

BABY BOY

An Original Screenplay

by

John Singleton

NEW DEAL PRODUCTIONS

From L.A.  
South Central Cinema  
Dealing a New Hand.

8/14/99

We hear a loud HEARTBEAT, followed by the WOMB SONG.  
The SWISHING sounds of EMBRYONIC FLUID.

FADE IN:

We see a HUMAN FETUS, two months of age. A VOICE can be heard as we explore this new life.

JODY (V.O.)

There's this psychologist, a lady named Dr. Francis Crest Welsing, she has a theory about the Black man in America. She says essentially the Black man in this country is a "baby", a not yet fully formed being who has not realized his full potential. To support her claims she offers the following:

MUSIC: "Summer Madness" by KOOL AND THE GANG starts.

INT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

YVETTE, twenty, a fine looking young girl, cursing and doing the sista headroll. She looks startled and runs as JODY, twenty, comes forward with a RAISED FIST. Jody chases Yvette from the living room down a hall and into the bedroom where he pins her down and acts as though he is gonna SOCK her with his fist. As he holds his FIST up we FREEZE FRAME.

JODY (V.O.)

First off, what does a Black man call his woman? ...momma.

EXT. SWEETPEA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody is in a backyard bench pressing some iron weights.

SWEETPEA, twenty-four, thick arms, body by California State Penal System, stands over Jody holding check as he tames the iron. It's a backyard but feels more like a prison rec area.

The men laugh, roll dice, and smoke weed.

JODY (V.O.)

Secondly, what does a Black man call his closest acquaintances, ...His boys.

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Jody comes into the house. Flops down on the couch, lays down, curls up in the FETAL POSITION. We hear the embryonic fluid flowing LOUDLY as we move into him getting comfortable.

JODY (V.O.)

And finally, what does a Black man call his place of residence? ...His crib.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TITLE CARD: BABY BOY Over image of fetus which is SUCKED out of frame.

EXT. THE CLINIC - DAY

Jody stands against a car in front of a building.

JODY, twenty, handsome face, what you'd call a hard pretty nigga, not light skinned, but dark brown with piercing eyes. Eyes that could make almost any woman take her panties off, even if they know he's trouble.

He looks around, waiting. We find he is in front of the CLINIC. He looks up at the sign: THE CLINIC. Big and looming. Jody goes into his pocket. Pulls out a BOX of LEMONHEADS. Drops a few golden nuggets in hand chomps down on them, then he sees YVETTE. She descends the stairs looking very tired. This is compounded by her sight of Jody, who comes running up to her. He puts his arms around her shoulders attempting to console her. Yvette PUSHES him away, Jody walks her to the car.

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - DAY

Jody and Yvette ride along. The music is too loud. Jody turns the radio down.

JODY  
You alright baby?

Yvette nods. Yes. Then she starts SUCKING her THUMB.

JODY (CONT'D)  
You hungry? ...

Thumb in mouth. She nods. No.

INT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Yvette drinks some HOT TEA and takes a bite of a SALTINE CRACKER in the kitchen, then she goes into her bedroom. Jody sits on the couch looking bored. Nothing on TV.

YVETTE'S BEDROOM

Yvette is in the bed on her side. Jody steps into the room. Sits on the edge of the bed. Starts caressing her back.

JODY  
(softly)  
My Vette. Oh my Vette. You going to sleep baby?

Vette nods. Yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY (CONT'D)

You sure you ain't hungry baby? I could go up to Lucy's get you a cheese enchilada and a fat strawberry shake. That'll make ya feel better.

YVETTE

(firm, angry)

I'm fine Jody!

Jody is taken aback by her harsh tone. It almost makes him angry but he knows this isn't the time to be bold.

JODY

(soft, rubbing her back)

You don't need daddy to be here for you? I'm just trying to take care of you lil woman.

YVETTE

(angry)

Seem like you already done that! Leave me alone. Get out my face Jody! (she rolls over, sucks her thumb)

Jody looks. Sighs. Rises to walk away. When his back is turned.

JODY

Well den I guess you don't mind if I use your car for while then huh? Since you going to sleep?

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - DAY

Jody rolls along BUMPING the sounds in Yvette's car. Some KIDS roll up on bikes and ride along the car. Jody throws them the SIGN.

EXT. PEANUT'S HOUSE - BALDWIN HILLS - DAY

Jody pulls up in the driveway with a fury. Zoom. Screechs to a STOP.

He walks up to the porch goes to grab the screen door open then catches himself. Jody looks in the screen door, the TV blaring. The look on his face. Is anybody here?

JODY

Peanut?!!

PEANUT

I'm in the shower!

Jody enters. Looks around for other signs of life.

Then he goes into Peanut's room.

INT. PEANUT'S ROOM - DAY

WHISH!! Jody opens the shower curtain revealing PEANUT, eighteen, light brown, a petite but voluptuous body. Nude.

JODY

I'm hungry! Fix a nigga some food!

PEANUT

Who you think you is coming up in my house making orders?!

JODY

(seductive)

This ain't your house. It's Mrs. Herron's crib. Mmmm. (He puts his arms around her naked body, she loves it) ...Say, I can't fuck on no empty stomach. (He pulls a towel, begins drying her off) So why don't you get in that kitchen and fix a nigga some food to eat so I can break you off a lil somethin?

He finishes drying her off. She smiles. He leaves the room.

PEANUT

You got some weed?

INT. PEANUT'S KITCHEN - DAY

Southern breakfast. HOT LINKS FRYING, EGGS being SCRAMBLED, POTATOES getting CUT then fried with ONIONS, and BISCUITS being BAKED. Peanut siphons off the FAT from the frying pan to a BIG JAR full of GREASE.

LIVING ROOM

Jody sits eating. Peanut plops down next to him with a album.

She is rolling a JOINT. Suddenly, something catches their attention.

THE DRIVEWAY

Where MS. HERRON rolls up in her late model MERCEDES.

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Jody washes his plate in the sink. Straightens himself up. Peanut hides the weed in her room. Jody watches from the kitchen window as Ms. Herron exits the car and goes to the backseat to PULL out a BABYSEAT. Jody sighs and goes outside.

EXT. PEANUT'S HOUSE - DAY

MS. HERRON, late forties, a fox in her younger days, doesn't like Jody. Her SMILE at the baby changes to a SCOWL at his approach.

JODY

Hey Ms. Herron! How my baby doin? Hey baby girl, Hey! How's daddy's lil baby?  
(takes the baby in his arms)

MS. HERRON

Jody what I tell you about parking in my driveway.

JODY

Sorry I'll move it. .

MS. HERRON

If you gonna park it there you gonna have to wash mine before you leave.

JODY

I got it. (to the baby) Say I got it grandma, daddy got all under control.  
Look at my pretty baby! That's one thing I know how to do is make some pretty babies huh?!

INT. PEANUT'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody is down on the living room floor playing with the baby. Ms. Herron watches from kitchen, her eyes stabbing Jody.

JODY

That's my baby! That's my little girl. When you gonna say daddy huh? When you gonna say hey Hi Poppa?! I love you daddy! You wanna go to Disneyland? Really? Daddy wanna go to Disneyland too!

MS. HERRON

What y'all been doing in my kitchen?

JODY

Oh Peanut made breakfast.

PEANUT

(enters)  
You hungry momma?

Ms. Herron just looks at her. Daughter are you crazy?

Jody places the baby on the floor to crawl then steps into Peanut's room.

INT. PEANUT'S ROOM - DAY

Jody enters closes the door. He finds the CHRONIC. Lights it up. Lays on Peanut's bed. Relaxes. Rises to open a window. Cool air enters the room as he enjoys his high. What a life.

INT. PEANUT'S KITCHEN - DAY

Ms. Herron looks at Peanut. Peanut darts a look back to her mother that says "Don't start with me Momma!" Peanut goes over to the baby, picks her up and puts her in the electronic swing. \*Do in one shot - Start with Mrs. Herron whip to Peanut's look then follow her to swing.

INT. PEANUT'S ROOM - DAY

Peanut enters. Jody passes her the joint. She goes to the STEREO TURNS UP the MUSIC then falls on the bed.

...We see Ms. Herron in the kitchen SMOKING a cigarette. She shakes her head. As we hear the music from Peanut's room muffled by the walls.

...Tic..Tic..Tic.. The baby goes back and forth in the SWING. as we CUT TO:

JODY FUCKING PEANUT. She rides on top of him as he sits up cool looking like a "G". Peanut's nails dig into his TATTOOED chest with YVETTE'S NAME on it. He puckers his lips like a KISS and she kisses him then takes a toke of the joint and blows the smoke in his mouth. Jody takes the smoke then smiles.

LATER: Ms. Herron goes to Peanut's room, sees her daughter laying in the bed asleep. Then she strolls into the LIVING ROOM. Looking out the screen door. Sees Jody washing her car. He sees her, nods. Keeps washing.

EXT. DEPT. OF PROBATION - DAY

As Jody walks we see his rhythm CHANGE. As first he is cool and animated then his shoulders start to slump and his walk slows down to a sad shuffle. Then we see where he is headed- DEPT. OF PROBATION.

INT. DEPT. OF PROBATION - DAY

Jody sits on a bench with some other men. All Black and Mexican. As Jody settles in we move past the other felons to his FACE.

We hold on his face for a moment and on the right side of frame his RAP SHEET graphically appears. JOSEPH SUMMERS, his criminal record, aliases NYMPHO aka JOE THE HOE, the fact he has TWO STRIKES, etc.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jody meets with his parole officer. He nods a few "Yes" and "No's". Head almost down like a child being scolded.

"Have you looked for a job this month?"

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody pulls Yvette's car up as something catches his eye.

He looks frustrated then we see him park the car in the front of the house. There is a TRUCK in the driveway blocking his way. Jody gets out of the car walks over to inspect the truck then enters the house.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody enters the living room and looks around. Something is wrong here. He walks a few feet towards the back rooms, hears someone in the bathroom. He thinks, then leaves frame.

EXT. JUANITA'S BACKYARD - DAY

Jody enters the backyard. He sees the whole backyard has been dug up. In a corner of the yard stands Jody's mother JUANITA, thirty-seven, looking more than ten years younger than her real age. They look more like brother and sister than mother and son. Juanita cuts open a bag of fertilizer with a passion.

JODY

What y'all doing to the backyard?

JUANITA

I told you I was starting a garden.

JODY

You been saying that for the longest momma.

JUANITA

Well I must be getting old, cause I'm starting to do all them thangs I seen my momma do. I'm planting collards, mustard greens, (WAVES HER ARMS) All this here? This is gonna be corn. My tomatoes gon be there and I'ma get some nice lace awnings from Home Depot so I can sit here, tune your ass out, and sip my wine when them tomatoes get fat and red. Cabbage here, beans, onions, sage. (she looks around, lost in her vision, then comes back to earth) How's Yvette?

JODY

She be alright. Sleeping.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA

I can't be giving you money everytime you get one of these girls pregnant Jody.

Jody holds his head down. Then he turns and sees MELVIN, a big strong Black man, with a face that says, "Don't fuck with me I've done hard time". Melvin puts on his best Kool-Aid smile as he walks towards Jody.

JUANITA (CONT'D)

This is my friend Melvin. He's helping me with my new garden. Melvin owns a landscaping business. Maybe you can make some money working for him.

MELVIN

Yeah your momma told me you was having problems getting a job. I know how that is ...I had that problem too before I went into business for myself.

Melvin and Jody trade looks, that knowing stare brothers give each other when they've done hard time. Without looking directly at one another they size each other up.

MELVIN (CONT'D)

(smiling like a cobra)

Nita, I'ma carry some of these pots back out to the truck. I'll take 'em back to the nursery later alright?

Jody watches Melvin leave. He looks to his mother then towards where Melvin exited.

JODY

So you gotta new boyfriend now?

JUANITA

Hey, momma gotta have a life too.

EXT. SWEETPEA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody hits the iron hard. He is trying to lift two hundred pounds and having a hard time taming the weight. Standing over, holding check, is SWEETPEA, twenty-four, eighteen inch thick arms, body and brains by California State Penal System. The man is a rock, uniquely endowed with the ability to send fear into the hearts of anybody he meets...with a glance. Sweetpea a is fairly a attractive looking Black man...until he opens his mouth.

SWEETPEA

What you a little bitch now?! Huh nigga?! You done turned bitch?! You

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SWEETPEA (cont'd)  
 can't tame that shit?! You gonna let that  
 iron beat you? You betta tame that shit  
 or I'ma slap you up like you was Kim!!  
 Tame that shit Jody!! Tame it!

Jody struggles.

Sweetpea pulls the weight up and puts it to rest. CLANK!!  
 Jody rises and stretches his chest. Suddenly, BAM!!!  
 Sweetpea slaps him upside the head.

JODY  
 Ow shit! Nigga what's wrong with you?!  
 You act like you still in jail fool!

SWEETPEA  
 You act like a bitch I'ma treat you like one!  
 Pussy ass nigga!!

Sweetpea comes at Jody hard.

He swings, Jody dodges, dances like Ali. Ready to SLAPBOX.

Jody gets a few slaps in as Sweetpea closes his OPEN HANDS  
 into FISTS.

Jody's face changes. "Ohh shit" He opens his hands wanting to  
 keep a benign slap boxing match from becoming dangerous.

Sweetpea ain't having it. WHOOSH!! He throws a PUNCH which  
 Jody barely dodges then swings around and grabs Sweetpea  
 around the neck.

Sweetpea swings Jody around the backyard, much to the  
 amusement of the other brothers hanging out.

FROM INSIDE, A YOUNG WOMAN watches the action.

Sweetpea flies into the air and lands on the grass with a  
 THUD crushing Jody underneath him. Jody lays there for a  
 while on the soft green. Sweetpea walks around casually  
 enjoying his triumph. Jody slowly rises to his feet.

Suddenly, he is grabbed by Sweetpea again. Sweetpea holds a  
 MASSIVE ARM around Jody's neck and shouts out to all present.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)  
 (smiling)  
 I love this nigga!!!

A few minutes later. Jody and Sweetpea sit for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)

I gotta make some money dog. Kim's momma ain't gonna let a nigga stay here unless I bring some cheese to the hole, know whatumsayin?

JODY

Who you telling? Yvette's so hot on me right now, we had to go the clinic this morning and kill another baby. Need to go to the Car Wash get it cleaned maybe sell some weed.

Then Sweetpea's girlfriend KIM, comes out of the house into the backyard. Kim is nineteen, sweet and fine, as brown and nice as they come. She is Sweetpea's prize for being a GHETTO ALPHA MALE.

KIM

Hey Jody, you got some bud?

JODY

Yeah Kim. You got some money?

SWEETPEA

(smiling)

You gonna make my baby pay?! I should knock your ass out.

JODY

I'll make you pay too!

KIM

Naw I'm broke.

JODY

I'll hook you up Kim, but you gotta promise to give me your friend Alize's number.

SWEETPEA

Alize? Who that?

JODY

This lil trick dance up at First King. Alize like me don't she Kim? She feeling me huh? She gonna let me spread that seed?!

Kim nods. They all laugh. Kim walks back towards the house Sweetpea's eyes trained on her.

Sweetpea is in his own world. He looks at Kim's exit, her ass, the shape of her body moving away then as we follow Kim towards the house we notice some other guys watching her too. Sweetpea catches their gaze then they look away. Too late.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sweetpea gets up walks over to the crap game, pulls the last nigga that looked up and hits him hard with a BIG FIST to the FACE. POW!! HIS JAW CRACKS! Teeth go flying on the ground. The nigga falls at Jody's feet, his face full of blood. Jody sighs. Sweetpea starts to STOMP the shit out of him.

SWEETPEA

(stomping)

Whatchoo looking at?!! Nigga!! (turns)  
Ya'll niggas get outta my backyard!!

DO DIRTY

Aw Pea! Man why you gotta do that to the homey?!

POW! Sweetpea bitch slaps Do Dirty.

SWEETPEA

You tell these fools to respect me and mine!!  
Niggas come up in here disrespecting my woman in my house! I'll bitch slap all y'all! Get out my backyard! Leave them dice! No nigga don't throw 'em against the wall! Put 'em in my hand!

Jody hides his face...Damn.

A scared BROTHER walks up to Sweetpea and puts the dice in his hand. He holds his head down afraid to get slapped. Sweetpea receives the dice and lets him go.

Do Dirty helps the brother up, leads him out to the front.

FROM INSIDE, Kim watches. She shakes her head.

INT. CRENSHAW CAR WASH - DAY

Jody and Sweetpea stand around while Yvette's car is washed in background. Jody makes a smoker gesture to a man. The man shakes his head. He doesn't want to buy anything.

JODY

(frustrated)

I can't sell no trees up here dog, too many weed mans up here.

Jody points out several individuals who are obviously selling weed or on the lookout for customers for something they have to sell. They stop people, make gestures but nobody is buying.

SWEETPEA

How's mom's doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

She cool. I think she got a new  
boyfriend. Some old thug nigga, I know  
she gonna wanna kick me out. He gonna  
wanna lay up in our house and move my  
ass out.  
Ain't that the way it go?

Sweetpea nods.

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - CRENSHAW - DAY

Jody drives, Sweetpea rides along. They cruise up Crenshaw.  
See some young girls walking up the street in flip-flops.

JODY

(electronic sound)

Do.do.do.do!  
My radar is just going off today!!!

SWEETPEA

Man why don't you just on and move in  
with that girl?

JODY

What?!! I can't do that dog. I stay there  
one day too long she start getting on me  
about the rent, the phone bill, the car  
payment! Where I'm going? Can I watch the  
baby? Can I eat her coochie and not fuck? I  
love the girl but damn! I kick it over there  
one, two nights extra she think she can just  
run me! Cause it's her place, she pay the  
bills, like I'm gon do what she say. I can't  
live like that having no woman tell me what  
to do! I'ma man! You feel me dog?

Some girls pull up along side them. They do SIGN LANGUAGE.  
Jody makes a gesture with his mouth and fingers to prod them  
into buying some weed. They say they ain't got no money.  
Jody waves them away.

INT. CRENSHAW MALL - DAY

Jody and Sweetpea walk in the mall looking at girls. Jody does  
the talking, Sweetpea the looking. Jody tries to sell some weed.  
No luck. We hear a phone conversation over these images.

SHARIKA (V.O.)

Why you still messing with him anyway?  
Y'all forever up in the clinic.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE (V.O.)

It ain't Jody fault. It take two. I shouldn't stopped taking my pills.

SHARIKA (V.O.)

There you go blaming yourself again. How many times I got to hear you calling on the phone crying about his ass? You need to cut his ass loose even if y'all got a baby together. That don't mean he own you.

We see Jody in action. Acting a fool in the mall. Talking to a girl, rubbing his chest under his shirt. We hear the sound of a LION roar as he postures for the ladies. Some security guards walk over towards he and Sweetpea and they move along. Jody tucks his shirt in as he walks onward.

INT. YVETTE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Yvette sits on her couch talking on the phone.

YVETTE

Jody make threats but he don't put his hands on me, no matter how mad he get. You one to talk, how long you been with Chris? Three years? And how many times he done gone upside your head and put his foot in yo ass?! How your eye feel, girl?

SHARIKA, twenty, not fine but pretty. She wears a BLACK EYE PATCH. We intercut between her and Yvette's place. CHRIS, Sharika's boyfriend, sits in b.g. watching television.

SHARIKA

It's alright. At least we living together! Jody just wanna play around with your life, string you along at his convenience. He probably staying with his other baby's momma when he ain't with you.

YVETTE

He don't love her no more.

