

BIRD DOG

written by

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EXT. RACEWAY TRACK - NIGHT

The track is steaming from the summer heat. Tire marks are ingrained into the pavement.

The ground begins to rumble. Loose pieces of rubber shake on top of the track. A high pitched BUZZ resonates through the air. It grows louder.

The sound becomes deafening as it approaches. It overwhelms the track.

WHOOSH! A mid-level stock car speeds right past us. The engine ROARING.

Twenty more cars are hot on his tail. Each of them whiz by in a blur.

A lug nut spins on the surface of the track.

EXT. 17 CAR - CONTINUOUS

The car is a beast. It's a patch work monster made from a few different cars. It looks like shit but rides like the wind. It speeds over 175 MPH as it leads the pack.

The car's exterior is covered with off-brand advertisements. Nothing we've ever heard of.

The 17 car easily glides through the groove of the first turn. Nothing can stop it.

INT. 17 CAR

GREG, late 30's male, has a calm and cool demeanor as he drives the monster.

PIT CHIEF (O.S.)

Looking good out there Greg. How she feel?

GREG

She's smooth, but I think she's holding back a bit.

PIT CHIEF

Just don't push her. These old ladies are frail.

GREG

You know me Trey.

EXT. 17 CAR

Greg powers through the second turn. Gripping the pavement. The sparse crowd in the stands goes wild.

EXT. RACEWAY STANDS

The raceway is a quarter filled. But they're all #17 fans. They wave their #17 flags with passion.

EXT. RACEWAY STANDS - FAMILY SECTION

SUSAN, mid 30's female, cheers with excitement.

SUSAN  
C'mon Greg! Whooo!

KARAH, 9 year-old girl, nervously clutches a crumpled flag as she watches. Her eyes glued to the track.

KARAH  
He can't hear you, mom.

SUSAN  
That doesn't matter. It's all about the positive energy. All that matters is that your dad knows we're cheering him on.

EXT. RACEWAY - PIT AREA

TREY, early 50's male, unwraps a candy bar as he speaks into his headset.

TREY  
How's she feel, Greg? Noticed you slowing down on that turn.

INT. 17 CAR

Greg grunts as he struggles to grip the wheel. The body of the car shakes with fury.

GREG  
I'm getting a lot of bounce on my rear. Back left wheel feels loose.

TREY  
Can you manage?

GREG  
She's breaking on me.

A loud KNOCKING sound fills the inside of the car.

TREY  
Let up on it then. Head back to the  
pit and we'll sort it out. We'll  
make our run soon enough.

GREG  
Shit.

EXT. 17 CAR

The back left wheel shakes uncontrollably. It's close to coming off. All hell is about to break loose.

EXT. RACEWAY TRACK

The third turn is right ahead of the 17 car. It's too late. Greg is fucked.

INT. 17 CAR

Greg punches the brakes.

EXT. 17 CAR

But it's no good. THUNK! The back left tire shoots off the axle, sending the car sideways. Sparks shoot out from the side as metal meets the pavement.

WHAM! The car smacks with force against the wall. The backside of the car is lifted into the air.

EXT. RACEWAY TRACK

The 17 car is sent airborne. It soars over the track as it tumbles over itself.

EXT. 17 CAR

The car whistles through the air until it crashes violently onto the track.

INT. KARAH'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

MEGAN, 6 year-old girl, cries as she watches a cartoon movie on the TV. She curls into a ball on the couch.

KARAH, mid 20's female, sprints into the room. Fresh out of the shower. A toothbrush sticks out of her mouth.

KARAH  
What's wrong!? Did you hurt  
yourself?

Megan shakes her head.

KARAH  
Then what?

Megan wipes away her tears as she looks to Karah.

MEGAN  
Coco's friend got hurt.

Karah is perplexed.

KARAH  
What?

MEGAN  
Coco!

Megan points to the TV and frowns.

Karah rolls her eyes and sighs. She walks over to Megan and sits down next to her.

KARAH  
It's just a cartoon sweetheart. And  
haven't you seen this one like a  
hundred times anyway?

Megan fights back her tears.

MEGAN  
Yeah, but...

The waterworks start again.

KARAH  
Alright, that's enough TV for now.

Karah switches off the TV.

KARAH  
Grandma should be over any minute  
with those donuts. That sound good?

MEGAN  
Okay.

The tears instantly stop as Megan leaps off the couch.

MEGAN  
Did she get any cream filled?

Karah shakes her head in disbelief. She holds back her  
laughter.

INT. KARAH'S KITCHEN - DAY

Megan chomps away at her donut. Cream filling is everywhere.

SUSAN, early 50's now, chuckles as she attempts to wipe away  
some of the mess off of Megan.

SUSAN  
Did you actually eat any of that  
filling?

MEGAN  
Mmhmm.

Karah enters the room. She walks over to the coffee maker.

KARAH  
Mom, you're better off hosing her  
down out back when she's done.

SUSAN  
I'm sure Courtney would love that.

Megan turns around in her seat and scowls at Karah.

MEGAN  
I'm not a dog Aunt Karah!

Karah pours herself a cup of coffee and sets it down.

KARAH  
Is that so? Because when I peeked  
in on you sleeping last night, you  
were like this.

Karah pretends to be a dog sleeping on their back. Her wrists  
weakly bent down.

MEGAN  
No I wasn't!

KARAH  
I'm sorry, but you were. I think I  
heard you growling in your sleep  
too.

Megan giggles.

MEGAN  
What did I sound like?

Karah continues her dog impression. She lets out a soft  
growl.

Megan cracks up.

SUSAN  
Okay that's enough.

Susan taps the table in front of Megan.

SUSAN  
Let's finish your breakfast.

Karah sits down at the table.

KARAH  
Captain bringdown strikes again.

Susan glares at Karah.

MEGAN  
What's a bringdown?

SUSAN  
Don't worry about it honey.

KARAH  
Grandma.

SUSAN  
Karah.

Karah smirks as she grabs a donut.

SUSAN  
Who said any of those are for you?

KARAH  
Funny.

Karah quickly shoves half the donut in her mouth.

KARAH  
(her mouth full)  
Too late now.

Megan cracks up again.

KARAH  
You're mommy's not this funny, is she?

MEGAN  
You're silly Aunt Karah!

Susan checks her phone.

SUSAN  
Speaking of mommy, yours should be here pretty soon. So why don't you finish and clean yourself up.

MEGAN  
Okay.

Megan plops the entire donut in her mouth and laughs.

SUSAN  
Gee, I wonder where she learned that from?

Megan rolls off her chair and scurries out of the kitchen.

KARAH  
Don't run with your mouth full, Megan!

Susan wipes down Megan's mess on the table.

SUSAN  
I take it you two had fun yesterday?

KARAH  
Of course we did. A little cocaine. A few hookers. You know, a quiet night in for me and my niece.

SUSAN  
Funny.

Karah smiles. She picks up a small clay pot from the center of the table.

KARAH

We went to the clay shop. The one you used to take me and Courtney to all the time. She's actually pretty good.

Susan stops cleaning. She grabs the pot. Her heart just melts.

SUSAN

Will you look at that.

KARAH

That little gremlin is something, isn't she?

Susan nods.

SUSAN

She looks up to you, ya know?

KARAH

I know.

SUSAN

Do you?

Susan gently sets the pot down and sits down.

SUSAN

Every time I talk to Courtney, she's practically crying because you're all Megan talks about. Mommy, Aunt Karah did this. Mommy, Aunt Karah did that.

KARAH

What do you want me to do, stop being fun?

SUSAN

No. Courtney is glad that you make Mega happy. She just worries, you know?

KARAH

About what?

Susan looks to Karah and sighs. She's been through this before.

It sinks into Karah.

KARAH

Jesus! I don't take her to the damn club, and I haven't told her what I do, so what's the problem!?

SUSAN

I've accepted what you do. I don't agree with it. I've come to terms with it though. But it's why you do it?

KARAH

Mom.

SUSAN

I just don't get it.

The front door opens from the living room.

COURTNEY (O.S.)

Hello!

SUSAN

(lowering her voice)

Honey, girls strip to get by. They strip for the excitement. They don't do it for their nest egg for some reckless sport. Now if you were working to put yourself through med school, that would be different. Lord knows I thought about it when I was younger. But it still would have been different.

KARAH

Right.

SUSAN

It would have been.

A beat.

KARAH

It's all I ever wanted. It's what I want to do. I'm going to find a way, mom. I will do whatever it takes.

SUSAN

I know. You're smart and you know what you're doing. You're a grown woman and I can't stop you. And I only want what's best for YOU.

Karah smiles.

SUSAN

That's why if I were you, I'd find the richest, dumbest guy there and take him for all the money he has. Just wipe him out.

KARAH

Trust me mom, I've thought about it.

COURTNEY, early 30's female, walks into the kitchen.

COURTNEY

Hey, what are you two talking about? Don't act like I couldn't hear you guys from in there.

KARAH

Take a wild guess.

SUSAN

Karah stop.

Courtney raises her eyebrows as she grabs a donut from the table. She takes a giant bite.

COURTNEY

(her mouth full)

Thanks for watching the little blessing.

Karah smirks and looks to Susan.

MEGAN (O.S.)

Mommy!

Megan barrels into the kitchen and wraps her arms around Courtney's legs.

MEGAN

How was Albania?

Courtney turns around and lifts Megan in her arms.

COURTNEY

No honey, Pennsylvania. And it was very...Pittsburghy.

MEGAN

Pittswhat?

COURTNEY

Never mind. How was your day with Aunt Karah?

MEGAN

It was fun!

COURTNEY

Oh yeah? What did you do?

MEGAN

Lots of stuff. We made pots and went to Victoria's secret, and we saw a race car. Up close!

COURTNEY

Really?

MEGAN

Yeah! Aunt Karah says it goes super fast, like a rocket ship.

COURTNEY

Cool. Why don't you go get your things? Mommy wants to get home and shower.

Courtney lowers Megan.

MEGAN

Where's my brush Aunt Karah?

KARAH

In the bathroom, sweetie.

Megan bolts out of the kitchen.

KARAH

Before you say it Courtney, I know how it looks.

Courtney turns to Karah and glares.

COURTNEY

How does it look? Tell me.

KARAH

First off, I only went to buy perfume. Secondly, it's just a store. What's the big deal? It's not like I took her to the club. She didn't even see anything.

Courtney rolls her eyes and slams her donut down onto the table.

COURTNEY

That's not what I'm talking about.

KARAH

Then what are we...

Karah glances back and forth between Courtney and Susan.

KARAH

...the car?

Susan and Courtney shake their heads in disapproval.

KARAH

We were just looking at it. I thought it would be fun.

