

Love Thug Life

Screenplay by

Nicholas P

E-mail: [nickpaul2020@gmail.com](mailto:nickpaul2020@gmail.com)  
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**FADE IN:**

**INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-NIGHT**

AJ (V.O.)  
Sometimes, life has a way of  
showing you someone that is meant  
for you. In the end, she realizes  
that you are meant for her.

At the center of the dining area, a blonde-haired woman sits on a stool at the bar table. JENNY, 21. A college student that majors in photography. A woman looking for the right kind of love that her current boyfriend can't provide. Lonely and oppressed.

Jenny holds her head up with the palm of her hand, as her elbow supports the weight of her head.

A waiter approaches her. He collects the glasses. ARESENIO 'AJ' JONES, 22. A busboy and rapper. A dreamer and a young man that supports his ill grandmother.

AJ  
Do you want more?

JENNY  
I beg your pardon.

AJ  
Water.

JENNY  
Oh, no thank you.

A vibration from her purse. Jenny reaches in -- and pulls out her cell phone -- She hits the **answer button** -- and puts it to her ear --

JENNY (CONT'D)  
-- Excuse me. Hello?

ADAM (V.O.)  
Hey!

JENNY  
Where are you?

ADAM (V.O.)  
I'm not going to make it.

JENNY

Oh. I guess I'll talk to you later  
then.

ADAM (V.O.)

Love you!

JENNY

Love you too.

Jenny ends the call -- and puts her cell phone back into her  
purse --

AJ steps away --

Jenny pulls a **twenty-dollar bill** from her wallet -- and sets  
it down on the bar table.

Jenny grabs her **coat** with her purse-- and steps away --

AJ steps towards the bar table -- and takes the twenty --

CUT TO:

**EXT. ALLEY-NIGHT**

AJ steps out of the restaurant's back door. He steps towards  
a **bicycle** and unlocks the **padlock**.

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREET-NIGHT**

AJ rides his bicycle in the bicycle lane. He looks across the  
street and sees Jenny standing at the curb. Her hand raised  
up. AJ rides the bicycle onto the sidewalk -- and parks it  
behind Jenny --

AJ

-- Do you need a ride?

Jenny looks back at AJ --

JENNY

-- Is it that noticeable?

AJ

Where do you live?

JENNY

The studio apartments, twenty  
blocks down the street.

AJ

Hop on!

JENNY

Thanks, but it doesn't look safe.

AJ

It's safer than you think.

Jenny steps towards AJ and the bicycle. She lifts herself up to the seat -- and leans back onto AJ --

JENNY

-- What's your name?

AJ

AJ.

JENNY

Jenny.

AJ

Are you ready, Jenny?

JENNY

Ready!

AJ rides the bicycle through the traffic of taxis.

Jenny closes her eyes --

AJ looks at her. He smiles. The bicycle moves around the taxis. She grips her hand onto his.

CUT TO:

**EXT. STUDIO APARTMENT COMPLEX-NIGHT**

AJ parks the bicycle --

AJ

-- We're here!

Jenny opens her eyes -- and looks at the front door to the studio apartments.

JENNY

Thank you.

AJ

Mind if I help?

JENNY

No.

AJ lifts Jenny from the seat -- and sets her down on her feet -- Jenny steps towards the door -- She looks back at AJ --

JENNY (CONT'D)

-- Thanks --

-- Jenny reaches into her coat pocket -- and pulls out a twenty-dollar bill --

AJ

-- No charge.

JENNY

But -- You drove all that way.

AJ

No lady deserves to be kept waiting.

JENNY

Thank you.

Jenny steps towards the front door -- She looks back.

JENNY (CONT'D)

(wave)

Jenny walks in --

AJ turns the bicycle around -- and speeds off --

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-JENNY'S APARTMENT-NIGHT**

The front door opens -- Jenny steps in -- and shuts the door -- She locks the deadbolt --

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

AJ steps into the bedroom. He sits across from an older woman lying in a hospital bed. GRANDMOTHER, mid-60s. A sweet and loving woman that is AJ's only living relative.

AJ leans his head down on the edge of the bed --

NURSE, early 30s.

A Nurse steps into the bedroom -- She shakes AJ's shoulder --

NURSE  
-- AJ, baby --

-- AJ looks at the Nurse --

AJ  
-- Huh?

NURSE  
Go lay down, sweetie. I got her.

AJ stands up -- and steps towards the doorway --

The Nurse grabs a fluid bag from the bottom of the bed -- and looks at AJ --

NURSE (CONT'D)  
-- I got her. Go ahead and get some sleep.