SHARIKA

(sarcastic)

But he love you though huh? You need to check him. What he say 'bout y'all getting a place together?

YVETTE

Jody don't wanna live with me. He wanna live with his momma. Jody, my Jody, my  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE (cont'd)  
 baby's a mommas boy. He ain't ever gonna  
 leave his momma:

SHARIKA  
 Let him fuck his momma den:  
 Let her go to the clinic. (laughs)

YVETTE  
 (laughs)  
 You wrong girl!

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - NIGHT

Yvette lays on the couch watching Cartoon Network.

Joe-Joe sits playing in b.g. Jody arrives. He plops down on  
 the couch holds Yvette. Kisses her. Looks at the television  
 then they hear a noise.

JODY  
 What this boy doing up this late?  
 Joe-Joe go to bed!

Joe-Joe starts crying.

JODY (CONT'D)  
 Quit your crying boy!

Jody takes Joe-Joe into a room and tucks him in bed, kisses him.

Jody reenters the living room, Yvette cuddles into his arms.  
 They sit there and watch the Discovery Channel. There are LIONS  
 on the program hunting then mating. As the big cats on screen  
 begin to fuck Jody starts kissing Yvette's face, then rubbing  
 her breasts, then he gets ontop of her. They get hot and heavy  
 and it looks like they will do the nasty.

JODY (CONT'D)  
 Thats me. King of the Jungle.

YVETTE  
 Baby you know we can't do nothin.

JODY  
 I just want some sugar. Just gimme some sugar.

YVETTE  
 Yeah right. We gotta wait, I need to heal.  
 I could get infected.

Jody sighs. Thinks. Looks at Yvette with those eyes then down  
 to his crotch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE (CONT'D)

Uh uh ..I ain't doing that...you can't even do me right now. Just hold me.

Jody makes a frown lays down. He opens his pants to stroke his own shit.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

Why you always doing that? Just hold me, give me some affection. You always trying to pull your dick out. Give it a rest.

Jody nods. He pulls her head to his chest. Yvette cuddles next to him, puts her thumb in her mouth. They get comfortable. She closes her eyes After a few moments Jody closes his.

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER:JODY:Opens his eyes, looks sees Yvette asleep. He gets up. Looks around, turns off the TV. He picks her up and carries her into her bedroom. Puts her in bed. Gives her a kiss. She attempts to pull him towards her but he relents. Yvette turns over and goes to sleep.

THE LIVING ROOM

Jody pulls out a BAG OF WEED and some LEMONHEADS and puts it on the counter. Takes Vette's car keys. There are two key chains linked together- one says "JODY", the other says "YVETTE"

EXT. JUANITA'S HOME - NIGHT

Jody pulls up in the EMPTY DRIVEWAY.

INT. JUANITA'S HOME - NIGHT

JODY'S ROOM

Jody enters his 'world'. The walls of his room are a MONTAGE of things that interest him. The wall over his bed is a huge picture of TUPAC, on the other walls we see THE SEXY COLT 45 GIRL, LOW RIDER MAGAZINE GIRLS, a BIG PICTURE OF TYRA BANKS in a bikini, and a movie poster of Chow Yun Fat in the Killer. Next to his bed there is a LARGE FISH TANK with two OSCARS swimming. The fish glide past looking mean. O.G. Fish. We also see a shelf perfectly organized with several small model cars, all LOW RIDERS. Trucks, Impalas, Sport cars, small detailed models. Below this is a desk where we can see Jody is working on another model. Above the fish tank a LOW RIDER bike hangs.

Jody in his underwear at his desk working on a model LOW RIDER.

He adds small parts with precision. DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jody's face. Sleeping. Several images fall past his face in a VORKAPICH MONTAGE. Pictures of Jody's brief life. Sweetpea shooting guns, Jody running from the police, jumping a fence, Jody's deceased brother RAY-RAY in shadow who says, "Where you going Baby Boy?" A group of guys doing the cripwalk dance. Jody in a fight, Jody in prison behind bars, a guy getting stomped to death, A flash past a BOX OF LEMONHEADS then, Jody making love to Yvette then Peanut, then Yvette again. Playing with babies, then another gunshot and he imagines his death, Yvette in black crying, Juanita in black crying. A flash of a FISH then, Jody FULL GROWN AND NUDE, underwater curled up, the fluid around him all RED. A fetus in the womb. Yvette crying holding her FAT PREGNANT BELLY over Jody's grave, then...

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sweetpea and Kim are in bed. A siren is heard in the distance and Sweetpea rises up to attention and stands against the wall at attention. Kim looks at him. His eyes are closed but he talks to himself.

SWEETPEA

245364 here! 245364 here! What?! Give me a cigarette! What? What nigga?! What?! You better back the fuck up!  
This Crip nigga! Yeah! Open your ass up with this steel I see!

BRRING!!!! Jody wakes with a startled look. He grabs the phone.

INT. YVETTE'S HOUSE - DAY

Yvette is getting dressed. She's on the phone with Jody. She picks up the WEED BAG and BOX OF LEMONHEADS.

YVETTE

Uh...can I have my car to get to work?

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - DAY

Jody drops Yvette to her job at THE PHONE COMPANY.

YVETTE

Please be on time today?

JODY

I'm always on time.

YVETTE

Uh huh, don't keep me waitin.

They kiss.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GROUP OF WOMEN  
Awww!!!! That's so sweet!!!

Jody and Yvette look up and see a group of women walking into work smiling at them. They clap like an audience. Jody and Yvette smile.

YVETTE  
(she looks in the backseat)  
Bye Joe-Joe!

Little Joe-Joe kisses his mommy goodbye. Yvette leaves.

JODY  
C'mon lil man get up front.

Joe-Joe crawls up front.

JODY (CONT'D)  
Let me put your seatbelt on, little baller, future shot caller. That good?  
(Joe-Joe nods) Gimme kiss. (He gives him a kiss) Lets roll.

Jody rides along cruising in Yvette's car. He bops his head to the music playing on the radio. Then he looks over to his right sees ...

Joe-Joe is bopping along right with him. He smiles at his young son. The little boy smiles back.

They zoom up Crenshaw.

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

We see a REMOTE CONTROL LOW RIDER move forward turn, dip low in the back and up in the front.

Jody sits out on his porch. Commanding the model with a control. Joe-Joe keeps running towards the model wanting to pick it up. Jody waves him away. It's clear this is Jody's toy.

JODY  
Naw Joe-Joe, stand back. Watch this lil man. You can't play with that. It's for big kids! Just watch daddy! Look! See? See car?! See car dip?! Say dip.

JOE-JOE  
Dip.

Jody dips the front.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY  
Say "drop."

JOE-JOE  
Drop.

Jody drops the back. Then we hear some BOOMING music and they look up.

Coming up the street a BOMB ASS GOLD OLDSMOBILE with gold rims, the CAR stops in front of Jody's house and the bottom lifts up on hydraulics then tilts over. This is a real LOW RIDER.

Inside the driver's seat sits 'TONIO, twenty-six, Mexican, handsome but formidable looking. He grins at Jody.

TONIO  
What choo playing with that toy for man?

Jody smiles. He rises up, picks up his car puts it in the house.

Tonio drives his truck down the street two houses.

Jody exits the house motions for Joe-Joe to follow.

JODY  
C'mon lil man.

EXT. TONIO'S HOUSE - DAY

Tonio hops out of his truck. 'TONIO is six foot two and built like a rock. He's an old school barrio roller. Gives Jody a shake.

TONIO  
What's up Lil Joe?  
(to Joe-Joe)  
Hey Mijo! Hey Joe-Joe! What you doing home at this hour? You ain't got no job yet? You need to get a job nigga 'fore your ass end up back in Twin Towers.

JODY  
I'm waiting for your ass to give me some work. You need to let me work at that garage. You know I know my way 'round a engine.

TONIO  
Jody you ain't trying to be no mechanic. I can't afford to pay nobody else but myself no way. And you know you owe me forty dollars? Your boy got knocked out in the fifth. He was dancing when he shoulda been punching so give me my  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TONIO (cont'd)  
 money. (HE THROWS A FEW PUNCHES,  
 PLAYFULLY)

JODY  
 I ain't got it right now. What you doing  
 home now? No business today?

TONIO  
 I'm on my lunch hour. You ever heard of  
 that? Lunch hour? That's for niggas who  
 got jobs! Naw you don't know nothing  
 about that. Do you?

JODY  
 Why you trying to be funny?

They enter the house.

INT. JUANITA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

We follow Juanita through the house. She is listening to  
 something through earphones. She strolls and stops every few  
 feet saying phrases like she is testifying in church.

JUANITA  
 I am the master of my destiny, I am the  
 captain of my soul!! Yes!!!

She walks into the kitchen continues fixing dinner. Jody sits  
 there reading LOW RIDER MAGAZINE. Juanita continues listening  
 to her tape and shouting out her POSITIVE MENTAL MANTRAS.  
 Jody looks at her out the corner of his eye.

JUANITA (CONT'D)  
 Failure is the way of the person who  
 dreams but does not act. Success is the  
 way of one who acts and persists!

Jody looks up at his momma.

CLOSE:JUANITA'S FACE: Jody comes up close, pulls her  
 earphones from the side of her ear.

JODY  
 What you listening to momma?

JUANITA  
 I'm doing my mantras.

JODY  
 What's a mantra?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA

It's like a saying, a prayer. If you repeat the mantra over and over at different times in the day it goes from what's called your active mind to your natural state of being.

JODY

And what that gon do?

JUANITA

Make me better.

JODY

Uh huh.

(he goes back to his magazine)

JUANITA

You don't believe me?

JODY

(waving her off)

Yeah I hear you.

JUANITA

You ain't listening to me boy. This the real deal right here you need to get up on this. Stand up, stand up right now.

Jody reluctantly stands for his mother.

JUANITA (CONT'D)

Look at yourself, how many millionaires you got on? How many millionaires you done helped? I count about four. (smells him) And you smell good to so that's five right there.

JODY

So what you saying?

JUANITA

How you think all them folks became millionaires Jody? ...Some of the richest white folks made billions and ain't finished elementary school. You know how they did it?

Jody nods.

JUANITA (CONT'D)

They all learned the art of sales. They all salesmen Jody. They all got somethin to sell that you think you need and will go out your way to buy. You hear me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY

I hear you momma. Where you hear this from?

JUANITA

My boyfriend Melvin.

JODY

(rolls his eyes)

Oh that nigga. What he know? I know all about that..I'm a salesman too. Been there, done that.

JUANITA

I ain't talking about weed. Ain't no future in that... You got learn the difference between Guns and Butter baby! I'm talking about you learning something....a skill that will help you sell anything to anybody, anytime, anywhere, and anyplace. ...Wouldn't that make you happy Jody? Learn the art of sales? To make some money on your own? Get up out from under your momma's wing? So you don't have to ask me for no money? Make your own?

Jody nods.

JUANITA (CONT'D)

See there you been sold already.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Juanita gets ready in her bathroom. Jody enters.

JUANITA

(spins around)

How do I look?

JODY

Alright. Where y'all going?

JUANITA

I don't know I'm just going. He asked and I'm going!

JODY

Momma why you steppin out with this man and you don't know where he takin you?! How you know to wear that dress then if you don't know where y'all going?

JUANITA

This a all-purpose dress. I'm prepared for anythang. He like music so we probably going go listen to some music.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

You know where he live? Been to his house yet?

Juanita ignores Jody.

JODY (CONT'D)

What you know bout this man besides him smiling in your face? He could be crazy or somethin. Is he a killer like Henry? (she cuts him a look) Why can't you just get a L7 boyfriend, some square ass, white collar brother with one a them briefcases? You like them thugs momma! I don't know why.

JUANITA

Ya daddy was a thug! I need a man that can handle a woman like me!

JODY

Why he gotta be a thug though? He gotta be a thug for that?

JUANITA

Melvin's not a thug, he's a nice guy. ...I'm going out! That's all I know, that's all I need to know! I got a date!

We follow Jody through the house and into the living area where Melvin stands looking at pictures on the wall. The history of the family. Jody checks him out. Melvin's hair is permed now. Pimp style. Very ghetto but cool.

JODY

Hey man! Them some nice shoes. Where y'all going? Dancing?

MELVIN

I'm take her over to La Louisanne check out some music. My partner plays in the band there.

JODY

Oh that's good. That's real good, my momma like to dance. I just wanted to know where y'all was going cause I just met you and I didn't want to have to chaperone y'all old folks tonight.

Melvin is looking at the pictures. Jody comes closer.

JODY (CONT'D)

That's my brother Ray. He used to live here too. Before my momma kicked him out over her last boyfriend.... He dead now,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY (CONT'D)

my brother I mean. So where you live at  
man. Where you from?

MELVIN

(turns)

I live in Inglewood. I grew up over on  
101st and Vermont. The Hoovers.

He lets that hang in the air for a moment. There is tension  
in the air. These two men, one young, the other older, both  
from the streets. Melvin is a O.G. for sure.

MELVIN (CONT'D)

Yeah that was a long time ago. I was young  
and dumb... (he looks at Jody).

Jody nods. Melvin smiles. Jody smiles back. They  
hate each other for sure.

Juanita enters.

JUANITA

What you doing Jody? You messing with my date?

JODY

Naw I'm just keeping him company. Playing  
the host. I'm hosting. Ain't nobody like  
sitting up here waiting alone. Why can't a  
woman be ready when you get there? They  
always late!

Melvin chuckles under his breath. They start walking out the  
door. Jody follows.

JODY (CONT'D)

Alright now! Y'all have a good time.  
Momma you remember your curfew! You need  
some money? (Juanita looks at him) Bring  
me back a Fatburger if y'all can. You be  
careful with my momma man! Alright?!

EXT. LIQUOR BANK - DAY

Its Sunday on Crenshaw Blvd. Several souped up LOW RIDER cars  
driveby with chrome rims and wild trimmings. Jody sits on  
Yvette's car watching. Sweetpea comes out the Liquor Bank with  
some drink,

JUANITA (V.O.)

To change you gonna have to start inside,  
from within, you gotta totally remake  
your nature. Change your habits. Look  
around you and be aware of the patterns

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA (V.O.) (cont'd)  
 you make for yourself and build new  
 patterns, new roads to a better life.

We move into JODY'S FACE and into his EYES.

The CAKE MAN, a black man wearing a fez hat carrying a basket of saran wrapped slices of cake comes up to the two men.

JODY  
 Cake-Man! What's up?!

CAKE-MAN  
 Survival and the rise of the Black man! I  
 know ya'll gonna get some o this here  
 cake today. Fresh from my momma's oven  
 and as sweet as her soul. I got Lemon  
 cake, 7-up cake, Sock It To Me cake, and  
 mouth watering Louisiana pound cake.  
 What's it gonna be today brothers?

SWEETPEA  
 I want some of that Lousianna pound cake.

Jody and Sweetpea watch as several men walk past attempting to sell them everything from PILLOWS, TO CD'S AND BOOTLEG VIDEOS TO SUNGLASSES AND CONTACT LENSES. Sweetpea watches with indifference but Jody's curiosity increases with every SALESMAN that walks by. At the end of the MONTAGE OF SELLERS a FINE ASS GIRL comes up to show her ass then Jody and Sweetpea wave her away and she walks into the store. Everything is for sale.

JODY  
 (stammers)  
 Today I begin a new life. For I am the  
 master of my abilities and today is going  
 to be a great and beautiful day.

SWEETPEA  
 What?

JODY  
 I said ...  
 (firmly)  
 Today I begin a new life. For I am the  
 master of my abilities and today is going  
 to be a great and beautiful day.

JODY (cont'd)  
 Pea you a buyer or a seller?

SWEETPEA.  
 What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY

Look at yourself. How many millionaires you wearing? (He counts) three at least.

SWEETPEA

What the fuck you talkin 'bout?

JODY

Pea! Look around! What you see? You see what I see? I see money! Look at my man selling T-shirts, brother selling pies and papers, Cake-Man over there. Everybody movin making money while we standing still being broke. I got this shit all figured out now. All this, this whole world moves forward through transactions. Commerce nigga! The exchange of goods and services. All the ballin successful folks are sellers, and all the punk ass people playing catchup is buvers! I ain't trying to go out like that. I'ma be a seller. I'm get me a business.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JUANITA

Clothes?! You wanna sell clothes?

Juanita sits with her heavy set friend PATRICE. They are playing backgammon.

PATRICE

Oh you tryin be a booster, huh?

(to Juanita)

Like that man used to come up to the phone company and sell them dresses remember him Nita? What women's clothes? Or men's clothes Jody?

JODY

Women's clothes.

JUANITA

(back to her game)

That's a good business, women buy clothes every other day. Oh you gonna have know somethin about women you gonna do that kind of work Jody.

JODY

(confident)

I know all about women.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PATRICE

Oooh you hear this boy? You bad lil boy Jody!

JUANITA

You trying be a salesman or a shyster? You know the difference? ...A shyster sells you something and after you buy it you feel like you got took. You buy something from a good salesman and you feel lucky. A good salesman makes you feel so good you bought something that they come back to you again. To give you more money! You hear me?

PATRICE

That sound like sex. (They laugh)

JODY

What else I need to know?

JUANITA

Sizes. You gotta know a woman's size on sight, before she even tell you. In fact, she shouldn't have to tell you her size. You gotta just know.

PATRICE

And you gotta complement 'em even if they big and ugly!

JUANITA

Especially if they big and ugly, them the ones that'll be your regular customers! (They laugh) ...You gotta remember they favorite color. You got know what's in season. Fabrics and all, how it feels on the skin.

Jody walks across the room.

JODY

What's the average size of a woman?

JUANITA

Well I'm a size eight. That's average.

They look over at Patrice who's eating Doritos chips and salsa.

PATRICE

Average for who? A white girl? Jody baby I'm size sixteen that's average too. Remember that and you'll make more money.  
(She eats more Doritos)

Jody takes notes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JUANITA

Now the best time for you to do this is  
on payday ...

INT. RACHEL'S BEAUTY SHOP - DAY

Friday. The beauty shop is filled with women either getting  
their hair done or waiting for an appointment.

EXT. RACHEL'S BEAUTY SHOP - DAY

Jody walks to the front. Looks at the sign RACHEL'S. He  
enters.

INT. RACHEL'S BEAUTY SHOP - DAY

Jody enters looks at all the fine women. Nods. Asks the  
receptionist.

JODY

Good afternoon, may I speak with Rachel?  
The owner?

RECEPTIONIST

Last booth on the right.

Jody walks to the back.

RACHEL, is a slightly heavysset woman in her early forties.  
She has long nails and a cute face. On sight it is obvious  
this is Rachel's shop.

JODY

(cool)

Rachel? (She nods) My name is Joseph  
Summers, my friends call me Jody.

RACHEL

You wanna be my friend?

JODY

Very much so. I was wondering if I could have  
your permission to speak with a few of your  
customers and show them my merchandise. I  
didn't want to come in here and talk to anybody  
without your blessing miss.

RACHEL

(smiles)

What you selling?

Jody reenters with a GARMENT BAG. He lays the merchandise out  
on the couch. There are several SUMMER DRESSES, TANK TOPS,

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PANTSUITS, JEANS. The women start to take notice, some even look up from getting their hair done.

Jody picks up a dress. Puts it up next to a YOUNG WOMAN.

JODY

See now, look at that, now that's your color isn't it, you a earthtone woman ain't you? See how good that feels next to your skin? (new girl) Don't that feel good? (She nods) That's a polyester blend, that means you can wash this, pop it in the dryer throw it on and go! (new girl) This dress is working for you baby! It's all purpose style, it's an all purpose dress! You know what that means? You can wear this to work and go straight to happy hour! (new girl, new dress) This dress says happy hour all over it! I'll tell you what. This is one of a kind you ain't gonna see nobody else with this dress! Believe me..take it from me I'll tell you tha truth. I ain't gone lie to ya.