COURTNEY

Oh yeah, sounds like fun to me. "Oh hey Megan, let me show you the reason why you never met your grandfather." Sounds great. Really bummed I missed it.

Karah is irked.

KARAH

It wasn't the car. And it wasn't the race. He died because some piece of shit failed to do his job properly. But it's not like you would know. What were you doing that night instead?

Courtney is stoic. Unable to respond.

SUSAN

That was uncalled for.

COURTNEY

No mom. Let her have that. If she wants to be like that, whatever. She always does what she wants anyway. You already drive dad's old car because you wanted it, right? Take whatever you want. Whatever is best for you. Isn't that right? Whatever is best for you. Without a moment of consideration for anybody else. It's just you against the world, like always.

KARAH  
Somebody has to look out for me.  
Might as well be myself.

COURTNEY  
Like always.

Karah is disgusted.

KARAH  
I'm gonna go check on Megan.  
Wouldn't want her finding some of  
her trashy and reckless aunt's  
shit.

Karah quickly exits the kitchen.

BEGIN MONTAGE.

EXT. CITYSCAPE - DAY

The sun shines brilliantly as the morning commute kicks into gear.

EXT. COLE'S APARTMENT - DAY

An apartment complex sits atop a 24/7 gym.

EXT. WONDERLAND CLUB - DAY

The outside of a strip club. It's a standard building.  
Nothing spectacular.

EXT. ROCCO'S DINER - DAY

A few people populate the inside. It's a bit rundown. But it  
looks the part of a traditional diner.

EXT. SPEEDVIEW RACEWAY - DAY

A large and vacant raceway. From the outside, it looks like a  
place that's stuck in the past.

EXT. ISIAH'S MANSION - DAY

This place is stunning. Absolutely gorgeous. Modern  
architecture. Brilliant landscaping. Breathtaking view. It's  
perfect.

END MONTAGE.

INT. KARAH'S GARAGE - DAY

A sweet classic American Muscle car sits in the center of the garage. It's name is CORA.

A slick red paint job is highlighted by the black interior.

Karah stands in front of Cora, admiring her. She gently runs her hand along the trim.

KARAH  
Good morning, Cora.

INT. CORA - CONTINUOUS

Karah steps into the car. She closes her eyes as she starts the ignition. The engine roars.

Karah lets out a cocky smile and opens her eyes. She revs the engine as the garage door opens.

BAM! Karah guns it out of the garage. She flies down her driveway and sharply turns out onto the street.

Karah speeds down the street and whips right through a stop sign.

INT. COLE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Karah reclines back on a large leather couch.

COLE (O.S.)  
All I got is Miller. Is that fine?

KARAH  
Yeah, that's cool.

COLE, mid 30's male, walks into the room with two cans of beer.

Cole is jacked. The body of a body builder. His form fitting A-shirt barely covers his chest.

He hands Karah one of the cans and plops himself down onto the couch.

COLE  
What do you think of the new couch?

KARAH

It's pretty awesome. I'm gonna be honest, I don't even feel like moving at all anymore. Like ever. I'm so glad I hit the gym before I came here.

COLE

Fuck it, ya know? Let's just order a pizza and call it a day.

Karah seriously considers the offer. She pops open the beer and takes a sip.

KARAH

I wish.

COLE

Why not? I could call Tap and we could light up a few. Just completely crash.

KARAH

I can't, Cole. I wish I could. But I got shit to do.

COLE

After the morning you just had, you're telling me you don't want to just kick back and... forget it all?

Karah smiles. She wants to say fuck it.

KARAH

This morning is a perfect reminder of the work I have to do. I'm tired of it. I just want to move on already.

COLE

C'mon, I still haven't heard a concrete no. Give me a solid reason why we can't just call off tonight and chill.

KARAH

Well, I got one really rock solid reason why.

COLE

What?

Karah inches up in her seat.

KARAH

I got a big payday coming tonight.

COLE

Isiah's coming in? I thought he was laying low for now?

KARAH

No. I got a text from Morgan. He said he was flying in for business.

COLE

Ahh, the elusive sidepiece whale.

KARAH

Oh shut up.

Cole cracks open his beer and chugs.

COLE

But seriously, it must be nice to capture the hearts of a couple millionaires. Does Isiah know you're cheating on him?

KARAH

Whatever man. He's a grown man, and I am not his possession.

COLE

I'm just saying, Isiah has a thing for you. He won't let that fly for too long.

KARAH

What fly? Me making money doing my job? Fuck him.

COLE

I've seen it before. I've been around a lot longer than you.

KARAH

And I'm grateful for the help you give me.

COLE

So listen to me, Isiah is a possessive man. He doesn't like it when people hurt him. Maybe you should pass this Morgan cat off to Alona or something.

KARAH  
Are you serious?

COLE  
Just think about it.

KARAH  
I don't have to. If you were me,  
you'd think the same way.

Karah sips from her beer.

COLE  
Do you know what I'd do to get that  
kind of money in one night? Shit,  
one guy or four guys, I'd strap on  
a pair of knee pads and get out the  
jar of Vaseline.

Karah loses it. She spits out her mouthful of beer onto the  
couch.

COLE  
Damn yo! On the new couch?

Karah sheepishly wipes her mouth and blots the couch with  
sleeve.

KARAH  
Sorry.

COLE  
God, you're lucky we're good bros,  
lady.

KARAH  
It's light beer. If anything I just  
washed your couch for you.

Cole smiles and slams the rest of his beer. He stands up and  
tosses the can into a corner of collected cans.

COLE  
You want another?

KARAH  
No, I'm fine.

COLE  
Good, because I wasn't gonna give  
you one anyway.

KARAH  
Suck it.

COLE  
I gladly would.

Cole walks into his kitchen and grabs a beer out from the fridge.

Karah takes a look around the living room. There's no TV.

KARAH  
What's the point of this nice couch  
when there's no TV?

Cole steps back in.

COLE  
It was either the couch or a TV.  
Not everyone pulls down the money  
like you do. Speaking of which...

KARAH  
I'm not telling you.

COLE  
C'mon, just give me a ballpark. How  
much does this new guy throw down?

KARAH  
No.

COLE  
You owe me.

KARAH  
For what, barely coughing semi-beer  
onto your new couch?

COLE  
You know me, I keep my nose out of  
other people's shit. But I'm just  
curious. Please?

Karah thinks about it.

KARAH  
A good amount. I'll leave it at  
that.

COLE  
A good amount like what? Are we  
talking hundreds or thousands?

KARAH  
I always throw some to you, don't  
I? So why does it matter to you?

COLE  
Yeah, you throw SOME. I'm just kind  
of scraping by here.

KARAH  
Just trust me, you'll get yours.  
Besides, I got plans I'm working  
towards, you know that. I'm almost  
there.

COLE  
And then what?

KARAH  
I'm out.

Cole is troubled by the answer.

KARAH  
Look, I gotta get going. Like I  
said, I got some shit I have to  
take care of before I head in  
tonight. But we'll talk later,  
right?

COLE  
Yeah.

KARAH  
Cole, I promise. I won't leave you  
high and dry here.

COLE  
I know.

Karah slams the rest of her beer and chucks it into the  
corner.

KARAH  
Thanks for the beer. I'll see you  
tonight, right?

COLE  
Yeah, I'll see ya.

Karah leaves.

Cole is agitated. He tosses his beer down onto the couch. He  
pulls out his phone and dials a number.

EXT. SPEEDVIEW RACEWAY - DAY

The raceway glistens in the sun.

INT. SPEEDVIEW GARAGE AREA

Karah steps in front of a mediocre looking stock car. It's engine is exposed.

Karah leans in and inspects it closely.

Trey, 15 years older now, walks in behind Karah.

TREY

She ain't you daddy's car. But she got more than enough under the hood to get you going.

Karah runs her finger deep inside the engine, checking for leaks.

KARAH

What's the deal then? Why they selling?

TREY

The team is moving to Formula racing. The owner found some hotshot Italian driver and they think very highly of him.

KARAH

Good for them.

TREY

They're an okay group of guys.

KARAH

Great endorsement there, Trey.

TREY

Take it as you will, it doesn't matter. What does matter is that they got a couple other offers on the girl. But since they think they're selling to me, they gave me the first crack at it.

KARAH

But...

TREY

But since they did that, they're expecting full asking price.

KARAH

Isn't that sweet. How much?

TREY

95.

KARAH

I might as well build my own car from scratch for that much.

TREY

Now this includes a tentative agreement from the current sponsors. They're willing to meet with the new owners and continue their sponsorship. You just can't get that anywhere else.

Karah backs away from the engine. She wipes her hands with a rag.

KARAH

I could always find sponsors.

TREY

Maybe.

KARAH

Then we should look elsewhere!

TREY

Listen Karah, ain't nobody gonna sell to you directly, out of respect for your father. You want your way in, here it is. I want to help you, I do. But I can't travel around the country looking for a sale. This is a golden opportunity here. This kind of thing just doesn't happen.

Trey looks to Karah.

TREY

Now if it's a money thing, I can understand that.

KARAH

If everyone wants to keep me out, why do you want to help me try to get in? I don't get it.

Trey takes a deep breath.

TREY

I loved your father. He was like a brother to me. We went way back.

(MORE)

TREY (CONT'D)

Well before he met your mother. And all he ever wanted to do was race? Didn't matter what. He just wanted to drive.

KARAH

Like me.

TREY

Just like you.

Trey eyes begin to water.

TREY

Nobody could ever stop your father. He had his mind made up. But I knew he was doing what he loved. So when he died, he went out the way he wanted. So if his daughter comes to me and says she wants to continue his dream despite what happened, who am I to turn you away? You have your mind made up too, don't you?

Karah smirks.

KARAH

When do they want the money by?

TREY

Like I said, they got other buyers chomping at the bit here.

KARAH

Trey.

TREY

Tomorrow.

Karah sighs.

TREY

I know.

Karah walks over to the driver side of the car and looks in.

KARAH

I'll figure it out.

Karah leaps into the car.

KARAH

I want to take her around the track first.

TREY

I don't know if they'll let you.

Karah won't have of it.

KARAH

Make it happen.

Trey sighs.

EXT. SPEEDVIEW TRACK

The stock car speeds down the track and zooms around a turn with ease.

EXT. WONDERLAND CLUB PARKING LOT - DAY

Cora roars as she pulls into the lot. Karah steps out of the car and gently closes the door.

She takes a look at the club and exhales. She lets out a big smile.

ISIAH (O.S.)

She's a pretty sexy club, isn't she?

Karah's smile evaporates. She turns around and nods her head.

ISIAH, late 30's male, stands there with a cocky grin. He holds a neon pink gym bag.

His bodyguard, CHAD, late 20's male, stands behind him.