AJ steps out of the bedroom --

CUT TO:

**INT. AJ'S BEDROOM-NIGHT**

AJ flops down on the bed -- His face pressed against the pillow --

AJ  
(grunt)  
(breath)

CUT TO:

**INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM-JENNY'S APARTMENT-MORNING**

The curtains open --

A man steps towards the bed and sits. ADAM, 25. A materialistic and self-absorbed man.

ADAM  
-- Wake up babe!

Jenny turns her face away --

JENNY  
(grunt)

ADAM  
Come on!

JENNY  
What for?

ADAM  
Brunch.

Jenny sits up --

JENNY  
-- With whom?

ADAM  
You'll see.

Adam lifts a **shopping bag** up from the floor -- and hands it to her -- Jenny takes it --

JENNY  
-- You got me something!

Jenny reaches in -- and pulls out a **yellow cocktail dress** -- She looks at Adam --

ADAM  
-- What is it?

JENNY  
You know I hate cocktail dresses.

ADAM  
Yeah, but you'll learn to love it.  
It's a special occasion.

JENNY  
What's that?

ADAM  
You'll see. Now, get dressed.

Adam steps out of the bedroom --

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREETS-MORNING**

AJ rides his bicycle across the street --

CUT TO:

**INT. ADAM'S FERRARI-MORNING**

Jenny leans herself against the passenger door. She looks at the man riding a bicycle across the street and sits up --

Adam looks at her.

ADAM

What did you see? Bike messengers?

JENNY

Nothing.

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREETS-CONTINUOUS**

AJ gets off the seat -- and walks the bicycle across the sidewalk -- He looks at the Ferrari driving alongside.

AJ

Cool car.

CUT TO:

**INT. LOBBY-STUDIO-MORNING**

AJ steps into the lobby --

RECEPTIONIST, early 20s.

AJ steps towards the front desk --

RECEPTIONIST

-- May I help you?

AJ

Is Roy Johnson available?

RECEPTIONIST

I'll call him for you. Please, have a seat.

AJ

Alright.

AJ sits down -- He grabs a *magazine* from the table -- and opens it --

ROY JOHNSON, late 20s. A music producer. A dedicated husband and loyal friend.



Roy steps towards AJ --

ROY  
-- AJ!!

AJ sets the magazine down -- and stands up -- He shakes Roy's hand --

ROY (CONT'D)  
-- What can I do for you?

AJ reaches into his **backpack** -- and pulls out a **package** -- He hands it to Roy -- AJ reaches into his pants pocket -- and pulls out a **wad** of **cash** --

AJ  
-- For the demo.

ROY  
I already told you, don't worry about paying for it. I got you covered. How is she?

AJ  
On her last breath.

ROY  
Keep it --

-- AJ puts the wad of cash into his pocket --

AJ  
Good looking out.

ROY  
Did you write your lyrics?

AJ  
I'm working on them.

ROY  
Can you have them done by tonight?

AJ  
Are you going to be around?

ROY  
I'm always around.

AJ turns around -- and walks away --

ROY (CONT'D)  
-- See you tonight!

AJ (O.C.)  
See ya!!

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

AJ sits on the counter. A pen in his hand along with a **notebook** pressed against his lap. AJ thinks to himself.

AJ (V.O.)  
Grandmas in the bed/Breathing and  
keeping the need for me to keep the  
need for speed/Riding my feet to  
feed these peeps.

MANAGER, late 40s.

The Manager steps past AJ --

MANAGER  
-- Break time is over.

AJ closes the notebook -- He slides it into his backpack --  
The Manager takes the backpack -- and hands AJ a tray of  
glasses --

CUT TO:

**INT. DINING AREA-RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

Jenny sits across the table from Adam. She plays with a fork  
-- and twirls it around -- Adam reaches across -- and  
snatches it from her -- He tosses it to the table --

JENNY  
-- How much longer?

ADAM  
Do you have to be somewhere?

JENNY  
I have to go shopping.

ADAM  
For?

JENNY  
Food.

ADAM

I can have Henry do it for you. Let me call him.

Adam pulls out his cell phone --

JENNY

-- I can do my own shopping --

ADAM

-- Why are you getting so serious?

JENNY

You never listen to me or take me out to do the things I want.

AJ steps towards the table --

Adam grabs a hold of her arm --

ADAM

-- You are an ungrateful brat! I'll have Henry take you home --

-- Jenny stands up --

JENNY

-- Don't bother --

Jenny steps past AJ -- She looks at him --

JENNY (CONT'D)

-- Hey.

AJ

Hey.

Jenny steps through the front doors of the restaurant --

AJ looks at Adam --

ADAM

(wave)

-- Check please!