YOUNG WOMAN

(1st girl now)  
How much it cost?

JODY ...

(thinks)  
I'll let it go for forty dollars.

ANOTHER WOMAN

(defiant)  
How much?

JODY

Thirty five dollars. That's all I can do for you. I can't go no further. You hurting me already. I hope you feel good. You feel good about hurting me like this baby?

She opens her purse gives him the money. THREE TIMES, THREE WOMEN go into their purses.

Jody sells most of his merchandise. His garment bag is EMPTY. Jody stands there counts his money.

The pretty receptionist looks at Jody.

RECEPTIONIST

You got any clothes for my little girl?  
Baby clothes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY

(smiles)

Give me your phone number and I'll have something for you.

EXT. RACHEL'S BEAUTY SALON - DAY

Jody exits Rachels. He looks in his garment bag. It's empty and he folds it up neatly. Smiles.

Music begins: "Jody's Got Your Girl and Gone" by Johnnie Taylor.

He walks out to Yvette's car.

MONTAGE:Over music: We see Jody at work as a BOOSTER.

DOWNTOWN L.A.: Jody's in an alley. We see several Mexican workers loading women's clothes off a truck. Jody watches as the supervisor leaves the scene then he casually looks over the clothes. Nice dresses. He takes out a roll of stickers HAPPY FACES. Jody carefully selects the merchandise. He places stickers on the merchandise he wants.

Later, TWO MEXICANS bring Jody the merchandise. He puts it in the trunk of Yvette's car. Jody pays the Mexicans, picks up a RED DRESS inspects it.

CUT TO:

Yvette trying out the RED DRESS. Jody approves. Then he looks over at little Joe-Joe who has a whole new set of clothes. Joe-Joe is decked out in sharp expensive children's clothes. Then Jody stands back from his son and we see they are dressed in MATCHING OUTFITS. He leads the two of them out to the car and shows them..YVETTE'S CAR with new DAYTON RIMS and TINTED WINDOWS. Yvette smiles.

Jody pulls out a stack of baby's dresses. He takes a look at them in front of his little girl. Peanut looks on proud. She sees an outfit she likes. A TANK TOP. Peanut holds it up to her chest. Jody nods "No" can't have it. He takes the TANK TOP back.

The RECEPTIONIST from Rachel's is wearing the TANK TOP and some new jeans. Then we see her little baby girl who has on new clothes. She passes Jody some money. Jody smiles counts the money. She picks the baby up puts her in a PLAYPEN. Then she reenters the room takes her top off as she walks towards Jody. Jody fucks the receptionist.

INT. JODY'S ROOM - DAY

Jody lays on the bed in his room. It is morning. In background we hear Jermaine Jackson "Daddy's Home".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He rises, stretches. Jody in his UNDERWEAR walk into the kitchen. Stops dead in his tracks. He sees Melvin standing there in HIS underwear scrambling some eggs. Melvin motions to Jody. "Want some breakfast?" Jody ignores him and goes to the refrigerator. Pours some Kool-Aid. Nothing comes out. Jody looks over sees Melvin has a tall glass near him that he reaches over and takes a cool drink. Jody just turns, walks back into his room. \*\*Maybe reveal in WIDE shot that they are both in underwear. Just show their torsos til last shot.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

JUANITA'S BEDROOM

Jody enters and sees a BIG NEW WIDESCREEN TELEVISION. He turns to the doorway and then the TV, how did they get this in here?

Jody sits down to watch the television. He flips through channels amazed at the sight and sound. We see the light on his face then ...

MELVIN

It's nice huh? State of the art.

Jody looks up, Melvin's in the doorway. Note:in this scene neither man looks at the other. Both just look at the TV as they speak.

JODY

Yeah this is the bomb. My momma didn't tell me she was getting a new TV.

MELVIN

She didn't know. It was a surprise.

JODY

Oh yeah I gotta hook up the VCR and set the timer, she gone wanna see Young and the Restless and Oprah when she get home.  
(he rises

MELVIN

I hooked it up and set it already.

Jody sits back. He holds the remote control uneasy. Nods.

MELVIN (CONT'D)

Pass me the remote. Let me show you how it works.

Jody reluctantly passes the remote control. We see his face as he realizes this is Melvin's T.V. The niggas' moved in now.

MELVIN (CONT'D)

I got this bad boy from my man for free.  
You know much this is worth if you bought  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELVIN (CONT'D)

it from one of them expensive ass  
electronic stores?

JODY

Cost a grip.

MELVIN

Got that right. You know but that's how we  
black folks are. We live by the barter  
system. You know about the barter system?  
That's in our ancestry. See when we didn't  
have money we used trade for things. So my  
man gives me this TV cause I put in work  
for him back in the day. Shot a few niggas,  
cut some folks up, all some dumb shit. Yeah  
I was like you young, dumb, out of control.  
I did a dime, ten years straight ...San  
Quentin, Folsom! Yeah I was dumb, but you?  
You smarter than I was at your age man. I  
gotta give that to you, You smart lil man.  
You ain't no killer like me! That's good! I  
was bad, didn't have my head straight,  
Yeah....well look here boss, I'ma tell you  
on the real Jody, me and your momma gettin  
real serious and it look like I'ma be  
around for a while so, I ain't tryin to be  
your daddy but if you need some advice  
y'know feel free to talk to me. Cause I  
done it all and I done seen it to the full!  
You may think you seeing some new shit out  
here but it ain't nuthin but a rerun to me.  
Know what sayin?

Melvin rises leaves. Jody sits there for a moment.

EXT/INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

We see Melvin walk out to his truck. Pull back to reveal Jody  
is watching Melvin leave. Jody walks away from the window and  
into the kitchen where Juanita sits smoking a cigarette.

JODY

Momma! This nigga living here now?! Why you  
got him living up in here?!

JUANITA

What I'm not supposed to have a life?!

JODY

You got a life!

JUANITA

Them days of not having a life is all over.  
I ain't like big momma. I got to have me

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY (CONT'D)

(a beat)

You wanna see me dead?!! Like Ray-Ray?!  
You want two dead kids?!! That the way  
you want it to be like?!

JUANITA

Shut up Jody!!! Shut the fuck up!!  
(she starts crying)

You blaming me for Ray-Ray?! It's not my  
fault!! It's not my fault!!

JODY

(sensitive)

I'm sorry Momma I'm not blaming you.  
C'mere! I'm sorry!

He HUGS his mother.

JUANITA

Don't you want me to be happy?

JODY

Yeah, I want you to be happy momma.  
But I...letting the man live here, move in  
with his TV and his old ass records! This  
how it started with Henry. And you know how  
hard it was to get his ass up outta here.

JUANITA

Well I'm happy. I love Melvin. And I'm  
not trying to kick you out. But I gotta  
have a life too! You know? You go around  
with these little girls doing your thing,  
I got needs too, I need my fun-fun too! I  
get lonely! Wanna do my thing.

JODY

(covering his ears)

I don't wanna hear this! I don't wanna hear  
this! I gotta go. I'm sorry momma. I love  
you.

He walks outside sees Sweetpea on the porch. They walk  
out to Yvette's car.

SWEETPEA

Momma gotta have a life too.

JODY

Shut up nigga.

EXT. KENNETH HAHN PARK - DAY

Jody plays with Joe-Joe in the SANDBOX while Yvette watches from the grass. Jody SLIDES DOWN the slide with his son. They play in the SWINGS. Jody pushes his son, then the little boy tries to push Jody. Then Jody goes across the monkey bars with Joe-Joe watching. Joe-Joe loses interest and walks away. Jody hangs there for a moment feeling stupid. Then he drops down.

Jody walks over to Yvette. Nearby lil Peanut crawls on the blanket. Yvette is playing with the baby feeding her potato salad. Jody eats some chicken.

YVETTE

She's such a pretty lil baby. How you get such a cute baby with an ugly girl like that?

JODY

Hey don't start with me.

YVETTE

She so pretty. I don't need to have a daughter she could be my little girl when we get married. You think her momma mind if she lived with us?

JODY

I don't know. Why don't you ask her?

Jody looks off towards the playground. He sees lil Joe-Joe ambling around playing in the sand.

YVETTE

You still fucking that girl? I know you ain't got me up here taking care of her baby while you still fucking Peanut?

JODY

Naw, why you ask me something stupid like that? That girl don't want nothing to do with me. Her momma hate me.

YVETTE

My momma hate your ass too! Did you tell that bitch you wanted her to have your baby when you was doin it to her? Like you did with me?

Jody waves her off.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

(mocking Jody's fucking voice)

Oooh baby...I want you to have my baby! Let's make a baby! Oooh looka you girl! You so pretty!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE (CONT'D)

I know you can make some pretty babies can't you? C'mon we gonna make a baby!

JODY

That was just game. I didn't know your ass was gonna believe me. I used to say that shit alla time.

He sees Joe-Joe pick up some sand throw it at another little boy. Jody rises runs to the sandbox.

YVETTE

What you mean alla time?! To who?!

JODY

(back to her)  
To everybody.

THE SANDBOX

Little Joe-Joe attempts to climb into a swing.

There are three other swings empty. Jody helps his son into the swing and begins PUSHING.

Then another LITTLE BOY climbs into a SWING

LITTLE BOY

(polite)  
Can you push me?

Jody smiles and takes his other hand pushing the TWO BOYS at the same time. Then another LITTLE BOY takes the third swing and looks up at Jody.

LITTLE BOY#2

Push me!

Jody complies and begins pushing all THREE BOYS, then another takes the fourth swing and soon Jody is going back and forth PUSHING all the boys as we INTERCUT their different faces looking at him commanding to be PUSHED,

LITTLE BOY#1

Push me!!

LIL JOE

Push me daddy!!!

ALL THE BOYS

Push me!

Then Jody gets frustrated and walks away from all the children and the swings altogether. His son runs after him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jody takes his son's hand and walks then he notices...

A fine ass GHETTO STALLION of a woman past him Gives him the eye.

JODY'S EYES, He looks around towards Yvette, she is holding the baby, then she places the baby in the carseat and opens a book. Jody looks around sees several FINE ASS BABY MOMMAS. Beautiful young girls in the park. All of them have small children, from INFANTS to TODDLERS. A couple of females look at him with interest. HE IS THE ONLY BABY DADDY IN THE PARK. We see these young mothers playing with their mostly MALE CHILDREN. They are PLAYING FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, and FRISBEE with their young sons. The irony of this doesn't fall on Jody..he is looking at their bodies. He looks over at Yvette who is now looking at him squarely."Don't even try." Jody turns his eyes away and walks Joe-Joe over to the blanket.

JODY

I shoulda brought some clothes coulda  
made some money!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

THE BACKYARD

Juanita waters the garden with lil Joe-Joe. Peanut comes by to pick up lil Nut. She picks up her baby.

We see the garden is GROWING. Juanita looks satisfied with herself.

PEANUT

It's growing huh?

JUANITA

Yeah.

PEANUT

Where Jody at?

Juanita shrugs her shoulders. "I don't know."

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - DAY

Music: "I Never Knew Love Like this Before." by Stephanie Mills.

YVETTE'S CAR KEYS: We see her collection of keys with the NAME TAGS. One says "Jody" the other "Yvette."

RACK FOCUS: From close on keys to Jody walking into room wearing his UNDERWEAR. He looks at the keys then back towards Yvette's room. He leaves

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jody, fully DRESSED now, comes back in and casually sweeps his hand over the counter bringing up an empty hand. Startled he looks over at the CLEAN COUNTER. No keys. Jody turns looks around for the keys then turns to see ...

Yvette standing there holding the KEYS in hand playfully.

Jody slyly walks towards her as she strolls towards him in almost a dance between birds. They pass each other and Yvette turns her back to him. He brings her close to him smiles, kisses her on her neck. With his hand he goes for the keys she pulls her hand away switching the keys in hand. Then she pulls away. Now Jody stands there smiling then his expression changes.

JODY

Give me them keys girl!!

YVETTE

(rollin her head)

No it's Saturday! You said we was gonna go to the beach! If you ain't taking me to the beach you ain't going nowhere! Who you goin ta pick up in my car? Sweetpea? Or get some bitch?!

Then she runs away in the bedroom as Jody chases her, he grabs and holds her down. He raises his fist. \*This is the scene we saw on the first page.

JODY

(joking)

You don't want me to have to sock you now! Give me them keys.

YVETTE

You ain't gonna do shit!

Jody wrestles with Yvette on the bed then he takes his hand and licks his index finger and reaches down and puts it between her legs.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

No, no, no don't do that.

Yvette's face reacts as Jody sticks his finger inside her.

Jody brings his finger up and Yvette tries to grab it, wipe it off. Jody brings it to his face, sniffs his finger with each nostril like cocaine.

JODY

(sniffs)

That's my stuff!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He tickles her and the keys fall out of her hand and onto the floor. Jody dives off the bed for the keys. He rises to run away grabbed by Yvette but Jody shrugs her off runs out the door closes the bedroom door after him.

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jody runs down the stairs chased by Yvette. She almost falls down the stairs trying to catch up to him. Jody clicks the alarm and closes the drivers side door just as Yvette runs up.

YVETTE

You said you was taking me to the beach!!

JODY

I gotta take care of some business!!

Jody pulls the car out and Yvette jumps on the hood.

JODY (CONT'D)

(smiling)

Get off the car!! You a fool! I'll be back later!

He sniffs each nostril with his finger. Smiles.

YVETTE

(laughing)

Take me to Venice Beach!!

Jody drives a few feet. Lurching forward. Then he drives fast and stops quick. Yvette goes flying off the hood and on the street.

JODY

Oh shit Yvette!!

He jumps out.

JODY (CONT'D)

(he helps her up)

Baby?! You alright?! You alright I'm sorry! You alright?

YVETTE

Yes I'm fine.

JODY

You didn't scratch yourself? Let me see your legs!

YVETTE

No. No scratches. I'm fine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

(firm)

Alright then go in the house!  
 (he walks back towards the car)  
 You shouldn't be playing like that. You  
 coulda hurt yourself!

He zooms away. Yvette look at him drive off. She is pissed.  
 Walks back towards the apartment.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

We see Yvette walking down the street holding Joe-Joe's hand.  
 Then she stoops down to pick him up. We follow her walking down  
 the street with her baby in tow as we hear a conversation.

YVETTE (V.O.)

Why don't you tell your son something  
 before I have to hurt his ass?

JUANITA (V.O.)

Ah ah..ah..I aint in it! I aint in it!

YVETTE (V.O.)

But why he do the things he do Juanita? Tell me!  
 If anybody know you do? I don't know what I'am  
 do about him. I love him but damn! How much can  
 a bitch take?

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Juanita sits smoking a cigarette.

JUANITA

I told you before Yvette. I ain't trying  
 to be in y'all business. Whats between  
 you and Jody is you and Jody. I can't  
 tell you nothing about my son.

Melvin walks into the room and out to his truck.

YVETTE

Then what am I supposed to do with his  
 selfish ass then? He got me out here walking  
 while he rolling in my car! The car I'm  
 paying the note on! I feel so stupid!

JUANITA

You ain't stupid baby, you just in love with a man.  
 (sits back)  
 ...They all aint worth a damn! The way I  
 look at it relationships are all a battle  
 for self esteem. You know you gonna take  
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA (cont'd)  
a lotta shit to be with a man especially  
if you love him.

Cause if you love the nigga then you  
really got a problem. If you love a nigga  
then you gotta accept you may end up with  
more hell than heaven. Theres gonna be  
way more lows than highs.

Juanita takes a puff of her Kools.

JUANITA (CONT'D)  
When you in love with a man he can make you feel  
high ..so high you be in outer space. But a man  
can also make your ass feel low. Real low. And  
he can keep you there, keep you down. ...If you  
let him. Don't worry about feeling used Yvette,  
that's temporary thing cause everybody get used.  
Men get used by women, woman by men. You gotta  
face the fact you gonna get used.. but if you  
feel so used that you ain't got nothing left. If  
the man aint giving you nothing back that you  
need to get the energy to love him when he being  
a bastard. Then you gotta let it go. If you  
ain't got nothing to give you yourself, or your  
baby, how you gonna have it to give to him?

Yvette takes this in.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JUANITA'S BEDROOM

Juanita is putting rollers in Melvin's head. Fixing his perm.  
Melvin sits in his underwear flipping channels with the  
remote, Juanita in her nightgown.

JUANITA  
So you never went to the Total Experience  
when that was going on?

MELVIN  
Naw we used to go to the Carolina West.  
and the Hobart.

JUANITA  
The Hobart?! (she laughs) Oh I couldn't  
go to that Hole in The Wall...I'm glad we  
didn't meet then

MELVIN  
Yeah you wouldn't wanted to meet me then.  
I was on a whole nother page. (he gets up)  
We used work out all day lifting weights,  
get all yoked up roll up to Sportsman's  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELVIN (cont'd)

Park in Ragtops, jump out the 64 walk in the park look at all them L7s! They see us, and run out the park, leaving they women there! We roll up on them girls they be all scared, too scared to run and we take off our shirts get up close on 'em, turn on the music on...and start dancing wit 'em!  
(he starts dancing in his drawls)

Juanita laughs.

Melvin jumps back on the bed. They start to kiss. They get romantic and begin to make love.

INT. JODY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Start on the FISH TANK buzzing as we TRAVEL OVERHEAD to Jody laying on his bed. He can't sleep. We hears his momma getting tossed by Melvin. Jody turns over a few times then just rises and walks through the house. We travel with him as he goes to Juanita's bedroom door. More sex noise. Jody pauses then he knocks on the door.

JODY

Can y'all keep it down in there?! People out here trying to sleep!

Jody leaves frame back to his bed.

INT. JODY'S ROOM - DAY

The room is full of merchandise. There are women's outfits, dresses, skirts, tank tops, and rows of shoes, dress and causal and stacks of baby clothes. Jody sits counting out his money.

JODY

She said she wanted baby clothes I went over there, layed out my merchandise, stuff for her little girl, spit my game at her, and then she was like ..impressed! Broke her off, made her feel good now I got me a regular customer. That's the difference between a salesman and a shyster. Shyster make 'em feel bad, take the money, steal the pussy, don't call back no more. I make 'em feel good, make 'em wanna give me more all the way 'round. That's one thing about being in business for yourself dog, you can be a little man but you really a big man cause you working for yourself.

Melvin walks into the kitchen which is down the hall from Jody's room. He glances down the hall at Jody and Sweetpea. Then he walks off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY (CONT'D)

What that he lookin at? Callin himself  
try to cyke me out by saying he a killer  
and all. Old school nigga! He don't want  
us to put nothin on his ass! Do he Pea?!

SWEETPEA

You want me to take him out?!

DOWN THE HALL: Behind the wall

We see Melvin is listening. His back to the wall.

JODY (O.S.)

Naw let that nigga breathe! He make my momma  
unhappy we'll make his ass bleed! On the real!  
Make him feel the steel! Long as she happy he got  
his life, won't be no strife! And I hope hear me  
too! Ya hear me?!

MELVIN (V.O.)

I hear you!

Jody freezes for a moment then goes back to his inventory.  
Melvin appears in the hallway.