ISIAH

You should really lock your car.

Karah spots the bag. She lets out a polite smile. She quickly walks up to Isiah and reaches to grab the bag, but he yanks it back.

ISIAH

Whoa there. Shouldn't there be some kind of finder's fee?

Karah takes a deep breath. This man is making her skin crawl, and he knows it.

Isiah chuckles.

ISIAH

I'm just joking babe!

Isiah tosses the bag into Karah's chest.

KARAH

You're right. That's pretty funny.

Isiah is full of himself. He rubs his hands together and inches closer to Karah.

ISIAH

Now what were you doing at a vile place like that piece of shit race track? You really have me curious here.

KARAH

How did you...

Karah has to collect herself.

KARAH

I was just talking to an old friend. He used to work with my father.

Isiah smiles.

ISIAH

That's cute.

Isiah pulls out a gold card and flaunts it in the air.

ISIAH

I've been cramped up in my house for far too long. I'd like a show tonight. Get my mind off a few things.

KARAH

I'd love to, I really would. But I already have a guest coming in from out of town. First come, first serve, remember?

Isiah nods. He's not happy at all.

ISIAH

No, of course. Another night then.

KARAH

Isiah, I don't mean to...

ISIAH

No, don't worry about it. I completely understand. A woman has to make her living, right?

Karah lets out a nervous smile.

INT. WONDERLAND MAIN AREA - DAY

Karah steps into the club, gym bag in hand.

A topless dancer joylessly struts around on stage in front of a handful of patrons. She's pretty, but nothing spectacular.

It's well before the club gets moving. A few workers clean and prep for the night ahead.

INT. WONDERLAND DRESSING ROOM - DAY

Several STRIPPERS sit in front of their mirrors as they ready their hair and makeup.

The women all vary in age and color. But they're all beautiful. This is Wonderland's A-Team.

The room is dead quiet. Everybody keeps to themselves.

ALONA, early 20's female, quietly hums a musical number to herself as she gets dressed in a sexy one piece suit.

Karah appears in Alona's mirror.

KARAH

Well don't you look especially pretty today.

Alona scoffs as she stands up to face Karah.

ALONA

(in a Rosie Perez accent)  
Today? Bitch I'm always pretty.  
Whatchyou talkin bout!

Alona cracks a smile and hugs Karah.

ALONA

(normal voice)  
I didn't think you were coming in.

KARAH

Are you kidding me, and miss you lovely ladies?

Karah takes a look around the dressing room.

KARAH  
Speaking of which, why is everybody  
so glum today?

Alona frowns.

KARAH  
What?

ALONA  
I thought you already heard.

KARAH  
Heard what?

Alona takes a deep breath and sits down.

ALONA  
Shit. It's about Brianne.

KARAH  
What about her?

ALONA  
She was in some kind of an accident  
this morning. They said it's pretty  
bad.

KARAH  
Oh my God. What kind of accident?

ALONA  
Mikey just said her fiance found  
her in their bathroom.

Alona turns back to the mirror.

ALONA  
Like, passed out on the floor and  
foaming out the mouth.

KARAH  
Jesus.

ALONA  
Yeah. She apparently swallowed a  
whole bottle of pills or something.  
I don't know. But some of the girls  
were talking about shutting down  
for the night. Ya know, out of  
respect for her.

KARAH

I don't know what to say.

ALONA

Yeah...but the show must go on,  
right?

KARAH

I guess.

Karah steps over to her vanity table next to Alona's and sits down. She sinks in her chair.

KARAH

Kind of takes you out of the mood,  
doesn't it?

ALONA

You asked why everyone is so glum?  
Well there it is.

KARAH

Doesn't she have a young boy?

ALONA

Colin. Poor thing. Must be scared  
out of his mind.

Karah takes off her jacket. A bruise is clearly visible on her left shoulder.

ALONA

What happened to you?

Karah rotates her shoulder and winces in pain.

KARAH

Nothing. I was just working out  
earlier. I guess I went a little  
too hard.

ALONA

I'll say. You better cover that  
shit up. Nobody wants a lap dance  
from a battered wife.

Karah inspects the small bruise in the mirror.

KARAH

A little foundation and nobody will  
notice.

ALONA

You better hope that new whale of yours doesn't get too close.

KARAH

Damnit Cole.

ALONA

Is he a touchy feely guy, or a stand in the back and soak it all in loner type of guy?

Karah brushes her hair back and ties it into a ponytail.

KARAH

Neither. Morgan is just a normal kind of guy. Nothing special.

ALONA

Neither, right.

KARAH

Right. He's a good guy.

ALONA

Cole just mentioned he was a premium catch. So how big of a net are we talking about?

Karah glares at Alona.

KARAH

I's not a whore. I don't fuck customers, Alona.

ALONA

Who said anything about that?

Alona smirks as she spins in her chair.

ALONA

I just didn't think you did that kind of stuff? I'm not judging.

KARAH

You're an asshole, you know that?

ALONA

Hey, whatever makes you the money. Who am I to judge?

KARAH

He's just a big spender. That's it.

Karah applies heavy makeup to her face.

KARAH  
Some of us actually have standards.

ALONA  
Funny.

INT. WONDERLAND HALLWAY - NIGHT

Karah is all dolled up. She wears a silk bathrobe to cover her outfit.

She knocks on a door that reads: "OWNER"

MIKEY (O.S.)  
Just a second!

KARAH  
Take your time, Mikey.

Karah glances down the hallway.

Cole stands on the far end. He inaudibly talks to TAP, mid 20's male.

Both men look sketchy as hell as they give a slight head nod to Karah. Something isn't right.

The door opens.

MIKEY, mid 50's male, lets out a big toothy smile from inside a small office.

MIKEY  
Karah, my favorite girl. C'mon on in.

INT. MIKEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Mikey and Karah sit down across from each other. Mikey reclines back behind his large desk.

Several large safes are stacked on top of each other behind him.

A bank of security monitors fill a wall to his right.

MIKEY  
I take it you heard about Brianne?

KARAH  
Yeah, I feel really awful.

Mikey pauses. He inspects one of the security monitors.

MIKEY  
It's a real shame.

KARAH  
Do you know anything else?

MIKEY  
Not since this morning. Poor girl.

KARAH  
Yeah...

MIKEY  
I don't mean to sound insensitive  
or anything, but the customers  
don't need to know. It's not good  
for business and it's just not a  
pleasant thing to talk about it.

KARAH  
No, I understand.

MIKEY  
Is that what you wanted to talk  
about, or was there something else?

Karah moves up in her seat. She clears her throat.

KARAH  
Something else. Actually, it is  
something to do about me.

MIKEY  
Uh oh. That's never good.

KARAH  
No, it is. At least I hope. I think  
I'm out, Mikey. I'm done.

MIKEY  
Ahh, I see.

KARAH  
I want to move forward with my  
plans. So if I make enough tonight,  
I think I'd just like to retire  
from dancing.

MIKEY

Ride off into the sunset, huh?

KARAH

Something like that.

Mikey lights up a cigarette and takes a large puff.

MIKEY

Obviously, it's not what I want to hear. You're my go to girl. A breadwinner. But I can't hold onto you forever.

KARAH

Thank you.

MIKEY

Please, I should be the one thanking you. You know what it's like. You've been in that dressing room. Girls come and go. But they always have their baggage. Drugs, sickness, boyfriends. You name it. It's one thing after another. A revolving door of debauchery. But not you.

Karah blushes.

MIKEY

Don't get me wrong, I love all my girls. But a select few know how to present themselves like professionals. That's why you lead my A-Team.

Mikey lets out a vicious hacking cough and sighs.

MIKEY

You got plans?

KARAH

I think so. I'm not 100%, but it looks good.

MIKEY

I'm sure whatever it is, you'll knock it out of the park. Just don't let me catch you stripping at another joint. I won't have any of it.

KARAH  
You don't have to worry about that.

MIKEY  
Good.

Karah stands up.

MIKEY  
You told Isiah, right?

Karah is shaken by the question.

KARAH  
Why does it matter?

MIKEY  
The man likes you Karah. You should at least let him know.

KARAH  
Why do people keep saying that? I'm not his thing. He likes me? So be it. But he can just find someone new then.

MIKEY  
No, you're right. You're absolutely right. It's just that, I'm just looking out for you is all. Isiah, he's a man who doesn't handle rejection well. He's not big on losing.

Karah smiles.

KARAH  
Thank you, Mikey. But he's a grown man, he'll be alright.

EXT. WONDERLAND CLUB - NIGHT

The outside is lit up by neon.

INT. WONDERLAND MAIN AREA - NIGHT

The club is bouncing. Hip hop music blasts over the speakers. The place is now packed with PATRONS.

Cole stands tall near the VIP section. Like a watchdog.

Alona seductively struts down the stage. Her one piece is slipped down past her chest.

INT. WONDERLAND STAGE

Alona grips the pole and twirls. The typical catcalls and whistling are directed at her on stage. Several dollar bills rain down.

She shouts and leaps to the top of the pole and grasps it with her thighs. She removes her hands and hangs upside down.

Alona lowers her one piece slightly past her hips.

The crowd goes wild.

INT. WONDERLAND VIP ROOM

MORGAN, early 40's male, is calm, cool and collected as Karah provides a very tasteful dance.

She sensually teases Morgan as she grinds her hips and bites her lip.

Karah whips her hair over Morgan's face as she softly moans.

INT. WONDERLAND STAGE

Alona slides down the pole and slaps the stage. She screams as she tears at her one piece, stretching the fabric.

She rolls over and sticks her ass into the air. Alona runs her hands along her hips.

INT. WONDERLAND VIP ROOM

Karah softly runs her finger against Morgan's chest, down to his belt line.

She flutters her eyes as she slides onto Morgan's lap and unhooks her top.

INT. WONDERLAND STAGE

Alona rips off her one piece and tosses it into the crowd. The men go crazy. They carelessly chuck their money onto the stage.

Alona rolls onto the money pile and brushes the bills against her body.

INT. WONDERLAND VIP ROOM

Karah slowly removes her top and tosses it into Morgan's face. She covers her breasts with her hands as she leaps off his lap.

Her back facing Morgan, she softly rotates her hips and looks back to him. She flutters her eyelashes.

MORGAN

Marry me.

Karah laughs as she brushes the hair out of her face.

MORGAN

You are a perfect woman, do you know that?

She sits down next to Morgan and smiles.

KARAH

Yes.

Morgan chuckles.

MORGAN

Of course you do.

KARAH

You're really gonna miss me, aren't you?

MORGAN

Seriously. You are a sexy goddess that can not be replicated.

Karah shakes her head.

MORGAN

I'm serious. Most dancers try too hard to be sexy. You can't just throw your body into a man's face and force your sex appeal.

