shit, he's here always acting like
 the victim and yet mom just died.
 The man said he wanted to sell
 mom's crib--he must've been high or
 something.
 (in a serious tone)
 Can you talk to him? Cause I'm
 tired of fighting with him over the
 same old shit.

GRACE
 I can try, but I can't promise
 anything.

Grace hangs up the phone. She turns around and sees Adrian. She jumps up and doesn't say anything. He grows suspicious, asking her some questions.

ADRIAN
 Who was that?

GRACE
 Don't be mad--she just wanted to
 talk to ya.

ADRIAN
 (yelling, trying to calm
 himself down)
 She's dead to me! Every time I try
 to--
 (takes a deep breath)
 She always was the favorite and I
 ain't never got the things she had
 growing up. The love, the
 attention...the bond--

Adrian disconnects the phone and takes out the family album
 as he and Grace goes through some pictures.

OVER THE SHOULDER ON GRACE AND ADRIAN, CU ON PICTURES

Adrian, snaking, fights back some tears. Grace tries to
 console him, but he looks at her. She backs off and continues
 to look through the pictures. She smiles and shows him a
 picture of a younger Rebecca.

He turns the picture and sees words. He reads it.

ADRIAN
 (scanning the words, gets
 angry)
 She never cared! Read this.
 (hands Grace the picture)
 Tell me what you think.

Grace scans through the words as she shows Adrian something.
 He takes a quick look and sucks his teeth. Grace continues to
 scan as she turns it and looks back at the photo.

CU OF REBECCA'S PHOTO

CUT TO:

INT. DR. IVANNA FLOWERS' OFFICE- A FEW DAYS LATER- AFTERNOON

POV ON ADRIAN, MLS OF FLOWERS

Dr. Flowers writes down some things on her notepad as Adrian
 speaks. He looks outside and the amount of rain seems to have
 an effect on him. She takes notice.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS
 Does the rain remind you of your
 mother?

He looks around, fidgeting a bit, as his eyes widens. The sounds of the rain pouring has him nervous. He looks at Dr. Flowers and speaks.

ADRIAN

(looks around nervously)
I never told anyone this, but when rain pours, it reminds me of her. I dunno why, but it's like I'm being followed by her or something.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

What exactly about the rain that reminds you of her?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

We used to watch the rain pour when I was a kid and it was just me and my mom.

(breaks down, looking at the rain curiously)
She protected me. The rain protects me from any types of feelings, but it can't protect me from all the shit she done me.

Dr. Flowers stops writing and hands Adrian some tissues. He wipes his nose and gets himself together as Dr. Flowers keeps writing.

ADRIAN

Mom always made me feel safe when we sat and watched the rain. I just wished she loved me like she loved Jackie and Darius.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

What's your sister, Jackie like?

ADRIAN

She's a lil bit of a diva...mainly the star of the family.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

And how does that make you feel?

Adrian doesn't answer. He looks at Dr. Flowers, who again asks him the question.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(defensive, a little bit uptight)
It makes me feel like my mom didn't give a fuck bout me, iight?

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS (CONT'D)

You've been talking about your mother, do you think your sister somewhat represents your mother in how she acts or be?

Adrian's confused. He asks her for clarification. She instead looks at him, jotting down a few things onto her notes.

ADRIAN

(very upset)

Why you asking me all these questions? Mom's the one who we should be talking bout here, not my sister!

Dr. Flowers looks at Adrian, who rolls his eyes at her. She puts down her notes and asks him some intimate and deep questions. The questions seems to get to him as he doesn't say a word. He's looking at her...just thinking.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Can we talk bout my mom again? All this shit bout my sister getting me mad.

He gets up and abruptly leaves.

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN- NIGHT

TWO SHOT ON GRACE AND ADRIAN, WIDE SHOT OF LIVING ROOM

Adrian and Grace are talking. His demeanor changes. She tries to figure out what's going on, but he refuses to speak. She shows him a picture. Adrian has a cheek rolling down his face.

GRACE

(annoyed but concerned)

What's wrong now?

ADRIAN

(crying happily)

I remember this pic as if it happened yesterday.

A picture of an infant Adrian and Rebecca is revealed. He continues speaking.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Mom used to take me out when my pops was working and--

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(puts down the picture and
looks at Grace)

I'm sorry that I been as ass
lately. I been thinking bout mom.

Grace hands him a letter as Adrian's look concerns her. He opens up the letter and reads it.

ADRIAN

(reading the letter)

*Dear Adrian, you've been my pride
and joy since I conceived you. But
the love I have for you has slowly
deteriorated. So many of my friends
and loved ones wanted me to give
you up for adoption, but there's
this look in your eyes that keeps
me connected to you.*

While reading the letter, the camera DISSOLVES back into

REBECCA'S HOUSE DURING THE LATE 80S, EARLY 90S

A younger Rebecca's writing her letter, as she's struggling to gather her words together. She bites her fingers a few times, scratches a few words here and there and is depressed.

REBECCA (V.O.)

(writing the letter)

I'm still learning about myself as
a woman and your father hasn't done
a thing to help me here. Being a
mother has always been a dream of
mine, but I didn't dream of losing
myself along the way.

(sighs)

I've prayed about keeping you here
with me, but I'm all alone and with
the bills, school, and everything
else going on, I don't know how I'm
gonna function.

The sounds of Adrian's cries has her massaging her head a few times as the camera DISSOLVES BACK TO

ADRIAN READING THE LETTER

POV OF ADRIAN

He stops and calls Jackie. Walking around in circles, he struggles to compose himself.

ADRIAN
Look, we need to talk.

JACKIE (O.S.)
I ain't got shit to say to you.

ADRIAN
Well I do and I think you need to hear it.

JACKIE (O.S.)(CONT'D)
(annoyed, but agrees to hear him)
Fine, but make it short.

ADRIAN
Mom's been writing all of these letters to me all these years and--

JACKIE (O.S.)
Not this again. We need to focus on Mom's funeral and burial expenses. I don't got time to play these silly games.

Adrian hangs up and makes another phone call. This time, his great aunt answers.

ADRIAN
Hello?

CHARLENE (O.S.)
Hey, how are you?

ADRIAN
I got a letter mom wrote and you been close to her, what you think of it?

He reads Charlene the letter as Charlene tells him something that changes his demeanor.

CHARLENE (O.S.)(CONT'D)
I was one of the people who was against her giving you away. I remember playing with you when you was a little baby and Rebecca had this connection to you that no one in the family could've understood.

ADRIAN
So why she treated me like crap all these years later? I ain't seen her once shown me love and emotions.

CHARLENE (O.S.)
 Your mother was young and didn't
 know how to be a mother. She
 finished school while carrying you
 in her stomach and your father
 wasn't really into you.

Adrian asks Charlene about his parents' marriage. Charlene answers, but grows defensive.

CHARLENE (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 (sighs)
 Their marriage wasn't a pretty one.
 After you came along, your father
 would flounder a lot that your
 mother had, but she tried her best
 to love you.

Adrian ends the conversation. There's a knock at the door. Grace answers it. Adrian meanwhile continues looking at the letter.

A man, HUBERT KING enters. King, an elderly African American male in his seventies approaches Adrian.

HUBERT
 What's going on, young fella?

ADRIAN
 Nothing much. Just looking at some
 pics of mom and me from years ago.

HUBERT (CONT'D)
 (looks around the room)
 Yo ass ain't been to work in a
 minute. Keep it up and you gonna be
 outta work.

Adrian keeps going through some of his mother's things as Hubert stops him. Adrian looks at him.

ADRIAN
 You don't understand, Mr. King. I
 don't care bout no job right now
 and for you--
 (takes a deep breath and
 smiles at Hubert)
 You know anything bout mom and why
 she got mad heat on me?

Hubert's nervous. Adrian notices.

HUBERT

Yo mama used to always talk bout ya, but I seen the pain in her eyes when she talks about ya. She mainly talked bout Jackie when she came over to my crib.

ADRIAN

(hands him some of
Rebecca's letters,
suspicious)

Then why she gonna say she loved me and all that shit? Something ain't right here.

Hubert takes a quick look at the letters. He looks at Adrian, who's discouraged.

HUBERT

I wasn't suppose to tell ya this, but--
(looks around, stops, and
then changes the subject)
Yo mama did the best she could with you.

He hands Adrian something as Adrian grows suspicious. Adrian asks Hubert some questions as Hubert tries answering them.

ADRIAN

You was gonna say something, but you changed--
(looks at Grace and then
she tries to intervene,
pushing her way and
focuses his attention
back on Hubert)
You gotta tell me what's going on here. Mom been secretive and I'm tired of people hiding shit from me!

HUBERT (CONT'D)

You gotta speak with someone else bout that. Right now, you need to chill, young fella.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

You lucky I got respect for ya, Hubert.

POV ON ADRIAN, TWO SHOT ON ADRIAN AND HUBERT

They talk some more. Hubert has a paper in hand. He hides it from Adrian. Adrian then grows more suspicious.

ADRIAN
Why you hiding that?

HUBERT
(brushes him off)
It ain't nothing.

ADRIAN
If it ain't nothing, then lemme
have a look at it.

HUBERT (CONT'D)
(nervous, but comes
around)
Nah...this is something yo mama
gave me way back.

Adrian's angry and yells. Grace intervenes and speaks with Hubert. As they're talking, Adrian gets up and slowly walks towards Hubert, who has his body face to Grace.

Adrian and Hubert wrestle for the paper Hubert has as Adrian has the paper. He's shocked.

ADRIAN
(shocked and angry)
The fuck's going on round here?
(throws the paper at
Hubert)
Why you ain't tell me this shit
here?

Hubert grabs the paper and doesn't say a word. He looks at Adrian as they size up on one another. With his eyes widen, Adrian doesn't back down.

HUBERT
That's between yo mama and I. Right
now, you gotta stay outta this and--

ADRIAN
I ain't doing shit! Mom and ya been
hiding shit from me and it has
everything to do with me, playaa.

GRACE
(calming Adrian down, to
Hubert)
What he talking bout now?

HUBERT

Nothing! Just a thing bout me and
his mama that goes way back is all.
(laughing, pats her
shoulder)
I'm sorry for dragging you in this.
You a nice young lady who lucky to
have Adrian. He a good dude too.

Adrian stops Hubert and demands answers. Angry, he shows some more letters from his deceased mother. Hubert's really nervous.

ADRIAN

What's really going on, Hu?

HUBERT

(eyes widen, very nervous)
Them letters she wrote ya, she
wrote a lot more. Yo pops has a lot
of letters. But I ain't telling no
more. I already said too much.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

You knew my pops?

Hubert nods his head. Adrian listens as Hubert explains himself. The phone rings and Adrian answers it.

ADRIAN

Hello?

EDYTHE (O.S.)

Hello, sorry to bother ya, but I
got some new information about ya
mother. It won't take long.

ADRIAN

(sighs)
Fine, but make it quick!

Edythe shares some new information as Adrian's demeanor changes. He looks at Hubert and hangs up. He shows Hubert the door as Grace's confused. He goes to

HIS BEDROOM

And slams the door shut.