CUT TO:

**EXT. RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

Jenny steps towards the curb -- She hugs herself for warmth -

-

JENNY  
(sob)

AJ rushes towards her -- A **sweatshirt** in his hand --

AJ  
-- Hey!

Jenny looks at him --

JENNY  
-- Hey --

-- AJ wraps the sweatshirt around Jenny's shoulders --

AJ  
-- It looked like you could use  
this --

JENNY  
-- Thanks.

Jenny wipes her eyes --

JENNY (CONT'D)  
-- Why are you always the one  
saving me?

AJ  
Because you deserve better.

JENNY  
Thanks.

The Manager opens the door -- and peeks his head out --

MANAGER  
-- AJ!! Get in here!

JENNY  
You better get in there. I'll be  
fine --

-- AJ reaches his hand out --

AJ  
-- Come on!

JENNY  
What?

AJ  
You can sit and eat in the kitchen.

JENNY  
You'll get in trouble.

AJ reaches his hand out --

AJ  
-- I won't -- Come on --

-- Jenny grabs a hold of AJ's hand --

AJ leads her towards the restaurant --

Adam steps outside --

Jenny steps past Adam -- and enters the restaurant --

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-RESTAURANT-AFTERNOON**

AJ steps towards the counter -- and pulls out a chair --

AJ  
-- Here you go --

-- Jenny sits --

JENNY  
-- Thanks --

AJ  
-- See you in a bit --

-- AJ steps towards the order line -- and takes a tray --

The Manager steps towards Jenny -- and hands her a plate of food --

JENNY  
-- I don't want to take your food -  
-

MANAGER  
-- No worries.

Jenny begins to eat --

CUT TO:

**INT. DINING AREA-EVENING**

AJ steps into the dining area --

MONTAGE

-- AJ brings drinks to tables.

-- AJ brings plates of food to the tables.

-- AJ collects tips from the tables.

BACK TO SCENE

AJ sits at a table and counts his tips. He stands up from the table --

CUT TO:

**INT. KITCHEN-RESTAURANT-EVENING**

Jenny rinses the dishes off while the Manager dries them --

AJ steps into the kitchen --

AJ  
-- How's it going in here?

JENNY  
Everything's good.

AJ  
Are you ready?

JENNY  
Yes.

MANAGER  
Go ahead.

Jenny shakes the Managers hand --

MANAGER (CONT'D)  
-- Come back anytime.

Jenny steps towards AJ --

AJ  
-- See you later.

MANAGER  
(wave)

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREETS-EVENING**

AJ walks his bicycle down the sidewalk --

Jenny walks alongside of him --

AJ looks at Jenny --

AJ  
-- Are you in a hurry to go home?

JENNY  
No, why?

AJ  
I have to make one last stop. Do  
you care to join me?

JENNY  
Sure.

CUT TO:

**INT. BOOTH-RECORDING STUDIO-NIGHT**

AJ stands close to the *microphone*. The *headphones* over his ears.

AJ  
Grandmas in the bed/Breathing/  
Keeping the need for me to keep the  
need for speed/Riding my feet to  
feed these peeps/Mama is gone/Now  
I'm living/No Daisies here from  
me/What do I got to do/Me love the  
thug life.

AJ looks at Jenny through the window of the booth.

CUT TO:

**INT. RECORDING STUDIO-STUDIO-NIGHT**

Jenny wipes the tears from her eyes -- She sits down on the couch --

Roy looks back at Jenny --

CUT TO:

**EXT. STREETS-NIGHT**

AJ walks alongside of Jenny. His hands gripped on the handlebars of the bicycle.

AJ  
Are you alright?

JENNY  
Yeah, why?

AJ  
You've been quiet since we left the studio.

JENNY  
I'm sorry.

AJ  
So, what did you think?

JENNY  
It was good.

AJ  
Just good?

JENNY  
It was awesome. You have a gift.

AJ  
Thanks. What about you?

JENNY  
Me?

AJ  
Yes, you. Don't you have a gift?

JENNY  
I'm into photography.

AJ  
Really. How'd you get into that?

JENNY  
College. Technically, I'm still in college.

AJ  
So, be a photographer.



JENNY  
I'm trying.

CUT TO:

**INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Jenny opens her closet door -- She kneels down on the floor -  
- and reaches into her backpack -- She lifts a **Nikon COOLPIX  
B500 Digital Camera** out of the backpack -- She looks around  
the bedroom and an idea comes to mind. She smirks.

CUT TO:

**EXT. PARK-MORNING**

BASKETBALL PLAYERS #1, #2, #3 and #4. Early teens.

At the bleachers, Jenny sits. She snaps a photo of the jump  
shot taken by Basketball Player #2 -- He high fives  
Basketball Player #1 --

BASKETBALL PLAYER #1  
-- Yes!!!