Morgan pauses. He thinks about that statement.

MORGAN

Well, maybe you can. But I'm talking about that sensual sexy.

KARAH  
Sensual sexy.

MORGAN  
You know what I mean!

KARAH  
I know. Some girls don't respect  
their bodies.

Morgan scoffs. He grabs his drink and swirls it.

KARAH  
What?

MORGAN  
Tell that to my daughter. You  
should see how she dresses. She's  
15, and every outfit is cleavage  
this and cleavage that. It's really  
tough to be a dad these days, let  
me tell you. I don't want to  
shelter the girl, but at the same  
time, she just needs to be a kid.

KARAH  
She's lucky to have a father like  
you. At least you care. Most guys  
come in and fantasize about just  
picking up everything they own and  
leaving their families behind. I  
know it's all talk, but still.

MORGAN  
What about your dad? He know what  
you do?

Karah freezes. She tries to remain unbothered by the  
question.

KARAH  
He knows. He's not okay with it,  
but he's accepted it.

MORGAN  
He's probably happy you're walking  
away from this.

KARAH  
Yeah...

MORGAN

God! It's still hard to believe. I don't know what I'm gonna do without you.

KARAH

I'm sure you'll find another girl.

MORGAN

I don't know, maybe I'm done too. Most of the girls I see remind me of my daughter now.

KARAH

Eww.

MORGAN

Tell me about it.

The two lock eyes and smile.

MORGAN

I know you won't tell me where you're going, but I'll be pulling for you.

Morgan pulls out his wallet. A distinct slick black wallet. He takes out a large stack of cash.

MORGAN

You're the first girl I've ever really felt a connection with. I know it's all business, but I enjoyed it.

KARAH

No, you're right. It was nice. You're one of the few good ones. One of my favorites.

Morgan looks down to the cash.

MORGAN

There's about \$9,000 dollars here. It's from an account my wife doesn't know about. Think of it as capital investment for your future.

Karah is stunned.

MORGAN

No strings attached. No requests. You've earned it.

KARAH

Well, I'm certainly not going to say no, but holy shit. You're too generous.

Karah grabs the cash and takes a deep breath. Her eyes light up.

MORGAN

You're too good for a place like this. ANY place like this.

Karah smiles and hugs Morgan.

INT. WONDERLAND STAGE

Alona crawls atop the stage as she picks up the loose bills. She shoves them into a garbage bag.

INT. WONDERLAND DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Karah bursts into the dressing room. She tries to contain her smile as she tucks the cash into her robe.

She sits down at her vanity table as Alona counts her money next to her.

Alona remains focused on her money.

ALONA

How'd you do?

KARAH

Well.

ALONA

No shit, how good you'd do?

KARAH

A lot, let me just leave it at that.

Alona scoffs.

KARAH

What about you?

ALONA

Okay I guess. These assholes were only throwing down ones. Not a single fucking twenty.

(MORE)

ALONA (CONT'D)

Cheap ass motherfuckers. No one even wanted a dance. Not one.

Alona slams down her money and huffs. She throws herself onto the floor.

ALONA

\$125.

KARAH

Which routine did you do?

ALONA

The fucking acrobatic one. Gave em the whole view and everything.

KARAH

Well there's the problem.

ALONA

What?

KARAH

You have to tease them, Alona. Make them shell out for a better view.

ALONA

Whatever, I don't even care anymore.

Alona reaches for her pack of cigarettes and lights one up.

KARAH

Don't get discouraged. If you're willing to work at it...

ALONA

Work at it? Honey, it's stripping naked and having men throw money at you. It ain't no rocket science, bitch!

Alona takes a deep breath and collects herself.

ALONA

I'm sorry.

KARAH

It's okay, you're frustrated.

Karah lowers herself down to the floor and joins Alona. She grabs Alona's hand.

KARAH

It takes a toll on you, trust me.  
Maybe take a break from here and  
find something else.

Alona rolls her eyes.

ALONA

I know you mean well, but that  
ain't happening. What am I supposed  
to do, work at the gas station  
across the street?

KARAH

There is always something.

ALONA

I dropped out of high school. There  
isn't much for me. Either everyone  
thinks I'm too stupid or they  
recognize me from here. An idiot or  
a skank. That's all I am.

Alona begins to tear up.

ALONA

You got your plans outside of here.  
You know what you're gonna do.

Alona shakes her head and looks up to the ceiling.

ALONA

I don't. There's nothing out there  
for me.

Karah thinks. She reaches into her robe for her cash.

KARAH

You wanna know how much I made  
tonight?

Karah pulls out the cash. She has Alona's attention.

KARAH

Close to \$9,000. Just from Morgan.

ALONA

Fucking hell, Karah.

KARAH

I'm going to invest this money into  
myself. But I want you to come with  
me, Alona.

Alona wipes away her tears. She shakes her head.

ALONA

I don't know nothing about cars.

KARAH

I'll find a job for you. I'm gonna have my own team and everything. I'm gonna buy my way in. I'm going to need help. I want YOUR help. You can be my spokeswoman, my manager, my assistant. It doesn't matter.

Alona smiles.

KARAH

But you can't tell Mikey, or Cole. This money puts me just over what I need. I can't afford to kick back their share.

ALONA

Fuck em.

Karah laughs.

KARAH

Does that mean you're in?

Alona takes a moment to think it through.

ALONA

Yeah. I'll do it.

Karah and Alona hug.

KARAH

But you can't quit right away.

ALONA

Why not?

KARAH

Because they'll get suspicious. Give it a week or two, then tell Mikey you're going back to school.

Alona nods.

KARAH

We can do this.

ALONA

Thanks.

The two women take a collective deep breath.

KARAH  
Get dressed. I'll tell Mikey you  
don't feel well.

Karah stands up and walks out of sight.

Alona takes a moment. She grabs her cell phone off her  
vanity. She pauses.

INT. WONDERLAND BACK HALLWAY - NIGHT

Karah and Alona walk down the bright hallway in street  
clothes. They each carry a gym bag.

ALONA  
So Mikey's cool with it?

KARAH  
Me leaving or you checking out  
early?

ALONA  
Both.

KARAH  
He's fine. The man just cares about  
his bottom line.

The women walk past a sign that reads: "Never leave alone"

EXT. WONDERLAND CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Karah and Alona step out the back door. They stop. They each  
look around the lot. The coast is clear. Alona is still  
hesitant.

ALONA  
Why don't we ask for someone?

KARAH  
I got a knife. I say we're good.

They walk towards Karah's car, 100 feet away.

KARAH  
Do you always get a ride?

ALONA  
Yeah, my cousin usually picks me  
up. He's pretty chill about it.

KARAH  
That's still gotta be weird though.

ALONA  
Not really, he's does some porn for  
Mikey's company. That's how I got  
this job.

KARAH  
Ah, good ol' uncle Mikey.

Alona laughs. She stops as she feels around her pockets.

ALONA  
Shit, I must have left my phone.

Alona looks to Karah.

ALONA  
C'mon, I think I know where it is.

KARAH  
Just go, I'll pull up right to the  
door for you.

Alona looks around the lot.

ALONA  
You sure?

KARAH  
Just make it quick.

Alona smiles. She takes off running for the back door.

ALONA  
I'll only be a minute!

Alona sprints to the door and swipes a keycard. The door  
opens and she disappears.

Karah turns back to her car.

TAP (O.S.)  
Give me that tax money, bitch!

Karah is hit with a blindsided heavy hook to the jaw. She  
falls to the pavement. She's hit again, a straight shot to  
her left eye.

Blood sprays from her face.

Only visible in brief glimpses, Tap quickly goes through  
every pocket Karah has. He takes her keys.

CRACK! Tap throws another punch into Karah's ribs.

He yanks her gym bag away.

TAP  
Fucking cunt.

Tap lands another punch square against Karah's face. He snaps a picture with his phone and takes off.

Bloody. Brutal. Quick. The attack is over in the blink of an eye. Karah is left in a puddle of her own blood.

Her lip is split open. Her eye, quickly swollen. Karah groans as she spits out blood off to her side.

Karah crawls forward. She struggles to her feet. In a blurry daze, she spots a large man climb into her car.

The ignition roars. The car reverses right past Karah, barely missing her.

Cora squeals as she peels out and takes off, speeding out of sight.

She's gone.

Karah holds her side. She stumbles to the back door. It's locked. She reaches for her keycard. It's gone too.

Karah slowly loses consciousness. Her eyes flutter as she falls backwards into darkness.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. MIKEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The security monitors have all been reset. Their black screens flicker back to a live feed.

ON A MONITOR:

The dressing room is in a frantic frenzy as the girls gather around Karah.

INT. WONDERLAND DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT

Karah slowly comes to. A bag of ice is pressed against her eye by Alona.

ALONA  
Take it easy girl, just sit tight.

Alona smiles as she brushes Karah's hair back. Karah moans as she struggles to open her free eye.

ALONA  
We'll take of you.

Karah is disoriented.

KARAH  
Where am I?

ALONA  
You're in the dressing room. You're safe now.

Karah tries to sit up, but Alona gently presses her down.

KARAH  
What happened? Let me up.

Karah fights to lift herself up. Alona keeps her down.

ALONA  
Shh...just relax.

KARAH  
Tell me what happened?

CUTE STRIPPER folds her arms across her chest.

CUTE STRIPPER  
You were robbed, man.

Alona glares at the Cute Stripper.

CUTE STRIPPER  
I'm just saying.

Alona reassures Karah.

ALONA  
Don't worry about it. You're alright now.

Karah doesn't want to hear it. She powers through Alona's grip and sits up.

ALONA  
Karah, just lay back down.

CUTE STRIPPER  
If she got a concussion, she's supposed to sit up anyway, yo.

ALONA  
Just shut the fuck up.

Karah looks around the room, trying to get her bearings.

KARAH  
Where's my bag? Did they take my  
bag?

Alona sheepishly looks to Karah and nods her head.

ALONA  
They took everything you had, girl.

Karah is fucking pissed.

Her chest is pumping.

Her fists are clenched.

KARAH  
Fuck!

ALONA  
Just take it easy.

Karah stands up. She wobbles to her left, she is still  
lightheaded. Her feet slant in opposite directions.

She grabs a hold of Alona for support.

KARAH  
Where's Cole?

Everybody remains silent.

KARAH  
Where the fuck is Cole?!

ALONA  
You're upset right now. That's  
completely understandable. But you  
need to sit down and take...

Karah pushes Alona away.

INT. WONDERLAND HALLWAY - NIGHT

Karah stumbles out of the dressing room.

KARAH  
Cole!

Karah uses to wall to steady herself.

KARAH  
Where are you Cole?!