BACK TO:

LIVING ROOM

Grace sees an old picture of Rebecca. She reads the inscription behind the picture. Then she comes across a few more journals of Rebecca's.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. REBECCA'S HOUSE- BEDROOM- EVENING- LATE 80S/EARLY 90S-
LONG SHOT OF REBECCA WRITING IN HER JOURNAL

REBECCA (V.O.)

(writing nervously)

Today was really stressful for me. Adrian's been acting up and I just don't know if I can handle being a mother anymore. I love him, I really do, but he's just too much for me.

(has a sad look, pauses
and continues writing)

He's only a few months old and I found out that I had a miscarriage a week ago and I'm just tired. My husband hasn't been there to help me with Adrian and I can't do this-- Motherhood is the death of me.

A sleeping baby Adrian's asleep in his crib as Rebecca's smiling. Tears are also falling from her face. She continues to write.

REBECCA (V.O.)(CONT'D)

(tired, but nervous)

I'm also in school and I don't know how I'll go on. I love Adrian, but he's too much for me right now.

(looks back at a sleeping
Adrian and smiles)

Where's the people who's suppose to help me here? I can't do everything all by myself. Maybe I'm just not meant to be a mother.

She finishes and turns off the lights.

CUT TO:

INT. SAN DIEGO FUNERAL HOME- UNDERTAKER'S OFFICE- DECEMBER
2017- DAY- LS ON JACKIE AND ADRIAN WITH UNDERTAKER

Adrian's not saying anything as the Undertaker and Jackie are talking. The Undertaker, GERALD LOUIS, an elderly male shows them a few pamphlets.

JACKIE

We want our mom to be laid to rest
with style and glamour.

(using a few hand
gestures)

She was a classy and stylish
woman...God, I wish she didn't
leave us with all this shit here.

Adrian sucks his teeth. Jackie and Gerald keep talking.
Adrian gets up and leaves the room.

GERALD

I hope all is well with your
brother.

JACKIE

He's fine, don't worry bout him. So
how much it'll cost for the casket
and shit?

GERALD

The whole funeral would be \$30,000.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

We ain't got that much bread, sir!
My mom was a sweet lady and she
deserve the best. Can we talk bout
settling a price?

GERALD (CONT'D)

How much you'd want it to be?

JACKIE

(hesitant)

Is 1,000 good for ya?

GERALD

(laughs, but get serious)
\$2,000.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

\$1,500 with us tryna figure out a
way to pay you back.

GERALD (CONT'D)

\$1,800 and that's my final offer. I don't have time to play these silly games with ya. So what's it gonna be?

She thinks about it. Adrian returns and she tells him of the pricing. He's furious. Adrian walks up to Gerald and confronts him.

ADRIAN

Look, my mom just died and we don't got the bread to cover all this. So can you work with us here? We tryna bury our mom with class.

GERALD

I lost my mother a few years ago and I know where you're coming from, but we got prices here that's not so bad.

Adrian rolls his eyes and shakes Gerald's hand. Jackie also shakes Gerald's hand as they continue talking.

JACKIE

Iight, we'll take yo amount, but you gotta make sure my mom looks the best.

GERALD

Trust me, you won't be disappointed.

They shake hands and leave.

EXT. SAN DIEGO FUNERAL HOME- STREETS- CONTINUED

MLS OF JACKIE AND ADRIAN, MS OF ADRIAN SMOKING A CIGARETTE

Adrian coughs, grabbing his chest. Jackie takes the cigarette away from him.

ADRIAN

The fuck?

JACKIE

I lost mom and I don't wanna loose you either.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 (smirks, sucking his
 teeth)
 Sure don't sound like it.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
 I don't know what's going on with
 you, but I'm sick of you talking to
 me like that!

ADRIAN
 Why you always gotta control
 everything? I'm the eldest and
 shoulda been planning mom's
 funeral, not you!

He walks away as Jackie follows him. She keeps talking to him
 as he tries to ignore her. She catches up to him and stops
 him.

JACKIE
 Whatcha talking bout? I just wanted
 to send mom off. Ain't nothing
 wrong with that.

ADRIAN
 You just don't get it. I'm the
 eldest and you always wanna take
 over everything and--
 (takes a breath and is in
 a calmer tone)
 You know what? You plan mom's
 funeral cause I ain't showing up!

He keeps walking, leaving Jackie alone.

JACKIE
 (concerned)
 Adrian...Adrian?

People are walking by, staring at her. Jackie walks off.

INT. AUNT CHARLENE'S CONDO- LIVING ROOM- MORNING- THE NEXT
 DAY- MLS OF CHARLENE AND ADRIAN, POV OF ADRIAN

Charlene's caretaker gives Adrian some food as he eats.
 Charlene then notices Adrian's demeanor.

CHARLENE
 What's going on?

ADRIAN
(confused, looks at her)
What?...nothing.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)
Adrian, you're my great nephew.
Don't ya think I know something's
bothering ya? Now spill it.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
(sighs)
It's Jackie.

CHARLENE
Is she hurt? Is she alright?

ADRIAN
Nah...we just got into an argument
yesterday and--

CHARLENE (CONT'D)
(laughs a little bit)
You two always fighting. I swear,
your mother used to tell me about
your battles.
(looks up, and looks at
Adrian)
Your mother's gone and she's the
only sister ya got, so cut it out!

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
Darius? He ain't back yet?

CHARLENE
He up and alive somewhere. Right
now, it's about you and Jackie. Why
don't you like yo sister? What she
done to ya?

Adrian's mumbling to himself as he struggles to speak. He
looks at Charlene and speaks.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)
What did you just say?

ADRIAN
Nothing.

CHARLENE
No, you said something and I wanna
know what ya said.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I said Jackie took everything and I'm tired of always being second wheel. I'm the first born! I'm the eldest.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

I get where you're coming from, but you gotta make amends with her. Life's too short to be fighting.

MCU ON ADRIAN'S FACE

He looks at Charlene and reveals something else.

ADRIAN

I kinda am pissed with mom too. I been reading her letters and it ain't done nothing but make me mad.

Charlene's caretaker returns and offers Adrian a drink. He pushes the caretaker away and Charlene speaks.

CHARLENE

Your mother did the best she could with you. I don't know why you think she didn't love you?

ADRIAN

The things she said--

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

She was young when she had ya. She didn't know how to be a mother back then. Trust me, she loved you like she did with Darius and Jackie.

Adrian looks around and notices a few pictures of his late mother. Charlene smiles, telling him some of her fondest memories with Rebecca.

She takes a photo and hands it to Adrian. The picture of a young Rebecca and Charlene is revealed.

CHARLENE

(smiling at the picture,
in a joyful tone)

Your mother was about fifteen when your grandmother took that photo. Becca always loved to smile and seeing her smile gives me so much life.

She pauses, wipes her nose and compose herself. Adrian meanwhile asks her some intimate questions.

ADRIAN

What she like as a kid? How the family react when she was pregnant with me?

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

She was so much like you in fact. Always smiling and happy.

(in a sadder tone, looking at Adrian)

Your grandfather of course wasn't thrilled when she was pregnant. Your grandmother however was stunned. Edythe would know more about what went down. She was there through Becca's pregnancy and so forth.

ADRIAN

Mad people in the family told me that she always wanted to have a girl and when Jackie came along--

CHARLENE

(laughing, but sighs)

Your mother always wanted to have a son and a daughter. Sometimes I don't know why some of them would tell ya that.

(looks at Adrian)

So are ya going to your mother's funeral?

Adrian holds his great aunt's hand and looks at her. He smiles at her as he shakes his head. She pulls away and confronts him about the matter.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

Why aren't ya going? She's your mother!

ADRIAN

I know, but Jackie controlling the whole funeral and I dunno if I'mma handle myself there.

CHARLENE

(shows him another photo of his mother, in a sympathetic tone)

(MORE)

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

This here was your mother at my daughter's funeral. She always kept the family together.

(looks back at Adrian)

And for you to not to show up to your own mother's funeral--you gotta go.

Adrian's nervous, struggling to speak. He taps his hands a few times as he finally asks Charlene another question.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Did mom and Hubert...you know?

Charlene's eyes widens as she looks at Adrian. Not saying a word, she shows him some more photos of Rebecca as a child as Adrian keeps asking her the question. She doesn't answer. She talks about some more memories she had with Rebecca.

CHARLENE

Your father's telling you these things, isn't he?

(shakes her head, gets defensive)

Your mother was a great woman and for him to still put her down--

Adrian's confused. Charlene quickly changes the subject. He grows suspicious as Charlene's nervous. Her caretaker escorts Adrian off of the premises.

INT. DR. IVANNA FLOWER'S PSYCHOLOGY CLINIC- WAITING AREA- AFTERNOON- A FEW DAYS LATER- WIDE SHOT OF WAITING AREA

Reading, Adrian's jotting some things down on a notebook. Dr. Flowers emerges and calls Adrian. He goes to her as they walk to

DR. FLOWERS' OFFICE

As there's a lot of files on her desk. Dr. Flowers has Adrian sit down as he starts talking.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

So how's your week?

ADRIAN

(annoyed)

It was mad shitty! I talked to mad people in my family to know more bout my mom and all, but I ain't learned nothing!

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS (CONT'D)

Maybe they have a different experience of your mother than you do. So tell me what some of them had said.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(using hand gestures,
doubtful of his mother)

My great aunt said that my mom loved to smile and bring people together. If she loved to smile, how come she ain't nurtured me? How come she basically ignored me and loved Jackie and Darius more? If she loved to bring people together, how come we couldn't be cool like most moms sons is?

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

I don't know, but I've noticed that you always compared your view of your mother to that of your brother and sister's, why?

Adrian thinks about her question as he's unsure. Dr. Flowers then shares her opinions of Adrian and his relationship with his late mother.

DR. IVANNA FLOWERS

(sips on a cup of coffee)

I think a part of you wants to hold onto the memories of your failed relationship with your mother. It kinda gives you this sense of identity and belonging.

(stops him from speaking,
in a sincere tone)

I know you might disagree with where I'm going with this, but you gotta stop telling the same story you've been telling yourself. I see the pain it's doing to ya.

ADRIAN

(gets defensive)

I ain't holding onto nothing! This motherfucking shit ain't have me creating some identity. I'm just telling ya facts!

(yells, his eyes widens a
little bit)

Every time I tell someone the facts, I'm always the bad guy!

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Jackie and Darius got it easy, but me...

(sucks his teeth, calms down)

I came here to know why my mom don't like me. I didn't come to be judged!

Adrian gets up and walks out. Dr. Flowers tries to stop him, but he's already gone. In comes an assistant who has a large case of files. Dr. Flowers' very annoyed.

INT. SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY- MAIN LOBBY- 1ST FLOOR- AN HOUR OR TWO LATER- AFTERNOON- EXTREME LONG SHOT OF MAIN LOBBY

Adrian, with a few books is standing in line. A large line of people has a lot of people sucking their teeth and screaming. Adrian looks around and sees Cindy. She sees him and approaches him.

CINDY

Hey, what's going on?

