

BLOOD AND NAME

Written by

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INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - MORNING

RINGING of a cellphone's alarm can be heard.

The phone, resting on the edge of a nightstand flashes a timestamp of 7:00 AM. Next to it was a handgun. And next to that, Charleston PD police badge.

Suddenly a hand reaches out and turns off the alarm. OFFICER JONATHAN LUCAS, light-skinned, 29 years old.

Jonathan gets out of his bed, makes it carefully, and places his single pillow at the top. He backs up a bit and inspects it. Satisfied, he walks away and disappears into the bathroom.

ALARM RINGS. Again. This time it shows 7:20.

Jonathan runs out with only a towel and dripping wet. Turns it off and leaves to an adjacent room.

ALARM RINGS. 7:33.

He comes out again, now wearing a Neat and well-Ironed police officers' uniform. He sits on the bed by the nightstand and puts on his badge and gun.

He stays there for a moment. Doing nothing.

Then shortly the alarm goes off again. He grabs his phone and leaves the apartment.

INT. POLICE STATION - RECEPTION - MORNING

As Jonathan walk in, he throws out a paper coffee cup and napkin into the bin by the door.

Fellow officer BRIAN, sitting behind the reception desk quietly eyes Jonathan as he walks by.

He stood up quickly when Jonathan was about to pass by him.

BRIAN
Wait up, Yoni.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Yes?

BRIAN
(seeming offended)
Good morning to you too!

OFFICER JONATHAN
Sorry Brian, there is a mail I've
been expecting on my desk all week.
Can't think of anything else.

BRIAN
Well, it will have to wait. The
Chief ordered for you to come right
up as soon as you got here. So --

OFFICER JONATHAN
(with a smirk)
Maybe I don't have to wait at all.

Jonathan almost sprints up the stairs.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)
Thanks Brian... and Good morning.

INT. POLICE STATION - CHIEF'S OFFICE - MORNING

CHIEF OF POLICE BERNARD GOODMAN, Caucasian, mid 50s, in his
reading glasses, is attentively shuffling through documents
stacked inside a folder.

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

CHIEF BERNARD
Come in!

Jonathan quietly walks in and closes the door behind him. The
Chief didn't break his attention from the documents.

After a moment, due to the lack of conversation Jonathan
approaches the Chief's desk.

OFFICER JONATHAN
You asked for me, sir?

CHIEF BERNARD
(pointing to a chair)
Take a seat.

Jonathan sits down on one of the two chairs in front of the
Chief's desk.

CHIEF BERNARD (CONT'D)
So... you've recently tried out for
a Detective's position. Correct?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yes sir. I...is this regarding a decision sir?

CHIEF BERNARD

No, no, Unfortunately not all the test results have come in yet. But I see here you have built yourself quite the resumé.

The Chief picks out a paper from the folder and starts naming his observations:

CHIEF BERNARD (CONT'D)

Highest arresting rate in the precinct. Never turned in a report late. Never been late or missed a workday. Never taken any of your Vacation days, not even a sick day.

(looks back at him)

No listed family members either.

OFFICER JONATHAN

I'm married to my work Sir! Don't got time for anything else.

CHIEF BERNARD

Glad to hear that son. Now this brings me to my next question... you are Ethiopian too?

OFFICER JONATHAN

(looking confused)

Yees. Born American, Ethiopian by blood.

CHIEF BERNARD

Good. Good. So familiar with the language and... history?

OFFICER JONATHAN

I believe so. May I ask what this is regarding sir?

CHIEF BERNARD

Well officer Jonathan, what I'm about to tell you is only known by a few government officials and the law enforcements that are on the case. And is not to get out to the public!

The chief looks up to see Jonathan nodding.

CHIEF BERNARD (CONT'D)
Community pioneer and Automobile
industry tycoon Missus RUTH
MAKONNEN was found murdered in her
own bedroom two days ago.

A moment of SILENCE takes over the room.

OFFICER JONATHAN
I am sorry sir but as terrible as
that is, a death this big will
reach the public eventually. How
are we supposed to keep it
undisclosed?

CHIEF BERNARD
That wasn't the confidential part
son.... Missus Ruth was the
Clandestine Spouse of the former
Leader of Ethiopia, RAS TAFARI
MAKONNEN, publicly known as EMPEROR
HAILE SELASSIE.

Chief Bernard looked back up at Jonathan to see him staring
back in Awe.

CHIEF BERNARD (CONT'D)
Missus Ruth moved here from England
in Seventy Four, with her family,
during the Derg regime in Ethiopia,
when decedents of Haile Selassie
were being hunted. Rumors of her
existence started spreading in
London, thus was given asylum here.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Sir, are you saying, there are
descendants of THE LION OF JUDAH
living here in South Carolina?

CHIEF BERNARD
Yes. And No. The legitimate son of
Ruth and the Emperor passed decades
ago after moving back to Ethiopia.
She was living here with her
family, of her second marriage, to
DOCTOR ROBERT LEWIS. Who also died
in a car accident a few years back.

OFFICER JONATHAN
I see. So what exactly would my job
be in this matter sir?

CHIEF BERNARD

A couple of our men were sent at the time to investigate the crime scene and take statements but --

KNOCK. KNOCK.

Without waiting for an answer a man, African-American, 45, wearing a business casual suit walks in and approaches them.

CHIEF BERNARD (CONT'D)

(standing up)

This is DETECTIVE SAMUEL CURTIS.

Chief Bernard shake hands with Samuel and sits down. Jonathan greets him as well.

CHIEF BERNARD (CONT'D)

He has been assigned by the Mayor himself to take over the case. And you will be assisting him in any way that the investigation will require your...expertise.

Samuel and Jonathan looked at one another as if they're sizing each other up.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

You were hand-picked for this, kid. I hope you won't slow me down.

OFFICER JONATHAN

I won't sir. You can count on me.

CHIEF BERNARD

Good. Good. Seeing that everybody is on the same page, I will send you off with your one last order, We have wasted enough time as it is.

Chief Bernard takes off his glasses and leans toward the two men sitting in front of him.

CHIEF BERNARD (CONT'D)

You are not to make an arrest or bring any one of the suspects in unless you are absolutely sure.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Why? Who are the suspects?

CHIEF BERNARD

The victim's Children.

Chief Bernard turns his attention to the Desktop computer. Jonathan and Samuel stood up and began to leave. A conflicted look can be seen on Jonathan's face.

Samuel walks out first. As Jonathan was about to walk out too he pokes his head right back in.

OFFICER JONATHAN
I wasn't chosen for this just
because of my ethnicity, was I
Chief?

Now the Chief starts seeming conflicted too.

CHIEF BERNARD
I'll give it to you straight son.
Yes, that was a big part of it but
your accomplishments didn't go
unnoticed too. Do good on this case
and you can consider that detective
position, well in the bag.

EXT. POLICE STATION - PARKING LOT - DAY

Officer Jonathan and Detective Samuel are silently walking past the cars in the lot. It's obvious they haven't said a word since they left the office.

Jonathan paces ahead towards a patrol car.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
(taking out car keys)
No. We're taking mine.

He hits the button. BEEP-BOP.

The Mercedes-Benz in the next row unlocks.

I/E. DETECTIVE SAMUEL'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Samuel gets in first. Starts the car.

Jonathan steps in to find folders on the passenger's seat. Picks it up. Sits down and puts it on his lap.

They leave the lot and drive off.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Soooo we're heading to the victim's
residence?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Yes.

SILENCE.

OFFICER JONATHAN

And we're positive they'll all be present.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Yes. They've been advised not to leave town.

MORE SILENCE.

Samuel felt another question coming up and cuts him off before he speaks.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Take a look inside the folder. It's all the info gathered of the family and first analysis of the crime scene.

Jonathan opens it and is first met with a photograph of the victim's body.

CUT TO:

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

A blinding light, flashes from a forensics camera.

Ruth Makonnen's lifeless body is lying on a queen-sized bed. A woman who looks nothing like her age except for the grey hair. Wearing a white nightgown, soaked in blood from the waist down.

Her head rests on the mattress, with her single pillow being on the other side.

A life-size painting of The Emperor and Mrs. Ruth hangs right above the bed. And a bell, under it.

Police officers and coroners are dispersed around the room, taking pictures, marking spots, attending to the body.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)

Ruth Makonnen, ninety seven years old, cause of death... three stab wounds in the abdomen. Three sta--

BACK TO:

I/E. DETECTIVE SAMUEL'S CAR

Jonathan stares at Detective Samuel.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Three stab wounds? To a ninety
seven year old lady??

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
(eyes still on the road)
I guess someone got tired of
waiting.

OFFICER JONATHAN
(back to the folder)
*The murder weapon was not found.
The room wasn't locked but never is
as she needs close care, After
being in the accident that took her
husband Doctor Lewis. Last person
to see her alive was her son...no
wait, adopted son MICHAEL MAKONNEN.
Also the one to discover the body.
Hmmm.*

Jonathan skims through until he finds the suspect list.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)
So the family became suspects only
because they were under the same
roof during the determined time of
death.
(beat)
Why only that? No motive? Because I
bet there is something to be gained
by at least one of them seeing they
are... not Poor. Do we know
anything about a will or who
benefits the most with her death?

No response came from Detective Samuel this time. Jonathan
goes back to reading.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
*First suspects, victim's only
daughter LUCY MAKONNEN and her
husband JEFFERY GORDON. Nooo, that
can't be her.*

Turns a page.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE:**EXT. RED CARPET - DAY**

Lucy Makonnen, light-skinned, short hair, in a breathtaking long red dress poses for the dozens of paparazzi shouting her name and taking pictures.

Behind her was Jeff Gordon, Caucasian, with silk white hair, standing in the background. Nervous. Waving.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Yep, it's them. The Cinematic sensation, Actress-Director duo. Of course Lady is royalty too.

Jeff gets closer to her and kneels, holding in his hand, a diamond ring. Lucy didn't notice at first but feeling the spotlight off of her, she turns around.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
Been married for ten years. Parents of twins, eight year old ABEL and BETTY. Used to live in Beverly Hills--

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Missus Ruth is lying on the bed, reading a book.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
--Moved back six months ago because "so their children can get to know their grandmother while they still can". They actually said that?

Little Abel and Betty burst through the door and ran to their grandmother. Ruth embraces them with a smile until Lucy and Jeff appear in the doorway, Smiling too. But is struck by Ruth with a stink eye.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
Huh, they sent the kids to Mister Gordon's Parents on the night of the murder to... Have a private dinner date.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Michael, a tall, light-skinned baby-faced boy is watching a film on his big-screen desktop monitor.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
*Michael Makonnen, 18 years old.
 Just finished high school. Was
 adopted by Ruth and Doctor Robert
 When he was two years old during
 their last visit to Ethiopia.*

DING. DING. DING.

Michael covers his eyes with his hand and shakes his head, frustrated when he realizes it was coming from upstairs.

He gets up and leave.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
*He's been the one responsible with
 feeding and taking care of Missus
 Ruth for almost a year. Huh, I
 thought I saw...*

INT. HALL WAY - EVENING

A man dressed in a traditional butler's suit, dark-skinned, Early 70s, walks down holding a tray that has two glasses and a wine bottle.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
*Yep, a butler. Mister YAFET. Oh, he
 stopped attending to Missus Ruth
 ever since he fell down the stairs
 that lead up to her room, a year
 ago. Haven't even been in the same
 room with the victim ever since.
 But is still employed?!*

PRE LAP: KNOCK. KNOCK.

INT. THOMAS AND OLIVIA'S ROOM

Yafet walks in with his tray.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
*And the last one is OLIVIA
 MAKONNEN, victim's firstborn THOMAS
 MAKONNEN's wife. He was not in the
 country at the time of the murder
 but his wife was at home.*

YAFET'S POV

Thomas, 50s, a man with girth, wearing a suit without the coat and an untied tie, shouts frantically into a phone.

Behind him was Olivia, white, In her 30s, sitting on a sofa, visibly sad, mouths the word "not now" to Yafet.

END OF MONTAGE.

BACK TO:

I/E. DETECTIVE SAMUEL'S CAR

OFFICER JONATHAN

They all seem like the typical rich family to me.

Jonathan goes back to the crime scene photograph again and squints.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Does...doesn't she look peaceful to you?

Samuel looks at it too.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Maybe. So?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Peaceful. Like sleeping and not brutally murdered.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

She was old maybe died in the first stab without struggle and the killer was being dramatic. Or how the body was found doesn't always mean it's how it went down. The killer could always reposition the body, try to perfectionalize it.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yeah but that happens in the case of serial killers or experienced murderers. And these suspects don't quite fit the M-O. It's like a crime of passi--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Look kid, every question you've had and theories you've got, I've already thought of. I wasn't just called here off of my couch. I've done my homework too. And now gonna do my own investigation.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)
So just keep to yourself until I
ask for your help. Okay?

OFFICER JONATHAN
Of course. Sorry Detective I didn't
mean to offend.

SILENCE.

EXT. MAKONNEN MANOR DRIVEWAY - DAY

The gentlemen stood, looking over at a two-story mansion on top of a hill that looks like the exterior is made out of pure granite. The MAKONNEN MANOR.

Detective Samuel and Officer Jonathan approach the front door.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Again, I apologize about back there. I didn't mean anything by it, I just have a bug that won't go if things seem out of place.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
What's your outlook on the whole hierarchy thing?

OFFICER JONATHAN
Sorry?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
The vibe, around the Emperor and his family.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Well by some they are seen as divine, decedents of Jesus Christ who were going to save us. You know ...the RASTAFARIANS. But also been called cowards by great men like Marcus Garvey for fleeing during the fascist Italy invasion.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
And you?

OFFICER JONATHAN
Neither. The last time I even thought of this was during high school for history papers.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Good.

They finally reach the front door. Samuel presses the doorbell.

DING-DONG.

I/E. MAKONNEN MANOR - FOYER - DAY

Yafet, the butler opens the door.

Samuel takes out his badge from under his coat and presents it to the butler.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I am detective Samuel Curtis and this is Officer Jonathan. We are now heading the investigation into the murder of Missus Ruth Makonnen.

Yafet stares at them with an absolute blank expression on his face.

LUCY (O.S.)

Don't mind him. He's never spoken English a day in his life.

Yafet steps aside. Samuel and Jonathan walk in to see Lucy coming down the long staircase in another stunning white dress, with Jeff not far behind her.

LUCY (CONT'D)

And what can we help you with?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

You must be Lucy.

LUCY

Like the first gal.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Ma'am, I am Dete--

LUCY

I heard all that detective but again how can we help you?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I am sorry if we're keeping you from something but I was wondering if I can ask you and your husband a few questions.

LUCY

What? This? No, no, someone of m-our stature needs to keep face at all times. No matter the audience.
(giggles)

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

As I was saying, I know you already went through this with the other officers but if you can indulge?

LUCY

You keep saying "if" detective as if we have a say in the matter but we will Indulge. Right away? Or...