Cole peeks his head out of Mikey's office.

KARAH  
You piece of shit.

COLE  
Just sit tight, Karah. We'll get  
help.

Karah is full steam ahead. She makes a beeline for Mikey's office.

INT. MIKEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The door frame is cracked. The door has been kicked open.

Karah catches Cole off guard. She bull rushes Cole back into the office.

Cole loses his balance and tumbles over. He slams against the front of Mikey's desk.

COLE  
Jesus, Karah. What the fuck are you  
doing?

Karah is seeing red. She quickly makes her way over to Cole and jumps onto his chest.

Karah pulls out a small pocket knife and flips it open. She holds it close to Cole's throat.

KARAH  
What did you do, Cole?

Cole is at a loss. His eyes are glued to the blade.

COLE  
What the fuck!?

KARAH  
(slurring her words)  
Who is else knew about Morgan, huh?  
It had to be you.

Karah shakes her head. Her eyes are a step behind her actions.

Cole pleads with Karah.

COLE

Karah, you're hurt. Let's just take a deep breath here. Can you lower the knife?

Karah doesn't even blink.

COLE

Karah please. I had nothing to do with this.

Karah glares at Cole.

KARAH

Mikey, play the video of the parking lot. We'll see exactly who it was.

There is no answer.

KARAH

Cole, just tell me who it was. Let's make it easy.

Karah glances up to Mikey.

KARAH

Mikey, the tape...

He was never there. Karah is perplexed.

COLE

He already left, who knows when. The cameras were down too, Karah.

Karah chuckles. She looks back to Cole. He's just as perplexed as she is.

KARAH

They were down. The cameras just so happen to be down.

Cole has had enough.

COLE

Look, I'm getting up, Karah.

He grabs a hold of Karah and lifts her off of him. He turns to the bank of monitors.

COLE

That's why I was in here. To check the video. Mikey fucking bailed and it looks like someone wiped the video.

KARAH

Someone?

Cole looks back to Karah. His chest puffs with each breath.

COLE

I had nothing to do with this. You are like a sister to me. I would never do anything to hurt you.

Kara is dejected. She struggles to her feet.

COLE

You of all people should know that.

KARAH

I don't know what to think anymore. I can't think...

Kara catches herself falling. She props herself up with a chair and sits down.

COLE

We need to get you to a hospital.

Karah is adamant.

KARAH

I'm okay.

COLE

Karah, you need to get checked on.

KARAH

No! I need to find my money. I need my car.

COLE

I think a doctor is more important.

Karah shakes herself awake and takes a deep breath. She stands up from the chair.

KARAH

I'll see a doctor when I get my stuff back. Now get Tap, maybe he can find the feed. He's good with that sort of thing.

COLE  
He's not working tonight.

KARAH  
No, I saw you talking with him  
earlier. And don't tell me I was  
wrong.

COLE  
He came in to pick up his check.  
That's it.

Karah clutches the back of her head.

KARAH  
The guy said I need to pay the tax.  
Do you know what that means? Do you  
know who did this? It was Isiah,  
wasn't it!?

Cole looks away. He swears under his breath.

KARAH  
Cole?

Cole turns back to Karah.

COLE  
I don't know.

KARAH  
Tell me.

Cole sheepishly looks away.

KARAH  
Cole, tell me.

Cole collects himself. This pains him to say.

COLE  
Tap. It had to be Tap. He works  
directly for Isiah. Look it has to  
be Tap.

KARAH  
So you told him about Morgan?

COLE  
No.

KARAH  
Then how do you know it's him?

COLE

Because he's on Isiah's payroll, okay? Trust me, I know Tap. He'd do anything for a paycheck. And Isiah has been picking up new employees left and right.

KARAH

Call him up then. Ask him. He's your friend right? Maybe he'll talk to you.

Cole shakes his head.

COLE

He's not picking up.

KARAH

Of course not. Where can we find him then? Does he work someplace else?

COLE

I don't know.

KARAH

Think, Cole. Give me anything here.

COLE

He's lives with a buddy of his, that's all I know.

KARAH

And?

COLE

Well, they work together for a certain someone. And that certain someone shattered his buddy's legs a few weeks ago. So he's probably at home. Might be a good place to start.

INT. TAP'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SAMMY, early 30's male, reclines back on the couch as he plays a video game. His two legs, both in full casts, are propped atop a coffee table.

The door bell RINGS.

Sammy huffs. He pauses the game and struggles to his wheel chair.

The door bell RINGS again.

SAMMY  
I'm coming dangit.

Sammy wheels over to the front door and opens it.

Karah smiles as she lets herself in.

SAMMY  
Whoa there lady, are you lost or something?

Cole sheepishly follows behind Karah.

COLE  
Hey Sammy.

Sammy looks up to Cole.

SAMMY  
Tap ain't here, sorry.

KARAH  
Where's he at then?

Sammy spins his wheel chair around to face Karah.

SAMMY  
I'm sorry, you are?

KARAH  
Someone who's not going to ask again.

Karah steps in closer to Sammy and leans down. She showcases her battered face.

KARAH  
You see this? Your good buddy did this.

Sammy is confused. He glances back to Cole, who slowly closes the front door.

SAMMY  
Look, I ain't had nothin to do with that, I'm sorry.

Karah shakes herself awake again.

KARAH  
You work for Isiah, right?

Sammy is getting nervous. He looks around the room. His fingers tap against his chair.

SAMMY  
I'm sorry, who?

COLE  
She knows, man. Just tell her.

SAMMY  
Look, I don't even know who she is.

KARAH  
I'm one of Isiah's playthings. I decided to move on with my life, and he didn't like that. So he did this.

Beads of sweat begin to drip from Sammy forehead.

KARAH  
Isiah or Tap, you're giving up one of them. Where can I find them?

SAMMY  
I'm not going to do that.

Karah looks up to Cole.

COLE  
Let's just go. We'll find another way.

Karah stands up and grabs onto Sammy's leg. He SCREAMS in agony. She yanks him out of the chair and onto the floor.

She turns him over on the floor, face down. Karah pins her knee into his back and grabs hold of the leg. Sammy is in excruciating pain.

KARAH  
Tap or Isiah, which one?

Karah begins to twist the leg around. The cast crunches. Sammy clenches the floor with his hand.

COLE  
Karah!?

KARAH  
Where are they!?

SAMMY  
Wait.

Karah gears up and snaps the leg out of place with force. The bone SNAPS!

Sammy is hysterical.

Karah drops the shattered leg to the floor and grabs a hold of the other leg. Her face is emotionless.

She presses her knee harder into Sammy's spine.

KARAH

You got one left.

SAMMY

Rocco's Diner. He runs something out of Rocco's. That's all I know! Please!

COLE

Karah.

Karah drops the leg to the floor. She stands up and stoically stares at Cole.

KARAH

Take his phone and break his chair.

Karah is machine like. She opens the front door and walks out.

INT/EXT. COLE'S CAR/ROCCO'S DINER - CONTINUOUS

Cole and Karah sit inside a car parked across the street from the sickly diner.

She quickly scrolls through a cell phone and tosses it down.

KARAH

He better be here.

Cole worriedly looks to Karah.

COLE

What if he is? Then what? Are you gonna fuck him up too?

KARAH

If that's what it takes.

COLE

Karah, can you hear yourself right now? Why don't we just take a step here and think about it?

Karah takes a deep breath. She steps out of the car. Cole quickly follows her lead.

COLE  
Karah wait! What are you going to do?

Karah crosses the street and continues on.

COLE  
Karah? What's the plan here?

Cole shakes his head.

INT. ROCCO'S DINER - NIGHT

Karah and Cole enter the diner. The door dings, but the few patrons don't bother to look up.

A waitress, BECKY, early 40's female, wipes down the counter as she takes a peek towards the two. She doesn't smile. She doesn't say a word.

This is not a friendly place.

Karah glances back to Cole.

KARAH  
Watch my back.

COLE  
I always do.

Karah smirks and approaches the counter. She looks to Becky, who still pays no attention to Karah.

Becky simply works the counter as she chomps away at her bubble gum. Snapping it in her mouth.

KARAH  
Excuse me.

Becky can't be bothered.

KARAH  
Hey, excuse me!

Becky continues to wipe the counter.

BECKY  
I'll be with you when I'm done, doll face.

The gall of this woman. Karah doesn't take to kindly to the quip.

Karah leans over the counter and grabs the rag. She tosses it to the side.

KARAH  
Isiah told me to talk to Tap. He  
said he's be here.

Becky stares Karah up and down, inspecting her.

BECKY  
You one of the whores?

Karah tries to hide her frustration.

KARAH  
I'm here to pay up.

Becky blows a bubble with her gum. She looks to Cole, who gives a slight nod.

BECKY  
He's out back in the garage.

KARAH  
Thank you.

Karah quickly hightails it out of there.

EXT. CHOP SHOP - NIGHT

The garage is a nondescript box of a building. The two large garage doors are completely tinted out. Chipped paint and rust stains cover the outside.

Karah and Cole inspect the place from up close. The sound of pneumatic wrenches and auto body work is distinct.

Karah turns to Cole.

KARAH  
This place doesn't scream illicit  
activity.

COLE  
Nobody said they were smart.

Karah thinks it over.

KARAH  
That's perfect.



Cole glances to the mechanic and nods his head. Tap gets the message.

TAP

Right.

Tap turns to the Mechanic.

TAP

Why don't you go grab a bite with the other guys? I'll let you know when we're done.

MECHANIC

You sure?

TAP

Yeah, go ahead. Tell Becky to put it on my tab.

Mechanic shrugs and exits the garage.

Cole eyes Karah as she sneaks in through a back door to the garage. She is undetected.

COLE

So you haven't heard about Karah?

TAP

Only what you just told me. How'd she get hurt?

COLE

She got jumped outside the club. Some asshole took her money and her car.

Cole looks to the car that is being disassembled. It's Cora.

COLE

That's weird, her car looks just like this one.

Karah spots Cora. She's been hacked apart. The body has been completely gutted. A corpse of a car.

Karah is broken. Her eyes begin to water. Her hands tremble.

TAP

This couldn't be hers. We got this from the other side of town.

COLE

How would you know? You said you didn't hear anything about it.

Cole looks down to Tap's hands. His knuckles are battered.

TAP

Cole, let me explain.

Karah steps in behind Tap and whacks a wrench against the back of his head. He screams out in agony as he falls to his knees.

KARAH

You son of a bitch!

Karah wails on Tap's back with the wrench. CRACK! Tap cries out again. He turns to face Karah.

TAP

Karah?

Karah glares at Tap. She raises her arm, gearing up for another strike.

TAP

Wait!

Tap puts his arms up. It's no use. Karah strikes him again, smashing his hand.