ADRIAN

(tries to remain calm, in a bitter tone)

Just read some books here and it ain't helped me a bit.

(shows Cindy the books)

This book, A MOTHER'S LOVE by Caroline Devereux is shit. All she talks about is ways to get a mother's--

CINDY (CONT'D)

Love. Yeah, I've read it and thought it was shit too.

(looks at him strangely)

I know it's not any of my business, but how's the search for your mom going?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(sucks his teeth, looks very annoyed)

Mad people she knows know something and it's like they ain't telling me. My little bro and sis gotta have parts of her I ain't had and--

CINDY

I feel for ya. My moms was the same with my little sisters.

(MORE)

CINDY (CONT'D)

It took the bitch to die for me to realize that she loved me. Maybe you gotta do some detective shit to give ya the answers you need.

A few librarians approaches Cindy, who abruptly ends the conversation. The line slowly decreases as Adrian returns the book. He then heads to the

5TH FLOOR

And sees Edythe. Edythe's struggling. She loses her balance and almost falls. Adrian rushes over to her and helps her.

POV ON ADRIAN, MLS OF ADRIAN

He's concerned. A few librarians checks up on her as Edythe pushes them all away. She turns her attention to Adrian and smiles.

EDYTHE

Why are ya here, kid?

ADRIAN

You said that you knew my mom for a long time?

EDYTHE (CONT'D)

Correct.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(shows her a picture of
Rebecca and Hubert)

My great aunt Charlene told me you was there when my mom was pregnant with me. I wanna know did my mom and Hubert fuck around?

Edythe looks at him. She slaps him and rubs his cheek, as she gets defensive.

EDYTHE

(raises her voice, but is
in an angry tone)

Don't talk about your mother like that! She was a sweet lady who respected her vows and your father.

(closes her eyes and calms
down, opens her eyes and
looks at Adrian)

(MORE)

EDYTHE (CONT'D)

I was there when your mother was pregnant with ya and Hubert was nothing but a good friend to the family is all.

ADRIAN

Yeah, but--

EDYTHE (CONT'D)

Your mother wasn't cheating on your father, case closed!

Adrian asks her some questions about his mother, as Edythe starts crying.

EDYTHE

(in tears)

I wanna say that your mother left behind so many secrets. I wish I could tell ya, but I promised her I wouldn't tell anyone her secrets.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

My mom didn't like me and all I'm asking is why. Why you making shit hard for me to find out the truth?

EDYTHE (CONT'D)

Becca was just a complicated woman who has done things she never done before. When she had you, so many things happened that--look, maybe you should just leave this alone and go on with ya life.

Adrian shows Edythe a picture of himself and Grace. He explains his situation with Grace to her as Edythe doesn't say a word. Edythe consoles him, patting his shoulders. Adrian's angry and he leaves. He then goes to the

2ND FLOOR

Where he sees Grace. She sees him and ignores him. He approaches her, but she keeps pushing him away. He stops her.

ADRIAN

What's good with you?

GRACE

(tries to push him away,
trying to get some books)

Why you care? All you do is get mad at everyone and everything. Move!

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 (stops her, holds her hand
 and face)
 Bae, I'm sorry for everything, but
 I just wanna find my mom is all. I
 don't want us--

GRACE (CONT'D)
 (pushes him away, in
 tears)
 I wanted us to have kids! I wanted
 to be a goddamn mother too! It
 ain't always bout you, bae!

People look at them as Adrian tries calming her down. Grace's
 voice gets louder as he's nervous.

ADRIAN
 (looks around, lowering
 his voice)
 Can we talk bout this later?

GRACE
 Everything with you is later. I
 wanna talk bout this now!

POV OF ADRIAN AND GRACE, MLS OF THEM, PAN OF THE FACIAL
 EXPRESSIONS OF NUMEROUS PEOPLE

Grace pushes him aside, grabs her stomach and abruptly
 leaves. Adrian follows her. The people are talking amongst
 themselves as Edythe and Cindy emerges and disperses the
 crowd.

INT/EXT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM/HALLWAY-
 SAME DAY- NIGHT

LONG AND WIDE SHOT OF BEDROOM, POV ON ADRIAN

Adrian, lying down on the bed, watches Grace, who's very
 depressed.

ADRIAN
 What happened earlier?

GRACE
 I said what I said. Can we forget
 it please?

ADRIAN

I wanna talk bout it now! Now you said you wanna have kids and be a mother and--

(notices her stomach,
grows suspicious)

Grace, is ya pregnant?

Grace holds onto her stomach as she's inhaling and exhaling really fast. Her eyes widen. She looks back at him and forces a smile.

ADRIAN

Is you?

GRACE (CONT'D)

(gets defensive, raises
her voice a bit)

Yes, okay? I'm pregnant!

Adrian looks at her and gets up. He walks slowly to her and places his hand on her stomach as they rub heads. Smiling, they're kissing each other.

TWO SHOT ON GRACE AND ADRIAN, MS OF THEM KISSING AND BEING AFFECTIONATE

Grace walks over to the bed and lies down as Adrian walks into the

HALLWAY

And gets a few things. In hand, he has a stuffed animal. He pauses and looks around. We see images of Adrian throughout the years as he studies each of the images. Meanwhile, Grace calls his name.

He walks back into the

BEDROOM

And hands Grace the stuffed animal. His demeanor changes and she notices.

GRACE

Bae?...bae, you alright?

ADRIAN

(shakes his head, looks at
her and smiles)

What?...I'm fine.

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I can't believe I'm gonna be a dad.
How long you been pregnant?

GRACE (CONT'D)

Last night. I wanted to tell ya,
but you was into finding more bout
yo mama...so I kept it to myself.

The house phone rings. Adrian gets up and walks to the

KITCHEN

And answers it.

ADRIAN

Hello?

JACKIE (O.S.)

Adrian, we need to talk.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(sucks his teeth)

I ain't got shit to say to ya! Now
please lemme be.

He attempts to hang up, but the urgency in Jackie's voice concerns him.

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

It's serious.

ADRIAN

Fine, but you got a few minutes.

JACKIE (O.S.)

It's about Mom's funeral. The rest
of the family need ya there. It
ain't about what I want, just think
about mom.

ADRIAN

(raises his voice, almost
in tears)

I been thinking bout mom and all
she thought bout was you and
Darius! Who the one who spend time
with her when she was sick? Who the
one who gave her money when she was
almost homeless? Why you telling me
all this and yet I ain't seen you
when mom was sick, sis?

(calms down, takes a deep
breath harshly)

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Point is I been there and I been the one who took care of her! I'm the first born and eldest and for her to not even gimme the respect I deserve for doing mad shit for her-- nah I ain't going to a place I ain't needed!

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

Bro, I get it...just hear me out. We all get you the eldest and you done all this shit for mom over the years...but how come you the one who never there when she was well? When she needed something, Darius and I stepped up and gave her the time of her life. Where was you? Mom always took care of us and you ain't even once visited when she was well and--

ADRIAN

You ain't gonna blame shit on me! I was there at the end of the day whether she was sick or not! Last time I checked you and Darius didn't want no part of mom when she sick--I'm sick of fighting with you over the same goddamn thing! I'm sick of not being respected as the eldest! I ain't going, so goodnight and goodbye!

He hangs up and slams the phone to the ground, bursting into tears. Adrian throws a few plates around, screaming as well. He sits down on the floor in a child's pose and releases a loud cry.

CUT TO:

INT. SAN DIEGO PENTECOSTAL CHURCH- ALTER- JANUARY 2018- DAY- SHOTS OF PEOPLE VIEWING REBECCA'S BODY

The family arrives and views Rebecca's body. All dressed in black, they sit closer to the casket. Then Edythe and Cindy arrives and pays respect. They greet and console the family.

Hubert arrives. The family stares at him harshly as he has a large sum of roses. He places them around the casket. Hubert views Rebecca's body and kisses her forehead, as Jackie's screaming.

MS OF JACKIE CRYING, GROUP SHOT OF FAMILY CONSOLING HER

Hubert looks at the family and leaves. Jackie looks around, biting her lip and sits back down. Charlene wraps her hands around her and consoles her.

CHARLENE
(whispering)
I'm sorry baby.

JACKIE
(looks at her great aunt,
concerned)
Where's Adrian?

CHARLENE
He's not coming, sweetie. He called
this morning and said something
came up.

JACKIE
(gets mad, whispers while
trying to remain calm)
He gunna wish something came up
once I finish beating that ass! He
knows how important this day is to
us and--

CHARLENE (CONT'D)
(looks around, smiling at
the people and looks back
at Jackie)
Your mother looks so peaceful. Come
to think of it, you look so much
like her, dear.

Jackie hugs her great aunt. The pastor comes in and greets the whole congregation. Jackie meanwhile looks around and has a smile on her face as more and more people come inside.

JACKIE
(whispering to Charlene)
Look at the amount of people
showing mom some love. I didn't
know she had so much friends.

CHARLENE
(smiling, whispering to
Jackie)
Your mother was always the friendly
type.
(looks around nervously
and looks back at Jackie)
(MORE)

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

It looks like Adrian's not showing
up any time soon.

As the funeral progresses, we see numerous family members one by one share some personal stories about Rebecca to the entire congregation. Jackie's really pissed, biting her lip.

Jackie gets up and walks up to the podium. All eyes are on her as she nervously looks at the congregation. She then blows a kiss at her mother's casket and addresses the crowd.

OVER THE SHOULDER ON JACKIE, HIGH ANGLE OF CONGREGATION,
GROUP SHOT OF EACH CHURCH MEMBER'S FACE

She speaks.

JACKIE

(looks at the people, in a
sad tone)

My mom was an amazing woman who
didn't deserve to die. She was
loved by so many of us and I wish
she was here to see the amount of
love she getting.

(looks at her mother's
casket)

Mom, we love and miss ya. Rest easy
and tell grandma and grandpa we
said hi.

She heads back to her seat. Other family members console her.
Charlene looks around and grows concerned.

INT. SAN DIEGO MORGUE- NIGHT- SAME DAY

SHOTS OF REBECCA'S CASKET, LONG SHOT OF JACKIE AND HER
MOTHER'S DECEASED BODY

Jackie looks at her mother. She strokes her hair as she
pauses. The image of her mother has her reflecting as she
speaks to her mother's dead body.

JACKIE

(to her mother's deceased
body, smiles at her)

Mom, you remember when I was a
little girl? You used to plat my
hair and tell me stories about the
family and I wish I could have
those days back, ma.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

(sighs, fights back some
of her tears)

Adrian ain't here to say goodbye to
ya and I feel like it ain't the
same. It's always been the four of
us and now it's the three of us.

(kisses her mother's
forehead)

I love ya, mom and I don't want you
to leave me.

Jackie closes the casket. Other family members have their
moment with Rebecca as some are crying. Others meanwhile are
laughing and remembering their times with her.

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- BEDROOM- MIDNIGHT

Adrian's rubbing Grace's stomach as he looks at her. The two
exchange hopeful looks as Adrian smiles.

ADRIAN

How you holding up?

GRACE

(breathing nervously,
smiling)

I'm trying. Just hope we make it is
all. Can't believe this real, bae.