MELVIN (CONT'D)

I see you got youself a lil business  
going on thats good. When you start  
making some money you gotta learn some  
rules. (Jody and Sweetpea look at him)  
You gotta learn the difference between  
Guns and Butter. Theres two kinds of  
niggas in the world those with the "guns"  
and those with the "butter". What are  
guns? Guns are real estate, stock and  
bonds, artwork, things that appreciate in  
value. Whats "butter"? Cars, clothes,  
jewelry, all that other bullshit that  
don't mean shit after you buy it. Guns  
and Butter thats all its about. (he  
leaves)

Jody and Sweetpea look at each other.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

THE LIVING ROOM

Where Melvin plays poker with his three friends. They are SNEED,  
ROGER, and WINSTON. The older men are loud and having fun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELVIN

I do this one house up there. Long lawn, this old lady got roses man, two long ass rows of roses man. She used to have this Japanese man come take care of 'em. She say she nervous about letting me do 'em. I know she nervous cause I'm so Black and she so yellow. one of them old Creole ladies from the Bayou. I got in there fed that soil fixed her sprinkler system so she can just turn one valve and the whole yard get wet. Now she don't even want me to leave. I cut that lawn every week. See that's old appreciation, them old folks know about looking out for one another cause back in the day that's what they had to do. Right now I go up to one of them houses in Baldwin Hills, View Park or Ladera, I bid for some that yard work. What they gone do? You think they gonna open the door for my ass? Hell naw!

SNEED

Not your Black ass!

MELVIN

They open it for a Mexican though! I shit you not!

WINSTON

Mexicans 'bout to take California back!  
White folks mad 'bout that shit!

MELVIN

Hell yeah they gonna take California back with the niggas helping them! I can't see how them rich niggas gonna pay a Mexican before they own people! I can't see that!

SNEED

Cause they some smart niggas. They see Mexicans willing to work. When the last time you seen a homeless Mexican? You ain't never gonna see no homeless Mexican. Mexican get out there sell oranges or peanuts, push one of them heavy ass carts in the hot sun. Nigga wanta make a sign and hold out a cup bug muthafucka dollar...or rob somebody.

MELVIN

And Mexicans ain't robbing nobody?! Man these muthafuckas taking over everything! This block? Juanita say ten years back this was all Black. Now we the only Black

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MELVIN (cont'd)  
folks on the block! They take all my work  
and I gotta live next to 'em too?

Jody and Sweetpea exit the room and walk into the living room. They look at the other men for a moment. Then walk out into the front yard and out to Yvette's car.

SNEED  
He looks younger than you said.

MELVIN  
No he old. Old enough to be on his own! Shit I couldn't be hanging around my momma's house, soon as I got eighteen I had to go! This boy don't know how good he got it. I remember one time my momma locked me out the house. She locked me out the house on more than one occasion. I had to sleep on the street, where ever I could. They put me out! I wasn't wanted at all!

WINSTON  
I still live with my momma.  
(they look at him)  
She want me to help her out. She gettin old.

EXT. TRAK AUTO - DAY

Jody and Sweetpea walk down the aisles. Jody is buying BRAKE PADS.

SWEETPEA  
What if I steal some shit for ya?!

JODY  
Naw that gonna ain't work. That ain't gone work at all.

SWEETPEA  
Why not? You know I know how to steal.

JODY  
Pea, you ain't no thief! And besides you wouldn't even know what to steal! I go that route I'ma get some girls to snatch stuff for me not no big ass nigga. What you gonna do stand in Contempos looking at dresses and snatch a whole rack? Police be laughing at your ass while they chasing you.

SWEETPEA  
Well you got to put me down, that's all I know, you put a nigga down or I'ma fuck you up! I'm tired of standing around taking these little odd jobs cleaning up streets, paintin walls and shit. You know they

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SWEETPEA (cont'd)

wouldn't even hire me over at Lucky Mart? Cause I got a robbery conviction. I try to get a security card to be a guard? They wouldn't even let me take the course! I told that white boy that niggas like me need to do security cause I know what to look for! I been there! I could protect somethin good! Ain't nobody gone help a nigga out so you gotta put me down. I'll be your assistant. A helper or somethin.

JODY

I don't need no employees. I'm barely making this shit work myself. I don't need no more overhead. Anyway you ain't no salesman Pea! You ain't got the skill to sell.

SWEETPEA

You ain't neither! Your ass is a hustler! Now you a salesman all sudden! I remember when you was just selling trees! Dresses! You usedta be tha weedman now you the dressman! You fuckin half them hoes buying shit from you anyway.

Sweetpea grabs Jody up by the neck.

JODY

What you doing?

SWEETPEA

I'm broke Jody!! My girl and her momma looking at me sideways cause I don't have nothing to contribute! I don't wanna have to go rob nobody! You got love for a nigga? Help my ass dog!!

He lets Jody go. Jody holds his neck. Slightly sore. Smiles at the other customers. Pays for the brake shoes.

EXT. 'TONIO'S GARAGE - DAY

Jody and Sweetpea go to 'Tonio garage. There are couple Mexicans hanging out. Marvin Gaye's "I Want You" blasts as Jody strolls up. Jody walks up does a lil crisp walk, side, back, front and forth. He does a little dance past several LOW RIDERS.

JODY

What y'all know 'bout this?! Y'all don't know nothin 'bout Marvin?! Hey! Whew!! That's my shit!!

'TONIO

Lil Joe!! Where my forty dollars?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

I got your forty dollars, nigga here your forty dollars! (he holds the money out then pulls it back) I gotta use your tools 'doe, I need to put these brake pads on this car!

'TONIO

Who that? Sweetpea?! What's up?!  
(he gives him a pound shake)  
Damn I ain't seen you since ...

SWEETPEA

Did two years.

'TONIO

I heard. Why you still driving that bitch ass car Jody?

JODY

Hey don't be talking 'bout my hoop puta!

INT. 'TONIO'S GARAGE - DAY

Jody is under Yvette's car fixing the brakes.

'TONIO

Who's '85 Chevy is that your driveway?

JODY

Why? You wanna steal it? It's my momma's boyfriends. I don't like his ass! And you know he don't like y'all! He be talking foul 'bout Mexicans all the time dog. Y'all should jack his ass. Take that truck!

Jody pokes out from under the car. 'Tonio's two sons BETO and LUIS come rolling up on their bikes.

'TONIO

How many kids you got now lil Joe? Two? Three?

JODY

Just two.

'TONIO

And you ain't married yet? What's with that lil girl you used to be sittin up on the porch with alla time?

OLD FOOTAGE; Jody and Yvette; younger sitting on porch.

JODY

Who Vette? That's my son's momma. We still together.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

'TONIO

Why don't you just go on and marry her?

JODY

Aw man I ain't ready to get down like that. She don't know how to act anyway. This her car right here I'm fixin. I mean I try but you'know sistas they be tryin to control a nigga. All the hoes I know, all the women, my girl, my momma included be trying to tell me what they think I should do with my life when they ain't got they own shit straight.

'TONIO

Keep her ass in line. Go upside her head a few times then use that sweet talk. That's what I do.

JODY

That may work with them rucas dog but shit ...these sistas ....they ain't gonna stand for that. They'll call the police on my ass. If she don't kill me first. That bitch will stab me if go there on her. I need to go upside her head but I love her too much.

'TONIO

See then that ain't gonna work out. Cause y'all both fightin for control, but you the man so you gotta be in control. Man gotta be man, woman gotta be woman. See you need to put fear in a woman. If she don't fear you she won't respect you. If she don't think you will kill her then she won't love you all the way. See my wife? She follow my word, my line cause she know I'll kill her ass if she don't! But she also know I love her ass deep! To the core! (He shows his tattoo on his arm, Angela drawn full body) And I'ma protect her and my children from anything in this world that would do them wrong. ...See man, my family ain't scared of nothin in this world ....except me .. and they know I'm looking out for them.

Jody thinks about this.

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - NIGHT

She is on the phone with Sharika. The whole place looks like a mess.

SHARIKA (V.O.)

What's up sucka?! You know you a sucka  
right? You know you playing yourself?  
He got you locked in your own place  
all weekend?

SHARIKA'S PLACE

Where she's on the phone. Her boyfriend Chris sits in the b.g.  
watching T.V..

SHARIKA (CONT'D)

Girl you want me to come get you? We can go to  
Venice! I want me one of them churros.

BACK TO YVETTE

YVETTE

Naw I'ma stay here. I gotta clean up get  
ready for the week. (the phone clicks)  
Hold on girl.

MESSAGE

"This is a collect call from a California  
Correctional Facility. Will you accept?"

YVETTE

Yes.

On "Yes" we cut to RODNEY, twenty-nine, rough handsome face, in jail.

RODNEY

Hey Vette! What's up baby?!

YVETTE

Hey Rodney!

RODNEY

So you know I'm about to be outta here?

YVETTE

I know.

RODNEY

I'ma come stay wit choo when I get out  
alright?! I wanna come home to you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE

Rodney, I told you can't stay here, my baby's father ain't having that.

RODNEY

Who Jody? Fuck Jody! You mine anyway! You was mine before him and you mine now! Tell him that! From me! No, I'll tell 'em when I get there!!

YVETTE

I'm on the other line Rodney!

RODNEY

Hey. I'ma call you when I get out. Alright boo?!

YVETTE

Yeah Rodney. (click) Sharika?

SHARIKA

Who was that?

YVETTE

Rodney's ass! He wanna stay here when he get out.

SHARIKA

So? Let 'em. You ain't got nobody there now.

YVETTE

Yeah but Jody...that's my boo.

Jody rolls in the door.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

Here my booba right here now.

JODY

Who you talking to?

YVETTE

Sharika.

JODY

Sharika freaka?!

(takes the phone)

Hey Sharika! What's up? We trying to save on our phone bill so ..Later! (Click, he hangs up)

YVETTE

Jody! Why you hang up on her?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY

Call her ass later! You need to clean up all this shit right now. Why you got it all messy?

YVETTE

Why you care? You don't live here!

JODY

I wonder why?! Look at this!

YVETTE

Don't be coming up here complaining when you left me in the house all weekend!

JODY

Why you always wanna do something? Why can't you just sit still somewhere and concentrate? Relax. You don't have to always go nowhere! See? That's why we so divided now as a people, cause we don't have focus. You need to sit down and just focus. Watch some PBS or something

YVETTE

You fulla shit Jody! You selfish! Where you been since yesterday?

JODY

I been selling! Makin money. I fixed them brakes on the car that's what I been doing!

YVETTE

You been fucking around?

JODY

No!

YVETTE

Let me smell your dick!

JODY

(pauses)

You don't need to smell my dick.

YVETTE

If you ain't been hoeing around let me smell your dick. I can tell.

JODY

Whatever! (he walks away)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Yvette follows. She pulls Jody to her, opens his pants, bends down sniffs.

JODY (CONT'D)

See?! My shit smells good don't it?

YVETTE

See what? You probably washed it. I'm tired of you hoeing around on me Jody. I know you and Sweetpea was out doing me and Kim wrong last night.

JODY

I wasn't doing nothing!

YVETTE

You gonna stand there with a straight face and say ya'll didn't do nothin last night?

Move into Jody's face.....

JODY

No. I didn't do nothin last night. But play spades over at Kim's with Pea.

YVETTE

You a bald face lie! You went to that afterhours spot offa Crenshaw!

We show what Yvette says. Jody in the afterhours club enjoying himself. Flashing lights, ass shakin, titties in his face. We see a man in the corner across the room looking at him. It's CHRIS, Sharika's boyfriend.

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

You was all up on some nasty yella heifer who was shakin her ass in your face! Then you went up to one of them private rooms with that nasty bitch and did I don't know what with her! I know cause Chris was there! Sharika's Chris! He saw you!

BACK TO SCENE. Yvette is hopping mad now. Jody is cold busted. He plays it off. His face calm.

JODY

Alright I was there but I didn't fuck! I swear I didn't fuck. We just went up to the room and she dance for me a lil bit! A private dance.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

YVETTE

Did you touch her?

PRIVATE ROOM

We see the girl dancing with her ass in Jody's lap. His hands are over her ass. She turns opens his pants and swallows him whole. Jody's face lights up with bliss.

JODY (V.O.)

Hell naw I didn't touch that nasty girl! You can't touch them anyway! That's against the rules! Tellin you the truth, she just danced for me... I didn't do nothin else.

BACK TO SCENE

Yvette looks at Jody. Jody makes the most sincere face you've ever seen in your life. Yvette decides whether or not to believe him.

JODY (CONT'D)

You don't believe me. I'm telling you I didn't fuck that girl! She just danced for me.

YVETTE

(pauses)

You must take me for some kind of fool! You foul Jody! Why you gotta be around them nasty girls? You know they do that every night? You know how many dicks they suck every night? And you gonna go up there with all the rest of them like a fool. You better not bring me no shit back from one of them nasty bitches!

Jody's face changes.

JODY

Well fuck it then, don't believe me!! I told you I didn't fuck. That's the truth.  
(he leaves)

YVETTE

Where you going?

JODY

I'm going home. Clean all this shit up.

YVETTE

You ain't leavin me here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JODY

Hell yeah I am! I'll go get Joe-Joe from your mommas and bring him back in the morning! You gotta clean up anyway! It's a pigsty! No wonder a nigga don't wanna live here. I ain't trying to live in no junkyard! Its like Sanford and Son in this bitch!

Jody walks out on the stairs starts down. His words sting Yvette. She follows him.

YVETTE

Fuck you! I hate you!! You're selfish!! You're arrogant!! And so stupid!!

JODY

(waving her off)  
Yeah!! Yeah!!

YVETTE

I don't need you to live here! I'm tired of sittin up not having a man next to me when I want! Being lonely! I'ma do what I wanna do!

The Mexican lady who lives next door watches the drama from her window.

JODY

(turns angry)  
You gonna do what?! What you gonna do?!

YVETTE

I said I'm tired of waiting for your ass! I hate you! I'm have me a man who wanna be with me and my baby! And have a family! A real man not no little boy who wanna live with his momma!

JODY

Fuck you Vette! Kiss my ass! Go on and be a lil trick if that's what you want!! I should knock you the fuck out! (she drops back scared)

He starts down the stairs. She follows.

YVETTE

You better not hit nobody cause I'll call your probation officer and they'll put your Black ass back in jail!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

Jody keeps walking. Not listening.

YVETTE (CONT'D)  
I hate you! You so stupid!

JODY  
(turns)  
Oh you hate me huh?! Keep saying that shit!

YVETTE  
Yeah that's right I hate you! I can't stand you!! You make me sick!! You act like a lil boy instead of a grown man!! I hate you!!

JODY  
(turns)  
Well you know what? I hate your ass too!!

This sets Yvette off. She runs downstairs grabs at Jody.

YVETTE  
Give me the keys to my car!@!

Jody turns ready to sock her in the face instead he pushes her back and raises his fist. People are watching from across the street, up in the apartment windows. etc.

They curse back and forth. They say the most awful things they can think up as we push into their faces. Ugly, angry, mean, nasty.....

INT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Yvette falls into the sheets. Jody is on top of her. They are FUCKING each others brains out.

YVETTE  
Oh Baby Boy!! Oh Baby Boy!! Yes, oh Jody!  
I love you!!

JODY  
I love you too baby!! I ain't going nowhere!  
I love your ass baby!! I love you too deep!

We see Yvette's face she has tears in her eyes. It's that good.

JODY (CONT'D)  
You feel 'em baby? You feel 'em? How he feel?

YVETTE  
I feel him baby. I feel him!! Him feel big!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY  
You feel Daddy Dick?!!

YVETTE  
I feel Daddy Dick!!!

JODY  
You love Daddy Dick?

YVETTE  
I love Daddy Dick!!!

JODY  
(pumping)  
You gonna do like I say?!! You gonna go in there  
and clean up all that mess?

YVETTE  
I'ma clean up! I'ma clean up!!  
(she sucks her thumb,  
swooning.)

JODY  
You gonna make me some tacos?

YVETTE  
I'll make the tacos!! I'll make the  
tacos!! (she screams)

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Mexican lady next is coming home. She hears Yvette screaming  
inside. "I'll make the tacos baby!!!"

BACK TO SCENE

They both climax.

Jody rolls over holds Yvette in his arms. Music plays.

JODY  
Oooh I made your ass sing ...Woooo! Ahhh!!  
Like Mary J. Blige. Why I gotta make you go  
Ahhh! to get you to stop trippin? I know  
you don't hate me now, do you?

YVETTE  
Jody. When, I say I hate you I really mean  
to say I love you..but you make me scared  
boo...like we not gonna be together.

JODY  
Shushhh!!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE

I'm serious. Sometimes you make me so mad  
I don't ever want to see your face. Then  
I turn the corner and I think about what  
I'd do without you and I...

JODY

Shushhh!! You ain't going nowhere!

DISSOLVE TO:

Jody and Yvette sleeping side by side locked together.

MONTAGE: Over music. Rolls Royce "Wishing On A Star"

Yvette rises from a sleeping Jody's arms and enters the  
DIRTY LIVING ROOM. She begins to clean up.

Jody wakes up, walks into CLEAN LIVING ROOM.  
Plops down on couch. Yvette is in the KITCHEN  
cooking.

Jody walks into kitchen sees Yvette making TACOS.  
He kisses her neck then starts grating the cheese.

They eat. Jody pouring on the HOT SAUCE.

Then play SPADES together. They drink a THUG PASSION mix,  
Alize and Hennessy mixed together.

Jody and Yvette DRUNK in living room. They play fight then  
Jody says "Assume the position." Yvette rises bends over doggy  
style and they make love again, then they lay naked on the  
couch watching television wrapped in each other bodies.

YVETTE'S FACE: The morning light on her face, the wind blows  
her hair, she turns...Jody's driving her to work, she looks  
in the back lil Joe-Joe is there. Yvette looks out the window  
again smiles. It's Monday morning. She's happy.

INT. SWEETPEA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody pulls up to Kim's place. He hops out the car pauses he  
can hear Sweetpea and Kim even from the street.

SWEETPEA

Y'all don't want me here?!! Why don't  
y'all kick me out den?!!

KIM

Shut up Sweetpea!! Ain't nobody said  
nothing 'bout kicking you out!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SWEETPEA

Well y'all what you call it? Sin-sinuating it!! Insinuating, acting like y'all want me gone! Fuck it! I can leave!

KIM

You need to shut up!!

SWEETPEA

No you need to shut up!!

KIM

You the one talkin all loud!!

Jody walks up to the screen door.

SWEETPEA

You call yourself talking back to me! You don't know how to act towards your man! Don't give me no backtalk I'll put my foot so far up your lil...C'mon in here Jody-Joe!!

Jody goes in the house reluctantly. He sees Sweetpea sitting on the floor playing Madden Football on the Nintendo 64.

JODY

What's up Baby Boy? How you feelin dog?

SWEETPEA

I'm in a house fulla women dog!! A house fulla sensitive ass females! Dealing with they damn hormones!! Y'all some unstable creatures!! I ain't gonna say the B-word! I'ma say unstable creature! That's my new word for y'all!

INSIDE THE KITCHEN

MS. DANIELS, Kim's momma, sits snapping green beans. She rises to curse Sweetpea out. Kim stops her mother, drinks a glass of water.

KIM

Don't say nothing momma. Say anything it'll just be worse. He bout to leave anyway.

BACK TO LIVING ROOM

SWEETPEA

Man I'm up here trying to concentrate and they just won't let a nigga be. You want something to drink Jody-Joe?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY

Naw I'm not thirsty.

SWEETPEA

Man why you tryin to be all shy? My house is your house. Mi casa es su casa! We got KoolAid, water, milk, some strawberry soda. I'll get you some strawberry soda.