His fingers are a mangled mess.

He completely collapses to the floor. His body shakes from the pain. He is unable to scream.

Karah quickly kneels beside him.

KARAH

Where's the money at Tap!?

Tap cowers as he pulls his wrecked hand into his body.

TAP

I don't have it! I'm sorry Karah!  
I'm sorry!

Karah snarls as she spits in Tap's face. She quickly smashes the wrench into his side.

COLE

That's enough, Karah.

Karah smiles.

KARAH

You hear that, Tap? Did you have enough yet?

TAP

Yes. Please, just stop.

Karah tosses the wrench to the side. She looks to Cole.

KARAH

There's an office back there. Can you check it for the money?

Cole nods. He takes a look outside.

COLE

We need to hurry, Karah.

KARAH

Then go.

Cole quickly jogs to the back.

TAP

Karah, please.

KARAH

Shut the fuck up.

Karah stares at the skeletal remains of Cora.

KARAH

She was my father's car, ya know? Cora was the only thing I had left to remind me of him. And now look at her.

TAP

I didn't want to do it. It wasn't my fault.

KARAH

Where's the money at? Does Isiah have it? Where is he, huh? Where is he!?

BECKY (O.S.)

Tap, I'm not letting you put all of this on your tab. You need to pay up al...

Karah looks up to the outside. Becky stands at the door, in shock. She lets go of a paper bill. It flutters to the ground.

TAP  
Becky get help!

Becky takes off running.

KARAH  
Shit.

Karah starts to chase her, but stops. She turns back to Tap. WHAM! He rams right through her and takes off running out of the garage.

Karah wheezes as she picks herself up.

KARAH  
Cole! He's getting away!

Karah takes off after Tap.

EXT. CHOP SHOP - NIGHT

Karah sprints outside. She looks around the area. Tap hops into his car and takes off down the street.

Cole catches up to Karah.

KARAH  
Let's go.

INT./EXT. COLE'S CAR/TAP'S CAR/CITY STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Karah and Cole sprint to the car. Karah steps into the driver's seat.

KARAH  
Keys!

Cole quickly forks them over. Karah guns it. Cole barely has enough time to slam the door shut.

CITY STREET

Karah peels out and zooms down the road. Tap's taillights illuminate in the distance.

COLE'S CAR

Karah floors it. She whips past the traffic and tears through an intersection. The traffic around her blares their horns. But it doesn't matter.

Cole reaches for his seat belt and buckles in. He grabs the dash to steady himself.

TAP'S CAR

Tap glances back in his rear view mirror. Karah is hot on his tail. He steps on the gas and powers through the sparse traffic.

COLE'S CAR

Karah sticks with Tap. She decreases the gap between them. Blazing down the street.

CITY STREET

Tap hits the brakes and sharply turns right. He almost loses it. His car fishtails, but he quickly regains control.

COLE'S CAR

Karah lightly brakes. She makes the right turn with ease and whips right down the road. Tap's car is within reach.

TAP'S CAR

Tap's car creaks and moans as it struggles to make up speed. He eyes his rear view once again, Karah is right there. Shit.

COLE'S CAR

Karah's foot is even with the floor. The car is giving all that it has. She pulls up alongside Tap's rear and gently strikes him.

COLE

Jesus!

TAP'S CAR

Tap holds on for his life as he car jerks around. He steadies the wheel with his one good hand.

His broken hand lightly rests on his lap. Blood spills from his ears.

## CITY STREET

Karah speeds up even with Tap. The two cars are parallel with each other. Neck and neck.

The roar of both engines echo off the street.

## COLE'S CAR

Cole looks over to Tap. His face is filled with fright. Karah hits the brakes and swerves into Tap's rear right side.

## CITY STREET

The contact jars Tap. His car loses control and he slams violently into a parked car on the side of the road.

Tap is ejected from his car in a hail of shattered glass. He smashes through the windshield of the parked car.

## COLE'S CAR

Karah quickly stomps on the brakes and screeches to a stop. She looks to Cole.

## COLE

What did you do, Karah?

Karah slams it into reverse and speeds back to check on Tap.

## CITY STREET

Tap's body awkwardly sticks out of the broken window. Blood is splattered everywhere. He's dead.

Karah inspects his body from her driver side window. She takes a deep breath and speeds off.

## EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Karah and Cole sit on the back of the car. Their faces are filled with disbelief.

## COLE

Tap was an asshole, but he was still a friend. I just can't believe he was a part of this. I mean, do you think he was working with someone?

Karah is dazed.

COLE

This is just so fucked up. I don't even know anymore.

Karah's eyes are glazed over. She looks up to the sky. She can hardly think.

Cole looks over to Kara.

COLE

Did you hear me?

Karah can barely sit up straight. She turns to Cole and nods her head.

KARAH

I'll think of something.

Cole shakes his head.

COLE

I'll take you to the hospital. Then go junk my car somewhere. I don't think anybody at the diner will call the cops, so let's just call it even and settle for that.

KARAH

No.

COLE

Karah...

KARAH

I should have told you about the money, Cole. I'm sorry. I saw my way out, and I took it. I finally had enough. I could finally do what I've always wanted.

COLE

It just would have taken you longer. A few more weeks, maybe even a few more days. All you had to do was wait.

Karah shakes her head.

KARAH

No. My best chance was right in front of me. I need that money, Cole.

(MORE)

KARAH (CONT'D)

There is no waiting for this opportunity. One more week or one more day is already too long. And that's the truth. I'm going to get my money back. One way or another. I'll go jump back on stage if I have to.

COLE

Concussion in all. I'm not sure people find that sexy.

Karah glares at Cole.

COLE

I'm just saying.

KARAH

I'm not stopping, Cole. I'll fight all night if I have to.

Cole looks to Karah. Her face is filled with determination. There is no stopping her.

COLE

I know...

KARAH

Then help me.

Cole thinks.

COLE

If we find Mikey, he might be able to lead us to your money.

KARAH

He owns another club, right?

EXT. TAIL FEATHER'S CLUB - NIGHT

The place is seedy looking. A step down from Wonderland. A few patrons hang outside of the club. The music is resonating from inside.

INT. TAIL FEATHER'S CLUB MAIN AREA - NIGHT

Karah and Cole step in through the main door. Their faces are immediately lit up by a colorful LED strobe light.

The place is going ape shit. A group of dancers grind on each other on stage as the crowd goes wild.

Karah inches closer to Cole.

INT. MIKEY'S SECOND OFFICE - NIGHT

A glorified broom closet. This office is cramped and dank as shit. There are no fancy security monitors here. Just a laptop on a flimsy study desk.

Mikey scans the laptop. He watches a small black and white feed of a back room.

Karah and Cole burst through the door.

Mikey jumps out of his seat, clutching his chest. He was not expecting them.

MIKEY  
Jesus Christ!

Mikey lets out a chuckle as he tries to catch his breath. His hands shake.

MIKEY  
What happened to my knocking  
policy, huh!?

Mikey spots Karah's face. It's become swollen and bruised.

MIKEY  
What the hell happened to you?

Karah is skeptical. She glares at Mikey.

KARAH  
Cut the shit.

Cole shuts the door and steps closer to Mikey. He stands tall over Mikey. Hovering over him.

Mikey eyes Cole and steps back into a corner. He's scared shitless.

MIKEY  
(stammering)  
What are you guys doing here?

Mikey clears his throat as he slowly closes his laptop.

MIKEY  
Is everything okay?

Karah and Cole remain silent.

MIKEY

Can one of you explain yourselves?  
Seriously, I'm at a loss here. I'm  
already dealing with enough shit  
here. I don't need you two to  
start.

KARAH

You're dealing with enough shit!? I  
was busy getting my face beaten in  
and my money being take away while  
you were here doing God knows what!  
And you want us to explain?

Karah sternly walks towards Mikey. Cole gently holds her  
back.

Mikey is at a loss.

MIKEY

I'm sorry, I didn't know. Are  
you...

KARAH

You didn't know?

MIKEY

Yes! If you haven't noticed, this  
room is actually a bit larger at  
the moment!

Karah looks around the room. A large rectangular indent is  
pressed into the carpet where a bank of safes used to be.

MIKEY

Somebody decided to raid our safes.  
Two large beasts, stacked on top of  
each other, just gone.

Mikey snaps his fingers.

MIKEY

Like that, we're shit out of luck.  
So yes, I've been dealing with some  
pressing matters as well, I'm  
sorry.

KARAH

When was all of this?

Mikey shakes his head.

MIKEY

I don't know, a few hours ago. My TRUSTED manager is nowhere to be found and my cameras magically malfunctioned. So it looks like we both took a hit.

Mikey looks at Karah's bruises and pauses.

MIKEY

So to speak.

Karah bites her lip.

KARAH

Isiah.

MIKEY

What about him?

Karah turns to Cole.

COLE

We're pretty sure he hired Tap to fuck up Karah.

KARAH

We're certain.

COLE

Fine, we're certain it was him.

MIKEY

So what are you saying, he hit my club as well?

Cole shrugs.

COLE

That's what it looks like.

MIKEY

That doesn't make any sense. I've payed my dues. Why would he do this?

KARAH

It's my fault. It's a punishment.

Mikey sighs. He reaches for his chair and takes a seat.

MIKEY

It's not your fault.

KARAH

No, it is. But I'm going to fix it.

MIKEY

Karah, I'll talk to him. See if we can sort it out.

KARAH

I'm going to fix it. I'm going to go talk to him. Where does he live, Mikey? Where can I find him?

Mikey shakes his head.

MIKEY

He has his own compound with guards and everything. No. I won't send you there.

KARAH

It's not your call. Just tell me where to find him.

MIKEY

I can't jeopardize your safety!

COLE

He's right, Karah. It's not just about the money anymore. He's a dangerous man.

KARAH

I know. That's why it has to be me. He wants to see me happy? He wants to keep me around? Then I have to go talk to him.

MIKEY

You said it was Tap who did the dirty work, let's just find him and start from there.

Karah rubs the back of her neck.

COLE

He's dead.

Mikey is in disbelief. He lowers his head into his palms.

MIKEY

Oh Christ.

KARAH

He ran. It was just an accident,  
Mikey. But it was obvious Isiah  
sent him.

Mikey takes a deep breath to collect himself. He picks his head up and looks to Karah.

KARAH

No more talk. Where is he?

EXT. ISIAH'S MANSION - NIGHT

The mansion is lit with several floodlights. It looks even more beautiful at night.

Four guards sweep the grounds in front of the home. They each have a holstered side arm.

INT. MANSION FOYER - NIGHT

Two more armed guards stand in front of a winding staircase. The gorgeous marble floors flow throughout the rest of the home.