ADRIAN

(smiles, but demeanor
changes)

Yeah.

Grace checks up on him as his demeanor changes. Adrian puts
it aside and focuses on Grace.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

You got any names yet?

GRACE (CONT'D)

If it's a boy, I'mma name him
Shawn. If it's a girl, I'mma name
her Rebecca.

Adrian's shocked. He looks at Grace and objects to the name.
He goes through a list of female names.

ADRIAN

Taylor, Ebony, Ciara, Margaret,
Nadine, Suzanne, Roxie, Fiona,
Zhane, Jane, Vivian, Ryan, Thelma,
Tianna...there a lotta names for
girls.

(laughs a bit)

Why you even wanna a name kid after
my mom?

GRACE

Cause she a good woman and plus,
it'll keep her alive. I'm the one
carrying this child here and I'm
choosing the names!

ADRIAN

You ain't the only one who bringing
kids into the world. Without me, yo
ass wouldn't be pregnant, feel me?

SHOTS OF ADRIAN AND GRACE LYING DOWN ON THEIR BED WITH THEIR
BACKS TURNED FROM EACH OTHER.

MCU OF ADRIAN'S FACE, POV ON GRACE

Adrian scrolls through his phone and comes across something.
He jumps up and goes on his laptop. He's typing things.

Grace meanwhile falls asleep.

Adrian looks over to Grace and kisses her forehead. He then
logs off of his laptop and falls asleep.

INT. HUBERT'S HOUSE- LIVING ROOM- SAN DIEGO, CA- A FEW DAYS
LATER- GROUP OF SHOT OF ADRIAN, GRACE, AND HUBERT

Hubert offers Adrian food. He rejects and gets right to the
chase.

ADRIAN

I wanna know why you care bout Mom
all of a sudden? Last time I
checked, you--

GRACE

(to Hubert, excusing
Adrian's behavior)

Sorry bout that. He's a bit
passionate.

(looks around)

(MORE)

GRACE (CONT'D)

Nice crib you got here. You probably paid 2 grand for this here.

HUBERT

Yeah. Thanks for coming over. You both need to know the truth about Rebecca and I.

(in a lower tone, looks very stoic, very nervous)
Rebecca and I were more than friends...she and I used to--we, um...let's just say that what she and I had was special.

ADRIAN

Save it! We all know you and mom been fucking!

Adrian's angry, revealing his disapproval of Hubert's relationship with his mother. Hubert gets up and looks at Grace.

HUBERT

(to Grace)
You're a lucky woman, sweetheart. A very lucky woman.

GRACE

Thanks.

She stops. Adrian looks at Hubert and sizes him up. Grace tries to calm him down.

ADRIAN

You took my pops away from my mom!
My mom never loved me! All she loved was fucking your old ass!

Hubert slaps Adrian. Adrian looks at him, grabbing his face.

HUBERT

Don't ever talk about your mother like that! She was a rose. Any man would be lucky to have her.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Well, she's my mom and I could say what I want bout her! What's it to you? You ain't even family.

Adrian's words seem to have an effect on Hubert. Hubert shows him the door. Grace shakes Hubert's hand as they go their separate ways.

CU OF A PORTRAIT OF REBECCA. HUBERT FACES THE PORTRAIT AND BLOWS HER A KISS.

INT. ADRIAN'S CAR- STREETS- CONTINUED

Grace confronts Adrian. He ignores her and starts driving.

GRACE

What the fuck was that about? The man ain't done a thing to you!

He keeps driving.

GRACE (CONT'D)

Hubert been good to you. Why you like this?

He stops the car and looks at her.

ADRIAN

(angry, looks at Grace)
He ain't been good to me! He and mom been fucking around and--
(calms down, takes a deep breath)
Look, can we change the topic please?

GRACE

Fine, but you making a big mistake!

ADRIAN

(shakes his head)
Mom ain't never been good and it's all cause of Hubert.

He resumes driving.

CUT TO:

EXT. POPEYES- DRIVING LINE- SAN DIEGO, CA- EVENING

WIDE SHOT OF ADRIAN'S CAR PULLING UP TO POPEYES FOOD SERVICE LINE, MS OF ADRIAN AND GRACE ORDERING THEIR FOOD

As they're ordering food, Adrian and Grace argue. Grace talks about Hubert and Rebecca as Adrian's yelling.

Meanwhile, a Popeyes employee hands them their food. Adrian pays the worker and drives off.

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- KITCHEN- NIGHT- AN HOUR OR TWO LATER-
CONTINUED- LONG SHOT OF GRACE AND ADRIAN EATING

Not looking at each other, there's a long silence between
Adrian and Grace. The phone rings. They look at each other as
Adrian gets up. He answers it.

ADRIAN

Yo?

JACKIE (O.S.)

Why you didn't show up to mom's
funeral? We missed ya.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I ain't in the mood to be talking
bout this right now.

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

Look! Just because you don't wanna
talk about it don't mean I don't
either. I wanna talk bout it and I
expect you to be at my house within
the next hour!

Adrian hangs up and continues eating. Grace finishes eating
and goes to the

BEDROOM

As Adrian follows. She's lying down on the bed as Adrian
tries to talk to her.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

You want me here or nah?

GRACE

Do what ya want. I don't care no
more.

Grace turns her back from him. Adrian looks around finds some
more photos as he sees more papers. He reads it.

ADRIAN

(reads the papers)

Can't believe she doing this again?
Why she always doing this to me?

He crumbles up the papers. Looking at his mother's portraits,
he comes across a new photo.

EXT. AUNT CHARLENE'S CONDO- FRONT LAWN- MORNING- FEBRUARY
2018- EXT LS OF THE CONDO

SHOTS OF CHARLENE AND ADRIAN TALKING, POV OF ADRIAN

With his vehicle parked, Adrian emerges and speaks with
Charlene. He looks at her. She grows concerned.

CHARLENE
What's wrong?

ADRIAN
(uneasy, looks at his
great aunt nervously)
It's Grace. She reminds me of mom a
lot...sad part is that she making
me mad, but she the love of my
life. What you think I should do?

CHARLENE
I thought you was going to therapy.
What happened with that?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
(laughs)
She ain't the right therapist for
me.

Charlene shakes her head. Little ounces of rain pours as
Charlene and Adrian goes inside.

INT. AUNT CHARLENE'S CONDO- KITCHEN- CONTINUED

LONG SHOT OF CHARLENE AND ADRIAN SITTING AT THE DINNER TABLE

Charlene places a plate on the table. Adrian eats as they
continue to talk. She watches him as he's laughing, growing
suspicious.

CHARLENE
Your mother used to laugh a lot
when she was nervous.

ADRIAN
Me? I ain't nervous aunt Charlene.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)
(looks at him, whispering)
I maybe old, but I know a thing or
two about nerves. What's keeping
you nervous?

He laughs. He looks away, but his smile fades. He looks at his aunt and speaks.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I'm afraid that I wouldn't get that chance to get closure. Mom's love was and is still the thing I want.

(sighs)

You might think it's stupid, but I wanna heal this up so I could move forward with Grace and my soon to be kid.

CHARLENE

How come you didn't show up to your mother's funeral? We all were looking for you.

Adrian sighs. He tells her the truth.

ADRIAN

Jackie the one who said she paying for the funeral, so why I'mma go to a place I ain't even wanted? Plus, mom wouldn't want me there anyways.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

It didn't feel right without you there.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

How was it?

CHARLENE

Great. Just wasn't the same without you though.

Adrian changes the subject. Charlene meanwhile hands him some things. He looks at it and opens it. He's smiling.

CHARLENE

Your mother would've wanted you to have this. I'm sure you'd like it too.

ADRIAN

Why me though? Why not Jackie?

CHARLENE

Trust me, you're the one she wanted to have this given to. See, it proves that she loves ya after all.

Charlene's caretaker enters and helps her as Adrian talks to the caretaker. The caretaker doesn't really engage much. Then the caretaker leaves. Charlene and Adrian continue talking.

INT. FRANKLIN FAMILY HOME- LIVING ROOM- SAN DIEGO, CA- DAY- A FEW DAYS LATER- WIDE SHOT OF THE ENTIRE FRANKLIN FAMILY

Jackie and Charlene embrace as they're greeted by other family members. Darius emerges. Attractive, muscular, and tall, he's smiling.

JACKIE
 (hugs Darius)
 Hey you, long time no see. How are ya?

DARIUS
 Been traveling and seen a lot, but I'm good. Sorry I couldn't make it to mom's funeral. You guys got the roses I sent?

JACKIE
 Yeah, and the right ones too. Mom would've been proud.

Darius greets other family members as Charlene stands up. Silent. Everyone listens to what she's saying.

CHARLENE
 I wanna thank y'all for coming. Becca would've been happy. Now, I know you guys got a lot of things going on, but family...family's always first.

Family members applaud. Charlene keeps speaking.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)
 (points at Jackie and Darius)
 They're the reason why we need to come together. They lost their mother. They've been there for us and now we gotta return the favor.

Darius gets up and speaks. All eyes are on him.

POV ON DARIUS

Darius looks around.

DARIUS

(smiling)

I wanna thank y'all for showing us love. It ain't easy to lose a parent, but we got each other and that's all that matters. Our eldest bro couldn't be here today, but he here in spirit.

They applaud. Jackie stands up and holds Darius' hand. Darius' wife, FIONA looks on. She blows him a kiss.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

Mom would've wanted us to honor her name. I remember when Jackie and I were kids, mom used to take us to the park and play with us. Just those moments I'd like to remember.

(cries, fighting back some tears)

And I'm sorry I wasn't there when she died and I gotta live with that for the rest of my life. I wish she was here so I'd tell her how she means the world to me.

Jackie consoles Darius and speaks. Other family members are talking amongst themselves.

JACKIE

(angry, gets defensive)

Adrian always wanna talk bad bout mom and the things she didn't do for him, but we ain't here to tear mom down!

(takes a deep breath,
looks at her family and
smiles forcefully)

Mom did the best she could with all of us and it's sad he ain't here to share this moment with us. I ain't tearing Adrian down, but I'mma say that he wrong for what he saying and doing towards mom's legacy!

Uncomfortable, Charlene intervenes. Jackie attempts to speak, but Charlene stops her. Charlene's caretaker arrives and plays some home videos of Rebecca throughout the years.

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM- SAME

On the phone, Adrian's going through some of his mother's personal belongings. On the other line is RICHARD FRANKLIN-SPRINGS.

ADRIAN

(angry)

Pops, why you deserted me and Jackie and Darius? We needed you there!

RICHARD (O.S.)

I wanted to be there, but yo mom and Hubert kept me away. Trust me, I tried to be in y'all lives.

(in an angrier tone)

Yo mom and I had a lotta things going on between us that she ain't been real with you about, but I'mma give you the real shit as to how it all went down.

Adrian listens. Smiling, but fearful, he listens to his father.

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

First off, I ain't never said I didn't want ya. Yo mom's side of the family putting all that shit in yo head. Second, Hubert ain't tell ya that I ain't the father to Jackie.