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

First I would like to see the victim's bedroom for myself.

LUCY

Of course. It's upstairs to the left... the door with the yellow tape on it! But I don't know what you expect to find, your friends have cleared out almost everything.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I'm well aware ma'am. And the yellow tapes are just until we check it out.

LUCY

Come on up then, Yafet will wait for you down here. He will bring you to our quarters when you're done.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Thank you.

Samuel and Jonathan start heading up the stairs as Lucy and Jeff came down.

As they're about to pass each other Jonathan just couldn't hold it anymore.

OFFICER JONATHAN

It's a pleasure to meet you Lady Lucy. I wasn't totally sure it was going to be you at first. Since you're known professionally only as... well "Lady Lucy".

LUCY

It's always nice to meet a fan. And
a Habesha too I'm guessing?

OFFICER JONATHAN

(in Amharic)

Correct.

Jonathan also gives Jeff an acknowledging nod as they pass.

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM

Samuel takes down the Yellow police tapes as he walks in.
Jonathan follows.

OFFICER JONATHAN

She wasn't kidding. Everything's
been cleared out in here.

The two men started scanning the place their own way.

Detective Samuel stops at stacked empty shelves.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Come take a look at this.

Jonathan approaches.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

What does this tell you?

He points at a rectangular spot on the middle shelf.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Uhh, something has been there for a
very long time. A heavy box I'm
guessing?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

A golden chest to be precise. It
was marked and is currently in
evidence storage. Had a lock and
everything but no prints.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Do we know what's inside?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

It's empty. And not a real gold
too.

(beat)

(MORE)

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)
 Rest of the shelves were all filled
 with real artifacts that weren't up
 there for as long.

Jonathan looks behind him at the bed where the body was
 found.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 And it's in direct line of vision
 with the bed. Like she has been
 keeping an eye on it.
 (beat)
 Maybe it's not the chest that was
 important, and what was inside.
 Something that's now missing.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 Maybe.

INT. FOYER

Samuel and Jonathan came down to where Yafet was waiting for
 them.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 Tell him to take us to "The Lady"
 and her husband's quarters please.

Yafet already turns right and starts walking.

(NOTE: All instances of the Amharic language throughout the
 screenplay shall be indicated by being enclosed in brackets.
 The text would appear in subtitles.)

OFFICER JONATHAN
 [could you please lead us to Lady
 Lucy and Mister Gordon's?]

YAFET
 [Right this way.]

They follow.

The Manor's interior is just as beautiful as the exterior.
 But instead of granite, the inside is all covered in Red Oak,
 Showing excellent carpentry work.

The wooden walls, covered in leather paintings of ancient
 Ethiopian rulers and historical events.

Officer Jonathan, while admiring the place glances at a small
 table, carrying scattered mail.

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY --

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Excuse me but has there been a golden chest in missus Ruth's room when you were attending to her?]

YAFET

[The EZANA CHEST? Of course, it's been there for as long as I can remember.]

Jonathan looks surprised.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What?

OFFICER JONATHAN

He just called it Ezana's Chest. As in a former property of the king of the once Axum kingdom. If that's legit the thing would be millennia-old... Shouldn't have possibly been a fake!

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM

The room is filled with Artifacts and Memorabilia that look like they belong in museums, encased in glass boxes and out in the open.

The couple was sitting on a sofa having an inaudible discussion when the door suddenly opens.

Detective Samuel and Jonathan walk in while Yafet held it ajar. Both men admiring the place:

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Quiet the room you've got here--

LUCY

It used to be the House Museum before we moved in. Never got to clearing it out.

JEFF

(gesturing at a smaller sofa)
Sit detective.

Samuel takes out a small notebook with a pen and sits.

Jonathan starts roaming around the room examining everything.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
So, how was your relationship with
the victim?

FADE IN:

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

After Abel and Betty smother their grandmother with hugs they
run out of the room.

Lucy and Jeff step inside after just observing from the
doorway.

LUCY
Hello Mother?

RUTH
So, I guess I was right after all.
You finally came crawling back to
the mommy you... how did you put
it..."Don't need anymore."

LUCY
Please mother, can't you at least
pretend to be happy to see me? Just
for today?

RUTH
Why? It's not every day a celebrity
begs me for a place to stay.

LUCY
Nobody is begging! We have other
options, we just thought the twins
would like it better here. With
you.

RUTH
Uhhh, don't give me that! Did you
forget we have the same lawyer? And
accountant? As long as you don't
completely drop your... benefits of
DYNASTY MOTORS, I can perceive
everything.

Ruth waits for them to respond and when they remain silent:

RUTH (CONT'D)
How long has it been now since your
last release? Two, three years?
What, nobody wants to watch one of
your Whoreish movies?!

LUCY

Mother! Keep your voice down. And I cannot keep having this conversation. Not that it's any of your business but It's just a bit of skin, every movie has it nowadays.

RUTH

pffft, and they call you "Lady". Why couldn't you just do those historic movies? Like when you started.

LUCY

You know those were only a success back home. The target audience is not here.

JEFF

Yes, that was my fault. I take full respon--

RUTH

Shut it Jeff! We both know who does the decision-making in this relationship.

LUCY

Don't talk to him like that! Jeff is the only one who took a chance in exploring our culture and try to bring it to the big screen. And with untapped material like that, there is always a risk.

RUTH

Oh, you always have an answer for everything don't you?! We'll see what your response is going to be when you run out of it soon.

(beat)

I'm only letting you stay for the sake of the grandkids.

LUCY

Don't worry, we will be out of here within six months.

Lucy storms out of the room

JEFF

I assure you Missus Ruth, I already have some projects lined up. This setback is just temporary.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

I know you're just worried about your family.

Ruth without even looking at him returns to her book.

He leaves too. Quietly.

FADE OUT.

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM

LUCY

Me and my mother? Nothing special.
(chuckles)
The normal mother-teenage daughter relationship. Trying to control your life no matter how old you are.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And why is that?

LUCY

You know... Royal Family. There is a certain kind of image we need to keep.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh, I was under the presumption that no one knows about your lineage.

LUCY

Not a lot do but still. She was a proud woman. Always with the perfection and power moves.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And you moved back home about six months ago?

LUCY

Yes, we Habesha have the tradition of keeping family close. Even though we've seen each other a handful of times in those six months.

Lucy, recognizing the Detective's confusion...

LUCY (CONT'D)

Oh, that's another word for "Ethiopian".

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And missus Ruth? Was she ok with you moving back?

LUCY

Why wouldn't she be? Being reunited with her daughter and grandchildren.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I'm sorry, it's just in one of the previous statements it was said that almost all of those handful of meetings end in loud arguments.

LUCY

I told you how she was. Of course there is bound to be some bickering but at the end of the day, we stay out of each other's way.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

So you would say--

LUCY

Who said it by the way? That we fight? Its my kid brother, isn't it? He may be eighteen but he still hasn't grown... up there. I wouldn't take anything he says seriously, He kind of has a flair for the dramatic. But I don't need to tell you, you'll see for yourself when you get to him.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

As I was saying, You were on good terms with each other until her... Demise?

LUCY

Well I wouldn't say we were on the best of terms but not in the way that you're sniffing for.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Ow? And what would that be?

LUCY

Really detective? You're investigating a murder!

Detective Samuel gives her a faint smile and changes his attention.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
What about you Mister Gordon?

JEFF
Me? Oh, we've actually never spoken to each other appropriately. We met through Doctor Lewis about fifteen years ago and then I don't think she ever forgave me for sweeping her daughter off her feet and taking her away.

Jeff laughs at his own words but realizing that nobody else found it amusing too, he stops.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Ahh as in Doctor Robert Lewis?
Missus Ruth's second husband. You had a close relationship with him prior to Missus Makonnen?

JEFF
Not close. He was a friend of my family and at the time I was an aspiring director looking for a source material so he introduced me to the Makonnens. And they were kind enough not to just help but let me use some of this artifact for realism.

Jeff looks back to check up on Officer Jonathan who is still canvassing the room.

Jonathan was looking at a glass box, containing a Flintlock Gun, that reads [Theodore at that time].

He turns back too, with an inquiring look, and meets jeff eye to eye. Jeff gives him an assuring nod with a smile.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
So you use this priceless... I'm guessing... artifact for your movies?

JEFF
I used to. You can totally feel the authenticity too. Have you seen "Era of the Princes"?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
No, I haven't. Do you know anything about the chest that was in missus Ruth's bedroom?

LUCY

The Golden One? Yeah, it was like her most prized possession. Nobody was allowed to touch it when we were growing up.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

You didn't know it wasn't real gold?

LUCY

What? Where did you get that idea? That thing is the realest and oldest piece of history in this house. No way it can be fake!

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Sure. And has anyone of you got a chance to see what it held inside?

LUCY

No. It doesn't have a key. It's said that it was lost somewhere around the last century.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Okay one last thing, When would you say was the last time you saw your mother?

LUCY

About a week ago, I think. Both of us.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And nothing happened? Didn't feel or see anything out of the usual?

Jeff was about to speak but Lucy beats him to it.

LUCY

No, just the cranky old woman and we went through our normal. But why are you people so sure that one of us, someone from our family is responsible?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

It was said that the doors were all locked, no sign of forced entry and no one heard anything to bring about other suspicions on the night of the murder. Am I wrong?

LUCY

No, that's correct. But it's not unusual for some to bring guests that stay overnight.

THUMP. THUMP-THUMP. THUMP.

Suddenly heavy running foot stomps start coming out of the floor above.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Oh speaking of, the kids must be awake. I left them at my sister-in-law when I heard you were coming.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And that would be Olivia Makonnen? Thomas's wife?

LUCY

Yes.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

So she is home too? They live right above you?

Lucy's expression suddenly shifts from calm to panic.

LUCY

Wait, Did you leave my mother's room open?

Samuel looks at Jonathan.

OFFICER JONATHAN

I think so--

Lucy sprints out of the room.

JEFF

Oh No. The kids just got back last night and we haven't had the chance to tell them properly.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Ah, That's our bad Mister Gordon, I apologize. I didn't realize, with the tapes and everything...

JEFF

I think she got out in time. This house is hollow all over. You can hear everything that happens from any point in the house.

(MORE)

JEFF (CONT'D)

Surrounded with those secrete
corridors in the wall where they
used to hide the slaves in.
Disgusting.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Excuse me?

JEFF

Oh, Did you not know this property
used to be a slave owner's estate?
With... Yeah, Lucy really undersold
her mother's need to make face. The
first thing Ruth did after moving
here is buy this house that was
scheduled for demolition. And made
it her own. Her first power move.
But she also kept some things the
same as a reminder.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

So did you hear anything that night
then?

JEFF

Now that you mention it, during her
dinner time, the radio in her room
was turned unusually loud.

The Detective gets up from his seat, putting his notebook
away.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Thank you Mister Gordon, I think
we've got what we need for now.

Jeff stands up too and brings Samuel closer to him by the
shoulders.

JEFF

This thing with her brother... She
kind of downplayed that too for
you. He has this weird feeling
around him. Always creeps me out.
And I know it's not only me, don't
think I've ever seen him with a
friend. You should really look into
him?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Yeah. Sure.

JEFF

Or you can ask his personal therapist.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

He has a personal therapist?

JEFF

Yeah. I think she will come by in the afternoon. That's their usual appointment.

OFFICER JONATHAN (O.S.)

This spot over here? Was it always empty?

Jonathan is pointing at an empty glass box.

Both men approach him and look inside.

The box reads "The Jile".

JEFF

Oh it used to contain a traditional Dagger from the AFAR region. It symbolizes Virility and is used in dancing ritua--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Do you have a picture of it?

JEFF

Aaaa I don't think so but...

He takes out his phone and shows him a googled image. A short curved blade in an encasing.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

It's double-edged?

JEFF

Yes.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

That blade could well be the murder weapon. How the hell was it not reported??

JEFF

I-I-I didn't think...it has been missing for a long time.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
So important things go missing
every time around here?

JEFF
No. No. It's just the family takes
some stuff they like to their own
place. I didn't think anything of
it.

Lucy returns, carrying her children up on her sides.

LUCY
Is everything alright?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Yes. We were just leaving.

Detective Samuel and Jonathan leave the room.

Lucy puts the kids down.

LUCY
Go to your rooms. I'll be right
there.

They ran into an adjacent room.

Lucy quickly walks up to jeff and slaps him on his upper arm.

LUCY (CONT'D)
What did you say??

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

When the Officer and Detective came out they were met by the
Butler who was still waiting by the door.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Who are we seeing next?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
The Michael kid.

OFFICER JONATHAN
[to Michael's quarters please?]

Yafet leads the way. They follow.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)
You really think The Jile is the
murder weapon?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

It matches the coroner's report
precisely.

OFFICER JONATHAN

It looks like these "Artifacts" are
the constant elements between the
victim and her family. Could they
be both, the cause and the reason
for her death?

Samuel gives an unsure grunt instead of an answer.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)

And what is all the fuss with this
kid?

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM

A classic TEZETA song is heard coming out of somewhere.

Michael checks himself out in the mirror. Wearing slacks with
a shirt.

He picks up a vest and puts it on. Then takes it off. Puts it
on again. Takes it off. Finally drops it on his bed.

Next, he Picks up a tie and bowtie then contrasts them
holding them close to his neck.

He hears a DOOR KNOCK in the adjacent room, then drops them
both on the bed and hops out to the main room with the
music's rhythm.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROOM

Officer Jonathan opens the door himself, and after Samuel
walked in he turns to Yafet.

OFFICER JONATHAN

[It's really not necessary for you
to stand out here the whole time.
We will call for you when we need
you.]

Yafet bows a little and walks away.

Jonathan enters the room then, and was struck with a scene of
bookshelves, filled with hundreds of Blu-ray DVD box sets,
showing films of various genres.

In the middle of the room is Michael, sitting on a comfortable chair, legs crossed, with all the confidence in the world.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Mister Michael Makonnen, I guess
you were expecting us.

MICHAEL
It's Mi-ka-el.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
(taking out his notebook)
Pardon me, it's just written here--

MICHAEL
Yes, the spellings are the same,
You're just pronouncing it like the
common white name. It's Mi-ka-el.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Okay Mi-ka-el, I'm Detective Samuel
Curtis, would you mind if we ask
you a few questions?

MICHAEL
(pointing to a chair)
Sure. Sit. Please.

(NOTE: From here on all mentions of "Michael" are assumed to be pronounced the right way.)

Samuel sits down. And Jonathan examines the room as before.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
(looking around)
I must say this is the second
remarkable room I've seen today.
You're going for a movie career
too?

MICHAEL
Me? God No! I just appreciate the
arts. I don't dabble in things that
I surely don't have the talents
for... unlike some people.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Are you referring to your sister?

MICHAEL
So you agree? She is a disgrace to
the cinema. Mostly in her recent
works--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 Lets just keep this about you for now.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 --that's what mother thought too.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)
 Her mother didn't like her work?