Sweetpea rises walks into the kitchen. The tension is so thick you could cut it with a knife. Kim looks at Sweetpea then her mother. Sweetpea looks at Ms. Daniels then Kim. Ms Daniels has a KNIFE in her hand. She cuts a look at Sweetpea that stops him cold. He goes humble.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry Ms. Daniels! I'm so sorry I love you. I love you and Kim! In fact, I think I love you more then Kim cause without you she wouldn't even be here! You said y'all love me! Y'all told me I could stay here, bought me all these new clothes, and the videogame! I thought we had a family? That's all I want! I ain't got no family! I'm trying to make that happen here!! Understand me?!!

Jody sits in the living room.

JODY

Pea!! Pea!

SWEETPEA

What Jody?!

JODY

C'mere dog!!

SWEETPEA

Naw I'm having a conversation with my family here!! (he turns back to the two women) I love y'all. Both of y'all!

Sweetpea walks towards Jody with the bottle of strawberry soda. He drinks from the bottle passes it to Jody. "Hit that!"

JODY

C'mon dog, I need you to roll with me.

SWEETPEA

Alright den! I'm leavin ...temporarily! I'll be back so we can finish this discussion at a later point!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sweetpea walks out Jody follows. Kim comes out the kitchen acknowledges Jody with a smile. Jody nods.

EXT. KIM'S PLACE - DAY

Jody and Sweetpea walk back to Yvette's car.

SWEETPEA

Where we going Jody-Joe? Lets go get some liquor! Strippers ain't at work yet!

JODY

Naw man you don't need no liquor. You too fired up already.

SWEETPEA

Fired up?! Who you callin' fired up nigga?! You responsible for all that shit them females in there puttin me through! You ain't fount me no job!! You ain't put me down in your business! Sharing with your brother! Being your brothers keeper! It's your fault too! When you gonna put me down?!!

JODY

Why I gotta find you a job?!

SWEETPEA

Cause you my man!

Jody sighs.

POP! Jody opens the trunk. We are looking up towards him and Sweetpea. Jody motions towards the trunk.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)

So...?

JODY

Alright, I'ma give you a mission. I'ma give you one piece of merchandise. You go sell it and we can talk.

SWEETPEA

Sell one thing?

JODY

Yeah, one thing. What you want here? I got shoes, dresses, baby clothes. Take your pick.

SWEETPEA

I'll sell one of these dresses.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He goes to pick out one of the dresses.

JODY

No take this one.

SWEETPEA

Nigga I know what I wanna sell!

INT. CRENSHAW BLVD - WELFARE LINE - DAY

Jody pulls Yvette's car to the curb and Sweetpea gets out near the WELFARE LINE. Several people are in line waiting for their checks. He holds the dress out and goes down the line "You wanna buy this dress?" he repeats over and over with no passion. Sweetpea's not much of a salesman.

INT. RACHEL'S BEAUTY SHOP - DAY

Jody makes his rounds. He's in the beauty shop selling clothes. he holds a dress up to a woman body. She smiles. He takes her hand touch the fabric. The woman pulls out some money hands it over to Jody.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Sweetpea is having less luck. He stands there on the street with the dress in hand. Looking out of place. A woman walks past him he gives it his one last try.

SWEETPEA

Say ...say hey take a look at this dress here. You wanna buy it?

WOMAN

Not my color.

SWEETPEA

Naw I think this'll look good on you. See. Stand still, stand right here. (he holds it up next to her) See that look good.

WOMAN

I don't wanna buy nothin. Besides that don't even look in season.

SWEETPEA

Naw it's in season. They wearing this in Paris. I saw Tyra Banks wearing this in a magazine and you finer than her.

WOMAN

Well what material is it made of? She touches the dress.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SWEETPEA

(frustrated)

Godamn! Why you gotta be all technical? You wanna buy this dress or not?! You treating me like one of these fools asking for change! I'm trying to do something constructive with my life! I could be out here knocking folks over but I'm just trying to live right and sell you this here merchandise!

WOMAN

You call that living right? By selling a stolen dress?

SWEETPEA

I ain't stole nothing in my life! I got it from my friend he does this all the time.

WOMAN

That's what y'all do? Boosters? Sell stolen stuff? Like that man over there tried to sell me that camera?

Sweetpea looks down the street sees a man going back and forth from person to person trying to sell a camera.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

You really wanna do something right young man I think you should find another line of work. I don't buy stolen goods.

She walks away from Sweetpea and to her car. He stands there feeling stupid. He throws the dress down on the pavement. Walks down the street. The man with the camera picks it up Sweetpea comes back for the dress takes it from him.

EXT. PHONE COMPANY - EARLY EVENING

Yvette walks out of her job. She looks around for Jody. She sees him in the parking lot. There are SEVERAL WOMEN standing around him. Jody sells to her co-workers.

PANDORA

I like that blouse right there.

JODY ...

Here. (He puts it up to her chest) Yeah that look good on you. Where y'all going tonight? I know y'all going out cause y'all just got paid. Y'all going to happy hour at the Acapulco? I'll be up there with y'all in a minute.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The girls laugh and smile. Jody turns sees Yvette. She looks at him and goes gets into the passenger side of her car.

Jody finishes his business closes the trunk gets a few phone numbers puts them in his pocket computer. Jumps into car.

JODY

Boy I just made eighty dollars.

As they zoom off Pandora whispers to her co-worker.

PANDORA

(smiling)

I'ma get me a piece of that.

YVETTE

I don't think I like you sellin to my co-workers. I don't want them knowing my business.

JODY

You probably be tellin them all your personal stuff. I know why you so insecure. You probably told one of them girls I do it to you good. Don't worry I ain't thinking about none of them females. I'm just trying to make us some money.

YVETTE

I don't want them to be getting all comfortable around you. One of them might try to fuck you to spite me. Some of them don't like me. Why you have to get their phone numbers anyway. And why say you gonna meet them for happy hour at the Acapulco?

JODY

I ain't gonna meet nobody nowhere! It's all game, part of being a salesman. I gotta make them feel good about theyselves so I flirt with my clients little bit. That's all.

YVETTE

You fuck your clients too?

JODY

What you think?

Yvette looks at him. She knows he does.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY (CONT'D)

No I don't fuck my clients Yvette.  
This is just business. How you can you  
fix your mouth to tell me who I can  
and can't sell to?!

YVETTE

I'ma tell you now Jody. And I mean it. If I find out  
you fucked one those girls at my job!

JODY

You threatening me? I know you ain't  
threatening me?

YVETTE

I'm just tellin you ..don't! I'm tired of  
you cheatin on me..if you gonna cheat you  
might as well do it with bitches I don't  
know..just don't go there Jody...that's all  
I gotta say..I don't know what I'll do.

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - EVENING

The phone rings.

Yvette goes for it. Jody picks it up.

JODY

You got a problem with me answering the  
phone alla sudden?

PHONE

This is a collect call from a California  
Correctional Facility. Do you accept the  
charges?

JODY

Hell naw! (CLICK) Who is that calling you  
from jail? That nigga Rodney?

YVETTE

He just want somebody to talk to.

JODY

That why you needed a hundred dollars for the  
phone bill last month? I'm paying for you to talk  
to him?! You puttin my money on his books too? I  
thought I told you to put a block on the phone?  
You don't be listening to me that's why we got the  
problems we got now.

The phone rings again. Yvette goes for it Jody grabs it first

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PHONE

This is a collect call from a California Correctional Facility. Do you accept the charges?

JODY

Yes I accept....

RODNEY

Hello? Hello Yvette?

JODY

No nigga this ain't Yvette!

RODNEY

Put Yvette on the phone.

JODY

Nigga this is my phone! Don't be callin my house or my woman no more!

RODNEY

Your house? Nigga you don't even live up in there! You that punk bitch ass nigga Jody that knocked my lady up and ain't taking care of his responsibilities as a man?! Still living with his momma? Acting like a little boy on the streets!

JODY

Nigga what you got? Look at you! Your ass is in jail?! You ain't got shit to say about the way I'm handling my mine! Just don't call my house no more! Concentrate on not dropping the soap pardnah! (click, Jody hangs up) I want a block on that muthafucking phone tomorrow! What you been doing telling this fool in jail about our problems? (he sighs, pulls her close) Alright lets be positive. I'm trying to do that now. Get that energy, so then I can give it to you. Make you feel good too. See? Why we always gotta have something to fight about? You love me?

YVETTE

Yes. When you acting right.

JODY

(cool)  
Then put the block on the damn phone like I asked a long time ago. Ain't no reason

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY (cont'd)  
 some nigga in jail should have no say in  
 our life. Ya hear me?

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DUSK

Where we see several women parking their cars and walking up to the house. Music plays inside.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We see several women trying on shoes. Jody is in middle of all of them. He brings in BOXES of shoes and kneels at the feet of several women. Jody fits each of them with a different shoe in rapid succession. We see him fit six different pairs on six women cutting from shoe to alternate smiling faces of the women. The money is passed in droves Jody is smiling. He rubs the feet of these older women.

Then Rachel arrives Jody greets her and escorts her into the kitchen where Juanita sits with Patrice.

JODY  
 Momma this Rachel, she has her own beauty shop on offa Centinela. She the first one I sold somethin to. My first sale.

JUANITA  
 Nice to meet you. My name's Juanita this is Patrice. So let this boy sell in your shop?

RACHEL  
 Your son's a real businessman.

JUANITA  
 Yeah well at least he doing something.

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sweetpea arrives, dress in hand. He walks up to the porch.

Sweetpea stands at the doorway. Watches Jody through the screen door.

INSIDE: Jody is working his magic. He holds out a pair of shoes for all the women to see. He kneels at the feet of Rachel. Jody massages her foot. She almost squeals. The other women laugh. Jody places the shoe on her foot.

JODY  
 How's that feel? That feels good huh?  
 Stand up.

Rachel stands up takes a few steps then turns with attitude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The women all laugh and cheer her on. Go on girl! Do your thing.

Sweetpea looks defeated. He turns to leave.  
Jody comes out on the porch.

JODY (CONT'D)

Hey Pea, what's up man?

SWEETPEA

I got your dress here. You can have it.

JODY

Aw man forget about that shit. Come on in  
I got all these women up in here. Older  
women, with money, you can get yourself a  
sugar momma cuz!

SWEETPEA

Naw I gotta go take care of Kim. Here.  
(he gives him the dress, turns to leave)  
You steal all that shit man?

JODY

I didn't steal none of it. I mean well  
not all of it. I paid for it  
..wholesale..Downtown.

SWEETPEA

How you gonna build a business on stealin  
all the merchandise? How that sound?  
What kind of common sense is that Jody?

JODY

I told you I didn't steal none of this  
shit. I got it wholesale! I paid some  
Mexicans do it for me. A nigga gotta have  
some kinda hustle. At least I ain't  
hurting nobody.

Sweetpea nods. He leaves. Walks down the block. Jody watches  
him go. Looks at the dress, thinks, then goes inside.

WOMAN INSIDE

Oooh what you got there? Let me see that dress!

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM

Jody helps Juanita clean up after the party.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

Boy I hold me one of these shoe parties  
once a month. I'll be set.

JUANITA

Well you better find another house to do  
all that in cause I can't have all these  
folks up in here alla time. How much you  
make tonight boy?

JODY

Bout five hundred dollars. That's just shoes. Got  
people want clothes from me tommorrow.

JUANITA

Got you a good business goin'.

JODY

Yep, that's what I know!

Juanita pauses looks at Jody. Smiles.

JUANITA

(to herself, annunciating)

That's what I know. That's what I know.

JODY

That's what I know. He used to always say  
that huh? I'd be like Ray-Ray you need to  
the put the lid on the trash cans 'fore  
them dogs knock it over...that's what I  
know ..don't tell me ..that's what I know.

JUANITA

Ray-Ray! Why you take my car? You know you  
ain't got no drivers license?! (Ray-Ray's  
voice) That's what I know momma but I had  
to go see this girl in Inglewood. (she  
stops for a moment, Jody watches her then  
she goes back to cleaning up, Jody  
continues too)

EXT. BALDWIN HILLS NIGHT

Music plays: "George Benson "Masquerade".

We see a 2000 Mercedes E class rolls up to a nice big home.

A BLACK MIDDLE CLASS COUPLE roll the car into the garage.  
The couple exit the car. They are dressed rather well  
possibly coming from dinner. The woman walks into the house  
from the inside garage door. The man clicks the garage opener  
on the wall.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE GARAGE DOOR goes to close. The man enters the house. The door goes down to close and then just as it almost done.

A HAND: Wipes past the electric light. The door goes back up.

FROM ACROSS THE STREET: We see the house and the garage opening back up. Two men dressed in BLACK enter the garage. They look over the Mercedes as one closes the garage once more.

The MIDDLE CLASS MAN takes off his jacket and sits down turns on the ESPN SPORTSCHANNEL.

The MIDDLE CLASS WOMAN goes upstairs and is taking off her makeup in the sink.

The MIDDLE CLASS MAN gets up from the television to enter the kitchen where he stops in his tracks....

He sees two men dressed in Black, faces covered with masks. One drinks from the milk carton in the refrigerator.

Sweetpea's eyes widen he motions the man forward with a gun. The other robber, DODIRTY just walks up wipes the milk off his lips and SOCKS the man with a PUNCH.

UPSTAIRS

The woman hears something. She rises to run downstairs we follow her as she does and she is met at the bottom of the stairs by DoDirty pointing a gun at her. The man grabs her by the hair brings her downstairs to the husband.

SWEETPEA

Where the money at?!

DoDirty kicks the MIDDLE CLASS MAN.

MIDDLE CLASS MAN

My wallets in my jacket. Take it!!  
Here take the Mercedes!! Please don't  
hurt nobody!!

Sweetpea gets the wallet out the jacket. Grabs the money.

SWEETPEA

Where your purse at?!!

WOMAN

Upstairs!! In the bedroom! Please  
don't go up there! Let me get it!

DoDirty starts towards the stairs and is stopped by Sweetpea who pushes him back. Sweetpea runs to the top of the stairs

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

and into the bedroom. He looks around finds the purse explores it for money, finds the money. Runs out the room, hearing something he turns and points his gun..Ready!

An OLD WOMAN dressed only in a nightgown enters the hallway. She's shaking with fear. So old she's like a ghost.

Sweetpea is spooked at the sight of this old woman. Lowers his gun. Turns leaves.

DOWNSTAIRS

Sweetpea motions DoDirty to come on and leave, The guy persists and Sweetpea hits him hard and pushes him onward.

EXT./INT. KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sweetpea gets dropped off at home. He hops out walks into the house. We follow him into the house as he goes to the bathroom pisses, walks into Kim's bedroom takes off his pants and shirt. Hides his money then walks in his underwear into the kitchen pours himself some Kool-Aid walks into the living room sits next to Kim who is watching television. Sweetpea switches on his videogame and begins to play.. We MOVE into them on the couch as Kim cuddles up next to him as he plays his game.

INT. RACHEL'S HOUSE - MORNING

Jody wakes up. Looks around him sees he's at Rachel's house. Rachel walks into the room.

RACHEL

(claps her hands)

C'mon now! Time to get up! I gotta get to the shop. And I got errands to run before I do that.

JODY

What time is it?

RACHEL

Nine thirty.

JODY

Nine thirty! Oh shit!!

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

She paces. Looks at her watch. Where is Jody? Little Joe-Joe is dressed right there at her side.

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - DAY

Jody races to meet her.

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jody drives up. Yvette comes down the stairs hops inside the car.

YVETTE

Who you been fuckin Jody?

JODY

What you mean who I been fuckin?  
I overslept!

YVETTE

If you was at home then you would  
answered the phone I know that! How come  
you didn't return my pages?

JODY

I had my pager off!

YVETTE

I'm tired of you fucking around on me.  
Now you gonna make me get fired?

JODY

We don't have time to be arguing! When the  
last time you was last late anyway?

INT. PHONE COMPANY - DAY

Yvette gets to work. She settles in. She takes a few calls. Then she looks around the room. Her gaze falls on a group of young ladies talking to one another. One of them we will call PANDORA. Pandora looks over in Yvette's direction and then away. Yvette thinks: "I know these bitches ain't talking bout me!"

EXT. PHONE COMPANY - DAY

Yvette walks after work. She sees Pandora and her crew walk to their cars. Jody pulls up Yvette goes out to her car. Jody sees the women in the parking lot. He waves to them. Yvette winces.

YVETTE

Why you gotta wave to them?

JODY

They my customers! I can't wave at nobody now?

INT. JUANITA'S GARDEN - DAY

Juanita walks out into her garden. We notice that everything is in full bloom. The GREENS are big and leafy, the CORN has grown high, and the TOMATOES are big and fat. Juanita admires her work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Juanita goes into the kitchen gets a chair from the table. She places the chair under her little makeshift gazebo. Adds a TABLE, a BOTTLE OF WINE. Juanita pours herself a glass of vino sits back and relaxes.

LATER:

Jody's knee deep in the dirt. Juanita drinks her wine while her son carries out her orders.

JUANITA

Look over there! I saw some weeds over there.

JODY

Why don't you use WEED BE GONE?

JUANITA

Cause I'm a natural gardener! That's how it was done from way back. You get down there on your hands and knees and pull them up. That's how my momma and daddy did it and that's what I'ma do! Don't forget to put those weeds in the compost pile.

JODY

You ain't doing nothing no more but ordering around huh?

JUANITA

I'ma grow some summer squash next year. They'll grow better than those here.

Then Melvin comes out of the house and into the garden. Jody shakes his hands. Walks towards the house. Melvin notices Jody is leaving.

MELVIN

Aw c'mon now! We gotta stop all this!!

JODY

What?

MELVIN

Why you gotta go in the house when I come out here huh?

JODY

Man, I ain't even thinkin 'bout you!

JUANITA

Hey..hey..hey...this is my place where I relax! Can y'all take all that noise somewhere else?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jody goes into the house.

MELVIN

Why everytime I come out here to work in  
the garden he gotta go in the house?

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

THE BATHROOM

Jody washes his hands. Melvin walks into the kitchen then  
living room. He looks at Jody through the corner of his eye.  
Jody dries his hands walks into the living room.

JODY

How come you ain't brought your kids around  
here Melvin? Don't you got a son like  
seventeen years old named Duquan? And you  
got a little girl about five named Maya? You  
tell my momma 'bout them kids?

MELVIN

She knows.

JODY

How come you don't bring 'em around? You  
ashamed of 'em? They ugly like you?

MELVIN

I don't get along with their mommas too  
well. I'm sure you can understand that.

JODY

No I don't. I'm cool with both my babies mommas.

MELVIN

How long you think that gon last?

JODY

Long I want it to. But we ain't talkin  
'bout me. We talking about you. I talked  
to your son a few days ago. I heard you  
say his name when y'all old niggas was  
playing cards. He live like five minutes  
away in Inglewood. I rolled up on him at  
Morningside High asked him 'bout you. He  
said he didn't have shit to say cause  
'bout you cause you used to whip his  
momma's ass. ..What you think about that  
Melvin? You gonna beat my momma? Naw, you  
know better than that! Don't you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MELVIN

How old are you Jody? Twenty? I'm almost twice your age and I'm still here. I been shot, stabbed, locked up for ten years. I'm still standin. You dealin with a dead man. I was supposed to be dead a long time ago lil nigga! So you and your lil friends sure as hell don't scare me.

JODY

(cool)

I ain't trying to scare you Melvin. I'm just tellin you what I know..any nigga leave his kids totally..I mean I understand you doing time ..but no contact? At all? What kind of shit is that? How can you call yourself a man?

Jody hits a nerve. Melvin rises. Walks past Jody.

JODY (CONT'D)

(cool)

You know why I don't like you 'round my momma? Cause you foul. You a dirty muthafucka Melvin. Don't think you gonna get in her head and kick me out like the last nigga did my brother. I ain't having that.