Adrian's shocked. He asks some questions.

ADRIAN

Woah, woah...what?

RICHARD (O.S.)

I ain't Jackie's daddy. Yo mom and Hubert been fucking and I seen them in bed in my own crib! I know that you and Darius my boys though.

(sighs)

I tried to get y'all, but the courts and yo mom kept me away. I really wanted to be there and I still wanna be there.

ADRIAN

Pops, how come--

RICHARD (O.S.)
 (angry, but defensive)
 Nah, don't do that. Don't start
 blaming me for not trying! I went
 through courts, lawyers, CPS, DHS,
 and even went to yo mama's crib to
 see y'all--and every time I tried,
 I been locked up or went away.

The pain in Richard's voice has Adrian. A few tears roll down his face.

ADRIAN
 I'm sorry, pops. I forgive ya.

RICHARD (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 I wanna see you. Been years since I
 last seen you.

ADRIAN
 I'mma come to yo crib. Stay put.

Richard gives Adrian his address. Adrian hangs up the phone. He gets up and changes his clothes. He leaves.

BACK TO:

INT. FRANKLIN FAMILY HOME- LIVING ROOM- EVENING

PAN OF EACH FAMILY MEMBER'S FACIAL EXPRESSION, LS OF VIDEOS OF REBECCA

LIGHTS OUT! The family are watching some videos of Rebecca throughout the years. Some are laughing as others are crying.

Jackie and Darius look at each other. Jackie gets up and turns the lights back on. Each family member shakes Jackie and Darius' hand and leaves.

DARIUS
 We gotta have more family events.

JACKIE
 I agree. Life too short for us to
 be apart and fighting with each
 other.

They clean up the area as Charlene goes through some old antiques.

JACKIE
 Whatcha doing, auntie?

CHARLENE

Just looking through some of these great things.

(shows Jackie)

Your mother used to love these as as a kid.

(looks at Jackie and pats her shoulder)

Your mother hasn't been the best mother in the world, but what ya said earlier about your brother's wrong.

JACKIE

But he should've showed up at Mom's funeral. He always putting himself first and someone gotta tell the truth around here.

CHARLENE

Adrian's still your elder brother and he deserves your respect! He's always gonna be the first in line!

JACKIE

You saying I'm wrong for paying and planning mom's funeral?

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

No, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying that Adrian's the first born and he should've had a say in the matter is all.

Jackie gets mad and continues cleaning. Darius joins the conversation.

DARIUS

Aunt Charlene, I get what ya saying but--

CHARLENE

No buts! You guys don't understand why he feels the way he feel towards your mother and it's between him and your mother.

DARIUS

Growing up, he's always got this thing against us and I wanna know why? Mom always loved him the way she loved us.

CHARLENE

That may be, but he didn't get the same love you and your sister got. Becca and he both had something going on and it's none of our business to judge him as to why he didn't show up.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

At least I got an excuse.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

(sighs)

He's your elder brother and I've seen how y'all treat him. Y'all gotta stop that and treat him with respect! He's the first born!

Darius and Jackie look at her. Charlene meanwhile shares some information about Rebecca, causing them to grow suspicious.

POV OF DARIUS AND JACKIE

They ask Charlene some questions. They're confused.

INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT- MORNING- THE NEXT DAY

Richard, an older version of Adrian greets him. Adrian's speechless. He looks at his father. They walk in as Richard takes him into the

KITCHEN

As Richard introduces him to his children, BRANDON, JADA, and KAREEM. Adrian shakes their hand and hugs them. Richard's wife, VALORIE enters. Adrian smiles at her.

VALORIE

Your father's told us so much about ya. You look so much like him.

Adrian's speechless. He struggles to speak.

RICHARD

(to his family)

This my first born son and he the eldest of this pack here. We got a lotta catching up to do.

(to Adrian)

Don't be shy, boy. This yo family. Go on and say something.

ADRIAN

Mom used to talk bad about ya, but
you ain't a bad man, pops.

Valorie consoles her husband, as she shows Adrian some papers
and photos. Adrian's demeanor changes.

VALORIE

(holding Richard's hand)
Your father ain't a bad man. He's a
great man who been in his kids'
life. Plus, he a great provider and
husband. Why you think ya mom lying
on him?

ADRIAN

(looks at Valorie and
Richard and smiles)
I dunno, but--man, we done missed
so much time together, pops.

RICHARD

I know. But you here now and we
gonna spend everyday together from
here on. Feel me?

ADRIAN

I feel ya.
(looks around)
Pops, how long you been living
here?

RICHARD

(gets man, but calms down,
smiling at Adrian)
This the house you and Darius born
in. Rebecca dumbass took y'all
outta here cause we had a falling
out--this the house you born in so
I been here all yo life.

Adrian looks around and sees a few photos. He takes them.
Adrian looks at Richard and smiles. Richard looks at the
photos and laughs with Adrian.

RICHARD

That's you and me when you was a
few months old.
(looking at other photos)
And that's you, me and yo mom. We
used to be a happy family and--
(looks away)
(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

When she took y'all away from me, I
thought I was gonna lose my mind,
but Valorie came in and my life
been changed since.

Valorie interjects.

VALORIE

Your father and I spent years
looking for you and Darius. Your
father went through the courts,
DCFS, DHS, CPS, and even went to
see ya in person, but your mother
kept y'all from seeing him.

(gets angry, calming
herself down)

I've seen your father cry so many
times cause he couldn't see y'all.
He's been to jail so many times
just to see you and Darius.

Richard consoles Valorie as she cries. Adrian looks at his
younger half siblings.

VALORIE (CONT'D)

But he managed to still be good
father to his other kids. He worked
his ass off and managed to keep a
roof over our heads. He spend so
much time with our kids and finding
you and Darius and--

RICHARD

I really did try. I just don't you
to think I'm a bad father.

Adrian walks up to his father and hugs him. Tears are running
down his face as Adrian's crying.

OVER THE SHOULDER OF ADRIAN AND RICHARD, LONG SHOT OF THE TWO
MEN, POV OF ADRIAN AND RICHARD

ADRIAN

Pops, I love ya, man.

RICHARD

(crying)

I love ya too, son.

Silent. They hug and smile as Richard wipes Adrian's face.
Adrian looks at his father and smiles. They walk over to the

LIVING ROOM

And watches some old family videos. Adrian hands Richard some of Rebecca's letters.

ADRIAN
Mom wrote these letters.

RICHARD
(sucks his teeth,
laughing)
Bullshit! Yo mom ain't nothing but
a liar! She wasn't the perfect
mother, but for her to say this
shit...
(sighs, hands the letters
to Valorie)
Glad the bitch is dead! Sorry, son.

ADRIAN
It's all good, pops.

Valorie hands the letters back to Adrian. He then rips it up. Richard gives him some more information.

RICHARD
For years, yo mom been telling
people I ain't took care of you and
this and this and I wanna say that
I been there when you was born and
she the one who went through some
mental shit.

ADRIAN
(confused)
Huh?

RICHARD (CONT'D)
After Darius was born, she acted
psychotic and shit. She use to hit
you and the newborn Darius as she
was mad at ya.
(sucks his teeth, very
pissed off)
She fucking used to torture yo ass
as you was learning how to walk,
son. My sister, NADINE and mom,
SADORA was there and seen her beat
ya.

Adrian asks more questions. Richard hesitates, but keeps speaking.

RICHARD

You used to play with Darius when he was born and she used to smack you around cause you looked like me. My mom use to tell me these type of things.

ADRIAN

What happened to aunt Nadine and grandma Sadora?

RICHARD

Nadine up in San Francisco somewhere as my moms died of a heart attack after yo moms took ya away from me.

Richard shows Adrian some papers. Adrian reads it, causing his demeanor to change. Adrian's pissed.

CUT TO:

INT. SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY- DAY- THE NEXT DAY

GROUP SHOT OF EDYTHE, ADRIAN AND CINDY

Adrian speaks with Edythe and Cindy as they walk to the

5TH FLOOR

As Edythe checks in and out some books. Adrian confronts Edythe. She's alarmed by this.

EDYTHE

Are you sure about this?

ADRIAN

Positive.

EDYTHE

Your mother wasn't bad. She made mistakes and all, but trust me, she's not a bad person.

ADRIAN

What else you can tell me bout how mom treated me as a toddler?

Edythe hesitates as she stops speaking. Adrian asks more questions. She's annoyed. Cindy intervenes.

CINDY
 (to Edythe)
 Just tell him already! He ain't
 stupid!

Edythe says nothing. Cindy looks at Adrian and speaks. As she's speaking, Edythe interjects.

EDYTHE
 (shows Adrian the door)
 You gotta leave! You're causing a
 disturbance.

ADRIAN
 Why? I ain't done nothing!

Adrian refuses to leave. Edythe calls for security. Within a few minutes, they escort Adrian out of the library.

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM- NIGHT- THE NEXT DAY

Grace and Adrian are talking. Adrian's smiling. Grace meanwhile is rubbing her stomach. She's aggravated.

GRACE
 How's things with you and your
 pops?

ADRIAN
 He ain't the man mom portrayed him
 to be. He's everything I always
 wanted in a pops and man you gotta
 meet him sometime.

GRACE
 You should invite him sometime. I'm
 sure your mother wouldn't mind
 that.

Adrian gets up. Grace's concerned. He leaves as Grace struggles to get up. She gets up and goes after him.

INT. BEDROOM- CONTINUED

POV OF ADRIAN

Adrian lies down. Grace enters. She apologizes for her remark as he ignores her. They argue. Adrian speaks.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 Why you gotta bring my mom into
 this? You know how I feel bout her.

GRACE (CONT'D)
 I was joking is all. I didn't mean
 you'd be like that. Sorry, bae.

The phone rings. Grace answers. She hands Adrian the phone.
 He answers.

ADRIAN
 Yo?

RICHARD (O.S.)
 Hey son. When can Valorie and I
 meet you and yo fiancé?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 Y'all can come over to the crib
 tomorrow. We gonna have a lot to
 eat.

RICHARD (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 Darius gonna be there?

ADRIAN
 (looks around nervously,
 coughs)
 I dunno. I just can't wait to see
 you and Valorie again.

RICHARD (O.S.)
 Can't wait either, son. See ya
 then.

ADRIAN
 See ya then, pops.

Adrian hangs up. He smiles as Grace notices. She questions
 him. He kisses her passionately as Grace's speechless.

GRACE
 You gotta talk to Jackie and Darius
 about this.

Adrian sucks his teeth.

GRACE (CONT'D)
 They're your little brother and
 sister. They gotta know.

Adrian sighs.

GRACE
Whatcha gonna do?

ADRIAN
I'll talk to em first thing
tomorrow. Right now, all I care
about is you and the baby.

Adrian kisses Grace as he places his head on her stomach. He
kisses her stomach. She moans.

LIGHTS OUT! They're moaning as Grace screams passionately.

INT. FRANKLIN FAMILY HOME- DAY- 3:27 PM- MAY 2018- WEEKS
LATER

The entire family are talking. Adrian and Grace arrives.
Adrian looks at his family. They're not pleased with him.