MICHAEL
 Of course not. Our mom spent her whole life building this perfect image for our family and Lucy goes on and put her ti--, bosoms all over it.

Samuel, surprised, turns around to Officer Jonathan who gives him a shy but affirming look.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 Hah. Okay, what about you? You were in charge of taking care of your mother for almost a year. Why did that responsibility fall on you?

MICHAEL
 You mean why on me and not her real children?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 No, I just meant--

MICHAEL
 Cause they can't be bothered with anything that doesn't benefit them in some way. She could starve to death up there for all they care.
 (under his breath)
 It would even make things easier for them.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 What was that?

MICHAEL
 This house, it may look amazing to you but there used to be a lot more of this historical stuffs all over the place. And little by little, they started disappearing. Thomas takes some on his trips to Ethiopia but comes back empty-handed. Those posers take some to their studios, none returns.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Maybe like a chest or something?

MICHAEL
Oh that thing? No, that's the only
fake thing in the house.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Really? But your sister said--

MICHAEL
Yeah they think its real but the
truth is that mom lost the real one
during the move from England and
got so embarrassed that she got a
replica made.

He chuckled by himself.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
So you think one of them got her
out of the way, to what? Steal bits
of history?

MICHAEL
(laughs)
I see you didn't do your homework
quite well detective. Back in 2017
the Emperor's Patek Philippe watch
came up for auction and created a
massive public rift between the
other decedents. It sold for two
point nine million dollars.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Wow, and you've never taken any for
yourself too?

MICHAEL
I don't steal from my own home
detective.

Officer Jonathan, while canvassing the room, nears Michael's
slightly opened bedroom door and leaned to look inside.

MICHAEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Watch your step there.

Jonathan surprised, quickly turns around to see Michael still
has his back to him.

Amazed that he noticed what he was doing without even turning
around Jonathan changes his roaming direction to the shelves
of movies.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Were you ok with it? The decision to get stuck with her?

MICHAEL

I never said I was stuck with her! She trusted me more than her flesh and bloods. I was ecstatic. She even told me things that nobody knows about.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Like what?

MICHAEL

I'm glad you asked that detective because I've got something crucial for your investigation that will also dispose me from your suspect list just because of my knowledge of it.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh really? Then do tell. Please.

FADE IN:

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Michael sets a tray of food on a small table that's next to Ruth's bed. Meanwhile Ruth adjusts her position from lying to sitting on her bed.

RUTH

What did Yafet prepare for today?

Michael sits on a small chair (traditionally called "Duca") on the opposite side of her. He lifts the silver cloche.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Genfo? Again? Please tell him to try something else. An old dog can still learn some new tricks too right?

MICHAEL

Maybe he jus makes it all the time because it's easier for you to digest mom.

She just stares at him displeased.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Yes mom. I will tell him.

They start eating together.

RUTH
So what's been happening in my
house? Lucy still live here?

MICHAEL
Yes she does. You haven't spoken to
her lately?

RUTH
I think it has been more than a
month since she came up here to see
me. She doesn't send Abel and Betty
up here too that often.

MICHAEL
I see them running around
downstairs all the time. And with
Olivia too.

RUTH
What about Thomas? When was his
last visit?

MICHAEL
He hasn't returned yet since we
last saw him.

RUTH
Hah, I bet he wouldn't return at
all if he didn't need my approval
for every major decision in the
company.
(beat)
Tell him I need to talk to him when
he returns.

MICHAEL
Sure mom, I will.

RUTH
I bet all of them are waiting for
me to drop dead so they could
scavenge anything they can and
leave. Little do they know...

MICHAEL
(takes a deep breath)
Should I ask or are you just going
to--

RUTH

Why do you think I never made a will?

I don--

MICHAEL

RUTH (CONT'D)

Because there is one that precedes me!

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What do you mean?

RUTH

My beloved Haile has restricted me... us, as a bloody safe-keeper of his fortunes. Always to guard never to keep. All this belongs to our kin, not mine. Why do you think I'm stuck with a company that only does productions in Ethiopia?!

FADE OUT.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROOM

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And what does that mean?

MICHAEL

What's not to understand? When the Emperor returned to Ethiopia he wanted to leave his child, Solomon, with the best conditions and opportunities. So he left everything he had back in England in Solomon's name. But for Ruth to guide it until he comes of age.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And what is it that he owned exactly?

Michael smiles and leans back on his chair to look outside the window.

MICHAEL

Amongst other things, That.

Samuel looks out the window too. His car is parked in their sight.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What? My car?

MICHAEL

Mercedes. Rolls Royce and Lincoln too. Haile Selassie loved his cars, owned twenty three of them in his eleven mansions. He bought shares that could've made us billionaires by now.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Yeah, you own Dynasty Motors now right? What happened there?

MICHAEL

Solomon happened. He sold it all in the sixties to go back home and open Dynasty. Created THE MONARCH model. Called it an Automobile "By Ethiopians, for Ethiopians".

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Okay, but doesn't that all change what was in the will? Being of age and having new properties?

MICHAEL

Oh, that's what mom taught too. But apparently, Solomon had the same idea as his father. He had made the same will as the Emperor before his untimely demise.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Making his fortune wait for an heir that will never come.

MICHAEL

(with a grin)

I guess so.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And only you know of this?

MICHAEL

Yep. Everybody else believe this will all be theirs if she wasn't in the picture... No matter what they say now.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Well, I've got an appointment with the family's attorney this evening. I'll be sure to confirm it with him.

MICHAEL

Of course. As you should.

Suddenly Yafet comes in with a tea set and starts preparing on the glass-table between the Detective and Michael.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

(gesturing NO)

Oh, it's really not necessary...

MICHAEL

Just let him do his thing. You don't actually need to drink it.

Samuel seeing that he's not stopping, just gives up and waits for him to finish with a smile.

Yafet, when he was done, hands a cup to Jonathan too and leaves.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

We were almost done here anyway. How was your last interaction with your mother?

MICHAEL

The usual. We ate together. Gave her, her medicine... gossiped a little.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And what's this about the radio being played loud in her room that night.

MICHAEL

What about it?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I don't know, I was hoping you would tell me since it was described as unusual.

MICHAEL

What? Her favorite music came on. Asked me to turn it up. I did. Is that a crime now?

OFFICER JONATHAN (O.S.)

What's your sin Michael?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Excuse me?

MICHAEL

I'm sorry?

Jonathan, Staring at the "Psychological-Thriller" section of the film collection.

OFFICER JONATHAN

I see you have three copies of "Seven" here. It's kind of my GOAT too. Makes you think what your sin is, doesn't it?

Michael stands up and approaches him. Picks out the DVD case.

MICHAEL

Hah, never thought of it like that. But if I have to, I would say sloth.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Sloth? How come?

MICHAEL

I know I am capable of doing great things but for so long I've been cooped up in here, quiet, playing good child, not doing what I want and wasting my potential. Well, now is my time. I'm gonna do me.

(beat)

What about you? What's your sin?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Mine? Couldn't figure out mine. That's why I got in the duty of finding out others'.

MICHAEL

(smiling)

And you are?

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Officer Jonathan. Pleased to meet you.]

MICHAEL

Hah. [you're Habesha? Then why not Yonatan? I would have guessed Sami over here is the Habesha one.]

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

(getting up)

Okay! We're done here.

He opens the door and holds it to let Jonathan out.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)
(to Michael)
Thomas and Olivia's pad is
upstairs?

MICHAEL
Yes. The end of the hall to the
left.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Thank you.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Jonathan and Samuel just left the room.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
What the hell was that?

OFFICER JONATHAN
What? You didn't feel like he was--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Performing for us? Yes. But that's
the thing, you make him feel like
he's in charge, and is only telling
us what he wants to tell us while
you reel him in. Not start a
challenge at his level!

OFFICER JONATHAN
I just thought I could make him
talk about himself than everybody
else. He seemed to be twisting
every question.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Like I said Officer, I will ask for
your help if I need it.

MICHAEL (O.S.)
Damn it. Every time!

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
What's that about?

OFFICER JONATHAN
I think there is a small drop into
his bedroom.

INT. THOMAS AND OLIVIA'S ROOM

A man in a business suit came out of the room as Samuel and Jonathan were about to knock. They let themselves in.

Olivia, sitting next to a table, is gathering the pieces of paper that have spread out on it.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Missus Makonnen?

OLIVIA
Oh, I guess it's our turn. But my husband hasn't arrived yet.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
It's alright. You would do for now.

OLIVIA
Ok then. Have a seat. Both of you.

They sat on the only sofa in the room.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)
(chuckles)
I hope I would be more helpful than I was to that guy.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Yeah, who was that?

OLIVIA
He's the accountant. He wanted to speak to thomas too.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
It was to my knowledge that he would be back today.

OLIVIA
He will. His flight just got delayed, will be home before dark.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
It was only you, here, that night. Am I correct?

OLIVIA
Yes. Thomas was back in Ethiopia.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
You are practically in the next room to Missus Ruth's. You must have heard of something, right?

(MORE)

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

An old woman being stabbed to death like that.

OLIVIA

Except the usual, Michael bringing her dinner and leaving, I didn't notice anything. I would even have thought it was of natural causes if it wasn't for the stab wounds.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

When Michael left, how sure are you that she was still alive?

OLIVIA

Pretty sure. Unless the radio switched channels and turned off its self.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

How was your relationship with her?

OLIVIA

Good. She was a nice ol' lady.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Nice? That's a first time anyone describing her as "Nice".

OLIVIA

She asks a lot but she just wanted what's best for the family. Not everyone understood that.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And what is it that she asked from you?

OLIVIA

(smiles)

She wanted more grandchildren. She didn't really get to spend much time with Abel and Betty. Even a lot less before this six month.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Why didn't you have any then? You've been married for a lot longer than Lucy and Mister Gordon Right?

OLIVIA

Yes. I got married when I was 20. He was twice my age, my family freaked out, but we were in love you know. We just thought this back and forth business of theirs in Ethiopia would soon be over and we would finally be able to settle down and start a family. But that never happened.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And Missus Ruth didn't mind?

OLIVIA

Mind? She loved her incomes too you know.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Thank you. Missus Makonnen. We will come back when Mister Makonnen arrives.

They got up and Samuel leaves first. Before Jonathan leaves too he asks--

OFFICER JONATHAN

Do you know anything about the golden chest?

OLIVIA

The chest?... Oh that one, Only that she kept it close.

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Olivia quietly walks in holding a cupcake with a small candle on it.

OLIVIA'S POV

Ruth is sitting on her bed with the chest on her lap. Opened. She put some pieces of paper in it and closes it, Locks it with a key that she later on attaches to a half a cross which now makes it look like an ordinary cross. She hangs it around her neck then gets up with a help of her cane to put it back on the shelf, but gets startled.

RUTH

Good god! Can't you knock?

OLIVIA

Surprise?

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Detective Samuel and Jonathan are approaching the stairs.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Has anyone told you, you question
suspects like a psychiatrist?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Maybe it's the Criminal
Psychologist in me.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Oh, you have a background in
Criminal Psychology?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Yes... but it was before my
forensic psych times.

INT. FOYER

As Samuel and Jonathan were making their way down, they see Michael talking to a middle aged lady in glasses, wearing a shirt with trousers, holding a handbag.

They start to head in Michael's room direction so Samuel paces towards them.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Excuse me, you must be the
aforementioned "personal Therapist"
of Michael?

MICHAEL
Personal? Who the hell said that?

CLAIRE
Yes, I'm DOCTOR CLAIRE EVANS. But I
treat the whole family, not only
Michael.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Ah, sorry. I'm Detective Samuel and
this is Officer Jonathan. We were
wondering if we could ask you a few
questions before your session?

CLAIRE
(looking at her watch)
Uhhhh, sure. But you know I can't
legally disclose any information
about my clients.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

We know.

CLAIRE

Ok then, ask away.

He looks at Michael. And back to Claire.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Is there somewhere we can go?

MICHAEL

You can use the museum. Lucy and Jeff just left with the kids.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Perfect.

MICHAEL

(to Claire)

I'll be in my room when you're done.

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM

This time, Detective Samuel and Jonathan are sitting on the bigger sofa while Claire was on the smaller one.

Samuel With his notebook in hand:

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I'm sorry for the confusion back there, I was under the impression you only treated the boy.

CLAIRE

I can see why. At first I treated only him.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And why is that?

CLAIRE

I think you should ask him that.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh, yes. Sorry. My bad. You were hired by Missus Ruth Makonnen?

CLAIRE

Yes, I was.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Was she also your patient?

CLAIRE
No, no. Only her children.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
So what was your connection with her? How did she choose you?

CLAIRE
I used to work in the same clinic with Doctor Lewis before he passed. I met Ruth back then but I went private later. About seven years ago we reconnected and I was hired exclusively for the Makonnens.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Is there a specific reason for your hiring?

CLAIRE
(smiles uncomfortably)
She wanted Michael to find someone to talk to, especially after finding out he's adopted.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
He didn't take it too well?

CLAIRE
Well, you can see how he's like for yourself don't you.

OFFICER JONATHAN
What about the others? When did you start Treating them?

Samuel can be seen trying to hide his annoyance.

CLAIRE
Olivia and Thomas, not long after I started with Michael. And With Lucy and Jeffery, right after they moved in. She wanted them all to have marriage counseling.
(chuckles)
Became kind of a rule to live under her roof.

OFFICER JONATHAN
And they all attend regularly?

CLAIRE

Ehhh!

OFFICER JONATHAN

Ehhh?

CLAIRE

Lucy and Jeff kind of did at first but then they started to skip. A lot. And it was like I'm only treating Olivia, with Thomas almost never being home.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Did anything happen in any one of those sessions that might give us insight in who did it?

CLAIRE

I thought we already established this, I cannot talk about the things my clients discuss with me.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

We know. We know. I think what my colleague was trying to say is that if there's anyone you think who could have committed this crime? You know you are required by law to tell us if a Client is actively engaged in or planned to commit a crime.

CLAIRE

Well, then No, Detective. None of them told me their plot to kill their mother.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Ok. I think we got what we need. You can go now.

CLAIRE

Thank you.

She gets up to leave and Jonathan springs up too.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Do you have a business card?

CLAIRE

Aaaaaa

She shuffles around in her handbag.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
I don't think I've got--

OFFICER JONATHAN
I think there is one in your
back pocket.

Claire sees it and slaps her forehead in embarrassment.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
(handing it to him)
It's been so long since I gave one
out, I don't even remember where I
keep them.

OFFICER JONATHAN
No problem. It happens.

They wait until she leaves and as soon as she's out Samuel
turns to Jonathan. Fuming.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
How many times do I have to say it,
Stay out of it unless I ask for--

OFFICER JONATHAN
--my help! I know. But she says she
can't talk and kept slipping up. I
thought maybe she wanted to tell us
something, in someway.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Well she didn't. And now she may
never do.
(beat)
You can't keep interrupting me
during my process.