Melvin turns quickly. Ready for anything, then he calms down. Brushes Jody off.

MELVIN

(looking back over his shoulder)

I'ma stay off your ass outta respect for your momma. If it wasn't for that woman out there I'd broke your lil ass down a long time ago. I look in your eyes you know what I see? I see a lil scared bitch, in them eyes! If we was on lockdown I'd make your lil ass get on your knees and fix it!

JODY

Oooo!

MELVIN

Twenty years. Lets see where you be in that time. (he leaves)

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

GARAGE

Jody and Sweetpea talk while Jody is assembling a LOW RIDER BIKE. There are a couple of kids from the neighborhood hangin out, Black and Mexican. They are on bikes. They stand around watching Jody fix the bike.

JODY

And she so suspicious! Everything I do now she think I'm fuckin somebody. I go to the bathroom. She like ..is there a bitch in there? I say I'm going to the store and she like...is that bitch at the store? And then I gotta come home and gotta deal with Melvin and his bullshit.

SWEETPEA

I wanna get saved.

JODY

What?

One of the kids is making some noise. Sweetpea feels uncomfortable with their presence.

SWEETPEA

Hey, hey!! Y'all gotta get the fuck outta here. Now! We talkin!

JODY

Poncho! I'll be done with this in about an hour come back alright?

The kids leave. Sweetpea softens up.

SWEETPEA

I wanna be saved Jody. I need to get baptized so I can go to heaven. Wash all my sins away so they can open them gates for me. I don't want Jesus to be like turn your ass around nigga. You should do it too. Why don't you get baptized with me Jody?

JODY

What'd you do man?

SWEETPEA

Huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

What you do dog? I know you did somethin bad to be talkin like this.

SWEETPEA

I ain't done nothing dog. I'm just trying to keep from doing somethin. I need to get some money, a job or somethin to keep me busy. Do somethin besides playing Madden all day over at DoDirty's house. You know I don't even stay at Kim's house in the day no more? I leave at nine 'o clock come back around six acting like I'm out there doing somethin constructive. Like I'm working! I ain't done that shit since we was in continuation school. Goosesteppin, sneaking around Kim and her momma like I'm a child. Like I'm some scared little boy! I got to ask my woman and her momma for money! How you think that makes me feel?! Huh? Think I feel like a man? This shit is tearing me up dog, this shit is eating me alive. I don't wanna end up killing nobody. Jody what I'ma do?

JODY

Shit I was in the same boat too, you just gotta find somethin you like to do. Somethin you interested in. Like I did. What you good at?

SWEETPEA

Robbin! ....Naw man I'm just kiddin. I don't like to do that. It's like ..It's like you...you know you gonna do somethin wrong...the hard thing is just not doing it. You know what I mean?

Jody nods.

EXT./INT. PANDORA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jody strolls up to past many apartment doors. Comes to one door. Knocks.

The opens and we see Pandora she smiles. Jody looks around, enters.

Jody plops down on the couch. He looks around, nice place.

Pandora goes puts on some slow music. She lights some incense. Gets out her little weed box. There are SCENTED CANDLES burning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY  
Candles smell good.

PANDORA  
(offers a joint)  
Yeah Aromatherapy. You smoke?

JODY  
Naw.

PANDORA  
You and Yvette got a baby together huh?  
Where y'all stay at ?

JODY  
We don't live together.

PANDORA  
Why you gotta lie? I know y'all live  
together. I see you drop her off and pick  
her up everyday.

JODY  
Thats our thing. That's just what we do. I  
don't wanna talk about Vette.

PANDORA  
We don't need to talk at all. No words.  
... I just want some dick.  
(she gets up, straddles him)

JODY  
Why you wanna fuck me? You wanna fuck me to make my  
girl mad, huh? That what you wanna do?

PANDORA  
No. It ain't that kinda party. I think  
you cute. I see you all the time. When we  
was in the parking lot I thought we was  
feelin each other. Was I wrong?

JODY  
Yeah I was feelin you...but I ain't  
feelin this. (he rises) I'm out.

PANDORA  
Yo, yo wait up Jody. What's the problem  
you feelin ashamed? Is that it? You  
thinkin about your girl? (Jody nods) You  
that faithful? You ain't hittin nothin on  
the side? C'mon I know you. I see it in  
your eyes. You a nigga. You can't walk  
away from no pussy. I'ma be real wit you,  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PANDORA (cont'd)

I ain't trying to your woman, I don't want no boyfriend, you don't even haveta spend the night. I just want some dick that's all. And we can be cool. Just our little secret. We can smile at each other in the morning and nobody gets hurt.

JODY

You see me take Yvette to work everyday don't you? I love that girl. I'ma be real! I just came over to fuck your ass cause I see you alla time. You ain't nothin but a trick to me. But y'all work at the same place. So it ain't good. I ain't trying to fuck up my whole world for some ass. You still want some clothes we can talk business. Later!

He walks towards the door.

PANDORA

Aw Jody c'mon now. Don't be like that. (she rubs up close to him, takes his hands puts them on her ass) This just between the two of us. I see you when you come around how you look. You gon tell me you don't want this? Boy! Come over here and get this pussy!

JODY

(shakes his head)

I just don't need to be going here with you. .... Besides I ain't got no condoms.

Pandora walks away. Comes back produces condoms.

She moves up close to him rubs his crotch.

PANDORA

Somebody don't wanna leave.

Pandora pushes Jody on the couch and goes SOUTH. Jody lets her, HIS EYES. FLUTTER. The room goes SOFT FOCUS. When he FOCUSES them once more he sees YVETTE SITTING IN THE ROOM. She looks straight at him..

Pandora stands over him, opens her robe. She reveals her bad ass body. Nice ass, breasts. Jody is impressed but he looks to Yvette who crosses her arms and legs.

Pandora goes for Jody's pants once more. She pulls them down begins giving Jody more head. He looks helpless. Jody looks at Yvette who shakes her head. He looks away up to the sky then back to her direction she is still there watching.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Pandora pulls out a CONDOM. Puts it on Jody's dick and gets ontop. Jody looks over at Yvette in the chair then to Pandora.

JODY

I can't do this! I can't!

PANDORA

No...no just a lil bit. It's gonna be good.

JODY

No. I know its good. But I can't do this!

They shift around. Pandora trying to position him into her and Jody trying to move to NOT stick it in. Jody jumps up pulls up his pants.

JODY (CONT'D)

I can't fuck you. My girl find out she kill my ass. I love her too much.

PANDORA

Oh so you a little bitch now? Your girl tell you what to do too?

Jody looks at her. He shakes his head

JODY

I told you you was a trick.

He turns to leave. Pandora is mad.

PANDORA

I don't need you to fuck me! I can get dick anytime I want. You know you want this ...(she gestures to her body)

JODY

No you know you want this (points to his crotch) you lucky you got a chance to taste it..but this Daddy dick ain't yours it belongs to Yvette.

He leaves.

INT. PHONE COMPANY - DAY

Yvette is at her booth. Taking calls. She looks over sees Pandora leave her booth to talk to join her little clique.

Pandora looks across the room at Yvette. Yvette looks back at her. SHERYL, the operator next to Yvette notices the exchange.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHERYL  
Why is that bitch staring so hard?

YVETTE  
Don't let me haveta whip her ass.

EXT. PHONE COMPANY - DAY

Pandora exits the building with friends.

Jody sits in the car waiting for Yvette. He sees Pandora walk out. They lock eyes. Yvette gets into the car.

YVETTE  
There's your friend. How come you ain't waving at her today?

They drive onward.

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - DAY

YVETTE  
She call herself staring at me all day. I was about to go up and slap her ass. I think she a lesbian.

JODY  
She might want your sweet stuff baby.

YVETTE  
She better get back with that.

JODY  
You hungry?

Yvette nods.

JODY (CONT'D)  
You gonna cook tonight?

YVETTE  
No.

JODY  
Lets go to Lucy's.

They pull up to Lucy's Mexican DRIVE-THRU.

JODY (CONT'D)  
I got it.

YVETTE  
No I got it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY  
Alright then...

Yvette goes to the back looking for her purse. She fumbles around in the back reaching for it then she looks into the pocket of the driver seat. Curious.

Yvette sits back into her seat. Her expression has changed from happy to pissed.

LUCY'S GIRL  
That'll be \$11.89.

Yvette turns over fifteen dollars. Jody gets the food.

JODY  
I'm starving.

YVETTE  
What's this?

She holds up a CONDOM package.

JODY  
It's a pack of condoms. What you doing with that?

YVETTE  
No, nigga don't try and turn this around.  
What's this doing in my car?

JODY  
...Wait a minute I gotta get the change.

He turns to get the change. The Lucy's girl looks at them like oh shit. Jody has that "Save Me" look on his face.

Jody gets the change goes to put it in his pocket.

YVETTE  
Gimme my change!!

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - DAY

MOVING:

YVETTE  
So who was you fucking? Don't lie! You been fucking somebody in my car?

JODY  
No. I don't know...Damn!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE

You don't know? You mean to tell me you can't remember who you been fucking? You been fucking that many girls?

Jody is at a loss for words.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

I'm tired of you fucking around on me Jody! Damn I wanna see other niggas. People be asking me to go out but I'm here stupid sticking to your ass! So who you fucked with these condoms Jody! This is a three pack and there's one left. Tell me the truth. We grown! We ain't kids! C'mon no games. Be a man! Be real!

Jody thinks about it. NAW!! CANT TELL HER.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

You still fucking Peanut?

He doesn't say anything. Just looks at her confirming her suspicions.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

I know you still fucking Peanut. I figured that much. I ain't mad at you cause I knew that already. Did you fuck her with these condoms in my car? I know you didn't fuck her in my car, did you?!

JODY

No. Are we gonna go pick up Joe-Joe from your momma's?

YVETTE

No he alright! Take me home! We gonna finish this!

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

They pull up to her apartment. Jody hops out. Yvette is right behind him. Still on him.

YVETTE

So who else you fucking huh? You ain't got no game. If you had game you could be a man and just tell me! I know you love me, and I know you fuck other girls, I don't like it but I know you! Just be real with me!

Jody starts up the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE (CONT'D)

So you gonna be honest with me?

JODY

Yeah if you can take it. You getting on my nerves with this!

YVETTE

I'm getting on your nerves? I'm getting on your nerves?! You the one fuckin around!! You still fucking Peanut?

Jody nods "Yes".

YVETTE (CONT'D)

I figured that much. You get with any of those clients of yours? Them girls you sell clothes to?

JODY

A few of them. ... (she stings a little at this) What? You feel better now? I love you girl! You got my son and you probably gonna be my wife. You want me to be honest? Hey here it is! You my woman and them hoes is tricks! I make love to you, I wanna be with you, you my woman, but I fuck other females from time to time, I don't know why, I just do! That's the situation. You feel better?! That's some honesty for your ass!

He turns to walk upstairs.

YVETTE

No..you don't love me. Cause if you did you wouldn't lie to me all the time.

JODY

No see you got that all twisted up. I lie cause I do love your ass. If I told you the truth all the time then it mean I don't give a fuck. You can't handle no truth Vette so don't fuck with it.

YVETTE

You fuck Pandora?

Jody stops turns looks at Yvette.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY

No. Yvette. C'mon I wanna eat. My food gettin cold. I don't wanna have to put it in the microwave.

YVETTE

Since you being honest. Just be real did you?

JODY

(sighs)

If you want me to ..yes I did.

YVETTE

What you mean if I want you to?! No I don't want you to...did you?!

Jody looks at her.

YVETTE (CONT'D)

You did huh?

Disappointment creeps into Yvette's face. She starts to cry.

JODY

C'mon Yvette. C'mon in the house. I didn't fuck that girl I was just playing with your ass. (smiles) I fucked all them other hoes but not her. Somebody at your job?! I wouldn't do that to you. That's against code baby. I don't break code.

YVETTE'S SAD FACE: Sadness turns to anger.

Yvette goes off and starts fighting Jody.

YVETTE

(hurt)

All I asked you to do is not fuck that girl! And you couldn't even do that for me?!

JODY

Shut the fuck up!! I told you I didn't fuck her! I'm being real. I didn't do nothin!

YVETTE

(hitting him)

I don't know what to believe anymore. You lie all the damn time!!

The food goes flying everywhere. The Mexican lady who lives next to Yvette watches.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JODY

You spilled my shake!

Yvette takes her shake from Jody drinks some and goes into the house.

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - DAY

Jody puts the food down. Yvette drinks her shake and thinks. Then she puts her drink down and starts on Jody again.

YVETTE

You making all them bitches at work have a reason to sit up there laughing at me!!

JODY

You better get the fuck back for I slap the shit outta you!! Why you so insecure? Ain't nobody laughing at you?! If anything them girls is jealous of you cause they know you got a man that love you! Don't be so insecure!

YVETTE

If I'm insecure you made me this way! You don't think about nobody else but yourself Jody! Why you have to fuck her?! Of all people!!

JODY

I didn't do it!

Yvette continues to hit Jody. He drops back absorbing the blows. He has shame on his face, maybe he deserves it. He goes to the door to leave. Yvette blocks his way.

YVETTE

You ain't going nowhere!! You gonna listen to me!!

Yvette keeps hitting Jody.

JODY

You better stop puttin your hands on me! I told you I didn't do nothin! Damn!

She continues hitting him. Then she socks him hard in the eye. Jody holds his face. Yvette is shocked. Jody walks away. Yvette hits him again in the back, crying.

Jody turns socks her in the face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY (CONT'D)

(rage)

I told you don't be hitting me!!

Then he sees her down on the carpet.

JODY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry baby. I'm sorry! I didn't mean to...  
(he checks her face then holds his own eye)

Yvette CRIES on the floor more emotionally hurt than anything else. Jody tries to pick her up carry her into the room she motions for him to let her down and walks into the room on her own. Jody watches her lay on the bed. He goes into the bedroom sits on the side of the bed while she lays there and cries. Jody tries to console her and Yvette continues to push him away. Then Jody moves next to her starts forcefully kissing her face and neck and breasts...Soon they are making love. Yvette still CRIES. Her crying blends in with the pleasure of their lovemaking. As they make love we PUSH over Jody's shoulder into Yvette's face as she enjoys the sex her eyes see...

MONTAGE OF IMAGES:Jody and Yvette getting MARRIED.

Jody and Yvette at the PARK on a blanket playing SPADES.

Yvette SMILING at Jody as he drives her home from work.

Then we see YVETTE'S FACE as her expression changes and she sees....

Herself, alone in an apartment with more kids.

Jody in JAIL, Yvette reaching for his HAND between the thick glass.

Yvette in black, standing behind Jody laying DEAD in a casket.

We continue to PUSH into Yvette's face as she starts to CRY then has a SCREAMING ORGASM. A mixture of PAIN and PLEASURE. The climax of a disfunctional relationship.

LATER:They are laying in bed. Jody holds a WET TOWEL full of ice to his EYE. He rolls over and we see Yvette has a towel to her eye too.

JODY (CONT'D)

I made you sing.

Jody gives her a kiss on the cheek. Rises.

Jody goes into LIVING ROOM gets Yvette's KEYS and goes.

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jody parks Yvette's car in the driveway.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JODY'S ROOM

Jody lays on his bed. Thinking. He looks at his Oscars in the tank. Jody puts his finger in the tank. The fish rises to bite it. Jody pulls it out in time. Jody lays back down puts the towel on his face.

INT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Yvette holds a towel to her face. She rolls over puts her thumb in her mouth and goes to sleep.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody rises in his underwear goes to the kitchen. He pours some cereal in a bowl adds MILK goes into LIVING ROOM turns on television watches CARTOON NETWORK. In b.g. we see the driveway empty. Jody eats for a moment then he notices also...he rises walks to window then outside...YVETTE'S CAR IS GONE. We see Jody in the driveway through the window he still has the cereal bowl in his hand.

JODY

Momma!!!

LATER: Jody dials Yvette.

Yvette picks up the phone.

JODY (CONT'D)

Baby, listen don't be mad at me okay? It ain't my fault! I love you.

YVETTE

I'm listening baby.

JODY ...

(takes a breath)

One of these Mexicans stole your car!

Yvette listens.

JODY

You hear me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE

I hear you.

JODY ...

Don't it have a tracking thing on it?

YVETTE

Yes.

JODY

(sighs)

Aw cool. We can find that shit in thirty minutes. Call the po-pos and tell 'em what up.

YVETTE

I'm not gon do that.

JODY

Why?

YVETTE

(calmly)

Cause I know who stole my car,

JODY

Who stole it? Tell me, I'll get it back for you baby.

YVETTE

I stole my car Jody!

Then CLICK. Yvette hangs up the phone. Jody is stunned.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

MOVING P.O.V.: We see a moving POV then swing around to reveal Jody (shirtless) riding a LOW RIDER BIKE. It's a wild funky up bike lowered to the ground. He has a bag on his shoulder. Soon he is joined by SEVERAL KIDS from the neighborhood who are riding their own bikes. Some are funky up LOW RIDER style others are just straight bikes.

JODY

Y'all get away! Don't be following me!

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jody rides his bike to the apartment. As he gets there he sees YVETTE'S CAR in the carport. Pissed. Jody picks the bike up takes it upstairs. Knocks on door hard. The kids on their bikes watch from the street. An audience for the drama that follows.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

Open the door Vette!!

YVETTE

Go away Jody!!

JODY

Baby! I'm sorry I hit you baby! You still mad about that? You gave me a black eye too! What you mad about girl?!

The Mexican lady opens her window. Looks out.

YVETTE

I'm tired of your bullshit Jody! I'm tired of you being selfish!! You fucking around!

JODY

Baby I understand.. I understand okay? Please open the door. Lets talk about this inside ....I won't be selfish no more..I won't fuck nobody else no more..I'll be good. I promise baby!

Yvette listens. She is falling for it for a moment then...

YVETTE

Why you always lying?! You just running your mouth! You don't mean that shit!

JODY

Open the door Yvette!! How you gonna steal my car?!!

YVETTE

Your car?!!

JODY

Yeah it's my ride too, if it ain't then give me back them Daytons and them tinted windows I paid for!! Give me back all the money I put into that engine or them brake pads I just put on last week! Open this goddamn door girl!

Then inside Joe-Joe comes into the living room.

JOE-JOE

Daddy!! Daddy!!

Outside Jody hears Joe-Joe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JODY

Open this door girl!! I wanna see my son!!!

He starts KICKING the door.

The Mexican woman comes out.

MEXICAN NEIGHBOR

Don't kick the doors!!! I'm calling the policia!!!

Jody stops kicking the door.

Frustrated he looks into his bag pulls out some baby clothes, shoes for Joe-Joe then some outfits.

JODY

I brought my son some clothes! Fuck you Yvette!!!

Jody leaves. His entourage waiting as he mounts his bike.

INSIDE:Yvette leaves the doorway lays on the couch. Starts to cry but then she pulls her tears back in.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

MUSIC:Earth Wind and Fire "FANTASY"

Jody rides fast and then slows down. He cruises. His face full of frustration. The kids follow not far behind.

He rides on to his house.

INT./EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Juanita and Melvin are in the living room dancing to Earth, Wind and Fire "Fantasy.. Jody walks in the house looking miserable. Juanita full of smiles grabs him up attempting to get him to dance. Melvin sits on the couch smiles. Jody looks at him then his mother as she twirls Jody around then he walks into his room.

EXT. JUANITA'S GARDEN - DAY

Jody toils in the garden. He pulls up weeds. Feeds the soil.