Jackie and Darius confront him.

LONG SHOT ON ADRIAN, POV ON ADRIAN

Adrian looks at them.

JACKIE
Why you here? Seems like you never
cared bout this family.

ADRIAN
I ain't in the mood to fight y'all
right now. I got something for
y'all--

DARIUS
We don't want nothing from you,
brah. Just leave.

Adrian shows them some documents. Darius looks at them as
Jackie refuses. Darius' demeanor changes as he confronts
Adrian.

DARIUS
(looks at Adrian, gets
defensive)
I knew you and mom never got along,
but I didn't know you'd stoop so
low to make her look bad.
(shows Jackie the
documents)
(MORE)

DARIUS (CONT'D)

All you done is make mom the bad guy and I ain't gonna hear it no more! Mom just died and we needed you at the funeral!

ADRIAN

(gets angry, raises his voice)

Look lil bro, I know you mad right now, but I ain't got no reason to lie to you! Everything mom told us about pops been a lie. You gotta believe me.

He calms down. Darius doesn't say anything as Jackie aggressively hands Adrian the documents. He looks at them as they're upset. Adrian looks at his other family members, whom look at him with anger.

Adrian says nothing. He looks at his younger siblings and leaves. Grace remains. She confronts Jackie and Darius.

GRACE

Y'all could be more considerate of yo brother. I mean, he ain't lying.

DARIUS

Yeah, and how you know?

GRACE

Boy, I met your pops and he showed me and Adrian documents. Plus, he told us somethings--

(looks at Jackie)

Yo mom ain't the woman she suppose to be.

JACKIE

What you mean? Mom--

GRACE (CONT'D)

Been lying to you! Hubert and yo mom been having an affair!

JACKIE

You lying!

GRACE

No I'm not and you know it! Deep down, you know that yo mom's been fooling around--

Charlene intervenes.

CHARLENE

Alright, that's enough! We'll talk about this some other time.

JACKIE

There ain't gonna be a next time cause she's leaving and I don't want her or Adrian here again!

Grace shakes her head. She looks at Jackie and leaves. Darius tries to calm Jackie down as Jackie confronts Charlene.

JACKIE

Is it true?

CHARLENE

What, dear?

JACKIE

It is true what she saying?

CHARLENE

(laughs, looking at Jackie and Darius)

No.

Darius grows suspicious as he questions Charlene. Charlene's eyes widens. She stops talking. Jackie speaks with Darius.

JACKIE

What you think we should do?

DARIUS

We should go down there and check out the evidence.

JACKIE

What if Adrian's telling the truth? What we gonna do?

DARIUS

Just calm down.

(smiles at his sister,
taking a deep breath)

If Adrian's telling the truth, we ain't gonna bash mom. We still gonna love her, but also welcome Richard with opened arms.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

I don't wanna face this...I just wanna make sure mom is at peace.

They hug. Other family members join in. Dead silence. No one says a word.

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- KITCHEN- THE NEXT DAY- NIGHT

WIDE SHOT OF ADRIAN AND FAMILY EATING

They're all laughing. Adrian and Richard talk. Their smiles fade as Adrian's sad. Richard checks up on him.

RICHARD

What's wrong?

ADRIAN

Jackie and Darius. They kinda mad at me.

RICHARD

They'll come around. Trust me.

ADRIAN

(unsure, looks at his father)

You weren't there, pops. They really lemme have it. Shit, they don't even wanna see the truth.

Valorie and her children leave the room as Grace and Richard comforts Adrian. The phone rings. Adrian answers it. He hands Richard the phone. Richard's nervous a bit.

RICHARD

Yo?

DARIUS (O.S.)

This Richard Franklin?

RICHARD

Yeah. Who this?

DARIUS (O.S.)

You might think I'm crazy, but this Darius Franklin...Rebecca's son.

RICHARD

(looks at Adrian and smiles)

How are ya?

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

I'm good. Look, I wanna know if you my pops or not?

(MORE)

DARIUS (O.S.)(CONT'D) (CONT'D)
 Adrian was at the family house
 earlier and told us something about
 you and Hubert--

RICHARD
 I'm your pops. We could talk about
 that later. So you married? Got
 kids or what?

DARIUS (O.S.)
 Married and got me a baby girl. If
 you my pops, how come you weren't
 there for me and Adrian and Jackie?

RICHARD
 Again, we could talk bout that
 later. We got so much to talk
 about. I gotta see ya, son.

DARIUS (O.S.)
 That ain't a good idea right now. I
 mean, I don't really know ya like
 that.

RICHARD
 (sad, but hopeful)
 Oh, but we could talk on the phone
 if ya like. I'd like to know ya.

DARIUS (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 I'd like that. Take care, Mr.
 Richard.

RICHARD
 You too.

Richard hangs up. He cries. Adrian hugs his father.

ADRIAN
 So what he said pops?

RICHARD
 (wipes his tears, smiling
 at Adrian)
 He sounds hopeful. It'll take time,
 but I'm glad that he's giving this
 a shot.

ADRIAN
 Darius always been stubborn. But
 once you know him, you'll see he
 ain't a bad guy.

RICHARD

(smiling)

Yeah. I notice that you've got pictures of other kids in the crib.

ADRIAN

Pops, I got two other kids. A lil girl and boy. They living with they mom in Malibu.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

What's Darius like? What was he like as a kid?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Since I'm the eldest, I had to be the man of the family. Even though Darius my lil bro, I had to keep him in line while mom worked. It ain't been easy with him, but he managed to do good.

(shows a picture of Darius)

He joined the military right after high school and tours around the world. Mom always gave him love and yet I'm the first born and I ain't got no love from mom!

(takes a deep breath)

Darius a great person. He likes to play ball, talk to ladies, and freestyle.

RICHARD

Just like his old man.

ADRIAN

Pops, he gonna like ya. You and him got some things in common.

RICHARD

Yeah?

Adrian nods his head. Valorie returns. She washes her hands. She sits down and join in on the conversation.

VALORIE

(to her husband)

Who was on the phone?

RICHARD

Darius.

VALORIE (CONT'D)
 What'd he say?

RICHARD (CONT'D)
 He wanted to know if I was his pops
 and that he'd like to know me.
 (sighs, with a sad look)
 But Jackie wouldn't like to see me.
 She prolly would defend her mom and
 shit. I dunno what I'm gonna do
 bout this.

VALORIE
 That damn Rebecca! Why she telling
 them kids those lies about ya?

Valorie's upset. She cringes her teeth as she gets up. She
 walks around in circles, muttering to herself.

CUT TO:

INT. SAN DIEGO CEMETERY OF ANGELS- DAY- A FEW DAYS LATER

LONG SHOT OF CEMETERY, POV OF ADRIAN

Adrian, dressed in black, enters. He walks around, holding
 Grace's hand. He looks around and sees numerous graves and
 crypts. He pauses and sees his mother's grave. He places a
 large sum of flowers on the grave.

Adrian cries. He kneels to his knees, struggling to speak.

ADRIAN
 (in tears, murmuring his
 words)
 Mom, why didn't you love me? What
 did I ever do to you to not be
 loved? I always wanted your love
 and approval and yet you've made me
 feel like I wasn't worthy of your
 love.
 (wipes his tears, cries
 really loud)
 I'm yo first born and all you done
 was made me hate my pops! I loved
 you before I knew who God was and I
 seen how you treated Darius and
 Jackie! I tried my best to get to
 know ya, but ya shut me out!
 (MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I had to go through a lotta shit to get to know ya and I'm mad at ya for causing so much pain in my life, mom!

(angry, in a louder tone,
wiping his tears)

What was it bout me you didn't like? I didn't deserve that and you wrong for keeping me away from my pops! You wrong for lying to me and treating me like shit!

(closes his eyes and takes
a deep breath)

Mom, this ain't a goodbye...I love ya, I just don't wanna be hurt no more! Bye, mom.

Adrian gets up and hugs Grace. She breaks down as they look at each other and smiles. Adrian looks back at his mother's grave and leaves.

MLS OF REBECCA'S GRAVE

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- KITCHEN- NIGHT- A FEW HOURS LATER

Silence. No one says a word. Adrian and Grace look at each other. She walks over to him, giving him a hug. The phone rings. Grace answers it.

The door rings. Tired, Adrian gets up and answers it. He quickly jumps up. He lets Darius in.

DARIUS

Big bro, I wanna apologize for how I acted the other day...I just didn't wanna face the truth is all. I know you wouldn't lie to Jackie and me.

ADRIAN

Why you telling me all this?

DARIUS

I wanna get to know Mr. Richard. But I'm scared he wouldn't like me.

Adrian laughs, but then comes around.

ADRIAN

Lil bro, he gonna like you a lot. Shit, you got mom's looks and pops' personality. Trust me, you gonna like him too, lil bro.

DARIUS

I asked other family members bout mom and Hubert's relationship and AISHA told me what went down.

(looks around)

Mom still ain't a bad person, bro. You gotta forgive her and try to make shit easier for ya self.

ADRIAN

I know.

DARIUS (CONT'D)

You the one I always looked up to growing up and seeing you and mom fighting didn't make sense to me. I joined the military cause I wanted to be like you. Shit, mom always bragged about ya and how you was the responsible one.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

She said all that?

DARIUS

Who the one she left in charge of Jackie and me? Who the one who watched us growing up? Who the one mom used to be harder on? It been you for mad long. Mom loved ya, but she loved ya in her own way.

Darius hugs Adrian. Grace embraces Darius, who shakes her hand. Adrian gives Darius some food.

GRACE

So how's things, Darius?

DARIUS

Good. Look, I wanna apologize about how I acted the other day. I said some things I didn't mean and prolly got the emotions get the best of me. Sorry.

GRACE

We cool. All I care about is y'all making amends with yo mom.

They keep talking. Adrian finishes eating and listens. They're laughing.

ADRIAN

So tell me, Jackie still mad?

DARIUS

(sighs)

Yeah, bro. She telling people in the family to not speak to you and shit--mad people in the family disown ya.

GRACE

(to Adrian)

Sorry, bae. You gotta work something out with her.

ADRIAN

How can I? She always controlling shit and there ain't no sense talking to the girl.

DARIUS

I tried, but she ain't hearing it. She gonna do whatever it takes to keep mom's legacy alive.

There's a knock at the door. Darius and Adrian look at each other. Adrian walks to the door and opens it. He returns with Richard. Richard and Darius embrace.

RICHARD

(touching Darius' face)

You look like ya big bro, Adrian. My baby boy all grown up.

(smiling at him, looks at Adrian)

I can't believe y'all allowing me to be in yo lives. I'm proud to have my two sons here with me.

(sighs, looks very sad)

I wish ya sister was here. I'd welcome her with open arms.

Grace hugs Richard, who gives her something. She blushes. Adrian and Darius smiles at their father. Richard grows a little suspicious.

RICHARD

What's going on?

ADRIAN
 (smiling, looking at his
 father kindly)
 Nothing...just looking at the man
 who gave us life. Man, I can't
 believe we look alike, pops.

RICHARD
 It runs in the fam, boys.