OFFICER JONATHAN
I wouldn't have to if you let me
work with you than pushing me
aside. You know I'm up for a
Detective's position right?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
You are working with me--

OFFICER JONATHAN
I want to know if I am more than
some Glorified Translator here.

Detective Samuel takes a moment to think.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Okay then. Next up is the butler.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yafet.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Yes, yafet. You'll take charge in that questioning.

(smiles)

Translation needed only when you're done.

OFFICER JONATHAN

I'll take it.

INT. FOYER

Yafet holds the front door opens as Claire hurries to leave.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (O.S.)

What happened?

She turns around to see Samuel and Jonathan coming.

CLAIRE

He doesn't want to meet today. I think he got into one of his moods.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Michael?

CLAIRE

Who else!

She leaves before they got close. And Yafet was about to walk away too but Jonathan stops him.

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Excuse me, I wanted to ask you a few questions about this family's history, if it's not a problem?]

YAFET

[Not at all. Follow me please.]

DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY--

OFFICER JONATHAN

[It seems like you knew them the longest.]

YAFET

[Yes, of course. I've been with them since England.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Ah, you met them back then?]

YAFET

[My family have always known the Makonnens. My father served Emperor Haile Selassie. My grandfather served his father. And now I serve them.]

Yafet suddenly stops at some point in the hallway, unlocks a wall-looking door and enters.

Surprised, Officer Jonathan examines the door. He sees a scratched off sign at the top but ignores it and gets in with Samuel.

INT. YAFET'S QUARTERS - CONTINUOUS

YAFET

[Have a seat gentlemen.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

(sitting down)

[So you were born in to it?]

YAFET

[yes.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Never had a choice?]

YAFET

[Of course I have a choice. And being able to serve the royal family is a privilege I could ever imagine.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Is that why you're still here? At an age where you need care yourself?]

YAFET

[Officer, all my life I never needed for anything. The Makonnens took care of me, helped me start a family of my own and even payed for all my children school and college expenses. I would be happy if I can serve them until the end of my days.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[I see. So you work for no pay,
right?]

YAFET

[As I said it's a privilege. Not a
job.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Ah, the family history. What can
you tell me about how they came to
be? How no one has ever heard of
them?]

YAFET

[Well, you know The Emperor went to
England after Italy's invasion back
in Thirty Six. But during his exile
his family was being murdered left
and right.

(beat)

His Son-in-laws, daughters,
grandchildren were being executed.]

Yafet tears up a bit. Then takes out the napkin from his
front pocket and dries his eyes.

YAFET (CONT'D)

[He thought he had no heir left to
leave behind. And then he met
little Ruth. I don't think there
was a love story there, more of
continuing the bloodline. He even
left all the possessions he had
over there, in their--]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[--Son's name until he comes of
age, we know about that. But Ruth
was she of royal blood too?]

Suddenly Yafet starts fighting off a laugh than a tear.

YAFET

[No, no. She used to work in the
royal kitchen with my mother. And
one day just got the chance to be
his personal...assistant.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Their Son, Solomon, did you know
him? Personally?]

YAFET

[Yes, very much. I even like to think of him as the best of them.

(chuckles)

Pure of heart, never looks down on anybody, Just wanted to help his people and fix his family's name. I still can't believe a young man like him died whilst his mother survived that fire.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Wait, Missus Ruth was present at the accident that took her son? And in the accident that killed her late husband Doctor Lewis?]

YAFET

[Yes. Why do you think she hasn't left the house in a decade?]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[She wasn't too sick or impaired?]

YAFET

[She wasn't sick more than I am Officer. She just got too paranoid. After losing two of her loved ones, in front of her eyes, who can blame her.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[You, I mean, is there anyone that you think could have done this? Anyone who was acting suspicious or nervous before her murder?]

YAFET

[I don't think there was, and I don't believe any member of this divine family is capable of committing such a horrendous act!]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Do you really believe that?... I mean, there is no true blood that still exists. And lets face it you are practically serving the family of a once proud servant just like you. She got all the riches while you slave away--]

YAFET (CONT'D)

[you don't know what you're talking about.

I am no Slave, boy!]

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)
 [Are you sure? Because from what I see, it looks to me like you are living in a literal Slave's chamber.]

<p>YAFET [The history of this house has nothing to do with me. As far as I'm concerned I serve the true--]</p>	<p>OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D) [Maybe you finally decided to free yourself. Considering your condition, you have the perfect alibi.]</p>
---	---

Samuel, noticing the conversation got heated, gets out of the background and interferes.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 Okay, Okay, that's enough.

He yanks Jonathan out to the side.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)
 What the hell are you doing?

OFFICER JONATHAN
 Ruth, she used to be a servant just like him. I can feel the resentment in his voice. Maybe we got too focused on the children. What if it was him?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 You cannot decide who is guilty every time, at the very moment you get a hunch. Don't you think I have the same instincts as you do, if not better. And we'll go nowhere if you keep infuriating the suspects.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 I felt an actual hate in him. A passion enough to coincide with the state of her murder.

YAFET
 [Whatever passion you may have felt it's not of hate. I may have a slight of jealousy in me, god forgive me, but never an evil thought.]

OFFICER JONATHAN
 I thought you didn't speak English.

YAFET

[And I never will but I sure understand it. I was born in England after all.]

Samuel drags Jonathan out of the room too, as he was leaving.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Thank you for your cooperation sir.
If there is anything else you remember--

YAFET

[you asked about a suspicious activity Officer?]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Yes, yes I did.]

YAFET

[There were none between the family but there was a scammer creeping around these house. I don't know what he wanted, to blackmail us perhaps, but Olivia took care of it. Or so I thought.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[when was that?]

YAFET

[about two weeks or so.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Olivia, is she still home?]

YAFET

[No, she left. I believe, to pick up Mister Thomas. I don't know when they'll be home.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

Thank you. Just tell them we will drop by tomorrow morning.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Officer Jonathan just smiles for a few seconds looking at Samuel's face.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What?

OFFICER JONATHAN
My way got us a lead.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
What did he say?

OFFICER JONATHAN
Apparently someone has been
harassing them these past weeks. He
said Olivia took care of him. We
should ask her about it tomorrow.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
(walking away)
Take that stupid grin off your face

EXT. MAKONNEN MANOR DRIVEWAY - DUSK

The two men are walking to the car.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
I'm gonna check some of the other
leads after I drop you off. I'll
pick you up tomorrow at eight. Be
ready. We're gonna do this all over
again.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Yes sir.

They get in and drive out.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The room is filled with complete silence, other than the
ticking of the clock on the wall.

Officer Jonathan is sitting beside the kitchen table. Eyes
dead locked on his laptop's screen.

LAPTOP SCREEN

The web page for Dynasty Motors is opened, with THE MONARCH
model in front.

He scrolls down to see the headline: "Dynasty Motors to start
World Wide manufacture and distribution by the new year."

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
*I guess it's not "By Ethiopians,
for Ethiopians" anymore.*

He reads the date.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
*Announced on the day after Missus
 Ruth's Murder?*

Clicks on the Employee and Share holders tab. "CEO - Thomas Makonnen". No mention of Ruth.

He closes the site and googles "Ruth Makonnen". Articles of many Ruth Makonnens pop up but none about the person of interest.

BACK TO SCENE

The scream of his coffee maker notifying it is done, snaps Jonathan out of his concentration.

He gets up, takes out the pot and goes to the drawer to get a mug.

On top of the counter was the case files that he took from Detective Samuel. He pours his coffee and gets back to the laptop with the files.

Inside the folder, the first thing was still the Crime scene picture. Under name of Coroner at Scene, it reads: "LEE POWELL". Jonathan looks at his phone. Shows 9:45. He moves on.

Half way through he finds the Business card he got from the therapist. "Dr. Claire Evans, Marriage and Family Therapist" followed by contact info.

LAPTOP SCREEN

He googles her too. Multiple articles show up. About Dr.Evans leaving St. Mary Clinic a decade ago, opening up a private practice, closing it 7 years ago and no record afterwards.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
Sounds about right.

But then one article catches his eye: "Dr. Claire Evans sued by clients on allegations of breaking Doctor-Patient confidentiality."

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
Uh-Oh.

He goes deeper. "More and more are coming forward to testify" Deeper. "Dr. Claire Evans, Forced to resign from St.Mary's?".

Until he finally finds one from a local news paper:

"Dr. Claire Evans found guilty. Stripped of License."

BACK TO SCENE

OFFICER JONATHAN

Gotcha.

INT. MAKONNEN MANOR - LUCY AND JEFF'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeff gets under the covers of their bed as Lucy Paces back and forth in the room. Again wearing a fabulous nightgown.

JEFF

Honey, please, calm down. There is nothing to worry about.

LUCY

How could you say that?! With all the heat around us, we really can't afford to give them more reason to be suspicious about us. And you put a giant one, out in the open?

JEFF

You're the one who bought the replica, I thought you would be the one to replace it.

LUCY

Are you really blaming me right now?

JEFF

I'm sorry. I'm sorry. There is no need for that now. And besides we've thrown quite the grenades at Olivia and Michael too.

LUCY

Yes. And Michael would've served himself right up to them on his own, you really didn't need to give them a hades up on that one.

JEFF

Yeah, yeah, but are you sure we don't need to tell them about his situation?

LUCY

No, they have to find that out by themselves. We're already committed to this.

JEFF

And if they don't?

LUCY

Then we're gonna have to do the Three-Left-Two-Down.

I/E. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING

HONK. HONK.

Detective Samuel is trying to call out for Officer Jonathan from his car.

Jonathan pokes his head out the window and waves him off.

Gets back in and collects the files from the table, but again he sees the Photograph. Checks his wall clock. 7:54.

He takes out his phone and dials a number.

INT. COUNTY MORGUE - MORNING

RING. RING. RING.

Lee Powell, Asian American, late 20s, was putting on his white gown when the phone rang. He answers.

LEE

Hello?

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

OFFICER JONATHAN

Hey Lee, it's Yoni.

LEE

Oh, Hi yoni, How is it going? Heard you were on some kind of secret case or something.

OFFICER JONATHAN

What? Who told you that?

LEE

Words started spreading after you were seen leaving with The Detective Samuel Curtis.

OFFICER JONATHAN

You've heard of him?

LEE

You haven't? He was a legend back in D-C. Rumor is, there isn't a single field that he hasn't done, at least once.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Okay, okay, I've heard enough. I'm actually calling you regarding the case. You were at the crime scene even, almost three days ago.

LEE

(checking a form)
Ruth Makonnen?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yes. I read she was in your care at the morgue. Has an autopsy been done or something?

LEE

For the ninety something year old lady with three stab wounds? No. It hasn't.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Then can you please run some tests for me, for anything that's not right or wasn't supposed to be there? If it's possible.

LEE

I don't understand. Did Detective Samuel ask for it?

HONK. HOOOOOOOOONK.

Jonathan covers his other ear and moves further away from the window.

OFFICER JONATHAN

No. No. It's for me. Got an itch I can't scratch. Can you look for a sign of being drugged or paralyzed or something.

LEE

It's been three days dude... but
I'll try.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Thank you brother. I owe you one.

END INTERCUT.

I/E. DETECTIVE SAMUEL'S CAR - MORNING

The two policemen are on the way to Makonnen Manor. In
silence.

Little drops of rain start to come down, gently tapping the
roof of their car.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Hope this won't be a problem later
on.

Samuel just gives him a grunt.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)

So... Did you find out anything new
yesterday, after we left?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Yeah, I did actually. It turned out
that Michael kid was telling the
truth.

OFFICER JONATHAN

You saw the will?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

It exists but it's not here. Their
lawyer confirmed it, a law firm in
Ethiopia that represented the
Emperor back in the day and later
his son, has it. Along with
ownership and contracts of some
properties and companies.

(beat)

Just waiting for an heir to collect
them.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Geez, they really don't own
anything, do they.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Some actually don't, I got a buddy of mine in D-C to do a deep dive on them during background check and it seems like the Lady and Jeff are heavily in debt. They've lost their home in Beverly Hills and are about to lose their production company.

OFFICER JONATHAN

So much for returning for family.
(Deep breath)
I also found out something.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What?

OFFICER JONATHAN

I told you that Shrink seemed a bit chatty. Apparently she has lost her practicing license for repeated violation of the Doctor-Patient confidentiality.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

She has been practicing without a license?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yes. But I think the question is, Did Ruth know when she hired her?

EXT. MAKONNEN MANOR DRIVEWAY - MORNING

The rain, now has increased its precipitation and is coming down heavily as sleet.

As they drive up to the house, they see a garbage truck about to pick up a trash can.

Officer Jonathan quickly gets out of the car and sprints towards the truck, signaling it to stop.

Samuel gets out and jogs towards him too. When he catches up to him, he sees Jonathan holding two cardboard boxes.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

(covering himself from the rain)

You know it is illegal to search a suspect's trash without a warrant.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yes but it is the city's trash now.
See.

He points to some already in the compactor.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What's all this trouble for anyway?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yesterday, I glanced at some of the unopened mails by the house entrance. One had a logo of the sender that I thought I recognized but couldn't remember from where. Later on when there were mentions of lost artifacts and fake ones, it hit me. It belongs to WINCHESTER PAWN AND JEWELRY. A shop, investigated for making and selling replicas and forgery but then cleared.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

You were sitting on that one since yesterday and didn't tell me?

OFFICER JONATHAN

I saw a single bed with two pillows too but I didn't say anything. Just needed to be sure.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Did you see who it was addressed to?

OFFICER JONATHAN

"LADY AND GORDON STUDIOS". Looked like a billing mail. I guess they forwarded it to their new address.

Jonathan checks the dates on the boxes.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)

Both were sent last week one after the other. I guess we really spooked them yesterday, that they tried to throw them out before we returned.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Lets just get to the house. I'm being pelted out here.

They run toward the Manor.

I/E. MAKONNEN MANOR - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

They RING repeatedly the doorbell until Yafet opens it.

They hurriedly get in and try to dry out their coats.

OFFICER JONATHAN
[Is everyone home?]

YAFET
[No, they're at church. They were supposed to be home by now but I think the rain delayed them.]

OFFICER JONATHAN
[So who's still here?]

YAFET
[Michael.]

OFFICER JONATHAN
[In his room?]

YAFET
[Yes.]

INT. MICHAEL'S ROOM

Officer Jonathan and Detective Samuel let themselves in to Michael's room.

Michael is sitting by his Desktop computer, watching a movie with his headphones on, still in his pajamas and sipping his tea.

He doesn't look like he noticed them so Samuel calls out.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
KNOCK! KNOCK!!

No response.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Hey! Michael!

Didn't hear him as well. So Jonathan approaches him and taps him on the shoulders.

MICHAEL
(startled)
Whoa, Did you guys decide to stop
knocking Now!

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
We did but you didn't respond.