INT. MANSION POOL - NIGHT

A naked woman swims around in an Olympic sized pool. An armed guard watches over her.

INT. ISIAH'S BEDROOM- NIGHT

A woman sleeps on the bed. Chad enters the room and steps into a large closet.

INT. ISIAH'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Chad opens up a large safe and places in a few large stacks of cash.

One of the stacks is speckled with blood.

Karah's pink gym bag already sits in the safe.

INT./EXT. COLE'S CAR/ISIAH'S MANSION - NIGHT

Karah and Cole look to the mansion grounds from the inside of the car.

Karah is emotionless.

COLE

So...

Karah takes a deep breath and turns to Cole.

KARAH

So.

COLE

Here we are.

KARAH

I don't expect you to follow me in, Cole. You've stuck with me this far, and I thank you for that.

COLE

So why would I leave you now?

KARAH

Because I'm not sure what I'm going to do once I'm in there.

COLE

Well then here's an idea, walk away.

Karah shakes her head.

KARAH

I told you...

COLE

You can't do that, right. Why? Because of a race car you might buy?

KARAH

It's not just about the car.

COLE

Then what is it? Everything you've done tonight can't just happen for nothing. You told me your family doesn't want you racing. Listen to them. Take that money you've saved and do something good.

KARAH

This is good. This is what I want to do.

COLE

Is it? Look over there, is this good? Hurting people, is that good?

KARAH

It's too late to stop. I've come too far to just quit. I will accomplish my goal.

COLE

At what cost, Karah?

Karah begins to tear up. She quickly looks away.

COLE

You want to race, okay? But it's not just about you. There are people who care about you and your safety. Your family loves you and wants to protect you. Your father might have died doing what he loved, but that doesn't mean you have to as well.

KARAH

It's all I've ever worked for. Everything I've done.

COLE

Who said you have to stop working for it?

KARAH

I've tried before, and nobody will let me in.

COLE

Then try a different way in.

Karah still won't listen. She opens her door and starts to get out. Cole panics.

COLE

It was me!

Karah stops. She looks back to Cole.

KARAH

It was me, what?

Cole takes a deep breath.

KARAH

Cole, what are you talking about it?

COLE

You wanted to know how Isiah found out. It was me. I called him, okay? Me.

Karah sits back down, she looks devastated.

COLE

I'm the one who told him about Morgan.

Karah's in shock. She's unable to speak.

COLE

I didn't think he'd react the way he did. I didn't know Tap would do what he did. I didn't know. I...I just thought he should know. To give him more time to prepare himself.

Karah closes her eyes. She takes a moment to gather herself.

KARAH

Why?

COLE

Like I said before, to protect you.

Karah lets out a sarcastic chuckle.

KARAH

Well, you did a real good job at that.

COLE

I know, I'm sorry. I fucked up. I fucked up. I fucked up. I just thought he'd fly off the handle if he found out after the fact. I fucked up, okay?

KARAH

Again, brilliant job.

Cole hangs his head. He's disgraced.

COLE

I thought I was looking out for you. I was wrong. I let you down.  
(MORE)

COLE (CONT'D)

I got you hurt. And there's nothing I can do to take this back. I said I'd always have your back, and I failed. But please don't go in there because of me. Please, just walk away. Please.

Karah says nothing. She nods her head and exits the car.

EXT. ISIAH'S MANSION/FRONT GATE - NIGHT

Karah casually strolls up to the gate. She reaches for a touchscreen, but the gate automatically opens.

Karah takes a deep breath and steps through the gate. She's quickly met by an armed guard, JOE, mid 30's male.

JOE

How's it going?

Karah doesn't answer.

JOE

I'm going to have to ask you to spread your legs and hold out your arms.

Joe grimaces as he steps closer to Karah.

JOE

I'm sorry, but I got orders.

KARAH

Anything to please lord Isiah.

Karah obeys Joe's request. He gently pats her down.

JOE

Thank you. If you don't mind, I'll escort you to Mr. Cordell.

KARAH

Lead the way.

INT. MANSION FOYER - NIGHT

Joe leads Karah through the front door. She gawks at the beautiful interior.

ISIAH (O.S.)

Gorgeous, isn't it?

Isiah steps through a side room entrance.

ISIAH  
Thanks Joe, I'll take it from here.

Joe nods and closes the front door behind him.

KARAH  
You were expecting me?

Two armed guards watch over Isiah and Karah from the stairs.

ISIAH  
Of course. You've been creating a little bit of havoc these past few hours haven't you? I never would have figured you for a hell raiser. You were always so nice to me.

Isiah corrects himself.

ISIAH  
Well, now that I think about it, when money is involved, and someone is sticking dollar bills up your ass, you play nice, don't you? You put on this sweet little sunshine act, don't you?

Isiah laughs.

ISIAH  
Whatever, it's business, I get it. C'mon, you look thirsty. Let's go have ourselves a little drink.

Karah sighs.

INT. MANSION POOL - NIGHT

The naked girl in the pool is gone. Only the armed guards remain.

Karah and Isiah sit at a glass table overlooking the pool.

ISIAH  
Do you have any idea how much this home costs?

Karah shrugs.

ISIAH  
C'mon, guess.

KARAH

I don't know. I just really don't care.

ISIAH

I mean, wow. You really think you know a person, right? You spend a good amount of time with someone and think you understand them and then BAM!

Isiah smacks the table with his palm. Karah doesn't flinch.

ISIAH

They hit you with their true self. Your true self.

KARAH

I could say the same thing.

Isiah claps and rubs his hands together.

ISIAH

There it is, there's that charm I fell in love with.

A MAID, early twenties female in a skimpy clothing, approaches them with a serving tray. Isiah smiles.

ISIAH

Great.

The maid places a large frosty glass of beer in front of Isiah.

ISIAH

And a beautiful lady for the beautiful lady.

The maid places a slim glass in front of Karah.

ISIAH

You're favorite drink, if I remember correctly.

Karah looks at the drink and smirks.

KARAH

I would have taken the beer.

ISIAH

Of course you would have.

Isiah admires the maid as she walks away.

ISIAH  
15 million.

KARAH  
15 million what?

ISIAH  
Dollars, for this house. Now it's  
nothing earth shattering, but it's  
all mine. I worked for it. I earned  
it.

Karah looks around the pool.

KARAH  
I earned my money too. What about  
me?

Isiah is shocked.

ISIAH  
C'mon, things were going nicely  
here. Don't bring that up now.  
Jesus!

Karah glares at Isiah. He takes a giant gulp from his drink  
and gently sets the glass down.

ISIAH  
You know I loved you, right? Love  
you, I still do. Even though you've  
been a bad girl. You have stolen my  
heart.

Karah shakes her head.

ISIAH  
And call me foolish, but I thought  
you loved me too. I know, it was  
the classic case of falling into a  
stripper's trap. It was foolish, it  
was childish, it was desperate. But  
deep down, I thought it was  
different!

Isiah slams down the rest of his beer and chucks the glass  
onto the ground shattering it.

He's slowly unraveling.

ISIAH  
I got a call this morning from your  
old pal, Cole. Boy, I'm glad he  
called!

(MORE)

ISIAH (CONT'D)

That's a true friend you got there.  
The man was really looking out for  
you. It was fucking adorable.

Isiah taps the table with his finger.

ISIAH

But it got me thinking. You know  
what, you know what I was thinking?

KARAH

What?

ISIAH

It got me thinking, that this woman  
that I love. A woman who has made  
me feel so special, can't even give  
me the time of day to tell me  
herself. To treat me like a human  
being. Didn't feel too good. To use  
me. Just to get to my money. But I  
get it. I get it. It's a business.  
And you were only doing your job.  
And doing it well. I get it. And  
that's why you're here. You want  
what's yours. I respect that. So  
here's what I'm going to do.

Isiah pulls out a wallet. But it looks familiar. Shit, it's  
Morgan's wallet.

Karah's eyes widen. Her jaw drops.

ISIAH

Whoops, this isn't mine. That is so  
weird. I must have grabbed this one  
by mistake.

Isiah taps the wallet against his temple. He turns to the  
glass door behind him and waves.

The door opens.

Karah quickly gasps. She places her hands over her mouth and  
begins to shake.

Chad drags Morgan's lifeless body in front of Isiah and Karah  
and plops him down.

Morgan's face has been beaten in. His eyes have been cut  
open. Dried blood is caked around his ears.

Isiah smiles. He proudly walks over to Morgan's body and kneels beside him. He grabs Morgans's hair and inspects the carnage up close.

ISIAH

Brutal? Yes. But I must say, it was nice to finally vent some frustration. It has been building like you would not believe.

Karah screams. She stands up and knocks her glass to the ground. She turns to Isiah.

Chad whistles, to catch her attention. He raises his shirt above his waist line to show off his gun.

Karah freezes.

KARAH

You're a sadistic fuck!

ISIAH

There it is again! I never knew this side of you before. But I have to say, I find it supremely arousing.

KARAH

He did nothing! He did nothing wrong!

Karah begins to weep.

ISIAH

I agree with you. He seemed like a decent dude. But things happen when a man gets jealous. Bad things.

KARAH

Fuck you.

Isiah lets go of Morgan's hair and stands up.

ISIAH

If anything, his death is on you. I'm just a product of human nature. You triggered that. I'd say I'm pretty much innocent, maybe not in the court of law innocent, but...

Isiah pauses.

ISIAH

But I'll tell you what I'm going to do.

Isiah steps closer to Karah.

ISIAH

We'll call this little incident, an aberration. One tiny spec in a sea of goodness. We'll forget this ever happened, and move on. Grow from it. Learn from the experience. I can do that, can you?

Karah is furious. She is overwhelmed with emotion.

ISIAH

I don't want to hurt you. I'm actually really troubled that I caused you mental anguish. It's bothersome. I would like to work towards an understanding.

Isiah approaches Karah and wraps both hands around her shoulders.

ISIAH

Let's forget tonight ever happened. I'll clean up the mess you created. I'll take care of it. Don't worry. Everything will be sorted out with Mikey, and we'll go back to the way it was. After you have an appropriate amount of time to heal of course. And you know what, since I know how you really feel about me, I think it'll work out better, for the both of us.

Isiah smiles and brushes Karah's hair back. Karah holds back her rage.

ISIAH

But I don't want anymore talk about this race car business, understood? That's too dangerous.

Karah remains silent.

ISIAH

So how does this sound, hmm?

Karah takes a moment to think.

KARAH  
I'm done dancing.

Isiah is taken aback.

KARAH  
And I won't be your girl. But I  
will make you money.

Isiah is curious.

KARAH  
That chop shop behind Rocco's,  
that's yours, right?