DARIUS
 (looking at Adrian)
 Big bro, remember when you and me
 used to chill at Edythe's crib? She
 had mad pics of pops in the crib,
 remember?

ADRIAN
 I remember, but why ya bringing it
 up?

DARIUS (CONT'D)
 Cause Edythe kept all those pics of
 pops. Maybe we should take pops to
 see the old gang again.

Richard quickly objects. Adrian and Darius tries convincing
 him, but Richard doesn't budge. Grace interjects and speaks
 to Richard. She pulls him aside.

He returns. Adrian hands him his phone. Richard makes a call.
 He's shaking a little bit.

RICHARD
 Hello?

JACKIE (O.S.)
 (in an angrier tone)
 Who this?

RICHARD
 It's Richard. I married your mother
 before you was born. How you doing?

JACKIE (O.S.)
 Whatcha want and why you calling me
 for?

RICHARD
 I just wanted to see if you iight
 is all.

JACKIE (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 Don't call me again! You already
 done damage to me and my older bro.

Richard pushes the phone away from his ear as Jackie's voice is heard screaming. Adrian and Darius shake their heads. Richard continues talking.

RICHARD
 If you only knew what went down
 between yo mom and I.
 (shakes his head and sighs
 sadly)
 Look, I wanted to hear ya voice and
 I hope you have a great life.

JACKIE (O.S.)
 Fuck you! Yo bumbaclot ass fucking
 made my mom go insane and
 shit...you prolly ain't even my
 pops, is you?

RICHARD
 (struggles to speak)
 Um...yo mom didn't tell ya, did
 she?

JACKIE (O.S.)
 Tell me what?...look don't call me
 again!

Richard hangs up. Richard looks at Adrian and Darius.

DARIUS
 You good pops?

RICHARD
 She truly her mom's daughter.

ADRIAN
 (laughing)
 She a lil feisty. Give her some
 time. She ain't ready to handle all
 this.

Richard looks around as Adrian shows him some of Rebecca's things. Richard sucks his teeth. He sees some papers and rips them. Adrian's concerned.

Richard speaks.

RICHARD

Yo mom's been telling y'all lies!
All I do is love her and now she
gonna ruin my good name? Fuck outta
here!

ADRIAN

Pops, she--

RICHARD

She what? She took y'all from me
and put shit about me in yo heads
and I ain't forgiving the bitch for
that!

(sucks is teeth, very
angry)

At the end of the day, she the
reason why y'all ain't been with me
and she the same woman who wanna
say that I'm a bad guy and shit.

(looks to the ground)

I hope you burn in Hell, Becca!

ADRIAN

If you want, we could take ya to
Jackie's. She don't live far from
here.

RICHARD

Nah, I don't wanna cause no
trouble.

Richard and Valorie leaves. Then Darius leaves. Grace sits
down as Adrian cleans up.

GRACE

The doctor say that the baby gonna
beautiful.

ADRIAN

Is it a boy or a girl?

GRACE

It's a boy.

Adrian kisses her as Grace blushes. Adrian sits besides her
and talks. Grace giggles a little bit as Adrian's optimistic.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I'mma name him Cordell. All the
good niggas out here got that name.

GRACE (CONT'D)

And they the same niggas who either locked up or dead. He ain't gonna be no Cordell. I'mma name him Shawn. All the good looking men out here is a Shawn. Trust, they ain't gonna mess with Shawn.

Adrian laughs. He plays with Grace's stomach. She holds his hand as he falls to the ground. Grace squeezes it.

ADRIAN

You good?

GRACE

(breathing heavily,
struggling to speak)

Nah, you gotta take me to the hospital--think I'mma have a contraction or something.

Adrian picks up the phone and dials 911.

INT. SAN DIEGO MEDICAL CENTER- MORNING- THE NEXT DAY- A FEW HOURS LATER- POV OF GRACE

GROUP SHOT AROUND GRACE

Grace's screaming. The doctor helps her. She struggles to compose herself. Adrian looks on. He's concerned.

ADRIAN

(to the doctor)

What's wrong with Grace? She ain't been like this before.

DOCTOR LOLA HATHAWAY, a biracial woman gives Adrian the news. He listens.

DOCTOR HATHAWAY

Your fiancé's gonna be fine. She just needs to take it easy. This type of thing happens with pregnant women.

ADRIAN

It ain't anything serious?

DOCTOR HATHAWAY

Nah. There'll be days where she'll feel like she's gonna explode, but she's only two months in.

Adrian smiles. He shakes Doctor Hathaway's hand. Grace looks at him. She's covered in sweat.

GRACE

(breathing heavily, very
tired)

This baby gonna fuck me up...but I
know how much you wanna have a son,
so--

ADRIAN

It ain't about me right now. It's
all about you.

He kisses her forehead as Grace plays around with his hands. Darius, Charlene, Edythe, and Dr. Flowers enter. Charlene and Edythe place flowers next to Grace, as Darius greets Adrian.

DARIUS

Big bro, you good?

ADRIAN

I'm good. She gonna have my baby.

DARIUS

You been down this road so many
times...you sure you wanna have
more kids?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Fuck yeah!

DARIUS (CONT'D)

After this one, I hope you done
bro.

ADRIAN

Mom ain't gave my two kids any
kinda love and shit and now this
one coming and she ain't even here
to enjoy the moment. What's good
with her though.

DARIUS

Mom woulda been proud of ya. I
mean, you managed to be in yo kids'
life and they know who you are.

Charlene interjects.

CHARLENE

Sorry to interrupt your
conversation.

(MORE)

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

It's just that I couldn't help but overhear you talk about your mother.

Adrian looks at her and smiles. She backs off. The two brothers continue talking.

ADRIAN

(looking around)
Jackie ain't even here. She still mad, ain't she?

DARIUS

Yurp. She don't want nothing to with you. Plus, she even been telling people bout you to mad people.

ADRIAN

She still my sis, like you my bro. I took care of y'all and I don't wanna see y'all angry at me no more!

(hugging his brother)
Remember, we all we got left in this fucking world!

Darius smiles. Adrian checks up on Grace.

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- BEDROOM- TWO WEEKS LATER- NIGHT

Adrian's through some of his mother's belongings. He grows a little bit suspicious. He shows Grace.

ADRIAN

Whatcha think of these shit?

GRACE

Yo mom loves ya. She lied, but at the end of the day, she's ya mom and she did what she could for you and yo siblings.

ADRIAN

But why the lies though? She robbed me of my relationship with my pops. How can I forgive her for that?

GRACE

You gotta chill and move on. Life
too short to be holding grudges,
Adrian.

Adrian nods his head. He smiles at Grace, who speaks. As she's speaking, he leans in and kisses Grace. Then the door rings. Annoyed, Adrian gets up and walks down the

HALLWAY

And answers it. Jackie enters. Adrian looks at her suspiciously.

ADRIAN

Whatcha want?

JACKIE

I wanna see you. I got something to tell ya--look, Hubert told me what went down with he and mom years ago and I wanna apologize for what I said to ya.

ADRIAN

(laughs, gets very
defensive and angry)

That's it? You told mad people that I ain't a member of the family and you got me to think I didn't love mom! I'm yo elder brother and I ain't gonna allow you to disrespect me anymore!

(sighs, takes a breath and
looks at Jackie)

Since you been born, you always been against me and I wanna know why? I'm the one who took ya to school, helped ya with yo homework and this how you do me? Remember, I was yo pops before you knew how yo pops is!

Jackie looks at him and cries. She places her head on his shoulders.

JACKIE

(wiping her tears)

I'm so sorry, bro. I just wanted to keep mom alive! I didn't want you to tear her down again...she deserves all of our respect.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)
 (comforting Jackie,
 hugging her)
 I know, but the way you went about
 it wrong sis, and you know that. We
 coulda talked about it as a family
 and not tear each other down.

Adrian and Jackie talk, as he hands Jackie the house phone.
 Nervous, she looks at the phone and back at Adrian. She makes
 a phone call.

JACKIE
 Hello?

RICHARD (O.S.)
 Who this?

JACKIE
 It's Jackie...Rebecca's daughter?
 Look, I wanna apologize for how I
 treated ya.

RICHARD (O.S.)
 It's all good. We just gotta move
 past this and keep surviving out
 here as family.

JACKIE
 How come no one told me all this?

RICHARD (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 Cause yo mom didn't want y'all to
 know. Adrian the first one who
 kinda exposed yo mom and her lies!
 And yet he kinda paid the price by
 yo mom not giving him any love.

JACKIE
 But what mom has against him?
 Adrian did what he could for Darius
 and me...I mean he took care of us
 when we were born--tell me!

RICHARD (O.S.)
 (sighs, in a disappointed
 tone)
 Cause he looks like me!

Jackie looks at Adrian.

JACKIE
 Whatcha talking bout?

RICHARD (O.S.)(CONT'D)
 Since he the first born, he paid
 the price. You and Darius ain't
 paid it cause y'all two the
 youngest...yo mom seen me in Adrian
 and caused that man to suffer all
 these years cause of our fallout.

Jackie pauses. Richard reveals something that has her
 demeanor changes. She continues to talk.

JACKIE
 We gotta link up sometime...I wanna
 meet my stepdaddy.

RICHARD (O.S.)
 I like that. Can't wait to see ya.

JACKIE
 Enjoy yourself, pops.

She hangs up the phone. Adrian smiles at her, asking her some
 questions. She doesn't speak. Adrian grows a little
 suspicious.

INT. FRANKLIN FAMILY HOME- THE NEXY DAY

Adrian, Darius, Jackie, Grace, Richard, Charlene, Edythe,
 Cindy, and others arrive. Hubert also arrives. He walks into
 the

LIVING ROOM

As Richard struggles to compose himself. Adrian and Darius
 tries to calm him down.

He's met with mixed reactions. Richard gets up and lunges at
 him. Everyone separates the two men.

HUBERT
 What went down between Rebecca and
 I was between us and you don't got
 the right to judge me!

RICHARD
 (angry, very aggressive)
 She was my wife, dawg! I mean we
 been had two kids and I swear--nah,
 I'm good, I ain't gonna hurt
 him...what you did still wrong.
 Cause of you, I been without my
 life all these years!

HUBERT

That's ya own fault! You wanna blame everything on her and yet she did what she could to let you see them kids.

RICHARD

At the end of the day, Adrian and Darius my kids and you ain't got no right to mess up my family like that!

Richard shoves Hubert, knocking him to the ground. Hubert's startled. He looks up at Richard, who's angry.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

(laughing)

I shoulda done that to yo ass long time ago!

Adrian and Darius helps Hubert. Hubert pushes them away, standing up on his own. Hubert walks over to Jackie. She doesn't look at him.

HUBERT

You my kid and I'm sorry I didn't tell ya, but ya mom and I wanted to protect you is all.

JACKIE

Protect me? Y'all made shit harder for me! I blamed my eldest bro for causing mom to die, lashed out on him and now I just finding out the truth and you been protecting me? Nah, fuck outta here!