Michael quickly closes a minimized browser on his computer
and puts it to "sleep". He spins the chair to face them.

MICHAEL
(sipping the tea)
I bet you wish Yafet brought those
teas now, don't you?

Samuel gives a fake laugh and sits on the same chair he sat
on yesterday.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
So what can I help you with
gentlemen? I thought you were
finished with me.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
We came to see your brother but it
seems he isn't home, so thought to
check up on you. He is back, right?

MICHAEL
Yes. Late last night.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
And how are you holding up with...
all of this?

MICHAEL
Not so good. As much as how a
person whose mother just died
would.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Murdered.

MICHAEL
Yes. What did I say?

Samuel looks around a bit and sees some packed suitcases by
the entry of his opened bedroom door.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Planning a long trip?

MICHAEL

(takes a look too)

Ah, can't wait to start my first college year... that is if you ever lift this "Don't leave town" ban on us.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Yes, you finished high school, right? Where did you get in?

MICHAEL

M-I-T.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Nice. So Tech? That's your thing?

MICHAEL

Among others.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

But wait, isn't there like a month left before the fall semesters usually start?

MICHAEL

Yeah, but do you really expect me to stay here, knowing that one of them is a murderer? Who do you think they might go after next? The weird kid downstairs that nobody likes!

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

(smiling)

I assure you, there won't be any murderers left in this house once we are done.

MICHAEL

Yeah right!

After a few seconds of them just staring at each other, Jonathan approaches Samuel and gives an inaudible whisper into Samuel's ears.

Samuel gets up from his seat and backs up a bit. Then Jonathan replaces him, he drags the chair closer to Michael.

OFFICER JONATHAN

So, M-I-T huh?

MICHAEL

Yeah, always wanted to go back there.

OFFICER JONATHAN

You must've worked your ass off to get there, am I right?... Yeah, I know the struggle. Especially for Africans and Orphans like us.

MICHAEL

You? Orphan?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yep. It took a lot out of my parents, trying to get me here. My mama was still pregnant with me when they crossed the Atlantic. They thought bringing me to the land of opportunity like that would make it all worth it. But my father drowned on the way and my mom died when I was a child.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry to hear that but I don't know what that has got to do with--

OFFICER JONATHAN

I grew up in a catholic orphanage. And one of the first things I learned is, in order to fit in or for those opportunities to come to you, you have to make yourself perfect in everything and everyway. How you talk, how you act, how you dress... hell it made me a bit of a control-freak.

(beat)

What I'm trying to say is, I know where you're coming from. The need to act and perform all the time, be what everyone thinks you are or expects you to be ,until you can't remember the real you. You don't have to keep doing that anymore. You can let your guards down. Just cooperate with us and this whole thing could end. 'Cause I believe there is something you're not telling us.

MICHAEL

I don't know what you want me to say, I already told you everything that I know.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Do you know what I became when I stopped pretending?

MICHAEL

(bored)

What, a Glorified Translator?

At that moment the door opens wide and Yafet comes in.

YAFET

[They are back, Officer.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

(eyes still on Michael)

[Thank you, yafet.]

Yafet leaves soon, then Jonathan and Samuel follow.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I told you it won't work. He's too--

OFFICER JONATHAN

Where were we when I said that?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Say what?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Glorified Translator, those were my exact words. Yes, we were at the museum, Lucy and jeff's room. I know they said that you can hear everything in this house, and I may have raised my voice a little but it's impossible for him to hear that. The rooms are at the opposite ends of the house.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What are you thinking? He may have found one of those Secrete halls in the wall that Jeff mentioned? And it happened to be in that room, and he was peeping on us at that time?

OFFICER JONATHAN

You didn't have to make it sound ridiculous. All I'm saying is that we should inspect that room more, when we get the chance.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Ok...I guess it's worth a shot.

INT. THOMAS AND OLIVIA'S ROOM

Samuel and Jonathan are sitting in front of the couple with a dinning table between them. This time, each have a cup of tea by their sides.

THOMAS

Alright, Enough with pleasantries. You didn't really come here to ask how my trip was! So get on with it Detective, I'm a busy man.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh we're getting there Mister Makonnen. You are the C-E-O of Dynasty motors, but not the owner...

Thomas gestures him to keep going.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

And your mother, Missus Ruth, still didn't officially own it but had more control. In Special matters, such as buying or selling the limited amount of shares, major design changes or... a location shift in production and distribution.

THOMAS

Okay, I see where this is going--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

And on the day after your mother's murder, you announced to go World Wide. For the first time since the company's foundation.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

That was just a mere coincidence. It has always been mine and my mother's plan to expand the company but didn't, out of respect for my late brother.

(beat)

(MORE)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

But you see, in the other hand, my brother didn't have that same respect for us. Had the same clause that his traitor of a father had! Keeping his whole family out of our rightful inheritance.

Thomas then realizing he got lost deep in his thought, quickly snaps out of it.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Oh, don't tell the others that! I don't think they know and It would be best if they stay in their fairytale lives of a never ending wealth. No need to bother them with this nonsense that would soon be resolved.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Sure. So you're saying Missus Ruth signed off on the expansion.

THOMAS

She gave me the go-ahead and I made it happen. It doesn't contradict any of the preset conditions but our benefits increase.

OFFICER JONATHAN

(sipping his tea)

So your defense is based on the words of a dead woman who can't say otherwise.

THOMAS

Wait, Defense! Have I been charged with something?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

No, Mister Makonnen, my partner misspoke. What he meant is, if you have proof of the agreement.

THOMAS

No I do not. And I was half way across the world at the time! How am I still a suspect?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Murders don't occur only in the first degree Mister Makonnen.

That finally sets off Thomas and he springs up from the sofa.

THOMAS

Okay, I will not be disrespected again in my own home. Next time you want to speak to me, it will be with my lawyer present.

He muffles to himself while putting on his coat.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

After all we've done for this city.

(louder)

If you wanted to waste someone's time, why don't you do it with the person who saw her everyday and stop bothering us.

Thomas storms out!

A moment of awkward silence takes over between those still remaining in the room.

OLIVIA

He doesn't mean that. Just lashing out. He always finds a way to feel disrespected and underappreciated.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What about with all the finger pointing at Michael?

OLIVIA

Hah. Michael. No. He's just a kid trying to fit in, Make himself noticed in this self observed family of his.

(genuine smile)

Like me!... They just did not understand the way he chose to do it.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And the Affair? Was that your way?

OLIVIA

What did you just say?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

The affair you have... with that guy you supposedly "took care of"?

OLIVIA

Wha-wh-who, how did you know that?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
We didn't. Not until now.

OLIVIA
Seriously? Was that even legal?
Isn't it entrapment or something?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Missus Mak--

OLIVIA
It doesn't matter. He has nothing
to do with this. He was just doing
a research when we met and I--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Olivia, You do not need to explain
that to us. Your relationship is
not our concern here. We want to
know if he was here during the
night of the murder?

OLIVIA
Yes. But He was with me the whole
night. Never left each other's
side, got out in the morning after
everyone rushed upstairs.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
And are we still to believe in what
you told us about what you heard
that night? Or do you want to
change your statement, Incase you
were... distracted.

OLIVIA
(takes a deep breath)
It's still what I told you. She Had
her dinner with Michael, he left, I
heard her messing with her radio,
then I guess she went to sleep. The
music even set the mood for TEDDY
and I. So I remember well.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
This Teddy, who is he? Why would
someone think of him as a scammer?

OLIVIA
Scammer? His name is THEODROSE
BELAY. He's from Ethiopia. Came her
following a lead to confirm a
suspicion about the family's
origin.

(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

But every time he came around, neither Lucy nor Thomas were at home, and kept heading butts with Yafet. So I interfered before it reaches Ruth and she loses it. Then we got to know each other--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Why was he so determined to know?

OLIVIA

He is some kind of P-I, I think. He said he was hired. But he has stopped all of that now, he is staying here. Just for me.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And nobody knew about this? Not Ruth? Not your husband?

OLIVIA

If the others knew, I don't think they cared. Ruth doesn't know anything that happens outside of her room. And Thomas... Thomas can't even see what's right in front of him. No matter how I try. Just this morning I set up Teddy's Under-ware for Thomas to find, I don't know why, maybe just to see what happens. And do you know what he said?

(imitating him)

"Huh, I must have put on some weight."

Olivia quickly breaks down, with a laughter that turns in to a Sob. Tears slowly running down her cheek.

Samuel takes out a napkin from under his coat and hands it to her.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Have you talked to Theodrose? After that night?

OLIVIA

(drying her tears)

Yes. He even kept insisting for me to contact you guys to him, when the time comes. Despite my beliefs that no one will find out about us.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Well, He was right. Do you have his info?

Olivia walks over to her purse and takes out a card. She hands it over to Samuel.

A black card with only a name and a phone number on it.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Thank you Missus Makonnen, we will be in touch.

INT. FOYER - DAY

Jonathan and Samuel are standing by the front door.

OFFICER JONATHAN

That was some neat trick. What made you think she was having an affair?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Lucy, she tried to hint it to us yesterday.

Samuel takes out his phone with the card and dials the number.

TEDDY (V.O.)

Hello.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Hello sir, this is Detective Samuel Curtis from Charleston P-D. Am I speaking to Theodrose Belay?

TEDDY (V.O.)

(with noticeable accent)

Yes, this is he. I've been expecting you detective. I assume you want to meet up.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

You assume correct.

TEDDY (V.O.)

I'm having a late lunch soon. I'll text you the address. Be there in an hour.

He hangs up.

OFFICER JONATHAN
What did he say?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Wants to meet in an hour.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Great, guess we've got time for one
more stop.

I/E. DETECTIVE SAMUEL'S CAR - DAY

Samuel and Jonathan are now driving in the middle of the
city, heading to downtown.

OFFICER JONATHAN
He said "Taste of Home diner"?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
That's right. You know it?

OFFICER JONATHAN
Yeah. I don't think it will be that
much of an inconvenience to check
on the shrink. She is on our way.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Okay then.

They continue the drive in silence. But it's obvious that
Jonathan has more to say.

After a few seconds of struggling with himself he blurts it
out.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Do you have a family, Detective?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Excuse me?

OFFICER JONATHAN
You know, Married? Kids? I know
you've checked out my file before
we met, but all this talk of family
got me thinking. I don't know
anything about you.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
I-I was married. A long time ago.
The only good thing that came out
of it was my daughter. Naomi.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Oh, you two are close?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Not as much as I thought we would be. She's in her senior year of college, I think. The last time she actually wanted to hang out was when she asked me to drop her off on her first day and I couldn't make it.

OFFICER JONATHAN

I'm sorry--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Don't be, I know it's my fault. I'm the one who thought establishing a career was the key to have the perfect family. Jumping from one to the other, city to city, Just couldn't settle on one before it was too late. Never got to be with her but hey, it made for one hell of a resumé hah.

Detective Samuel laughs at his own pain, Making Jonathan squirm in discomfort.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

I'm Sorry too. I knew about your parents but not how you lost them.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Thanks.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

But I guess no matter who you are or what you've got, Misery always finds you.

INT. CLAIR'S HOME OFFICE - DAY

It's the typical therapist's office, with the couch and the one chair. But no framed certificates on the wall.

Detective Samuel and Jonathan have already sat on the comfortable couch where the patients usually sit.

Claire taking the chair in front of them:

CLAIRE

You really didn't have to come all the way here just to see me Detective. I could've come to you.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

It was no bother, we were passing through anyways.

OFFICER JONATHAN

(looking around)

So this used to be your office, after you went private--

CLAIRE

Yes...

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)

--Before losing your license?

Claire suddenly stops stunned. She gives them a faint smile, takes off her glasses and massages her eye lids.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

So you know. You didn't really need to beat around the bush, you could have led with that and save me the embarrassment.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh Doc--, sorry, I meant Miss Evans, embarrassment should be the least of your worries now.

CLAIRE

But could it really be that bad if my employer knew about it too?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh so your patients knew? Then it was like consulting your friends.

Claire sensing his tone chooses to remain quiet.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)

You've got two choices now Miss Evans, we could take you in for practicing without a license here and now, or you tell us what we want to know and we may just consider you as... lets say an informant.

CLAIRE

Oh you make it so difficult to choose detective.

(MORE)

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

(beat)

What do you wanna know?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

By employer, you mean Ruth right?
She knew about your case.

CLAIRE

She did. That was the whole reason
actually. She hired me to spill all
of her family's beans.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

But why? Why go through all the
trouble?

CLAIRE

Why wouldn't she leave her room in
over a decade? Who knows what this
rich people do what they do. And
are never short of a reason to
distrust somebody.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What did she want to know? Anything
specific?

CLAIRE

At first she wanted to know how
Michael was coping, after knowing
he was adopted. They took too long
to tell him. I thought she was just
a concerned mother. And then it
went to couples counseling, but to
tell you the truth it was more
about her children than their
significant others. Like how they
feel about where they are in life
or if anyone is feeling ambitious.

(beat)

Thomas was hardly ever here so She
didn't even give me the chance to
get to Olivia's affair.

The two gentlemen just silently stare back at her.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

What, no follow up on that one?

OFFICER JONATHAN

We already know about that. So no
one had any ill thought towards
her?

CLAIRE

Oh they did. For being too controlling, ungrateful, demoralizing, ...unloving, take your pick. But just like I told you last time, no one discussed with me their plans to murder their mother.

OFFICER JONATHAN

What can you tell us about Michael?

CLAIRE

Michael was shutdown from everyone for a long time, But eventually opened up to me. Well, as much as he can. He has Schizotypal Personality Disorder, associated with The Dunning-Kruger effect. Would seem eccentric to others but keeps to himself...in his own world where he believes he is smarter than everyone else. I don't think he ever talked about a friend or a girl even.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yeah, It feels like what's happening is just a game for him. Does he always act like that?

CLAIRE

I sometimes feel him challenging me, just for fun. Hiding his emotions or exhibiting what he thinks is right for that moment. Or plain right acts out one of his movies. To prove his superiority over us simpletons I believe.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Do you think he may have taken his games to as far as killing someone? Maybe just for the sake of getting away with it?

CLAIRE

I did not get any sense of aggression from him aside from his mind games but if you say I have to choose from the five of them, it would be him.

Jonathan quickly turns to Detective Samuel with eyes that say "I told you so".

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Thank you Miss Evans for your opinion. But one last thing, Did anyone of them knew or suspected of your deal with Missus Ruth?

CLAIRE

Lucy and Jeff probably did since they stopped coming in for a session ages ago. That or she was just adding to the list of her actions to defy her mother. A lot of mommy issues there.

(chuckles)

Michael was blinded by his ego. And Olivia, oh sweet innocent Olivia just wants a friend. I think she may have fed that boyfriend of hers with everything he needed. You should look in to that.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

(getting up)

We are.

They head for the door. But right before they leave Claire rushes up from her chair.

CLAIRE

So, I'm good?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh far from it Miss Evans. So try not to add to your... Misconducts.