ISIAH  
I own hundreds of properties all  
over the city, girl.

Karah glares.

ISIAH  
But yes. The shop is mine.

KARAH  
I'll run it. I'll clean it up. I'll  
even make it strictly legal. I know  
cars, and I know what it takes to  
run a garage. Give me the shop, and  
I'll make you more money than I  
would dancing.

Isiah is apprehensive.

ISIAH  
I don't know.

KARAH  
I know a girl who can replace me.  
She'll blow your mind. I'll train  
her myself.

ISIAH  
I don't want another girl, I want  
you.

KARAH  
You said it yourself, I broke your  
heart. Do you really want someone  
whose heart just isn't in it. Give  
me the garage, and I can live with  
it. If I can't reach my dream, I at  
least want to be around something I  
love.

Isiah nods.

ISIAH

This girl, she as fine as you?

Karah smirks.

KARAH

She's close. She'll do what it takes to make you happy. She's not the sharpest tool in the shed. But she's a quick learner.

Isiah considers it.

ISIAH

I'd have to see her in action on stage. And then you doing your thing in the garage.

Isiah pulls in Karah and hugs her. He cradles her head with his palm.

ISIAH

But I care about you. And if this is what you want, then okay.

Karah closes her eyes.

4 MONTHS LATER.

EXT. KARAH'S AUTO SHOP - DAY

The chop shop has been transformed. It's now bright and welcoming from the outside.

Several cars are lined around the lot.

INT. KARAH'S AUTO SHOP - DAY

The inside of the shop is impressive. New equipment, new lighting, everything has been modernized.

Karah slides out from underneath a car and opens her eyes. She wipes her hands clean and inspects her work. She lets out a wide smile.

It's Cora. She's almost been restored to her former beauty. A few mismatching parts, but she's back.

SUSAN (O.S.)  
Your father would be so proud of  
you.

Karah turns around and smiles. Susan steps towards Karah as she admires the garage.

The two share a warm embrace.

SUSAN  
Cora looks good.

KARAH  
She's getting there.

Susan nods.

SUSAN  
How are you honey?

KARAH  
Tired, but good.

SUSAN  
I can only imagine, you're sweating  
like a pig.

KARAH  
Working like a donkey too.

SUSAN  
It'll pay off, you'll see.

KARAH  
I know. It's just the long hours  
and stress of being on top of  
everything.

Karah takes a look around the garage and takes a deep breath.

KARAH  
But it's worth it. This is what I  
love. It beats getting naked in  
front of strangers, I can tell you  
that much.

SUSAN  
I would hope so.

KARAH  
Doesn't pay as well though.

They both share a smile.

SUSAN

Courtney and Megan are waiting in the car. We were heading off to lunch. You think you could take an hour out of your busy schedule and come with us?

KARAH

The shop basically falls apart when I'm not here, but screw it, I'm starving.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Karah, Susan, Courtney and Megan sit at a dining booth. The restaurant is packed. Buzzing with chatter.

Megan is hard at work as she colors with her crayons.

MEGAN

I wish they had colored pencils. Crayons are for little kids.

The three women laugh.

KARAH

Little kids? What are you then?

MEGAN

I'm six aunt Karah.

Karah raises her hands and chuckles. She wipes away the smile and puts on a serious face.

KARAH

Well then, I apologize my lady. Please forgive me.

Megan ignores Karah. She concentrates on her artwork.

KARAH

She acts like a real adult, I'll give her that much.

COURTNEY

You should see her at home. The day you told her about the scholarship fund you started, she refused to play with her toys.

SUSAN

It's just a phase. I wouldn't worry about it. I remember you two went through the tomboy phase.

Courtney scoffs.

COURTNEY

No! That was just Karah.

SUSAN

The both of you wanted nothing more than to climb tress and play in your father's garage.

COURTNEY

No. I refuse to believe that.

SUSAN

Do you want me to pull out the pictures?

COURTNEY

I'm telling you, it was just Karah. I was always the one pulling her down from tress and out of dad's garage.

Karah takes a giant bite from her sandwich.

KARAH

(her mouth full)

Well thank God I grew out of that phase. I don't think you could pull a leaf down from a tree, let alone a grown woman.

Courtney smirks.

COURTNEY

Funny.

SUSAN

Just give it time Courtney. Next month you'll be wishing she'd put down her princess tiara or soccer ball. It's just what kids do.

COURTNEY

I hope.

Courtney takes a sip from her drink.

COURTNEY

You know, speaking of kids. When is Megan going to get a little cousin to play with?

Karah freezes.

Megan lifts her head up and smiles.

MEGAN

Ooh, please aunt Karah? Have a baby girl!

COURTNEY

Oh my God, I would love that. Let me be the fun aunt for once.

KARAH

Sure, no problem. Let me just find a random guy to have a baby with and I'll get back to you.

SUSAN

What about that guy you're always with. What's his name?

KARAH

Cole?

SUSAN

Yeah, he seems like a nice guy.

Karah shakes her head.

COURTNEY

Who's this now?

SUSAN

She used to work with him. He's tall, and very handsome.

KARAH

Cole is like a brother to me. He looks out for me. When that customer gave me that black eye a few months ago, Cole was the one who talked to the guy for me.

COURTNEY

Talked to the guy?

KARAH

You know what I mean. But he's a very good friend, that's all.

SUSAN  
I was just saying, he is very  
handsome. You could do a lot worse.

Karah checks her cell phone.

KARAH  
I'm glad you brought him up. I'm  
supposed to have a meeting with him  
in a little bit.

SUSAN  
Oh...

KARAH  
To discuss business.

COURTNEY  
About what?

INT. WONDERLAND MAIN AREA - NIGHT

The club is bouncing again. A few girls do their act on stage  
as the crowd excitedly cheers them on.

Chad looks on in pure awe as he leans against the stage.

INT. WONDERLAND VIP SECTION - NIGHT

Cole stands guard in front of the VIP rooms.

Alona peeks her head out from one of the doors.

ALONA  
We need another bottle of champagne  
over here.

Cole turns to Alona and nods.

INT./EXT. CORA/WONDERLAND CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Karah is parked outside of the club. Cole enters the car  
through the passenger side door. She keeps her eyes on the  
back door.

COLE  
Greenlight.

Karah looks to Cole.

COLE

Are you sure you want to go through  
with this?

KARAH

He's down to only one guard now.  
It's time.

Cole sighs.

COLE

From what I heard, he's gotten  
pretty cocky. Thinks he can take on  
the whole city by himself now.

KARAH

Good.

COLE

That could also mean he's more  
dangerous.

KARAH

Do you trust me?

Cole doesn't hesitate.

COLE

Yes.

Karah smiles and starts her engine.

INT. WONDERLAND HALLWAY - NIGHT

Chad quickly sprints down the hallway. He's followed by Alona  
as she wraps herself around Isiah.

ISIAH

Make sure the AC is running full  
blast! I'm going to fuck this bitch  
until her snatch melts.

Chad exits through the back door.

INT. MIKEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Mikey watches the two walk past his open door. He turns to  
his security monitors and powers them down.

INT. WONDERLAND HALLWAY - NIGHT

Isiah turns to Alona.

ISIAH  
You love me?

Alona smiles.

ALONA  
I love you.

Isiah grabs Alona's face and laughs.

ISIAH  
We'll see.

EXT. WONDERLAND CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Isiah opens the door and takes a deep breath.

ISIAH  
I love the smell of pussy as much  
as the next guy. But nothing beats  
fresh air.

They step forward towards a running car. Isiah stops. The car is Cora.

Alona jabs her fist into Isiah's side and takes off running. Isiah falls to his knees as he gasps for air.

ISIAH  
You fucking bitch!

A pair of footsteps alerts Isiah. He turns to his right. It's Karah. She holds a wrench covered in blood.

ISIAH  
The fuck?

KARAH  
1-24-91.

Isiah is perplexed as he gasps for air. He reaches to his abdomen and looks down. He's been stabbed. Blood begins to drip down.

Karah steps closer to Isiah. She lets out a sadistic grin.

KARAH  
My birthday. It's cute. I never  
would have thought.

ISIAH  
What are you talking about?

KARAH  
I never realized just how much you  
were in love with me. I mean, to  
entrust my birth to something so  
important to you.

ISIAH  
Karah, I have no idea what...

It hits Isiah.

EXT. ISIAH'S MANSION - NIGHT

There is not a guard in sight.

INT. ISIAH'S CLOSET - NIGHT

Cole rotates the safe's dial to a 1. It CLICKS. He takes a  
deep breath and opens it.

Stacks upon stacks of cash line the safe. Cole claps his  
hands and smiles as he pulls out Karah's pink gym bag.

He grabs a stack of cash and smells it. He has hit the  
jackpot.

Cole starts to shovel the cash into the bag.

EXT. WONDERLAND CLUB PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Karah kneels down in front of Isiah.

KARAH  
You know, I told you. Alona may not  
be book smart. But she's a quick  
learner.

ISIAH  
Karah, we can talk about this. I'll  
forget any of this ever happened.

KARAH  
I gotta ask. Was it a pride thing?  
I mean, you had to have figured one  
of the girls you were fucking would  
have seen that safe. And funny  
thing is, Alona said your boy Chad  
was a loud thinker.

ISIAH  
Chad! Chad!

KARAH  
He's not coming.

ISIAH  
Where is he?

KARAH  
Nobody is going to find him. Or  
you.

Isiah panics. He looks to Karah. WHACK! He's hit with the wrench.

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT./INT. STRAIGHT DIRT ROAD/CORA - NIGHT

A roar of an engine awakes us.

Isiah is lit up by a pair of headlights. He squints his eyes as he looks away.

He's disoriented. Blood drips from his face. He looks around the area, he's lost.

Isiah tries to get to his feet, but he's stuck. He looks down to his legs, HE'S BEEN HOGTIED.

He tumbles over to the ground as he attempts to break himself free. The roar of the engine stops him dead in his tracks.

ISIAH  
Karah!?

He tries to look past the headlights. He sees a blurry figure inside the car.

The engine roars again.

ISIAH  
Karah, what are you doing? Stop  
this at once!

Isiah looks back down to the rope. It leads outwards.

EXT. CORA

The rope is attached to Cora.

INT. CORA

Karah tightly grips the steering wheel. She revs the engine one more time.

She guns it.

EXT. STRAIGHT DIRT ROAD/CORA

Dirt spins out from under Cora's tires. The car peels out and speeds forward.

The rope in front of Isiah loosens. His eyes widen. Cora barrels down towards him. He screams.

He tries with all his might to escape.

But Cora's violent roar grows louder. She's racing straight at him.

Isiah closes his eyes as Cora whips right past him. He breathes a sigh of relief.

The rope tightens.

THE END