JODY

See she don't understand how much I love her ass. You know what I mean momma? I mean I cheat I do what I do but I'm good...I'm good to her ass. I take her back and forth to work. I fix the car when it need fixing. I give her money for the phone bill and buy groceries when I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY (cont'd)  
stay over there. And she say I'm  
selfish...what she want from me?!

JUANITA  
You ever look at it from her point of view? You  
ever think about if you was Yvette and she was  
you Jody?

JODY  
What?

JUANITA  
What would you do if Yvette fucked around  
on you, took your car and left you in the  
hot ass house all day with a baby?

JODY  
You taking her side momma?

JUANITA  
I'm just saying maybe you are being  
selfish. You gotta think about her as a  
woman. How would like it if somebody did  
all that shit you do to Yvette to me?  
Well your daddy used to do some of the  
same dumb shit you do now so I know where  
Yvette's coming from.

Juanita sits back in her seat. She enjoys her smoke.

JUANITA (CONT'D)  
Y'all some children. All y'all like little  
chillin playing a game in y'all sleep. Y'all  
hurt each other feelings and wanna run home and  
get your head rubbed so you can run back out and  
play again. Remember Ray-Ray knocked Sweetpea's  
tooth out?

(Jody laughs)  
He say "I not gonna be your friend" then  
what? You couldn't pull them two apart for  
shit. ...Yvette love you Jody. She just feel  
hurt. A woman gets tired of a man after a  
while if feel she used and unappreciated.  
Believe me as much as you thinking about her  
now she thinking about you too. You need to  
stop tellin them girls you want them to have  
your baby when y'all doing it. Cause they'll  
believe your lying ass. I used to fall for  
that when I was they age so I know...Umph  
children, lil ass children.

Jody goes back to the earth.

INT. JODY'S ROOM - NIGHT

He lays back on his bed. On the phone with Peanut. We INTERCUT their conversation.

JODY  
Peanut? What you doing?

PEANUT  
Nothing.

JODY  
You miss me?

PEANUT  
(blase)  
Uh huh.

JODY  
You love me?

Silence. Peanut is too busy watching TV.

JODY (CONT'D)  
You hear me girl? I asked if you love me?!

PEANUT  
(frustrated)  
What you want Jody? I'm busy!

JODY  
Busy doing what? You ain't doing shit!  
Come over and pick me up!

PEANUT  
Come what? I ain't coming to get your  
ass! What you ain't got your other baby's  
mommas ride tonight?

JODY  
Why it gotta be like all that?

PEANUT  
I'll tell you what. When I want some dick  
maybe I'll call you..and you find a way  
to get here. Alright? (click)

She hangs up. Jody gets up. Feeds his fish in the tank.

DISSOLVE:

EXT. PHONE COMPANY - DAY

Yvette comes out of her job. She walks out to the curb to her normal spot every day. She stands there for a moment...watches Pandora and others leave the building and go out to the parking lot. Yvette turns looks down the street where the hell is Jody?...slowly the realization falls on her that she has her own car and has to drive herself home. Yvette looks at her keys...JODY and YVETTE. Yvette walks to the parking lot gets into her car and drives herself home.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Jody riding his bike in the streets. He has a garment bag on his back. Get gets off the bike unrolls the bag.

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - DAY

Yvette plays SOLITAIRE on the kitchen table. The chair across from her is empty. She is thinking of Jody.

Yvette picks up the phone thinks ...then makes a decision.

INT. SHARIKA'S PLACE - DAY

Sharika picks up the phone. We intercut her and Yvette.

SHARIKA

Hey girl...what choo doing?

CHRIS (O.S.)

Oh now you got to get on the goddamn phone again huh?!!

YVETTE

What's all that noise in the background?

SHARIKA

Oh that's just Chris, this nigga is trippin..we been drinking that Thug Passion. You know how that is...What you calling fo' you made up with that nigga Jody yet?

YVETTE

No I ain't thinking 'bout his ass.

SHARIKA

Yeah right...Jody know that's his pussy.

YVETTE

I ain't dealing with his bullshit no more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHARIKA

I feel you girl.

CHRIS

Bitch!! Get off the godamn phone and come over here and give me some love!!!

SHARIKA

Girl these niggas be tripping when they think they own your ass. You gotta check them from time to time. (She turns) Nigga shut the fuck up you see me on the phone!! (Turns back) Yvette? Yeah girl.

YVETTE

Well Jody crossed my last nerve, I couldn't take his bullshit no more. Know what I mean?

As Yvette continues to talk Chris comes forward, stumbles across the room. And pulls down his pants.

CHRIS

Who the fuck you talking to?

BACK TO YVETTE'S FACE:

YVETTE

I been thinking 'bout us gettin back together but I gotta teach him a lesson you know what I mean? I ain't gonna lie, I love him. And yeah I miss his ass but I ain't gonna have nobody acting like they own me not even my baby daddy. You feel me girl?

SHARIKA

Chris is fucking her from behind.

SHARIKA

I feel you girl. I feel you! I gotta go though. I'll call you in a bit. (hangs up)

Yvette sits there on the couch for a moment, watching Joe-Joe looking at television. She settles in then a knock at the door.

Yvette goes to the door eagerly. Jody? She composes herself.

Opens the door. And her expression goes from slight joy to major disappointment. At the door is RODNEY, her boyfriend from high school. Fresh outta jail.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RODNEY

What's up?! I'm home!!

INT./EXT. LIQUOR BANK - DUSK

Jody goes to the LIQUOR BANK. He pays for his drink then looks to the side...his face looks angry.

Jody walks out and this LITTLE GANGSTA about sixteen is riding on his bike.

JODY

Lil nigga get your ass off my bike!!!

Then another kid sneaks up behind Jody and snatches his bag of liquor. He runs laughs.

LIL NIGGA#2

Aw you got some Alize up here huh?

JODY

I'ma fuck your lil ass up!!

Jody starts to chase the kid and he runs...faster than Jody all around into the alley and back into the parking lot as we end on a close up of Jody's face.

There about six more of these LIL BABY GANGSTERS all around fifteen or sixteen. We see their young faces. All of them are younger than Jody. Jody looks behind him sees the kid on the bike and the one with the liquor.

JODY (CONT'D)

Fuck y'all lil bitch ass niggas!! None of y'all lil niggas don't wanna see me!! One of y'all wanna step to me!! (a beat) I didn't think so..

OVERHEAD

Jody takes one step back and THEY ALL RUSH HIM AT THE SAME TIME. He gets one shot out. Hitting one. Then another but they are too much. He goes down and they start to STOMP Jody!

Soon, they all begin to run away. The one on the bike rolls past Jody on the pavement.

LIL NIGGA#1

Ain't nobody wanna take yo punk ass bike!!

He jumps off the bike drops it a few feet away from Jody.  
\*\*Jody is f.g. bike falls in b.g. and we see the kids run away.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Jody painfully rides his bike along. He comes up to Kim's house. Stumbles inside...we hear from the outside.

KIM

Pea!! Pea!! Get out here!! Jody what happened?!!

SWEETPEA

Aw shit! What? You got jumped?!! Who jumped you? Some lil niggas?!! What? Kim go get my guns!!

EXT. KENNETH HAHN PARK - NIGHT

Several of the kids are in the park sitting around drinking liquor from paper cups.

Sweetpea and Jody roll up in Kim's car. Inside Sweetpea has got four guns some clips and ammo.

JODY

Aw Pea man I don't wanna go there on them they just some lil ignorant fools.

SWEETPEA

What you don't wanna blast on 'em?! What choo want then?

JODY

Man I ain't never kilt nobody!! And I'm damn sure ain't trying to kill no kids! What I'm do? Go to jail over killing some lil knuckleheads?

SWEETPEA

These lil niggas jumped you!! They probably affiliated! What the fuck you got me out here for if you ain't wanna kill nobody? I was in bed nigga about to so my thing with Kim! You gonna be a man about this or what? Any one of them lil niggas woulda smoked your punk ass if they had the chance. ...Nigga you better take this heat for I beat your ass myself! How you think your brother feel you going out like some sucka?

BACK TO THE KIDS.

They drink talk shit.

LIL NIGGA#2

Wish I had some of that Alize!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sweetpea walks in the park like a DERELICT. The kids don't even pay him any attention until he is right up on them.

SWEETPEA  
Spare some change?  
(then, pointing a gun)  
Y'all lil muthafuckas get on the ground!!  
Now!!

LIL NIGGA#2 turns to run. Sweetpea raises to fire at him.

JODY (O.S.)  
Pea!! No!!

Then Lil Nigga#2 runs straight into Jody with a gun to his dome. He stops in his tracks. Jody motions him forward.

SOON, Jody and Sweetpea have them all on the ground. Sweetpea checks their pockets.

SWEETPEA  
Aw man we forgot the trash bags and an ax  
to cut y'all up with! Y'all got me  
twisted...Ain't had to kill this many  
niggas at one time in the longest. Let me  
see how this silencer works...y'all watch.

They all look up as Sweetpea stands back and shoots the park bench with a few shots. They are silent and deadly.

Jody is checking their pockets.

JODY  
Damn y'all some broke lil suckas ain't y'all?

SWEETPEA  
Fuck all this bullshit. Y'all lil niggas  
stand up. I'm teach y'all some respect  
for your elders 'fore you die.

They stand up. There are five of them now.

Jody goes down the row. He comes to LIL NIGGA#2. Jody pauses.

JODY  
You took my liquor.  
(he goes down sees LIL NIGGA#2)  
And you got on my bike.

Jody draws back socks him in the jaw. He falls back but still stands. Jody shakes his hand from the sting of the punch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SWEETPEA

Aw Jody-Joe!! What kind of bitch ass punch is that?!! I thought I taught your ass better!

JODY

Ow! I musta hit him in the teeth. Cut myself! Aw!

SWEETPEA

This lil nigga teeth harder than your fist?! Lemme show ya how it's done Baby Boy! You got to learn the one hitter quitter!!

JODY

Do Alize. He took my Alize, him first.

SWEETPEA

See you gotta get up here on 'em close draw back but not too far though and aim straight for the nose or mouth, preferably the nose cause it's softer and that stops 'em in they tracks. It's over then.

Sweetpea turns on a dime. BAM!! He hits the kid straight in the face. The baby gangster falls like a ton of bricks.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)

See what I mean? You gotta do it like this.

POW!! Sweetpea knocks out another one.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)

You try again.

JODY

Alright..you bike boy! Stand back up. (Jody kicks him) Get up fool!

LIL NIGGA#2

(rising to his feet)

Aw c'mon dog, my jaw hurt!

JODY

Lil nigga I ain't got no sympathy for you or none of y'all!! Y'all call y'allself jumpin somebody I'ma bout to show you what it is!! Stand up 'fore I open yo head up!!

He stands. Jody positions him straight. He gets ready to punch and the guy flinches. The other remaining cats standing are scared too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JODY (CONT'D)  
Nigga flinch again!! Stand still!

Jody arches his shoulder and the kid flinches. Jody smiles Sweetpea laughs.

JODY (CONT'D)  
I said don't flinch!  
(he hits him hard)

The boy falls like a TON OF BRICKS.

With that, Jody and Sweetpea turn to the ONE BOY left standing. He is so scared he pees on himself. Sweetpea stretches draws back to knock him out.

SWEETPEA  
Don't flinch!! Don't move or I'll hit you with two! Be a man! Chuck that shit up lil homie!

The scared boy regains his composure and stands up straight ready to take the punch. Sweetpea draws back then looks into the scared boy's eyes.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)  
Awww this lil man got heart!! You ready to take this shit huh?!

JODY  
You got heart dog? Go ahead you can tell us.

The young brother nods.

Jody and Sweetpea laugh.

JODY (CONT'D)  
Don't hit 'em Pea!! He got heart!

SWEETPEA  
I ain't gonna hit 'em. I ain't sock you lil man, you got heart I can respect that shit. He ain't no punk ass mark like the rest of his boys. (Sweetpea starts loosening his belt) Just for that I ain't gonna kill you. ....But I'ma whip you ass though!

Belt off, Sweetpea starts whipping the boy like he's his daddy. He holds the boy's arm high like a lil kid.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)  
I'ma whip your lil ass!! Say I'm a bitch!! Say it!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

LIL NIGGA#5  
I'ma bitch!!

SWEETPEA  
Call me daddy! Call me daddy 'fore I kill you!

LIL NIGGA#5  
Daddy!! Daddy!!

SWEETPEA  
I should take you right now and fuck you  
in your ass!! I should make you my bitch  
right now!! Say you my bitch!!

Jody sits back on the bench. He laughs. Finds some of the liquor the kids had. Pours himself a drink. Looks at the kids on the ground, feels his swollen face. Laughs it off. Then his face changes to a somber look. Sweetpea continues whipping in b.g. .

SWEETPEA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
You got heart huh? I'll make you suck my dick!! I'll  
make you piss sitting down like a bitch!!

We end on Jody's somber face. This is wrong he knows.

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - NIGHT

Yvette lays in her bed, book in hand, thumb in mouth. She is wide awake. Rodney appears in the doorway.

YVETTE  
Uh what part of couch don't you understand?!

RODNEY  
Aw cmon now, baby boo? I just got out.  
Ain't you happy to see me?

YVETTE  
No. I didn't tell you to bring your ass  
here. You invited yourself.

RODNEY  
My parole officer approved this place for me to stay  
cause I showed him your letters.

YVETTE  
I only wrote you twice. Just to be nice.  
I wasn't thinkin 'bout you.

RODNEY  
Why you accept all them calls then if I  
wasn't in your head? I'm your first baby.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RODNEY (cont'd)

Your first, your last, and you my only!  
C'mon now, let Rated R get a little love!

YVETTE

Rodney get the fuck outta my room! I ain't trying to go there with you! And you betta not wake my baby!

RODNEY

Oh so you can have a baby with that nigga Jody but you don't want nothing to do with me huh?

YVETTE

Just take your ass to the couch before I call your parole officer.

Rodney rises off the bed.

RODNEY

I need an extra blanket.

EXT. BALDWIN HILLS - DAY

Jody rolls up to Peanut's place. He pedals down the block and who does he see down on his knees in the grass but Melvin? Melvin at work. Jody waves at Melvin and smiles a wry grin as he rolls past. Jody pulls up to Peanut's he sees a STRANGE CAR in front of her house. Jody hops off his bike walks around the car looks at the RIMS. GOLD DAYTONS. His face goes angry.

INT. PEANUT'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody enters hears music coming from Peanut's bedroom. He looks in the LIVING ROOM sees his baby in the swing. Jody goes to the baby. She is asleep. Then he rises and walks to Peanut's room.

PEANUT'S ROOM

He hears laughter inside. Jody takes a breath opens the door. Peanut is laying in bed. She smiles as her eyes roll into her head. Someone is under the covers going "Downtown". She hasn't noticed Jody standing in the doorway. The music blares.

Peanut's eyes go out of focus then in clear she sees Jody standing in the doorway. She taps under the covers. Jody stands there seemingly calm.

The guy pokes his head out from under the covers. He is young, babyfaced, younger than Jody about eighteen years old. We will call him TONY. Tony rises looking nervous. Peanut says nothing. Tony crosses to put his pants on. As he does he looks up at Jody then down in shame. What will this nigga do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PEANUT

(casual, getting dressed)

If y'all gonna fight take it outside. I'ma be mad if something get broke up in here.

Tony puts his shirt on, then his socks and NIKES. He ties his shoelaces. Rises to walk towards the door. Jody lets him pass into the hallway then he follows him out the house and onto the front. It's the longest walk.

EXT. PEANUT'S HOUSE - DAY

Tony walks towards his car.

JODY (O.S.)

Hey!!

Suddenly, Jody is flying through the air with his feet forward. He lands in Tony's chest knocking him down. Then Jody starts wailing him with blows and kicks.

JODY (CONT'D)

What was you thinkin 'bout?!  
Trying to fuck my woman?!!

An OLD LADY watches the fight from her window. She picks up the phone.

TONY

Man she didn't tell me she had no boyfriend!! I didn't know she had a man!!

JODY

Where the hell you think that baby came from?!

TONY

I didn't know man! I didn't know!  
(he starts crying)

Jody stands there feeling confused. He doesn't know whether to kick the guy or what. Jody feels like an asshole.

Melvin is watching from two houses down. He continues to work.

JODY

Get the fuck outta here dog.

Tony sits there for a moment. Peanut comes out the house sees Tony messed up. Tony rises goes to his car. Jody walks to the curb sits on the grass. Tony zooms off.

JODY (CONT'D)

So you didn't tell 'em you had no man huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PEANUT

Do I?

Jody turns looks at her.

PEANUT (CONT'D)

You ain't my man Jody. You my baby's daddy. That's all. You fuck me when you wanna fuck but you don't love me. I know that now. Lets just be real. That's a damn shame. We have a baby and we don't even love each other.

JODY

You don't love me Peanut? C'mon now.

PEANUT

No. No I don't. That don't mean I don't like you. I do. I just don't love you. I always thought.... I always thought I was gonna have my first baby by a man I loved. ...We just have our little thing-thang going on and what's that? It ain't love. Now we got a baby to raise. What? You mad at me now?

JODY

Hell yeah. well...Not really. I can't even front I ain't mad at you Peanut. I can't even believe it.

PEANUT

How you feel? You sad?

JODY

No. I feel strange.

PEANUT

You happy?

JODY

Naw. I'm just...I feel weird.

PEANUT

Then you really don't love me then I guess.

JODY

I guess not. Be cool Nut-Nut I ain't mad at ya. Can a nigga get a hug though?

They hug each other. Jody turns to leave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PEANUT

Jody? I was always so scared that you was gonna hurt me. Break my heart. So I never gave you a chance to get inside me like that. You understand?

Jody nods. He gets on his bike turns to ride away.

He rides down the street to where Melvin is working.

JODY

What's up Melvin?

MELVIN

Hey Jody. What's all the drama?

JODY

Aw nothin I just broke up with both my babies mommas.

MELVIN

Yeah them young girls man. They change they mind when the wind blows.

JODY

(a beat)

You love my momma Melvin?

MELVIN

Yeah man, I do.

The police drive onto the block. They go to Peanut's house. Then neighbor who called the police comes out to meet them. Jody ignores them.

JODY

Why you love my momma Melvin? Cause she got a place for you to stay? Food in our refrigerator?

MELVIN

Naw man. I can get a place to stay. I love Juanita cause she's my rib. You ever hear of Adam's Rib? God made woman from man's rib. That's your momma she's my rib. Can't live without her.

The police come across the street to talk to Jody. He looks over his shoulder at them approaching then down to Melvin. Jody turns to talk to the police he walks over to the curb and sits down. He knows the drill.

INT. PHONE COMPANY - DAY

Music plays Michael Jackson "With A Child's Heart"

Yvette sits at work. She takes calls for information. She looks around her desk. Her eyes find an old picture of her and Jody. Better times. Both have smiles on their faces. Yvette is fat and pregnant but smiling.

EXT. BALDWIN HILLS STREETS - DAY

Jody rides his bike. The police are behind him out of focus. They are escorting him out the neighborhood.

INTERCUT: JODY AND YVETTE: THEY ARE THINKING ABOUT EACH OTHER.

Yvette sits at work SMILING then we CUT TO Jody he pedals with a GRIN on his face. Then Jody pedals forward by himself and we CUT TO a SIDE ANGLE and he comes into the frame with Yvette on the HANDLEBARS. As they enjoy the ride she rubs his bald head he gives her a KISS. They are both happy. CUT TO:

Jody riding alone. The police pass him by. He grins and turns a corner pedaling quickly.

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jody arrives at Yvette's place. He sees her car in the driveway. Jody jumps off his bike smiling.