They leave.

INT. "TASTE OF HOME" DINER - AFTERNOON

A diner designed in an Ethiopian Theme, mashed with a Western one. Looking like time has stood still in the 50s.

A traditional Ethiopian Music plays out from the jukebox at a low volume. Waitresses dressed in an old-timey TIBEB Dress are serving the customers all around.

Samuel and Jonathan walk in and try to spot their guy.

A man in the back booth, 30s, Handsome, Well dressed, signals them with a wave.

They come over and take the booth in front of him.

He quickly wipes his mouth and fingers with the napkin and moves the dishes and cup that were on the table to the side.

TEDDY

Nice timing. I just finished--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Would you mind telling us who exactly you are please?

TEDDY

Oh, I thought Liv already did. My name is Theodrose Belay, but I go with Teddy. I work for the CROWN COUNCIL OF ETHIOPIA as a private investigator.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

The what now?

OFFICER JONATHAN

Wait, they still exist?

TEDDY

(to Samuel)

They are the remaining decedents of Emperor Haile Selassie. With a mission of Cultural preservation, development and humanitarian efforts in the mother land.

(to Jonathan)

And yes they do. They're the ones who sent me here.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

For what reasons exactly?

TEDDY

To find out if they actually do have a family here of course. What else could it be?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I don't know, maybe you were given some other task to carryout incase you find or don't find what you were looking for.

TEDDY

(holding a laugh)

Who do you think they are Detective, The freakin' Mob?

A waitress would interrupt their conversation.

AKLESIA

Hello, I'm Aklesia, means Church in Ge'ez. I'll be your waitress today. Are you guys ready to order?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

No, we're fine--

OFFICER JONATHAN

(grabbing the menu)

Oh, we haven't had the chance to check out the menu yet.

TEDDY

You've gotta try the MINCHET. I know Habesha boy here knows what I'm talking about but it's perfect for your first taste, Detective.

AKLESIA

One order of Minchet is big enough for a party of two.

Jonathan looks over at Samuel who gives him a nod.

OFFICER JONATHAN

[We will have the Minchet please.]

AKLESIA

[And to drink?]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[One Ambo Water. Two glasses.]

He gestures at Teddy but he shakes his head in decline.

The waitress picks up the empty dishes on the table and leave.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

So you've looked us up too?

TEDDY

Yes, we have our connections here as well.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

You look like you've been at this a lot longer than we are. When did you start looking for them?

TEDDY

About eight months ago I think. Started out back home with nothing but the name of a car company.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
So, found out anything that could
be of use to us?

TEDDY
Now you're asking the right
questions detective.

Teddy picks up a big binder from his side of the seat and
drops it on the table.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
I would have known more if it
wasn't for that ignorant butler.
Sorry excuse of a Habesha! I tell
you, he is stuck in time as much as
this diner is. But sweet Olivia was
helpful enough. Got so caught up
with her, never got the chance to
meet with Ruth. And I let her die
while being under the same roof as
her.

(beat)
I don't know how I'm gonna show my
face back home again.

OFFICER JONATHAN
So that's why you're staying.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
And what did she tell you?

TEDDY
Liv thinks this has nothing to do
with Ruth's murder since she
actually found out about it by
accident, but she says that Ruth
checks on the content of a golden
chest in her room once in a while.
Everyone else believes it doesn't
have a key but Liv says that she
wore it around her neck as a cross.

OFFICER JONATHAN
But Missus Ruth didn't have it on
when she was found.

TEDDY
Okay... That's what I've guessed
too.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Did Olivia know what was in the
chest?

TEDDY

A piece of paper. Like a document,
she said.

He opens the binder and points at some papers in the middle.
A bank transaction papers.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Now I've been following the funds
that flow in and out of the country
from this family.

He sees their concerned faces.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

Not from here. I couldn't even if I
wanted to here but things are a bit
easier from the other side. And one
that stood out was a monthly
payment that was made out to "Addis
Tesfa Orphanage".

OFFICER JONATHAN

Is that supposed to be--

TEDDY

Where Michael was adapted from?
Exactly. A donation of Ten Thousand
birr is made to that orphanage on
the first of every month for the
past sixteen years. Not from any
third party or Makonnen owned
company in Ethiopia but directly
from here in to Addis Tesfa's bank
account.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What are you suggesting? They could
still be supporting the charity
business that gave them a child.

TEDDY

I don't think you really believe
that but hear this... On the night
that Ruth and the Emperor's son,
Solomon, died, his mother was there--

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

We already knew that...

TEDDY (CONT'D)

--to meet his new bride ELENI
TEMESGEN, who he married in
secrecy and a rush for some
reason.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Solomon Haile Selassie Had a wife?

TEDDY
Yeah. Whom I wouldn't even have
known about if it wasn't for this.

He turns the pages to get to another document. Copy of a
marriage certificate from "The Holy Trinity Orthodox church".

Written in Amharic. So Jonathan reads as Teddy explains to
Samuel.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
They were married for less than a
week. Only the church knew about
it.

Officer Jonathan now literally scratching his head:

OFFICER JONATHAN
I don't understand, are you saying
that Eleni was there when Solomon's
house burned down.

TEDDY
Didn't have a reason to think
otherwise. Even though Ruth didn't
mention Eleni in her statement or a
second body was never recovered.
All I know is, there were no
Records of Eleni after that for the
next three decades. Like she went
in to hiding... Up until eighteen
years ago.

He hands Jonathan two more documents. This time they were
Death Certificate.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
(to Samuel)
One is for Meseret Solomon, who
died of child birth eighteen years
ago. And the other was the child's
guardian, One Miss Eleni Temesgen.
She died a year and a half later.
Wanna guess the Hospital's Name?

OFFICER JONATHAN
(reading)
Addis Tesfa Hospital.

TEDDY

Same N-G-O company. Who was given the rights to take the child under their care.

(beat)

Now I managed to get access to all kinds of public or private records I needed for the case. But do you know what I could never get my hands on?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Their Birth certificates.

TEDDY

Exactly what I believe was locked in that chest! There was a blood descendent in that house all along, whom Ruth tried to keep hidden. One that is entitled to everything she owns... Michael.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Wait, you don't have to make it sound so nefarious. We too know about the will, and the heir can only claim everything when he comes of age. Michael Just turned eighteen. What if she was keeping it safe for him?

TEDDY

That brings me to my last evidence.
(turning a page)
You know Ruth adopted Michael with her late husband Doctor Lewis. But what you might not know is, not long after that Doctor Lewis hired a second lawyer, not connected to the family. A divorce lawyer. But he died in that "accident" before anything could happen.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

So you are saying, that old lady have been taking out or paying off anyone who knows about her next of kin's existence. So she could, kind of own everything?

TEDDY

I've seen a lot worse being done for a lot less.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

If you believe she was capable of murdering her son and her husband to keep this secrete, why wouldn't she just burn the birth records?

TEDDY

I Do Not Know. Maybe as a back up if anyone of the other blood decedents found her... they will have a better claim. Or maybe she was going to give him everything after all when she pass.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Anyways, I think we now know who is at the top of our suspect list.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

No. We still can't focus only on Michael. We just know now that we don't have to only look for the dagger. Whoever has the key of the chest could also be our guy.

The waitress is now back with the MINCHET as steam is still leaving the well cooked meat. She serves them.

AKLESIA

Here you go gentlemen. Bon Appetit.

She leaves. Teddy gets up too.

TEDDY

Well Enjoy guys. I believe I've been a more help than you can ever imagine. Hope it was enough to grant me a simple favor.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And what is this favor?

TEDDY

If it actually turned out to be Michael, we want to know first before it becomes public.

Detective Samuel gives him a nod.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

So long till then. I've got other business to take care of.

Teddy leaves the Diner. While Jonathan shows the Detective, the proper way to eat the dish.

INT. MAKONNEN MANOR - FOYER - AFTERNOON

Detective Samuel veers right to head in Michael's Room direction but Jonathan grabs him by the hand and stops him.

OFFICER JONATHAN

I want to check out the Museum pad
while we still can.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

(sighs)
Better hope they're not there kid.

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM

Samuel and Jonathan found the door wide open when they got there. They let themselves in.

LUCY (O.S.)

Did you little rascals ran away
from aunty Liv again?

The two men quickly threw their eyes at the adjacent room door, where her voice was coming from,... It is closed.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

It's us Missus Makonnen. If you're
busy we could come back.

LUCY (O.S.)

Oh, I'm just changing Detective,
I'll be right out. Make yourselves
comfortable.

Finding himself a seat, Samuel gets Jonathan's attention with a snap of his fingers and points him at the only side of the wall that's not blocked by one of the encased artifacts.

Jonathan gives him an acknowledging nod and walks slowly toward the wall. Only a big painting of Emperor Menelik II is on it.

OFFICER JONATHAN

(whispers to himself)
How did Yafet open it?

He tries to slide the painting aside but it won't budge. So he inspects it closely to find out that it's not hanging on the wall but is part of the wooden wall.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CORRIDOR BEHIND THE WALL

A dark figure looks right at Jonathan through the transparent eyes of Menelik II painting. In stealth, not even breathing.

Jonathan puts his ear against the wall and tries to listen in. ABSOLUTE SILENCE.

He then slowly raises his hand and BANGS on the wall.

This startled the dark figure who SIGHS and STUMBLES backward.

LUCY (O.S.)
Okay. Okay. I'm done.

END INTERCUT

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM

Lucy comes out wearing another amazing dress.

LUCY
What got you guys in such a hurry?
That woman isn't going to get any
dead-er.

OFFICER JONATHAN
I'm sorry ma'am, it was me. I
bumped into the wall.

She sits in front of Samuel.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Another beautiful dress.

LUCY
I don't usually flaunt in my own
home but...you guys are still here.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Oh you don't have to dress up on
our account Lady Lucy.

LUCY
HA! Don't flatter yourselves, I
never said it's for you. I do it
for me. My image.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I understand. Especially now, since it's... crumbling.

LUCY

Hooray for you, you found out we've hit a ruff patch. So what?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I don't know, I thought you said you moved back to be with family again?

LUCY

I did. And I had another reason too. A private one.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Like stealing some of this priceless artifacts and replacing them with fake ones.

LUCY

What did you just say to me?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Oh I'm sorry, borrowing some of this stuff. We have found out some objects have been mailed to you from a known Replica store.

LUCY

If you have a question, just ask it detective. Don't go making implications that you have no notion about.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Did you order--

LUCY

Yes I did. But it's because one went missing, and since it was from our side of the house, I didn't want to give mother more reason to scold me, so I tried to replace it.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

(takes out notebook)

And that would be the Jile? The double edged dagger?

LUCY

Yes.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Which you did not report by the
way, but who do you think would
have taken it?

LUCY
I would say Thomas, I bet he is
making his own collection back home
but he wasn't here when it went
missing, so...

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Michael?

Lucy just shrugs her shoulders.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL (CONT'D)
What about the other order? What
was it?

LUCY
What other order?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
The second replica. Was it the
Chest? You found out what's inside
so you replaced it.

LUCY
I truly do not know what you are
talking about detective.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Really? You do not know what I am
talking about?

LUCY
I don't. I only ordered the Jile.
Never even got back on their site
again. I never lie detective.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Yeah. You do it Only for a living.

THUD-THUD. THUD-THUD.

Light foot stomps would come out of the floor above, Again.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Do you hear that?

LUCY

Yes, but no worries, we told them about everything yesterday and they are fine. Surprisingly.

OFFICER JONATHAN

No. The stomps. Don't they sound lighter to you? Much more muffled than yesterday?

They all listen in. THUD-THUD. THUD-THUD.

They were muffled.

Jonathan runs out of the room. Samuel and Lucy follow him, Confused.

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM

Jonathan barges in to the room, scaring the children.

Samuel and Lucy catch up to him. Lucy seeing the children, snaps at Jonathan.

LUCY

What is wrong with you? It's not enough terrorizing us, now you're going after the children too?

(to her kids)

Betty, Abel, come over here. Quickly.

They run up to her.

BETTY

What is going on mommy?

LUCY

Nothing baby. Just take your brother to your room, Okay?

(eyeing jonathan)

Maybe you need to give your nana and pap-pap another visit.

BETTY

Ok.

The kids ran out. But Jonathan STOMPS on the floor by himself. Trying to listen in.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

What are you doing?

Jonathan just gives him the index finger, not to be interrupted and continues moving around. STOMPING.

Until the sound of the floor changed. He then kneeled down at the spot and scoured the floor by his finger until he felt a bump and pushes it in.

A CLICK is heard and small part of the wood floor comes ajar. Jonathan pulls on it and now there is a square shaped hole in the middle of the bedroom.

Jonathan sends his hand inside and comes out with The Golden Chest.

LUCY
Now that, is Real Gold.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROOM

Jonathan barges in to this room too, but now with Samuel by his side.

Michael, who was watching a movie on his PC jumps off his chair, scared, making his headphone snap off of his head.

MICHAEL
What the hell, Man!

Jonathan throws the Chest on the couch by the wall.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Where is the key Michael?

MICHAEL
What?

OFFICER JONATHAN
The Chest's key, that you took off
of your mother's dead body?

MICHAEL
(to Samuel)
Is he okay?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
We know everything Michael. Who you
really are, What was in that chest,
Everything. So come out with it,
where is the key?

MICHAEL

I don't know what you think you know, but why are you so sure that I've got it?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

Remember yesterday? You said, that Chest has always been fake when everybody else said otherwise. You tried to throw us off with your "everybody steals shit" speech but it was you all along. And you tried to frame your own sister by ordering the replica As her, since she was trying to replace the dagger you already stole.

MICHAEL

(laughs)
You guys are crazy.

OFFICER JONATHAN

When did you find out Michael? Was it the night you stabbed her to death? Or was it long before and you were just steaming and scheming until you finally grew some balls and decide to actually do it?

MICHAEL

(frustrated but smiling)
Shuuuut uuup!

OFFICER JONATHAN

Oh I bet it felt good. Finally taking her out, after seeing her and her family get richer and richer off of what really should be yours. While they keep you down here, next to what used to be a slave hideout. Make you an outcast, call you weird.

MICHAEL

(to Samuel)
Are you gonna let him talk to me like that?

But Samuel just shrugs him off.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 I know you were behind the
 walls too just a few minutes
 ago, at Lucy's. And it wasn't
 the first time was it? Did
 you spy on all of our
 interrogations? Or does it go
 beyond that? Been creeping up
 on your sister or olivia, how
 far do this secrete halls go?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 (getting angrier)
 You know nothing.

Michael just kept shaking his head as Jonathan continues to
 provoke him.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)
 Admit it Michael, You've always
 resented them. And now you finally
 got a good reason to get rid of
 Ruth and take everything away from
 the rest of them!... Not a Makonnen
 after all.

MICHAEL
 You're damn right I'm not! I am
 MICHAEL HAILE SELASSIE, grandson of
 Solomon Haile Selassie and great
 grandson of the divine Emperor
 himself, and I will not be denied
 of my birthright!