GANG MEMBERS #1, #2 and #3. Late teens.

Gang Member #1 steps past Jenny -- and stops -- He looks at  
Jenny --

GANG MEMBER #1  
-- Hey there, sugar lips!

Jenny looks away --

GANG MEMBER #1 (CONT'D)  
-- Fancy camera you have there. Do  
you mind snapping a few pictures of  
me? I can pay you.

Jenny stands up -- and steps away --

Gang Member #1 grabs a hold of her arm --

GANG MEMBER #1 (CONT'D)  
-- Where are you going?

JENNY  
Let me go!!

AJ rides the bicycle towards the bleachers and spots Gang  
Member #1 grabbing Jenny's arm.

AJ

Hey!

-- AJ jumps off the bicycle -- and steps towards Gang Member #1 -- He pushes him away --

AJ (CONT'D)

-- Get away from her!!

GANG MEMBER #1

What are you? Her boyfriend?

AJ looks at Jenny --

AJ

-- Are you okay?

Gang Member #1 punches AJ across the face --

AJ falls to the ground --

Gang Member #1 grabs the camera from Jenny's hand -- and smashes it to the ground --

Jenny kneels down -- and lifts AJ's head up --

GANG MEMBER #1

-- Later hero!!

Gang Members #1, #2 and #3 walk away --

Basketball Player #1 steps towards Jenny and AJ --

BASKETBALL PLAYER #1

-- An ambulance is on its way.

JENNY

Thank you.

CUT TO:

**INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON**

AJ sits on the *exam table* --

DOCTOR, early 30s.

The Doctor sits across from AJ.

DOCTOR

You're very lucky that you didn't get struck with anything heavy.

AJ  
So, I'm fine?

DOCTOR  
Yes. Stay with your girlfriend for  
the night.

AJ  
She's not my girlfriend.

DOCTOR  
Oh.

CUT TO:

**INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON**

Jenny looks up -- and sees AJ walking towards her -- She  
stands up --

JENNY  
-- Are you alright?

AJ  
I'll live.

JENNY  
What did he say?

AJ  
He says I shouldn't be alone  
tonight. I might have a concussion.

JENNY  
You can stay with me tonight. I  
could use the company.

AJ  
Cool --

-- AJ and Jenny step towards the exit doors --

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

AJ lies on the sofa, asleep.

Jenny steps into the living room -- A **glass** of **water** in her  
hand.

She sets it down on the **coffee table** -- She pulls the **blanket** from over the sofa -- and covers AJ -- Jenny kisses him on the cheek -- She steps out of the living room -- and walks down the hallway --

CUT TO:

**INT. JENNY'S BEDROOM-MORNING**

A sound of an **alarm clock** sounds off.

Jenny hits the button with the palm of her hand -- and sits up --

JENNY  
(grunt)

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-CONTINUOUS**

Jenny steps into the living room -- She looks down at the sofa but sees no sign of AJ. The blanket placed over the back of the sofa.

JENNY  
AJ?

A knock at the door --

Jenny steps towards the door -- and opens it --

AJ stands in front of her with two cups of coffee in both of his hands and a plastic bag hanging at his fingertip. A paper bag underneath his armpit.

AJ  
Hey?

JENNY  
Hey! Please, come in.

AJ steps inside -- He sets the cups down on the coffee table --

Jenny shuts the door --

AJ  
-- I got us breakfast. I thought that you might be hungry.

JENNY

Thanks.

AJ hands Jenny the plastic bag --

AJ

-- This is for you.

JENNY

What is it?

AJ

Open it and find out.

Jenny reaches into the bag -- and pulls out a box containing a **Nikon digital camera** -- She looks at AJ --

JENNY

-- You bought this for me?

AJ

The guy smashed your camera to pieces -- You --

-- Jenny kisses him -- and hugs him --

JENNY

-- Thank you --

-- Jenny grabs his hand -- and walks him towards the sofa --

JENNY (CONT'D)

-- Let's eat.

CUT TO:

**INT. BOOTH-RECORDING STUDIO-STUDIO-NIGHT**

SUPER: ONE YEAR LATER

Jenny stands and rubs her pregnant belly --

AJ (O.C.)

The wife/The love of my life/Best woman to save my life/She brings a life.

Roy steps towards the microphone --

AJ (CONT'D)

-- How's that!

ROY

Great!

AJ looks at Jenny. He kisses his hand -- and lays it against the glass of the booth --

Jenny looks at the photograph of AJ, his grandmother and herself.

AJ (V.O.)

In the end, you do get to live the life you been dreaming of.

**FADE OUT:**

**THE END**