He arrives at the door. Hearing noise inside. Knocks.

The door opens:

Some KNUCKLEHEAD with a joint in his mouth answers the door.

                  KNUCKLEHEAD

          What's up?

                  JODY

          Where Yvette at?

Rodney comes to the door.

                  RODNEY

          Jody? So you Jody huh? (sizing him up)  
          Yvette ain't here. You come to get your  
          son? You can take 'em. I ain't trying to  
          be his daddy.

                  JODY

          Joe-Joe!! C'mere lil man!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Joe-Joe comes out to his father. Jody picks him up and turns to leave.

RODNEY

You sound hard on the phone.

Jody turns to look at Rodney as he goes down the stairs. He carries his son in one arm and walks his bike with the other hand. Upstairs, two other knuckleheads exit the apartment to join Rodney to watch Jody exit up the street.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jody finishes giving his son a bath. He picks up the baby in a blanket. MARVIN GAYE's "Just to Keep You Satisfied" plays in b.g..

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Jody and Joe-Joe are eating. He motions for his son to finish his food and not play with it. Juanita is cleaning up the kitchen. She smokes a cigarette. Her and Jody share a look. She holds up her hand. "I ain't in this."

INT. JODY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Distant thunder. A storm is approaching. Joe-Joe is asleep on his father's bed. Jody sits across the room watching his son then he rises goes to the bed pulls up the mattress retrieves his NINE MM. He crosses to a drawer and pulls out a CLIP pops it into the gun. Jody walks around the room getting worked up.

JODY

Damn that bitch!

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Rain falls hard. Thunder and Lighting strike.

Yvette pulls up in Sharika's car.

Jody meets her at the door. Gun in hand..pissed.

JODY

Are them niggas still at your house?

YVETTE

No.

JODY

Wait here.

He leaves comes back with a sleeping Joe-Joe. Yvette takes the baby into her arms.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YVETTE

I didn't ask Rodney to come to my place Jody, he just showed up now I gotta get him out. He won't leave.

JODY

Yeah, yeah, you said you wanted a man in the house I guess you happy now huh?

YVETTE

I didn't ask him to come...and I'm not fucking him either if that's what you thinking. (JODY JUST LOOKS AT HER) The car is broke the engine needs fixing.

JODY

It ain't my problem.

He goes back into the house. Yvette turns to leave. As she walks towards her ride she starts to break down with every step by the time she reaches the car she is crying.

INT. SHARIKA'S CAR - NIGHT

Yvette gets into the car. Crying.

YVETTE

He don't love me no more.

EXT. JUANITA'S GARDEN - DAY

Juanita sits down and toils in the soil. Her music plays in the background. Frankie Beverly and Maze. She seems to be enjoying herself pulling up weeds until she finds something.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Juanita walks through the house we follow her as she goes into Jody's room.

JUANITA

What the hell is this?

JODY

(examines the plant)  
Cannibus.

JUANITA

It was growing among my tomato plants. I try to show you something new and what do you do? You put this shit in my garden!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY

You trying to say I planted that shit?!

JUANITA

Who else?

JODY

I didn't plant that shit! You need to check your boyfriend. I told you he was foul! Now you trying to blame me for his bullshit?!

JUANITA

C'mon Jody you know you did it. Melvin wouldn't do nothing like this, this got your name all over it!

JODY

You trust him before me? I'm tellin you I didn't do it. Why would I wanna grow some weed in my momma's garden? What kind of fool you think I am? Where Melvin at? Ask him!

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody lays on the couch. Juanita sits in her loveseat. They watch Melvin pull up in his truck. He walks into the doorway sees them both in the living room. Melvin walks over to Juanita gives her a kiss on the cheek. He starts towards the bedroom.

JODY

Tell him. Tell him momma.

MELVIN

Tell me what?

JODY

She fount the weed you was growing by her tomatoes. Go ahead tell her about it so she can get offa my case. You did it huh?

Melvin stands there. Nods.

JODY (CONT'D)

Kick his ass out momma.

JUANITA

Mel! What was you thinkin about?

JODY

Gettin blazed!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELVIN

I'm sorry Juanita I shoulda told you. I won't do it again. (He kisses her walks towards the bedroom)

Jody sits up on the couch. He is surprised.

Juanita lights up a cigarette.

JODY

Oh so it's all cool now huh? When it was me it was all World War Three! But now since Melvin fessed up it's all good. You see how you is?! I would never do no shit like that. I'm ain't trying to go back to jail and I damn sure ain't trying to put my momma there! But you don't give me no credit for that!

JUANITA

Shut up!! Shut up!! Jody!!

JODY

What's wrong? You don't like me speaking the truth?! How you think I feel with you laid up with some old thug ass nigga that wanna kick me out the house so he can do whatever?

JUANITA

I can take care of myself. I don't need you to be checking the folks I deal with. Am I in your business with these little girls you running around with? No? Then give me the same respect Jody! You really getting on my last nerve with this shit between you and Melvin.

Melvin enters the living room from the kitchen.

He stands in the doorway.

JODY

This is my house too!

JUANITA

Your house? Your house?! Do you pay any bills around here? Do you fix anything around here?! When was the last time you paid a bill? All you do is eat, sleep and shit! Walking around here like you King Tut or somebody! So don't give me that mess about who's house this is! This is my house Jody! And if I wanna have a man

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JUANITA (cont'd)  
 in here I'ma have a man up in here.  
 That's my say! Not yours!

Melvin smiles a bit.

JODY  
 What the fuck you laughing at?!

MELVIN  
 You. Your spoiled ass!

JUANITA  
 Leave him alone Melvin.

MELVIN  
 No Nita, he need to hear this. I keep quiet  
 around here outta love and respect for your  
 momma. You need to grow up and be a man.

JODY  
 Be a man?! What you mean? Like you? You a  
 man Melvin? I should be like you?!

MELVIN  
 No you don't need to be like me but you  
 need to do somethin. You sit up trying to  
 blame somebody for your problems when you  
 need to check yourself.

JUANITA  
 Melvin, Melvin, Melvin baby. . .

Jody sees his mother go over to Melvin and silence him with a  
 gesture of affection.

JODY  
 Man forget this shit...Get out my way man!

Melvin stands his ground. Jody stands toe to toe with Melvin.

JODY (CONT'D)  
 Nigga you need to move!!

Melvin doesn't move. Jody pushes him, he pushes back. And it's  
 on and popping. Jody takes a SWING at Melvin and connects with  
 his face. Melvin throws a punch and hits Jody in the head. They  
 fall to the carpet break the coffee table. Juanita struggles to  
 separate them. As she does Jody takes one more shot pushes his  
 hand in Melvin's face.

JUANITA  
 Stop!! Stop!!! Are y'all crazy?!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JODY

Fuck it I'm leaving! Y'all don't haveta worry about me no more!

MELVIN

No I'm leaving! Juanita, I can't live like this!!

JODY

Yeah that's right nigga! You leave! This my house! I ain't going nowhere!

JUANITA

No Melvin don't go!! Y'all gonna have to live together.

JODY

Don't go?! You gonna choose this man over me?! Over your son?! Your flesh and blood?! Your child?!

JUANITA

You ain't no baby no more Jody. You ain't no child.

Jody takes this in. His face angry. He turns to walk into his bedroom. He immediately packs a few clothes for himself in a bag then walks towards the front door.

JODY

If I get killed it's on you momma!

JUANITA

You got your own life!!

JODY

Yeah momma got a life too! Don't she?! I see that now!!

Jody leaves.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Jody rides his bike. He looks pissed off. He passes a HOMELESS MAN with a cup out for change. Jody rides harder.

INT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rodney sits on Yvette's couch smoking some weed. His feet are up on her coffee table. Yvette is cleaning up around him. She makes a gesture for him to get his feet off the table. Rodney smacks her ass and she smacks his face.

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Juanita walks through the house she looks turns the lights out in the living room which has been cleaned up a bit, then she walks over to the kitchen and into Jody's room. She looks in his empty room, turns off the lights and then we follow her into her room where she gets into bed and sleeps next to Melvin.

INT. KIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jody sleeps on the couch. We DISSOLVE from NIGHT to DAY and Jody rises in his underwear to Sweetpea waking him up.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Jody and Sweetpea lift weights. Jody is hitting the iron hard. Sweetpea stands check over him. Jody hops up after benching two hundred pounds. Jody walks around, he's fired up, stretches his arms back and forth.

SWEETPEA

So who we gonna kill Jody-Joe? Who you need me to kill?

Jody looks at Sweetpea out the side of his eye. Keeps pacing.

SWEETPEA (CONT'D)

I know you wanna kill somebody. You look like you wanna kill somebody? Who Melvin? Lets go get that nigga. You ain't gonna feel better unless you do it.

INT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Rodney is asleep on the couch. Yvette comes near to wake him up.

YVETTE

Rodney?! Rodney wake up!

RODNEY

What I'm trying to sleep.

YVETTE

You need to get up and find you a place to stay. You can't stay here no more.

RODNEY

Oh Yvette, where am I gonna go? Damn I'm so tired.

YVETTE

You gonna have to get the fuck out!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RODNEY

I ain't going nowhere. (he pulls her towards him) You and me gotta work out our problems! I want us to get married. I want you to have my baby.

YVETTE

(pulls away)

Nigga is you crazy?! I ain't having no baby by you! You need to go!

RODNEY

Oh but you can have that nigga Jody's baby huh? What the matter I ain't pretty enough for you?

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Jody does pushups. Sweetpea stands over him like a sergeant.

SWEETPEA

You ready to go to war huh?! Who is it? I'm ready nigga! Lets go! I feel the same way you do! I got to let it out! Bust my gun!!

Jody rises, stretches his arms once more.

Jody goes over to the table. Breaks the CARDS and starts dealing. Jody and Sweetpea play a game of SPADES. After a few hands other brothers start to show up. Some start a crap game, others sit around talking. Jody continues to play spades looking at the cards. They flash before his eyes. The KING OF HEARTS, ACE OF SPADES, THE JOKER.

LATE AFTERNOON: The sun is almost going down, The brothers look up from their crap game.

Yvette walks into the backyard from the door. Kim is at her side. Kim gestures to where Jody sits. He is mixing DOMINOES. Jody looks up at her continues mixing the bones. He ignores her. Yvette walks into the backyard pulls a chair up behind Jody. He ignores her. Jody plays a game. His face intense. He slaps down bones hard. Writes down his points.

INT. YVETTE'S CAR - NIGHT

Yvette is driving. She wipes tears away from her eyes. She is sad. We pull back from her face to find she is not alone in the car...Jody, his face serious.

They pull up to a hotel. THE SNOOTY FOX.

INT. SNOOTY FOX - NIGHT

Jody and Yvette walks into the room. Yvette is nervous she doesn't know what to say or do. She sits on the bed. Jody stands there, she crosses to him begins kissing him on the face.

YVETTE

I missed you so much. Did you miss me? Do you still love me? I didn't wanna break up I just wanted to teach you a lesson. I felt unappreciated y'know? And I didn't ask Rodney to come there he just showed up and bogarted his way in. I need to get him out of there. ...Jody say something, did you miss me? Do you still love me?

Jody says nothing. He begins to take her clothes off.

She takes his off.

THE BED

Jody gets ontop of Yvette. He begins to kiss her breasts, her face, gradually he makes his way back down under the covers and goes down on her then he comes up from under the covers with a look of bliss on his face.

JODY

That's my stuff! I missed you Yvette! I missed your ass so much! I'm sorry! I love you! You my rib! You ever heard of Adam's Rib? That's how God made Eve. I can't live without you baby! (Yvette starts to cry) I'm not lying this time! This the truth! I love you lil woman! You feel Daddy Dick?! I want you to have my baby. Lets make another baby! Can we do that?

YVETTE

Yes I wanna have another baby! Let's make another baby. You mean it this time?

JODY

Yes I mean it. We gonna make another baby okay? Right now. Let's do this. C'mon!

They make carnal passion. Yvette cries tears of joy. She screams as she comes.

YVETTE

Can we get back together baby? Can we get married?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jody looks at her. His eyes meet hers. They neither confirm or deny her request. He continues to make love to her.

EXT. BALDWIN HILLS - DAY

A BIG FRONT LAWN:Where Melvin works. He cuts the grass, prunes the hedges. Waters the plant life.

INT. YVETTE'S PLACE - DAY

Rodney sits on the couch watching television. Yvette walks across the room not looking at him. Rodney rises to where her keys are on the counter. He takes her keys. Yvette's purse is nearby. Rodney looks around grabs some money quick then makes an exit. Yvette hears the door slam and enters the living room to find the KEYS gone.

EXT. BALDWIN HILLS - DAY

Melvin finishes working. He drinks some water, packs up his tools in his truck.

EXT. YVETTE'S CAR - DAY

Rodney is cruising the streets in Yvette's car. He picks up a few of his homeboys and off they go on a ride.

EXT. BALDWIN HILLS - DAY

Melvin comes down the hill. He passes the LIQUOR BANK, sees several young men standing outside the BANK kicking it drinking. He shakes his head drives onward...we move into the men and find Rodney in the middle of it all. He stands by Yvette's car.

EXT. KIM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Jody and Sweetpea sit alone. It is apparent they are plotting.

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Melvin gets home tired. He walks into the house, turns on lights. No lights.

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Rodney gets home. The place is dark too. He switches the lights. Damn. They don't work.

INTERCUT:MELVIN AND RODNEY

Melvin walks out to the back of the house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Rodney goes downstairs.

Melvin opens the box.

Rodney looks at the box switches and lights a lighter sees Yvette's apartment. Number #2. He flips the switch. Closes the box. Turns to see...

Melvin turns to see ...

Jody stands in front of Rodney.

Melvin looks surprised then smiles as Juanita is standing there with a FLASHLIGHT. They kiss then turn their attention to the fuse box.

RODNEY

So wuz up? I'm supposed to be scared?

Jody looks Rodney in the eye then his eye line turns to behind Rodney and Sweetpea comes out of the SHADOWS like the ANGEL OF DEATH.

RODNEY'S FACE: He is scared now.

RODNEY (CONT'D)

Aw shit...I just got outta jail too.

Rodney swings at Jody who ducks throws a fist to his jaw.

Sweetpea leaps after Rodney who jumps out the way starts running. Jody and Sweetpea recover and are after Rodney.

Rodney zooms out of the complex jumps the sidewalk and is in the street. Jody and Sweetpea are on his ass. They pull out guns and take aim. Jody's nervous finger on the trigger. Sweetpea aims. JODY'S FACE...seconds away from his first kill...FINGER TENSE...then...

BOOM! Jody fires. Rodney gets it in the side. He goes flying in the street, his body falling to the street.

Jody and Sweetpea pause. Then walk over to Rodney.

They stand over Rodney who is not dead yet. He is bleeding and in pain. Jody looks at his face Sweetpea looks at Jody gesturing him to finish the job. Jody can't do it. His face is a ball of confusion Sweetpea fires two shots to Rodney's head startling Jody. Then Sweetpea pulls Jody along and they run up the street.

A WINDOW:The Mexican lady watches. She closes her curtains.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jody and Sweetpea walk along for a long moment neither looks at the other.... then they part without even saying goodbye.

INT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

JODY'S ROOM

Jody sits there on the edge of his bed. He takes the gun out his pants and tries to get comfortable. Then he sits there and then he begins to cry in frustration. Its not a weepy cry but more like what the fuck did I just do?

Jody looks up sees ...

Melvin standing in doorway in his underwear.

There is an uneasy moment. Jody gets his composure almost embarassed to be caught so vulnerable.

Melvin slowly enters the room never taking his eye off Jody.

Jody looks at Melvin too. Then Melvin takes a towel off a chair and wraps his hand in it and holds it out to Jody. Jody places the gun in the towel. Melvin takes the gun wipes it clean then wraps it in the towel. Then he puts his hand on Jody's shoulder and pulls him up and gives him a HUG.

They finish their embrace then look at one another in a whole new light. Melvin's face says, "I understand." Melvin turns leaves the room gun wrapped in towel. Jody watches him go.

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

CAPTION:A FEW DAYS LATER

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Juanita sits in her garden. She drinks her wine, listens to Frankie Beverly. She is in bliss.

Jody steps out the house. Juanita watches him approach out of the corner of her eye then looks forward.

JUANITA  
You hungry?

JODY  
No. ..

JUANITA  
Where you been staying?

(CONTINUED)

JODY

I found a place. (looks around)  
Everything grown huh?

JUANITA

Yeah, I'm bout to get up an pull some of those greens for tomorrow, wash 'em put em in the sink. ..What you want? Some money? I ain't got no money right now.

JODY

Naw momma I'm cool. You want some money?

JUANITA

Yeah boy give me some money, twenty years worth. Boy if you was one of them mutual funds I'd be paid. Melvin said y'all had a talk the other night...

JODY

(looks around, trying to find the words)

Yeah...I'm glad you found a boyfriend. It's good to see you happy. I'm sorry for being selfish. I thought if you got a new boyfriend y'all kick me out and I'd get kilt like Ray-Ray. I guess y'all did kick me out but I ain't dead yet.

JUANITA

Ain't nobody kicked you out Jody! You just left the nest that's all. And quit talkin about dying. Ain't nobody gonna be dying no time soon baby. You don't know what kind of cards life's gone deal you. All you need to do try to be happy while you here and hope to God there's a better place and Jesus will let your ass in on judgement day. ....But while you down you better watch your back.

JODY

(smiles)

That's what I know.

JUANITA

That's what I know.

Juanita nods. Jody reaches for some of her wine. She slaps his hand.

JUANITA (CONT'D)

Go get you a glass!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jody looks at his mother. Smiles. He reaches in gives her a kiss.

JODY

I'm out. Love you momma.

JUANITA

Love you too. Be good.

Juanita waves him away.

EXT. JUANITA'S HOUSE - DAY

Jody walks out the front of the house. Melvin stands out front near his truck talking to a few of his card buddies. Melvin looks at Jody.

JODY

What's up Melvin?!

Melvin nods. Keeps talking to his friends.

MELVIN

Hey Jody! Whats up with you?

JODY

Nothing much! Living life! You keep my momma happy alright man?!

MELVIN

I'm on the job! Stay up Baby Boy!!

Jody nods as he gets into Yvette's car. Turns on stereo. Music plays:GQ's version of "I Do Love You".

EXT. YVETTE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jody drives up hops out walks up the steps says "Hello" to the Mexican lady next door then as he is about to knock he remembers. Jody uses his keys opens the door walks inside as we travel to the PICTURE WINDOW watch Jody plop down on the couch. Joe-Joe watches cartoons. Yvette comes over to him lays on the couch, settles in his arms, pops her thumb in her mouth. Jody playfully pulls it out then she puts it back in and relaxes. Yvette looks up at his face then back to the TV.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. KENNETH HAHN PARK - DAY

Jody spreads a blanket over camera.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He smoothes out the blanket, puts an ice chest in the corner to hold it down then he helps Yvette lay down on the blanket. We see she is BIG and very PREGNANT. Jody and Yvette lay on the blanket. Jody breaks out the cards and starts to deal.

EXT. JUANITA'S GARDEN - DAY

Juanita is sitting enjoying her wine. Melvin comes over to her picks her up out the chair and they start dancing. They do the CHA-CHA to the music.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Sweetpea gets BAPTIZED. He goes down into the water then comes up. Kim and her mother are present. He hugs them both afterwards.

EXT. KENNETH HAHN PARK - DAY

Jody and Yvette playing SPADES. Yvette FLASHES her new DIAMOND RING. They share a look. Smile.. Lil Joe walks past frame playing near his parents.

THE END