Michael takes a moment to calm himself down, As Jonathan and
 Samuel just look on in suspense, like they finally caught
 their man.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 But I still did not do it.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 Come on man. The jig is up.

MICHAEL
 Ruth actually told me. She
 confessed and we were gonna sort
 everything out.

FADE IN:

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT OF THE MURDER

Ruth Makonnen, as usual, is lying on her bed while Michael
 sets aside an empty soup bowl.

She turns down the Radio's Volume, that's singing beside her:

RUTH

Wait, Don't go yet Michael, Come here for a second.

(taps on the bed)

Sit with me.

MICHAEL

Okay, but just until I straighten out your pillow. It looks rough.

He takes it from under her head and starts to fluff it.

RUTH

Oh, you don't have to, I could grab the other one.

MICHAEL

No, no, no. That one is for when I'm not here.

RUTH

Awww, you're always good to me, son. Unlike my other children.

(beat)

Which makes what I have to tell you a lot harder than it already is.

MICHAEL

(still fluffing)

What is it mom?

RUTH

That's just it Michael, I'm not just your mother... I'm also your great grandmother.

MINUTES LATER: Michael's eyes are fixated on the pillow while his mother continue to confess. Everything she's saying reaches his ears as just a white noise.

RUTH (CONT'D)

...Only God knows what I did to preserve my family, my blood. But now I see.

(shades a tear)

I see this curse has passed on to my own children, this greed, this envy... It has to be stopped. Or it may go on forever.

(beat)

And I am going to stop it by doing something that I should have done a long time ago. Giving you back your birthright.

Michael just keep fluffing the pillow without saying a word or a change of expression on his face.

RUTH (CONT'D)
Please, say something Michael.

FADE OUT.

INT. MICHAEL'S ROOM

OFFICER JONATHAN
Seriously, Just like that? She just decided to give you everything?

MICHAEL
Yes. And someone who has already found that out, probably the same one who you said spies in the wall, killed her and hid the Chest where they knew you could find it.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Oh give me a break, you're still sticking with your "I don't know where that came from" story?

MICHAEL
No, I admit I placed the replica your officers took in. I found it last week by my door, still in its box. I thought it was a hush-hush gift from my sister since I saw their other package. But on that dreadful morning when I found the body and the real Chest wasn't there, I knew it was a set up and I did what first came to mind.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Bullshit! Now you're honing on lacy? If you've known that the whole time then why didn't you just say it?

MICHAEL
Not just her... Have you seen Jeff today? Like at all? Because his car is still in the driveway.

OFFICER JONATHAN
No! This is just another misdirection. I know the key or those records are here somewhere.

Jonathan paces toward Michael's desk but Samuel quickly stops him in his tracks.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
I don't think that's necessary
Officer.
(to Michael)
Then you wouldn't mind if we take
this one?

He picks up the Golden Chest.

MICHAEL
No, by all means.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
See you tomorrow, Michael.

Samuel leaves with the chest in one hand and pulling Jonathan with the other.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS HALLWAY

Samuel finally let go Jonathan from his grip and kept walking.

OFFICER JONATHAN
What was that? We finally got him.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
The second you start going through
his stuff, he would have asked for
a warrant. And I don't know if
you've looked outside but it's well
past court hours.

OFFICER JONATHAN
I'm one hundred percent sure that
this chest is empty.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Me too. But if we've given him a
heads up about the warrant, we
would never find the key or the
records in this house. So we let
him think our focus is on this box.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Nice, nice. Good thinking partner.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 You too. However unorthodox your
 methods were, you broke him there
 for a second.

FOYER --

When they reach the front door, Lucy was pacing back and forth around it.

LUCY
 So, was it him? Are you gonna
 arrest him?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 We're not sure yet, but we're close
 Missus Makonnen.

LUCY
 Seriously? Are we even safe
 sleeping in this house?

They just leave without answering her.

EXT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Jonathan gets out of the Detective's car and stand by the walkway.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 So what are you going to do now?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 I'm gonna give this to the guys at
 the lab just incase, and tomorrow
 morning I'm gonna come pick you up
 with the warrant. I don't know what
 time it would be, so be ready.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 Yes sir.

INT. MAKONNEN MANOR - LUCY AND JEFF'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lucy and Jeff are sitting on the edge of their bed, with Jeff comforting Lucy in his arms.

JEFF
 They still didn't take him in after
 all that?

LUCY
No. Didn't even say a word.

JEFF
I still say, we tell them?

LUCY
Absolutely not. How are we gonna explain how we discovered that? We're just gonna burry ourselves deeper. Besides we've gone far up this road, we can't turn back now.

JEFF
Please, there has to be another way. I don't want to do the Three-Left-Two-Down.

Lucy grabs jeff's head with both hands.

LUCY
Me neither honey but if they can't arrest him yet, we have to take the matter in our own hands.
(kisses him)
To ensure our future, Our children's future.

Lucy would comfort Jeff in her arms now.

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Lucy is standing over Ruth's bed, talking to her, while Jeff stays by the door this time.

LUCY
Mom, I know it's been six months but we just came up with our next feature now. So don't worry, we'll be out with in the month.

RUTH
Oh really? How did that happen?

LUCY
Well... We'll produce it from our pocket, direct and star in it. And the payoff would be the income from its release.

RUTH

You mean my pocket?... And you still won't see a penny until it is done? How are you so sure it won't flop like the others?

LUCY

We wrote the script ourselves ma and it is perfect. I would be in charge of everything... I'm finally betting on myself.

RUTH

It wouldn't be one of those sinful movies of yours now, would it?

LUCY

And just like that, you bring me down. What if it is mom?

RUTH

No daughter of mine would be in such a thing. And not with my blessing nevertheless.

LUCY

I am not the teenage girl you can still control mom. You have to let me do my own thing. I'm a grown ass woman, I'm a mother for god's sake!

RUTH

Then act like one!
(beat)
You were my miracle baby, You were my redemption, what happened to you? Why couldn't you be more like Thomas?

LUCY

What, you mean work for something that will never belong to me?

RUTH

How do you know about that?

LUCY

My fanbase starts from this house mom. Unlike you, I don't belittle people that are beneath me, Everyone will find their usefulness at some point.

RUTH

You mean Olivia? What does she know?

LUCY

She is a smart girl ma, whose flame you managed to put out. Same fate I would have faced if I had lived by you. You've no idea how much you're losing that girl!... What is it ma, your spy not feeding you much?

(beat)

Yeah. I know about that too.

RUTH

You know what, you are right. It has been six month. So good luck on your endeavors, do whatever you want on your own--

LUCY

But mom we need help. Think about your grandchildren.

RUTH

Let me finish. I'll give whatever you need, to do what you want, on your own... but the kids will stay with me.

(beat)

I've clearly failed you Lucy but maybe I still have a chance with my Grandchildren.

Lucy just stands there, pouting and pouting. Then just screams in to her mother's face and leave.

Ruth RINGS the Dinner Bell above her. Smiling.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jeff has to run, to catch up to his angry wife.

JEFF

I'm sorry honey, I know you really wanted this.

LUCY

How could she still treat me like that? And it's not just me... it's a wonder how no-one has tried to get rid of her already.

JEFF
Just say the word, MiLady.

They both laugh, and as they were about to turn for the stairs, they almost bump in to Michael, who was coming up with a tray full of dinner.

JEFF (CONT'D)
What the hell! How fast did you get here?

Michael just walks past them, silently.

I/E. MAKONNEN MANOR - FOYER - DAY

DING-DONG.

Yafet would open the front door to see Detective Samuel and Officer Jonathan standing by the doorway.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Hello Alfred, mind if we come in?

Yafet just stares at him. Unamused.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)
[Still dead-eyed I see. Would you please inform the residents that we have a warrant to search the premises?]

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

A SCREECHING SCREAM would overwhelm the whole house.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
It's coming from the museum.

They both pull their side arms out and rush toward the noise.

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM

They kick the door open and ran inside.

Lucy was on the floor, bleeding, trying to Keep pressure on a wound that's on her side.

Samuel kneels down and tries to help her.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
What happened?

Unable to speak, she just points at the side of the room.

The wall with the "Menelik II" painting was opened, exposing a dark corridor behind it.

Jonathan walks closer to it. He can hear RUNNING FOOT STEPS.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Someone is in there!

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Go! I've got her.

INT. CORRIDOR BEHIND THE WALL - CONTINUOUS

Jonathan sprints through the corridor. It's just a dark, narrow hallway filled with spider webs and wires.

He then comes at a crossway. Spiral stairs that go up on the left and more hallway on the right.

Now SHOUTING is heard from the right, so he follows that. And shortly he comes up to another opening on the wall.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He Jumps in through another opened wooden-wall, and suddenly he was in Michael's bedroom.

On the floor is Jeff, PUNCHING the life out of an Unconscious Michael and YELLING at him:

JEFF
Why? Why you bastard, Why? She was
just trying to help!

Jonathan Pulls Jeff off of him.

OFFICER JONATHAN
What happened?

JEFF
(now crying)
Lucy, She finally confronted him
and he just snapped. He... he tried
to kill her.

Jonathan looks down at Michael. This time he noticed his hands, Michael's hands that are covered in blood and holding the Jile dagger.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

When Michael comes to, he finds himself cuffed to a table. Alone.

He succumbs to the pain of the beating he received while unconscious and GRUNTS in agony.

The interrogation room door opens and Officer Jonathan walks in.

MICHAEL
(touching his bruise)
Why am I not in the Hospital?

OFFICER JONATHAN
A bit of first aid seemed enough,
and you know... Because you're
under arrest.

MICHAEL
What? Why? All I remember is seeing
Jeff charging and... and I woke up
here.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Seriously? You must've really lost
it. You tried to kill your sister.
(confused)
Great aunt?... You just stabbed
Lucy, Michael!

MICHAEL
Ooooooow, It all makes sense now.
So this was their Ku De Gras.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Okay, I've had it with your shit.
I'm just here to read your rights.
Michael Makonnen you are under
arrest for the attempted murder of
Lucy Makonnen--

MICHAEL
No, you don't have to do that. I'm
innocent and I can prove it. After
Ruth died I realized someone else
must've known the secret routes of
the house.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 Uggh, and for the murder of
 Ruth Makonnen. You have the
 right to remain silent.
 Anything you say can and will
 be used against you in a
 court of law...

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Just listen to me. I knew
 they'll come after me next so
 I set up some intruder
 detectors of my own making
 all over my bedroom. Kind of
 a trip wire camera.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Yeah, that's right. Even I have
 been setting them off all week by
 accident, they're too clear. So
 Jeff must've been caught at least
 by one. I can show you the picture.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 Okay, go ahead.

MICHAEL
 Not here. At home. On my P-C.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 ...You have the right to an attorney.
 If you cannot afford an attorney,
 one will be provided for you.

MICHAEL
 Or I can give you the instruction
 and you can do it yourself.

OFFICER JONATHAN
 (going for the door)
 Good bye Michael. And good luck.

MICHAEL
 Just check it out. If I'm lying I
 would still be right here. You have
 nothing to lose here Jonathan. And
 deep down I know you believe it's
 not me.

INT. POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - SAME TIME

Detective Samuel and Chief Bernard are Watching Michael and
 Jonathan's interaction through the one-way mirror.

CHIEF BERNARD
 Do you think he's telling the
 truth?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
 Maybe. But he has tried to trick us
 before.

CHIEF BERNARD

We can't risk being wrong on this.
Like he said, can't hurt to make
sure.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

I will stay with him. Officer
Jonathan Could checkout the claims.

CHIEF BERNARD

Fine by me.

Samuel gives a double TAP on the mirror.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Okay. How do I access the picture?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Lucy lies still on the hospital bed with all the gadgets
attached to her and BEEPING, showing she's stable.

Jeff has fallen asleep by her side, with his hands still not
letting go of hers.

Lucy would start to gain consciousness and seeing Jeff at her
side, she nudges him awake too.

Jeff's face would brighten up like never before and he brings
her in for a big hug.

JEFF

You're okay.

LUCY

Of course I am, but you should let
go if I'm to stay that way.

JEFF

Oh, sorry.

(lets go)

I thought I made a mistake there.

LUCY

You were perfect honey. So give me
the news, Did they take him away?

JEFF

They sure did. There is no way he
can smart mouth himself out of this
one.

LUCY

Come here you handsome devil.

She grabs him and pull him in for a kiss.

LUCY (CONT'D)

We are set now. For life. We can do what we want wherever we want it.

The door opens and a lady doctor walks in holding a form.

DOCTOR MOSS

It's good to see you've finally waken up Missus Makonnen. I'm doctor, EVELYN MOSS.

JEFF

So Doctor, has the results came back? Is she going to be fine?

DOCTOR MOSS

Yes they have and she is going to be A-Ok. No vital organs seem to be injured and the shots should take care any infection. So you could relax now Mister Gordon.

(to Lucy)

You're a very lucky Woman. The blade only managed to tear the extraperitoneal fat. If your kidney wasn't already removed or the blade was a few inches off, we would have been standing in a very different room.

LUCY

(smiling at jeff)

I'm just lucky my husband was there.

INT. MAKONNEN MANOR - MICHAEL'S ROOM - EVENING

Jonathan walks past Michael's desktop and toward the bedroom. As he was about to pass through the doorway he felt a small SNAP beneath his feet.

He kneels down to see a clear, near invisible Nylon sewing thread. That leads to a modified mini digital camera in the corner.

OFFICER JONATHAN

(remembers)

Huh, "Watch your step".

He observes that there are interconnected cameras and strings all over the bedroom walls. Including the previously opened one.

He returns to the computer. It was on sleep mode, he turns it on.

COMPUTER SCREEN

There is an already opened browser with a google cloud account. The email address auto-filled, but blank on the password.

OFFICER JONATHAN (V.O.)
(chuckles)
Could have guessed it without his
help on this one.

He types in "Birthright". CORRECT.

Jonathan opens the folder showing today's date. Two JPEG files were in it.

One, a picture of him from a minute ago and the other, Jeff opening the wall with the dagger in his hand.

CUT TO:

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM - MORNING - FLASHBACK

CLOSE UP: we see Jeff kissing Lucy passionately.

When they stop, it becomes clear that Jeff was crying.

LUCY
(wipes his tears)
It's okay honey, I'll be fine. It
would be like nothing ever happened
when the kids return home.

DING-DONG.

LUCY (CONT'D)
That must be them. Do it. Quickly.
For our future. For our children.

JEFF
For our Children.

We go lower now, to see Jeff wearing a driving glove, holding the Jile Dagger up against Lucy's navel.

He guides the dagger to the left. While counting.

JEFF (CONT'D)
One..... Two..... Three.

He stops. And now starts going down. Again corresponding with his counts.

JEFF (CONT'D)
One..... Two.