HUBERT (CONT'D)

You don't gotta forgive me, but know I been there for you when you needed me. I'm the same one who--

Adrian intervenes. Hubert's taken a back by this. He doesn't say another word. Other family members are talking amongst themselves. Hubert leaves as Jackie heads to the

KITCHEN

And talks to Charlene. Charlene hands her a rose. Jackie smiles.

CHARLENE

So now the truth's finally revealed. Are you angry with your mother or what? Because I want you to know that whatever you think about her, she's still your mother.

JACKIE

(suspicious, looking at Charlene)

Why all the lies though? Wait, did you know any of this?

Charlene's nervous. She looks away. Then, she answers Jackie.

CHARLENE

I knew certain things, but I didn't know a whole lot. Becca always kept a lotta things to herself. You already know that.

JACKIE

Y'all been making Adrian look like a damn liar and I feel like we all owe the nigga an apology.

CHARLENE (CONT'D)

Don't get me wrong, I didn't have anything against Richard. I always thought he was the right one for Rebecca...it's just that they both were young and didn't know how to be parents.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

All this time, I thought Richard my pops and to find out he ain't makes me feel like I been lied to my entire life. How am I suppose to move through this? What else mom been hiding from me?

Charlene hands her some of Rebecca's old journals. Jackie looks at her and takes them. She scrolls through them thoroughly as she stops. Her eyes widens.

JACKIE

(reading the journal)

Dear Journal,

Richard and I have been in another fight. Here at the house, I realized that Richard and I aren't meant to be together.

(MORE)

JACKIE (CONT'D)

The issue here is that Adrian looks so much like his father and I don't know if I could ever love him as a mother should.

(sighs, continues reading)

Darius was just born and he looks a lot like me. Maybe Adrian shouldn't be with me. Maybe he should live with his father. I'm just sorry that I wasn't the mother I needed to be to my first born son.

Jackie stops and looks at Charlene. Charlene shows her some old photos of Rebecca as Jackie smiles.

POV ON JACKIE, MLS OF JACKIE AND CHARLENE

Charlene hugs her and kisses her on the cheek. Alone, Jackie goes through some of her mother's photos. Adrian enters. Jackie shows him some of the photos as they're laughing and sharing some memories of Rebecca.

CU OF SOME OF THE PHOTOS OF REBECCA, POV OF ADRIAN

Adrian giggles. He smiles at one photo of his mother.

CU OF THE PHOTO OF A YOUNG REBECCA AND TODDLER ADRIAN

He wraps his arms around his sister. Jackie's smiling. Darius enters and they show him the photos of their mother.

THREE SHOT OF ALL THREE SIBLINGS, POV ON ALL THREE

Adrian speaks.

ADRIAN

Mom used to let me help her change y'all diapers...she called me her little man and I dunno why, but I miss them times.

DARIUS

Mom used to give me the best foot massages. Anytime I was in pain, I knew that mom was always gonna protect me and I miss her so much.

JACKIE

Mom and I used to go shopping and them times with her always on my mind. Mom was extra, but she was cool at the same time.

(laughing with her
brothers, looking at
Adrian)

That's the mom I wanna share with y'all. Not the mom who lied to us and kept a lot from us.

ADRIAN

I feel ya, I really do. So where we go from here?

DARIUS

We all should just chill and enjoy each other while we can.

ADRIAN

I agree.

JACKIE

Me too.

The siblings keep talking. We see them drinking some champagne and laughing a lot.

BACK TO:

LIVING ROOM

Family members are shaking Richard's hand one by one as Edythe approaches him. Unsure, she awkwardly shakes his hand. He meanwhile doesn't budge. He greets so many family members.

Adrian renters. Then Darius and Jackie renters. Richard locks eyes with his children. They're all smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. ADRIAN'S APARTMENT- NIGHT- A FEW HOURS LATER- SAME DAY

Grace enters the

KITCHEN

And eats. As she's eating, she turns on the TV. Adrian enters, kisses her, and hands her some roses. He turns off the TV. She's a little mad. He makes an announcement.

ADRIAN

Pops gonna be spending more time
with us...ain't that exciting?

Grace rolls her eyes. She looks at Adrian and doesn't say much. She turns back on the TV. Again, Adrian turns off the TV. He grows a little suspicious.

ADRIAN

You don't want pops here, do ya?

GRACE

It ain't about that. Every time we
get to be alone, someone or
something always gotta interfere
with our love life. Well, I'm sick
of it and I ain't gonna allow
anyone to interfere no more!

ADRIAN

(kisses Grace's neck
passionately, in a
seductive tone)

Sorry bout that...I know you put up
with all the shit going on lately
and all--tell ya what, I'mma spend
more time with ya from now on.

GRACE

But what about yo pops? Ain't he
gonna still be in the mix?

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

Yeah, but he my pops. You my fiancé
and I don't wanna loose ya. You
been--

Grace kisses him as they make passionate love. Adrian carries her and slams everything off of the kitchen table. Then, he strips her down and continues to make love to her. As they're making love, the phone rings. Adrian ignores it.

She moans passionately as Adrian's sweating. He then carries her into the

LIVING ROOM

As they're both sweating. She scratches his muscular body as he's carrying her. They share another kiss. Grace cums all over him as he's licking all of it. She then shows her tongue. Adrian cums on her.

POV ON ADRIAN, PAN AROUND THE LIVING ROOM, WIDE SHOT

Adrian smiles. He kisses Grace as she's concerned. She pushes him away. He consoles her. She cries. Grabbing her stomach, she regurgitates.

INT. SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY- 4TH FLOOR- MORNING- THE NEXT DAY- SHOTS OF CINDY AND ADRIAN TALKING

Cindy's reorganizing some books. Adrian helps her. They talk. As they're talking, a familiar face approaches Adrian.

OFFICER UKAMBE

(greet's Adrian, shaking his hand)

Hey, long time no see. How's everything?

ADRIAN

(smiling, but shocked at the same time)

I'm iight. How you?

OFFICER UKAMBE

Good, good...just tryna make this place safer. I didn't know you go here.

ADRIAN

My family's been going here for many years--it's like my second crib or something.

He pulls Adrian to the side. His demeanor changes. Adrian listens.

OFFICER UKAMBE (CONT'D)

(lowers his voice, looking at Adrian)

We got the results from your mother's autopsy and--

(shows Adrian the papers)

I'm so sorry for you loss, but I hope that this gives you everything you've asked for.

Officer Ukambe tries to walk away, but Adrian stops him. He asks the officer a few questions.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(looking at the papers)

So this here is the final determination of how m mom died?

Officer Ukambe shakes his head. Adrian keeps looking.

ADRIAN

Why didn't y'all tell us this sooner? We been suffering and crying and shit...

(looks at the officer and smiles)

I appreciate the fact you came here to tell me this.

OFFICER UKAMBE

I'm in a hurry here--

ADRIAN

It'll take a few secs. This here the real deal, ain't it?

OFFICER UKAMBE

I ain't got much time to talk...I gotta go.

Officer Ukambe abruptly leaves as Cindy looks on. Adrian shows her the papers.

CINDY

(looks at the papers, grows suspicious)

It ain't revealed how yo mom really died, cuz. If you want, we could go down to the station and--

ADRIAN

I'm iight with the results. I mean, she dead and gone and woulda wanted me to just leave it as is.

Adrian yawns. He stretches and hugs Cindy. Cindy gives him some encouraging words as he smiles. He leaves. Edythe enters and sees Cindy. The two women speak.

EDYTHE

(smiling, looking around the place)

It's so wonderful...so how did ya weekend go?

CINDY

I turned the fuck up, sis. It was lit. I went to see Jackie and Darius and we partied till we seen Monday come. What bout you? How was yo weekend?

EDYTHE

(a little sad, but smiles
forcefully)

It wasn't exciting as yours, but I
spent it visiting my friend and
sister, Rebecca. I still can't
believe she's really gone.

CINDY

Yeah, I feel ya. I'm sorry that she
died, but Adrian told me y'all been
close.

(holds Edythe's hand)

I lost someone I knew years ago and
it feels like my heart still ain't
in the mood to enjoy life--you just
gotta know she here with ya in
death.

(looks around)

If you want, I could throw you a
party to honor yo friend.

Edythe blushes. They keep talking as the conversation
changes.

CUT TO:

INT. THE FRANKLIN HOUSE- REBECCA'S ROOM- DAY- AUGUST 2018

Adrian, Darius, and Jackie enters. Holding hands, they look
around the room as Jackie breaks down. Darius consoles her as
Adrian continues looking.

Suspicious, he walks to his mother's bed. He sees something.
He shows it to his younger siblings. They look at it as
they're astonished by this.

A large scrapbook of old photos and Rebecca's writings are
shown as Adrian scrolls through the scrapbook. A tear falls
down from his face as he reads some of her writings.

ADRIAN

(reading his mother's
writings, in a happier
tone)

Dear Adrian,

*My first born child. No matter what
anyone says, I'll always love ya.
I'm so sorry for everything. I'm
sorry for not being the mother you
needed me to be.*

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

You look so much like your father that I forgot to show you any love and affection. You've been an amazing father, son, and I regret that we didn't get the chance to know each other. The truth is that you look so much like your father and I was and still am afraid that you'd leave me like he did. Every time I'd look at ya, it's like I'm looking into your father's eyes all over again. You're my first born and you did a lot for your younger brother and sister and I thank you for being a great brother to them and a great son to me. Just know that I love you and that I always loved ya. I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me. I'm always here for you, son.

From,

your mother,

Rebecca Franklin

Adrian shivers his lips and cries. Both Jackie and Darius console him as Adrian keeps looking. A lot of photos of Rebecca and Adrian are shown.

JACKIE

See, I told ya mom loved ya. She just had a different way of showing it.

DARIUS

(looks at the scrapbook,
smiling at Adrian)

You got mad pics in here with you and mom-- I'm so jealous. Mom really loved ya, bro.

ADRIAN

I guess she really did, huh? I miss mom so much.

They hug. Adrian looks at some photos of his mother and smiles.

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

(crying, looks at Darius
and Jackie)

(MORE)

ADRIAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry I didn't show up to her funeral...I feel like a shitty son!

JACKIE

(crying)

Nah, you spent each time with mom when she was here and even though you didn't show up, she understands...we understand.

DARIUS

(crying)

We know ya and we know you loved mom...guess you needed this to give ya some closure once and for all.

Adrian smiles. He wraps his arms around his siblings and kisses their foreheads. Looking around the room, he blows a kiss to the heavens and walks out.

SHOT OF A YOUNG REBECCA AND ADRIAN SMILING TOGETHER, POV OF ADRIAN AND HIS SIBLINGS.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE FRANKLIN HOUSE- NIGHT- SAME DAY

LOW ANGLE OF THE HEAVENS

Sade's Cherish The Day is playing in the background.

ADRIAN (V.O.)

I guess Mom really loved me. Sometimes, it takes losing a loved one to realize that they loved ya all along. I just wish that I could see my mom again.

(sighs, in an upbeat tone)

Yesterday's gone, but today's here and my mom taught me to cherish the relationships we have and cause of her, I got my family back. Thanks mom for loving me the way you could. I'll always love ya, mom.

The camera FADES TO BLACK.

END.