Stops. This time he plunges the dagger in to Lucy's side.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

Jeff gently lays her on the ground and rushes to the wall. He then pulls on the painting with all his might until the wall opens and runs into the dark.

INT. MICHAEL'S BEDROOM

Michael is lying on his bed, playing with his phone.

BANG.....BANG.....BANG.

Loud CRASHING on his wall startles him up. Scared, he slowly approaches the side, where the BANGING comes from.

Promptly the painting on the wall cracks open, simultaneously his phone CHIMES with notification.

He looks down for a second to check his phone, and when looks back up there is an angry Jeff charging at him.

Jeff SHOUTING frantically, tackles him and slams Michael in to the ground, Bashing his head and knocking him out instantly.

Jeff hears the RUNNING from the corridor and hurriedly snatches the phone out of Michael's hand and throws it away.

JEFF
(shouting)
Why would you do it Michael? Why?

He rubs the blood from his glove onto Michael's hand and places the dagger in his grip.

He then takes off the gloves and as he was about to throw them too, Jonathan runs in, so he quickly shoves them in his coat pocket and start beating up Michael.

JEFF (CONT'D)
Why? Why you bastard, Why? She was
just trying to help!

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Lucy and Jeff laugh in pure joy, with him feeding her
Hospital jelo, unable to keep his hands off of her.

But Everything halts when the doors open one last time and
Detective Samuel and Officer Jonathan come in

JEFF
Hello officers, anything more we
can help you with?

Jonathan keeps approaching him, and when they came face to
face he grabs jeff by the hand and turns him around.

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

OFFICER JONATHAN
(putting the cuffs on him)
Jeffery Gordon you are under arrest
for Murder, frame-up and conspiracy
to commit murder...

While Jonathan was reading jeff his rights, a furious Lucy
shouts at Samuel:

LUCY
What are you doing? You caught the
murderer red handed.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
You mean this murderer.

Samuel takes out his phone and shows her Jeff's incriminating
picture.

LUCY
Wha-Wh-How...?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Don't worry Lady Lucy, you're also
under arrest for Frame-Up and
conspiracy. As soon as you're
cleared from here, you will be
joining your husband.

JEFF

No. She has nothing to do with it.
It was all me.

(beat)

Are you even sure she was alive
when I killed her? No, supposedly
killed her?

When Jeff wiggles uncontrollably, shouting at the detective,
the shoved and forgotten gloves start surfacing from his coat
pocket.

Jonathan pulls them out and shows it to Samuel.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL

And How much do you wanna bet that
we're gonna find more than one set
of blood D-N-A on those expensive
gloves?

They then escort Jeff out as the Husband and Wife try to get
a hold of each other one last time.

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S BEDROOM - NIGHT OF THE MURDER

The wall is opened wide. Beside it stand Lucy and Jeff.

Lucy attentively watches Jeff as he put on his gloves and
then she hands him the dagger.

LUCY

Okay, be ready. As soon as he
leaves, you go in. It has to end
tonight, I'm tired of waiting.

JEFF

I'm ready baby, Anything for you.
But I think you are the one who's
getting nervous. You are not gonna
regret this later, are you?

LUCY

Hell no. This is the only way we're
gonna be free of her.

A door CLOSES upstairs.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Show time honey. First her, the key
then the chest. Get her, get the
key, get the chest.

JEFF

Hah, It's nicer this way. You directing, me acting.

LUCY

Go. Go. Go.

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT OF THE MURDER

Jeff quietly opens the secrete gateway of the wall, in this part of the house.

The room is covered in darkness with only glimmer of light that escaped from the hallway.

The loud songs emitted from the Antique Radio makes more disorienting to move.

Jeff instinctively walks over to Ruth's side of the bed, and when he bumped the bed with his foot, he blindly PLUNGES the dagger.

Nothing. No sound of Suffering or Struggling. He repeats it. TWICE.

Same. So he reaches to the nightstand and turns on the lamp.

Ruth never even woke up from her sleep. But her nightgown and bed were soaked in her blood from the repeated stabbing.

The horrific scene scares Jeff who stumbled backward. He bumps the radio, changing the station and makes it louder.

He panics and tries to turn it off but only succeeds in keep changing the stations. He eventually pulls the plug and shut it off.

JEFF

(checking his heartbeat)

Whoof.

He then changes his site to the shelves to get the Chest but to his surprise, there was nothing in its spot.

Back to Ruth, No cross around her neck.

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S ROOM - NIGHT OF THE MURDER

Jeff walks back in through his secrete pathway looking shell-shocked.

LUCY
What? What happened? Did you do it?

JEFF
Yes. But she...

LUCY
What? She is dead, right?

JEFF
Yes. It was easier than--

LUCY
What about the chest? Where is it?

Jeff avert his eyes to the floor in disappointment.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Jeeeff, where is the Chest?

EXT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

The Detective and Officer stand by the gate saying their goodbyes.

OFFICER JONATHAN
So that's that then?

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Sure is.

OFFICER JONATHAN
For a second there I really thought
it was all Michael.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Me too kid. Me too. In all my years
dealing with this type of people,
never met a sane one.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Last time I saw him, the Chief was
apologizing to him, like he's the
new boss.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
The kid could have helped us to end
this long ago. Instead he chose to
act the smartest person in the
room. He would need some real help,
especially now.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Yeah, that's why I gave him Teddy's
Card. He could use a real family.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Good thinking. You were real
helpful on this case Partner. I'll
be sure to give my recommendation
to the Chief. You would make a
great Detective.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Thank you, that means a lot.

DETECTIVE SAMUEL
Easiest Decision I ever made. See
you around... Yoni.

Detective Samuel gets back inside while Jonathan leaves the
Station's premises.

INT. JONATHAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Jonathan takes out his cellphone and connect it to the
charger. He then walks away and disappears in to the bedroom.

We stay with the phone until it turns on. As soon as it does
it starts BLOWING UP with Messages and Missed Calls.

Jonathan rushes back and checks it. All were from one, Lee
Powell.

Jonathan calls him back:

LEE (V.O.)
Yoni? Where the hell were you, I've
been trying to reach you since last
night.

OFFICER JONATHAN
Sorry Lee, I didn't return home
after the last time we talked,
until now. Never got around to
charging my phone.
(chuckles)
I don't even know how I manage to
keep schedule without it. What was
so important that you needed to
tell me?

LEE (V.O.)
I was just following up on what you
asked me to look in to.

(MORE)

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

But I heard you cracked the case,
already made an arrest. Seems like
you didn't need my help after all.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Nah, I was barking up the wrong
tree in the first place. I really
thought my instincts were right.
Found nothing unusual right?
Nothing in her blood?

LEE (V.O.)

I didn't find anything in her
blood, but if there was ever any,
it would've been gone by now.

OFFICER JONATHAN

Yeah, thought as much. I guess
thank--

LEE (V.O.)

No, That's not it. I did a synopsis
for the whole body and found
something interesting. There were
some bits of fabric under the
victim's lip and bruising on the
wrists.

Jonathan walks over to his kitchen, where he last left the
case files. He opens it and takes out the Crime Scene Photo.

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

I can see how no-one bothered to
look due to the state of the body.
You still there?

OFFICER JONATHAN

(looking closer)
Yes, go on.

LEE (V.O.)

So I examined more and discovered
small red splotches in the eyes due
to visceral congestion and foam in
the airways due to mucus in the
lung mixing with air. Yoni, these
are--

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

--Signs of Asphyxiation.

OFFICER JONATHAN

--Signs of Asphyxiation.

CLOSE UP: on the photo, where Ruth's head lies on the
mattress while a single pillow is on the ground. But no
second one.

CUT TO: Jonathan glancing into Michael's Bedroom during their first encounter and sneaking a peek of his single bed with two pillows. Almost identical, now looking different as ever.

OFFICER JONATHAN (CONT'D)
 He hid it in front of our eyes. And
 I let it slip me.
 (drops the phone)

LEE (V.O.)
 Hello? Hello yoni? Are you there?

Jonathan, Frozen in time, stares into nothing. We can see his eyes moving in desperation. Trying to put everything together

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT OF THE MURDER

RUTH
 Please, say something Michael.

Michael gets up from the bed, still fluffing the pillow. Walks over to the Radio, placed on top of the bedside cabinet, and turns it on. LOUDLY.

RUTH (CONT'D)
 Michael? What are you doing? You
 know my ears are--

MICHAEL
 Do you really think I'm that dumb?

RUTH
 Excuse me?

MICHAEL
 You've been hiding something this
 big for eighteen years and not only
 did you think I wouldn't find out,
 but you actually thought I would
 forgive you?

Ruth would just stare at him, Dumfounded.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 My whole life, Instead of helping
 me, making me part of the family,
 you chose to hide in your room and
 make me feel like an outsider in my
 own house. And now...

(beat)
 Now you ask me for forgiveness
 because what?

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You finally figured out that killing your child and robbing his kin blind is bad?

RUTH

How did you? How could you know?

MICHAEL

You, mama, Listening to all those nonsense rants of yours finally paid off. On the very day you told me about the will, I contacted the Crown Council and gave them a heads up. They were more than helpful.

RUTH

You could have just talked to me?

MICHAEL

Oh, No. The big reveal didn't even hit me until later. All I wanted was for you to lose everything. Maybe they could have a better claim than you. You see, you managed to create pure hatred in this little orphan's heart too.

(beat)

But what do you know, I'm the better claim. Instead of you Just losing everything, I'm gonna take it all.

RUTH

Son, I know how angry you must be, but your brother, your sister, they are not like me. They still have hope.

MICHAEL

There you go again. Totally wrong. These walls have eyes ma, and no-one has any idea how many. You lock a kid into any room all day, every day with no purpose, he will find a way out. And me , I'll find a way, to Everywhere.

(beat)

That's how I know, As we speak, Jeff and Lucy are conspiring to kill you. Have devised a plan and everything, they are just waiting for me to leave.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. CORRIDOR BEHIND THE WALL - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Michael Spies into Lucy and Jeff's Bedroom through the eyes of another leather painting.

MICHAEL'S POV

The Couple are laying on the bed, arms around each other.

LUCY

Do you mean what you said before?

JEFF

What did I say?

LUCY

About me just saying the word?

JEFF

(chuckles)

Absolutely honey. If you wish, I'll take out the president for you.

LUCY

I'm serious baby. You know she's the source of our problem and the key to the solution right?

Jeff would Just look at her unsure.

INT. LUCY AND JEFF'S BEDROOM - DAYS LATER

Jeff and Lucy are on their own Laptops, unaware of Michael's presence inches behind them. Behind the wall.

JEFF

He did it. He finally took the bait. He ordered the Chest's replica from our checklist.

LUCY

(checks it too)

Yeah baby! I told you he can't be looking at that thing every night and not want it for himself. He's bound to try and take sooner or later. Especially if he thinks we're gunning for it next.

JEFF

Do you think he knows what's inside?

LUCY

Who cares? You just wait and see behind their room, until he makes the switch and on that night, you take care of her, hide the blade in his room but not too cleverly. Put the replica in the glass. And done.

JEFF

The cops would think he did it and tried to cover his track with us. As I said, good plan, just like your script. But what if he chickens out, never get to switching them?

LUCY

Then we will do it for him. We'll wait till next week, if he doesn't do it, you deal with her anyway. But this time you will return with the chest and we make the switch when we stash the blade.

JEFF

You know you really scare me sometimes. And I Love It.

He pulls her in, and gives her a kiss.

JEFF (CONT'D)

We're lucky to have found those paths, I though Ruth had them sealed. We would have no chance without them.

LUCY

Not luck honey. God wants that she-devil to stay alive no more than we do.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY AFTER THE MURDER

Lucy and Jeff sit on a bench in the middle of a busy park.

JEFF

How could he know? How?... When?

LUCY

I don't know. But he still put the replica back, so he doesn't know what to do next either.

JEFF

Maybe, it's some kind of warning or blackmail, that he set us up and could talk at any time?

LUCY

No. He can't confess for the same reason that we can't. We both shouldn't know the things we know, unless we were involved somehow. We're on a stalemate here.

JEFF

Yeah, yeah we are. He made us panic and keep the dagger with us. But he still has the Real Chest. And in the process of it all, he made it obvious that he uses the secrete paths too.

LUCY

And I know exactly how to turn it in to a checkmate.

INT. RUTH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT OF THE MURDER

MICHAEL

Yep. All I did is show them a door and my god, they ran through it. Everybody thinks my ego is my problem. Too bad nobody's there to throw that back at them, cause same thing is gonna be their downfall.

RUTH

No. I don't believe that. She wouldn't do this. I know she's angry but... she wouldn't.

MICHAEL

Awww. It almost makes me not wanna kill you just so I can see your face when it happens. Almost.

RUTH

What did you say? Kill me?

He takes a step toward her.

MICHAEL

Of course. I'm not gonna miss the chance of killing you, bringing down your legacy and frame your daughter for everything, all in one night, for anything.

He forcefully presses the pillow he had, over her face. Ruth tries to struggle or scream but it was no help. No sound she makes could be louder than the radio.

She reaches for the dinner Bell above her, but he quickly restrains both of her wrists with one hand, and kept smothering her with the other.

With every last breath she takes, Michael's furious face gets brighter and brighter. Until she finally... STOP.

Michael would then release the pillow and try to make Ruth look as decent and normal as possible.

When done, he snatches the cross off of her neck, walks over to the shelves and picks up the Golden chest.

He would place it on the tray with the Soup Bowls and cover it with the silver cloche.

Lastly, he takes the pillow and put it under his armpit, picks up the tray and walk out through the door.

I/E. MAKONNEN MANOR - FOYER - NIGHT

BANG - BANG - BANG

Officer Jonathan relentlessly slams the front door.

Yafet would finally open.

YAFET

[Are you mad Sir? It's the middle of the night!]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Michael, where is he? Is he here?]

YAFET

[No, I thought you let him go. He's off to the University now.]

OFFICER JONATHAN

[Where was it?... M-I-T right, Cambridge?]

INT. AIRPORT TERMINAL - EARLIER

We start from a CLOSE UP on to a letter, addressed from "Mekelle Institute of Technology - Ethiopia" and back up.

Michael is holding the letter together with Direct Flight Tickets to Addis Ababa, Bole Airport in Ethiopia.

Next to him stands Theodrose Belay, the Crown Council's PI. He thoroughly checks the birth certificate and hands it back to Michael.

MICHAEL

I also have my birth mother's,
grandmother's marriage--

TEDDY

No, no, no. You don't need to
convince me kid. I already know.

(beat)

But you were our anonymous source,
weren't you?

MICHAEL

Does it matter? The important thing
is that I'm one of them now.

TEDDY

Right you are about that. And from
what I learned, I think you would
be the wealthiest of them all.

MICHAEL

It was never about the money. It's
about Justice. Having what's
rightfully mine.

TEDDY

I can already feel it. You're gonna
change the Country kid.

MICHAEL

No. I'M GONNA CHANGE THE WORLD.